

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

2017-2018 Master Schedule, FTE, Budgeting

I have been engaging with Department Chairs and Administrative Team in the following items for the 2017-2018 school year: (1) Master Schedule, (2) Department FTE distribution, and (3) Budget planning. These decisions will be based on the CRCSD High School visioning, School Improvement Plan goals, and professional learning community (PLC) needs.

We continue to engage and remind ourselves around the School Improvement Plan goals. It is important that we keep our goals in sight so we remain focused on our intended outcomes. According to our SIP, we (WHS certified and classified staff) are dedicated to maintaining a GROWTH MINDSET and live it by demonstrating a belief in the value and potential of every person at Washington. We share a sense of hope, determination, and belief in our ability to individually and collectively reach our goals. As such, we REFUSE to view ourselves, our students, and/or community from the belief that any or all of these groups are things to fix.

WHS Principal Interviews

Mr. Cline and his family traveled to Cedar Rapids this in town this past weekend. They are looking for a new home and taking time to get familiar with the area. They are flying back to North Carolina this morning. He was with our staff yesterday (Monday, May 8th) for an informal meet and greet. His wife, Suzanne and children (Mary--rising 9th grader, Elizabeth--rising 8th grader, and John Jr.--rising 4th grader) were with him as well. Mary received a building tour and was able to meet several students yesterday. I am in frequent communication with him about many aspects of the school. He has asked for a lot of information pertaining to our planning for next school year. He is still working hard to close out the year at South Mecklenburg High School. He is eager about the transition and will start being deeply involved in June. His official start date is July 1, 2017.

Professional Development

Teachers, Administrators, and Support Staff have three major conferences upcoming. Each focus on major instructional frameworks in our school district.

1. We are keeping the energy going towards learner-centered assessments. There are many teachers interested in moving their practice forward to stay aligned with current research around Standards Based Grading. This is the focus of several small groups that work each Friday afternoon during our Professional Learning time. Some teachers will be continuing this work over the summer. One particular opportunity will be at The 'Transforming Systems through Standards-Based Learning' summer conference is sponsored by Des Moines Public Schools and Drake University. DMPS has a story to tell in its courageous adventures into district-wide standards-referenced grading (SRG)

learning and practices, within a large urban district. Drake has been sponsoring terrific workshops allowing hundreds of educators to come together to learn from renowned speakers operating in a workshop setting. This conference has an emphasis on secondary education, although there will be some elementary application. The breakouts are facilitated largely by DMPS teachers and leaders, as they lead learning over how the Des Moines schools have implemented standards-referenced learning, including grading and reporting, over a large district.

2. Robert J. Marzano, PhD, is cofounder and Chief Academic Officer of Marzano Research in Colorado. A leading researcher in education, he is a speaker, trainer, and author of more than 30 books and 150 articles. His most recent book, The New Art and Science of Teaching, has just been published and is an update of his 2007 work. The New Art and Science of Teaching is an instructional framework that comprehensively addresses the well-researched components teachers use to make the most alterable effect on student learning. Marzano Research's associate vice president, Jan K. Hoegh, will be in Iowa twice this summer.
3. The Professional Learning Communities Institute is July 30-August 2 in Lincolnshire, IL. We are working to have critical core PLC's operating at the highest possible level next year. One way to help PLC teams develop rapport and collective efficacy, is to have as many as possible attend the PLC conference together. The attending staff members will also engage in some team building and staff bonding by attending a Cubbies baseball game against the Arizona Diamondbacks.

5th Annual HBCU College Tour

We are pleased to announce the 5th Annual Spring College Tour will embark on the weeklong tour which will depart Cedar Rapids on Sunday, March 18-25, 2018. Destinations include, VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY, VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY, HAMPTON UNIVERSITY, NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY, ST. AUGUSTINE'S UNIVERSITY, NORTH CAROLINA A&T STATE UNIVERSITY, WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY, FAYETTEVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY, SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY, CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY, MOREHOUSE COLLEGE, and SPELMAN COLLEGE. U.S. News ranks five of this year's destinations in the top 10 of all historically black colleges and universities in the nation. Additionally, Spelman College, Hampton University, and Morehouse College received top five rankings from among 80 HBCU's.

