

## Superintendent Rambling

May, 2017



Spring is such a great time of the year. Temperatures in May always seem to moderate. Regular season varsity Boys Baseball and Girls Softball programs are gradually winding down. Our online homepage calendar lists numerous activity dates and times as the school year winds down. [Please support our students by attending as many school events as possible during the course of the month ahead as summer approaches.](#) Our Facebook page and Twitter feeds continue to serve as important sources of information during the course of the school year. Numerous activities and important dates for May include:

<b><u>May 1st to May 5th :</u></b>	<b>Teacher Appreciation Week.</b>
<b><u>May 2nd:</u></b>	<b>School Board reorganization meeting @ 6 PM.</b>
<b><u>May 7th:</u></b>	<b>Jr.Sr. High Art Show @ 1:30 PM</b>
<b><u>May 7th:</u></b>	<b>Jr. Sr. High Choral Music Program</b>
<b><u>May-8th:</u></b>	<b>School Board Meeting@ 6 PM</b>
<b><u>May 10th:</u></b>	<b>Elementary Choral Concert @ 6:30 PM</b>
<b><u>May 19th-22nd:</u></b>	<b>Final Exams</b>
<b><u>May 22nd:</u></b>	<b>Jr. Sr High Awards Night @ 7 PM</b>

At our May 22nd inservice our staff will complete curriculum alignment with the Illinois Learning Standards and working to enhance their chromebook instructional skills. Housekeeping and closing out the school year will occur at that time. Teachers will depart for summer in the early afternoon.

On April 10th the Board of Education approved a variety of summer projects. These included additional water improvements, new flooring in the elementary computer lab, elementary restroom improvements and renovations in the High School gym. Sealcoating the parking lot and circle drive were being considered. Numerous other lesser projects including cleaning and painting will also occur.

On the financial front things continue to be far from the best in Springfield. We have continued to receive our general state aid on a regular systematic basis this school year.

**We continued to not, however, receive periodic payments for special education, early childhood and transportation (So-called mandated cats).** Due to the budget situation in Springfield at best the payments will be delayed. At worst, we may not receive one or two of these payments. Payments may also be deferred into the next fiscal year. This continued “deadbeat” lack of state commitment to schools makes it incredibly hard to effectively manage school finances. On February 1st a special Education Funding Group commissioned by Governor Rauner reported out on the new Education Based Funding Model. To date no new funding legislation has been proposed. The “grand bargain” we have all heard so much about appears to be stalled in the General Assembly. We will continue to monitor the situation going forward. We would appreciate you contacting your legislators and supporting full funding for our schools. They can be reached at the Illinois General Assembly Website: [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov) The General Assembly session will conclude on May 31st.

**Summer office hours are now posted on the website for your convenience; they are effective starting Wednesday, May 24th. Offices will be open from 7 AM to 3:30 PM. Phones will not be answered after that time. The Elementary building will be closed to the public during the month of June for cleaning, painting and renovation.** You are welcome to leave a message on the district high school answering machine if you would like to do so. Every effort will be made to return your call, but please keep in mind that most of the staff will not be returning until mid-August.

I am as close as a simple phone call daily at 778-2204, 778-2201 or email me at [sreynolds@spoonrivervalley.us](mailto:sreynolds@spoonrivervalley.us) Enjoy family and friends. Summer is upon us!

Happy Memorial Day! Enjoy Summer!

Mr. Reynolds