

Superintendent Rambling

September, 2016



By the time you read this we will hopefully be well into the start of the school year. Please continue to refer to our online homepage calendar for specific activity dates and times on an ongoing basis. Please also support our students by attending as many school events as possible during the course of the year and exhibiting good sportsmanship; this is appreciated by everyone. 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 September include:

- September 5th: Labor Day- No School.**
September 7th: Picture Day all day.
September 8th: Pre-K Screening 7:30 to 8:30
September 12th: Board of Education Meeting @ 6:00 PM
September 16th: 1st Quarter Elementary Mid-term Reports
September 23rd: Half Day Teacher In- service. Dismissal at 11:30 AM
September 24th: Homecoming at Valley @ 1 PM

All summer projects have been completed on time and under budget. Over the summer we had several surprise repairs which delayed finishing the high school for a period, but had a happy ending.

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 have implemented 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 over time. Initially we will focus on English Language Arts and Mathematics.

At the writing of this newsletter the financial situation of the State of Illinois funding remains highly questionable beyond FY 17. Fortunately K-12 education was fully funded at \$6119 for the entire year. This was the first occurrence in 4 years. I am pleased to report that our budget will be in the black for the first time in 4 years! It is amazing what one can do with full funding, coupled with reasonable cuts. Full state funding, however, does not tell us **WHEN** we will receive these payments from the state. Feel free to follow the actions of the Illinois General Assembly at www.ilga.gov as we move into fall. By February 1, 2017 a panel of educational experts are to recommend true education funding reform. The new funding formula will most

likely be a hybrid of Senator Andy Manar's bill, SB 231 and Vision 20/20 evidence based funding.

As we move into a new year, constructive, civil suggestions regarding district policies, procedures or decisions are always welcome in the conference setting. Please follow the chain of command in dealing with district personnel.. 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. 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 or profanity directed at teachers, coaches, aides, secretaries, and sponsors in any form **WILL NOT** be tolerated in any situation by the administrative team in the classroom or the athletic court.. Please review the handbook for further details.*

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.

I am as close as a simple phone call daily at 778-2204, 778-2201 or email me at sreynolds@spoonrivalley.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 for us all!

Enjoy Upcoming Fall,

Mr. Reynolds