

Elementary School Board Report

Heather Friday, PK-8 Principal

May 11, 2020

Pittsville School District's Vision and Mission:

Our Vision: Expecting Excellence and Innovation, Honoring Legacy, and Embracing Partnerships.

Our Mission: Expecting Excellence and Integrity from all, developing Innovative students, strengthened through Partnerships with parents and the community.

Student and Staff Notable Learning

Grades 4K - 5 Guidance Support

Students in grades 4K-3 have been communicating with teachers via See Saw. Ms. Raygo reaches out to students at the request of parents and teachers and when she knows there is a need. She has been networking to find a better way to stay connected without adding more stress to parents and students, but has not found a good solution. Students in grades 4 and 5 are included in her Google Classroom. In Google Classroom students have daily check-ins available to let her know how they are doing and to share information with her. Currently about 50% of the students respond. She emails students in response to their daily check-ins and if she does not hear from students in a while, she also emails to check in. The teachers communicate regularly with Ms. Raygo about students she should reach out to. She also does Google Meets with students and talks to them on the telephone. She has a website with tools that students can use at this time to manage stress and anxiety.

Grades 6 - 8 Counseling Support

Ms. Briese sends 'daily check-ins' to the students each morning via Google Forms. The check-ins consist of questions about how they are feeling about life at home and distance learning, and it also gives them an opportunity to tell Ms. Briese if there is anything they need to discuss with her. She connects with students who need more support via email, video chat, or phone call.

Ms. Briese meets with her 7th and 8th grade classes 2-3 times per week to ensure they are receiving and understanding the content she is assigning through Google Classroom. Approximately 80% of the students attend the Google Meets she offers. Students who don't attend the meets often email Ms. Briese.

Ms. Briese brought closure to Academic and Career Planning (ACP) last month for students in grades by having them complete a reflection piece on concepts discussed throughout the year.

She sends emails to students and posts in Google Classroom different activities for self-care, gratitude, kindness, and relationship building for students to try out at home. She is continuously looking for new ways to reach out to students, keep them engaged, and ensure their social-emotional needs are being met.

Ms. Briese has noticed that in some ways, virtual counseling has been beneficial in the sense that some students are finding it is easier to reach out to someone in this way. Students typically focus on school work during the morning hours and have more flexibility in the afternoon to meet. This was difficult to make happen when the school was open because of the concern that students will miss core content. Ms. Briese has noticed parental involvement has increased and she feels that efforts have become more collaborative.

Innovation and Recognition

It is important to recognize how everyone is working together during this time. Teachers are putting in many hours to provide instruction / learning tasks. Students are working hard to learn technology, complete the learning tasks, and keep up with their work. Parents are doing their best to help their children. Open communication and collaboration has made this successful for everyone.

Looking Ahead

The current plan for summer school is it will be 3 weeks, starting Monday, July 6 - Thursday, July 23rd. Classes will be held onsite from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday during these weeks. There will be a 'grab and go' breakfast and lunch will be served. Information will be sent to families this week and registration will be online. Once I have the number of students registered for summer school, I will be able to work on the schedule. Students will be able to indicate their top choices so they are attending classes of interest. **Please note: This is the plan now. It may change.*

