

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

Professional Development

The Washington staff has been engaged in professional development all year around student engagement. Most recently, we watched a film entitled Most Likely to Succeed. We are think and reimagining the variety of ways students engage, recognize ways that education needs to change for the 21st century, identify barriers that make engagement hard, and reflect on the power we have as educators to be positive impacts. Our Instructional Design Strategist team along with the Building Leadership Team are doing a phenomenal job planning professional development for our staff.

Head Football Coach

We are pleased to announce that Coach Maurice Blue has been named the new Head Football Coach pending Board approval on March 20th. We are excited about the future of our football program and the passion that Coach Blue brings for developing our students.

WHS Principal Interviews

There has been an update change to the original interview dates. This has been done to finalize our candidate choice before the April 24th Board Meeting. This timeline will give the candidate time to meet staff, students, parents, community, and other stakeholders before school ends. Therefore, we will interview on April 10th, 11th, and 13th. These dates correspond to our Iowa Assessment makeup dates which should not have a large impact on our building. We will be able to support students whom need to take makeup assessments.

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 6:30-8pm

2017 Iowa Assessments

Iowa Assessments will be occurring April 4-7 with makeup testing the following week (April 10-14). We have been visiting 11th grade classrooms to discuss National Percentile Ranking, Iowa Proficiency, and Class Goals, and Personal Best Goals.

School Safety Message March 6, 2017

Monday morning (March 6th) at approx. 7:52am, we received a screenshot of a student making a threat towards Washington High School. The person posting the message told people not go to school Monday as to indicate he would hurt people. The person was also holding what appeared to be a hand gun. Cedar Rapids Police Department was immediately made aware. Their investigators were able to quickly determine that this **IS NOT** related to our school, but rather to Washington High School located in Tacoma, Washington. CRPD is currently in communication with Tacoma PD and the Tacoma School District. They were aware of the threat and have begun their safety protocol. We thank the student that made us aware this morning. Their quick thinking and concern for others is appreciated and representative of a Warrior.

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.

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.

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.