

Superintendent Rambling

August, 2016



Welcome back. I sincerely hope that your summer has been refreshing and everyone in your families have had time to recharge and get ready for a new school year. Please continue to refer to our online homepage calendar for specific activity dates and times, Please also support our students by attending as many school events as possible during the course of the year; this is appreciated by everyone. Our Facebook page and twitter feeds also can serve as important sources of information during the course of the school year. Numerous activities and important dates for August include:

<u>August 8th:</u>	Registration 4-7 PM
<u>August 8th:</u>	Board of Education Meeting @ 6:00 PM
<u>August 9th:</u>	Registration 3-5 PM
<u>August 16-17th:</u>	Teacher Institute Days
<u>August 18th:</u>	First Day of Student Attendance (2 PM Dismissal)
<u>August 19-26th</u>	Early Dismissal @ 2 PM
<u>August 22nd:</u>	First Day for Pre-K students

A number of projects have been or in process of being completed in elementary building. Sidewalks are being improved. Tile in replacement elementary classrooms and a number of bathrooms. has been completed. Some painting in classrooms and doors has also occurred.

In the high school the major project has been painting the entire commons area and cleaning/organizing plaques. Two new water fountains have been installed some plumbing has been repaired or replaced throughout the building.

This fall and school year our staff will shift its study from assessment development to aligning all courses to the Illinois Learning Standards to maximize learning.. We will also be implementing the new evaluwise computer program to enhance teacher performance and to make good teachers even better teachers. The program will better align instruction and assess teacher needs in terms of professional development. Initially we will focus on English Language Arts and Mathematics. Our test scores were the highest in both Fulton and Knox counties last year and our goal is to keep it that way!

At the writing of this newsletter The financial situation of the State of Illinois funding for FY 17 remains highly questionable. At this writing the Speaker of the House Michael Madigan continues to insist that K-12 education funding be included in any budget negotiations for the entire state budget. The General Assembly failed to produce a budget in the spring session for a second consecutive year. Let's hope that this practice does not hold up proper distribution of state funds to our district and other schools. In anticipation of a funding shortfall from the state, the administrative team and Board of Education will develop a plan to keep the district solvent, provide a solid education for kids and try to keep everyone gainfully employed. Incomplete state funding will result in serious consequences for all branches of state government in the long haul. Feel free to follow the actions of the Illinois General Assembly at www.ilga.gov If the state budget situation persists into fall it is seriously questionable whether our school will have sufficient funds to remain open the entire school year and the Board of Education may have one of the most difficult decisions ever to make. AS I stated in an earlier correspondence mailed to everyone, I encourage you to contact your state representatives and senators and urge them to compromise and develop a budget that serves all branches of government, including education. The time for action is now, before future success slips away.. The time for action is now.

Constructive, civil suggestions regarding district policies, procedures or decisions are always welcome in the conference setting. If you have concerns regarding your student or other matters please contact the staff member involved, progressing to administration and/or board of education, in extreme cases. Please follow the chain of command. If you have a concern regarding any staff member please contact the respective school office responsible and schedule a private conference. **A reminder that abuse of teachers, coaches, and sponsors in any form WILL NOT be tolerated in any situation by the administrative team**

A reminder that office hours are now posted on the website for your convenience. Phones will not be answered after the times listed on our web page. You are welcome to leave a message on the district answering machine if would like to do so. Every effort will be made to return your call the following school day. The Jr./ Sr. High office is open from 7 AM to 3:30 PM. The Elementary Office is open from 7:30 to 4 PM. **Regular Office Hours will resume Monday August 8th, with both offices open at that time.**

I am as close as a simple phone call daily at 778-2204, 778-2201 or email me at sreynolds@spoonrivervalley.us Our collective ideas, decisions and vision will lead to an improved, vibrant school district in the long term. We need each other to help raise our children and build a better tomorrow!

Let's Have a Great Year!

Mr. Reynolds