

PTA Meeting--Principal's Report February 2017--Dr. Carlos C. Grant

Student Highlight

Our Dance Team competed at the State Dance Competition in Des Moines several weeks ago and received a D1 placement in both of their dances. During the weekend of Feb 3rd, they competed at Nationals in Orlando. Regan Heying, Ashley Chipokas , Alyssa Comer, Ava Klopfenstein, Lydia Offt, Holland McMahon, Anna Kolln , Catie Schrader, Claire Stevens , Katie Martens did an outstanding job. Thanks to Coach Megan Molito as they competed in a division with 78 teams and some of the best dance teams in the country. They had a great experience and loved it. Anna Kolln and Ashley Chipokas ended the season as MVC All-Academic dancers. Please see the link below that is a video of their dances at Nationals.

https://crdistrict-my.sharepoint.com/personal/gschultz_cr_k12_ia_us/_layouts/15/guestaccess.aspx?docid=1528e0dbfa38c44e993ab1266cf0cc007&authkey=AfHQJTqsXQVQCuLG7faRwno

School Meditation

We are continuing to explore the ideas related to mindfulness and trauma informed care. We are giving teachers best practices that will benefit them in these areas. We know that building positive relationships is critically important in our quest to engage students in meaningful ways. We have a core group of teachers that are training and discussing ways for mindfulness and yoga to be incorporated into our building. We are looking to partner and share best practices happening at McKinley Middle for obvious vertical alignment purposes.

Post-Secondary Planning

The counseling and administrative team have been working on the HS Continuum of Services model as we continue to review good practices. We believe students have a better chance at success by developing post-secondary plans early. We also think that increasing the number of adults that interact with students in this fashion is beneficial. We completed a Transcript Review session on January 31st during Warrior Time.

College and Career Fair 2017

Representatives from several colleges and area businesses will be there to talk with students and parents about college and career options. Find out about corridor-area Hot Jobs, career decision-making resources, resume writing and interviewing tips, job shadows, internships, Iowa College Access Network, and Kirkwood Community College Credit in High School program as well! All area high school students and their parents are welcome.

Tuesday, March 7, at Marion High School (675 S. 15th Street)

Information sessions from 5:30–7 p.m.

Students and parents may attend up to three 25-minute sessions.

Booths will be open from 6:30-8 p.m

Bear to Warrior Mentoring

We are in the process of creating a mentorship program between McKinley Middle and Washington. This program is looking to initially pair 41 current 8th graders with current 10th or 11th graders. We are planning to use the MVP curriculum to train our HS students using a similar model seen in Big Brothers Big Sisters. It is our hope to give incoming 9th graders a more robust experience of what it means to be a Warriors and high school student in general.

Washington HS Culture Day 2017

We had "culture day" on February 3rd. We planned for half of each class period to be designated for discussion time on topics that are relevant for our school environment. The goal is for these to be teacher-led but student-centered activities/discussions. Mr. Ballard lead this effort and started by meeting with several stakeholders to plan the day. There were mixed results but overwhelmingly students gave positive feedback. It was the start for us to have fierce and difficult conversations successfully.

Sexual Health presentations

Each year Julie Zimmerman, a Maternal-Child Registered Nurse from St. Luke's, visits classes in grades 9-11 to discuss a variety of sexual health topics (relationships, reproductive care, STI information, etc.). The PTA supports this programming, and we are very proud that the content is presented in a professional, neutral, medically accurate manner. We are working with Jen Simmen, our ASAC counselor, on some ideas surrounding substance abuse prevention, so there may be something come of that still. The mental health presentation we typically have for sophomores is on hold as the speaker is dealing with some personal issues. There are some other programs in the works that may be able to encompass the same message delivered in the traditional mental health info session. More on both of those topics as ideas develop.

AP/Salute to Excellence Assembly

On February 13, 2017 we are holding our "AP Scholar and Anna Purna Ghosh AP Incentive Program/Salute to Excellence Assembly" in the new gym. The first segment is designed to promote AP test sign-up in February, and to recognize our CTES, PLTW, BIG and Kirkwood Regional Center students. The second segment is to recognize Washington's Service Clubs, Academic Competitive Team.

Physical Education 2017-2018

Iowa Code requires all students to enroll in physical education classes every semester they are enrolled in school. It has been brought to our attention by the Iowa Department of Education this has not been occurring. In response to this issue the Cedar Rapids Community School District has applied for a Chapter 12 Waiver. This waiver allows students to enroll in physical education for only one semester each year instead of two. We have a multitude of physical education courses for students to choose from for the [2017-2018](#) school year including early bird physical education. This requires all students enroll in PE one semester while eliminating the need for academic or athletic waivers. Students will be able to satisfy the state graduation requirement by taking at least 4 semesters of Physical Education.

Construction Apprenticeship Fair 2017

This event is designed for students in Industrial Technology, Applied Mathematics, and AgriScience classes, the ACE Academy, the Welding Academy, the Advanced Manufacturing Academy, Project Lead the Way, and those who like to work with their hands. The focus of the event is apprenticeship programs available for a post-secondary education opportunity. It's structured with interactive hands-on activities. Teachers bring student groups via bus and serve as chaperones. Event details are included in the attached flyer. The Construction Apprenticeship Fair is held at the Plumbers & Pipefitters' Training Center on J Street SW. Representatives from several of these occupations will be available to answer questions: ...Bricklayers...Carpenters... Drywall Finishers...Electricians...Ironworkers & Millwrights...Laborers...Operating Engineers...Painters & Glaziers...Plumbers & Pipefitters (state-of-the-art welding shop with virtual welding machines)...Roofers & Waterproofers...Sheet Metal Workers

To learn more about this opportunity, check out the 9 minute video on Apprenticeship Programs: www.iowaconstructioncareers.com