Registrations are now being accepted and students reserve their space today by completing the online participation form and submitting a (non-refundable) \$75 deposit. All students are welcome to participate. The tour is open to all 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students from high schools across the state of Iowa, from Davenport to Des Moines. This includes Iowa City, Waterloo, and Cedar Rapids. Seniors (Class of 2018) who traveled with us in the past are welcome to travel on the tour.

Student Activism

The Washington and Jefferson Interact Clubs had a joint service project for several hours this past Sunday. Together, they raised approximately \$3500 and packaged over 10,000 meals that will be distributed to over 72 different countries. Both groups worked in collaboration with “Rise Against Hunger,” which is an international hunger relief organization that distributes food and life-changing aid to the world’s most vulnerable, mobilizing the necessary resources to end hunger by 2030. <http://www.riseagainsthunger.org/>.

Jamnesty was a great event Friday, April 29th. The talent coming from our students blew me away. They never cease to amaze. What was most impressive was our students' attentiveness and caring attitudes about others. Our Amnesty club is doing a remarkable job in raising awareness related to human rights all around the world. Thanks to Adam Witte for being a strong leader for student voice, student passion, and human rights advocacy.

Prom 2017

Prom and Promenade this weekend were outstanding. The students looked wonderful, and they had a great time. We thank Jen Byers for coordinating this memorable experience for students. Many other adults assisted in making this event a success. Thanks to Julie Cain, David Duer, Peter Clancy, Jordan Young, Will Harte, Jolene Buchheit, Chris Wright, Sherrie Mauren, Valerie Nyberg, Darius Ballard, Grant Schultz, Mark Hilton, Blake Rowland, Jaye Swayze, Ericka Derrick, Amanda Schumacher, Amy Shoemaker, Angela Crary, John Pickett, and Trudy Johansen for chaperoning and enjoying a great time together. Additional big thanks to Bill Lammers for promenade light and sound, Scott McWherter for promenade photography, Rick Veenstra and the ENTIRE custodial staff for set-up and clean-up, and Melissa Kiliper-Ernst for paying the bills. Students had a great time and it was a marvelous event. We also thank the parents who organized Post Prom. It is a great tradition as well as a wonderful way to ensure the creation of safe and fun memories for young people.

Ethnic Food Fair

The Ethnic Food Fair is planned for Tuesday, May 16th. We are planning to separate the traditional lunch from the Food Fair due to federal regulations that govern our food program. We have developed 2-quick lunches earlier in the day (15 minutes each). The cafeteria will provide a limited menu. Mrs. Derrick is working with Student Senate and class leaders to organize the event. Additionally, this schedule adds an additional 20 minutes to 5th period classes. This would be used for facilitated culture conversations. We are working through possible activities that teachers can choose from that matches their class. See the schedule below:

Period 1	7:50-8:30 am
Period 2	8:35-9:15 am

Period 3	9:20-10:35 am		
		A Lunch 10:05-10:20 am	
		B Lunch 10:20-10:35 am	
Period 4	10:40-11:20 am		
Period 5		Food Fair A	11:25 am-12:25 pm
		Class A	12:30-1:30 pm (with culture conversation)
		Class B	11:25 am-12:25 pm (with culture conversation)
		Food Fair B	12:30-1:30 pm
Period 6	1:35-2:15 pm		
Period 7	2:20-3:00 pm		

Retirement and End of Year Celebrations

This Friday, the CRCSD Retirement Luncheon will take place at the Marriott Hotel. Tim Fisher and Roberta Martinson will be highlighted and celebrated for their outstanding years of service. On Friday May 19th (2pm-4pm), we will have the Washington End-of-Year celebration. We are planning to have this out in the courtyard. We are also going to have deserts and invite past retirees to share in the fun and celebration.

Bear to Warrior Mentoring

The mentorship program between McKinley Middle and Washington is on to the next phase. Our first Mentor/Mentee meeting April 25th at McKinley Middle was very successful. The students at both schools are excited about the future. This program is looking to initially pair 41 current eighth 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.