

Principal Report - Wednesday, October 4, 2017

- District goal for the Average Daily Attendance is 95%. We are currently at 94.25%.
- Ms. Martinez is filling in as first grade teacher until a replacement can be found. She will return to her Assistant Principal position when the new teacher begins.
- Thank you for your cooperation on the early dismissal day.
- NWEA tests will begin late October.
- Important Dates
 - No School Friday, October 13 - Professional Development
 - No School Friday, November 3 - Records Day
 - Parent Conferences November 9
 - No School Friday, November 10 Veterans Day Observed
 - No School Wednesday, November 22 - November 25 Thanksgiving Break

Why is communication not included in the “Cs”? How is the school working to proactively improve communication this year?

The 3 C's I used in my report last month was in reference to how we are going to operate internally as merge our schools together.

Coordinate our efforts among 3 language programs.

Collaborate with fellow grade level teachers as they all have same prep periods.

Consistent as we make decisions for the benefit of every student.

Communication is important and could have been included. We communicate through monthly newsletters, monthly updates via PTO, answer emails promptly and meet with parents via phone or in person.

What has been done last month, is in the plan for this month, and what is in the plan for this semester to improve English LA instruction available to the students? Any information you can provide will be helpful - parents are very concerned.

Last month our Instructional Leadership Team met and brainstormed potential solutions to our lack of ELA staff. We are currently taking these solutions and developing several proposals to bring to Cabinet next week on Monday, October 9 for feedback. Cabinet is the instructional and operational leadership team for SLLIS. Once we have determined

which proposal will make the most instructional and logistical sense for SLLIS, we will work to implement the plan.

Do all programs and grades now have the new math curriculum with coordinating what is taught in the classroom with the math homework that is sent out in the math books? If it is not rolled out across all programs and grades, what is the plan?

Yes all students have the appropriate books for instruction and another for practice. Some teachers are supplementing with other materials, but Ready Math is driving the instruction.

Do all families now have access to the iReady/iMath sites? If not, when?

Yes, all families with internet access can access iReady at home. Even first graders should be able to login at home with username and passwords.

Parents are aware that homework for the Chinese program 1st grade is now optional (pinyin, math, and English) following a message sent out by the teachers and Meghan. What drove that decision? Is this a new school policy? Does it apply across all programs? Across all grades? Does it apply to the new math book homework?

The Chinese first grade team sent an email concerning homework and copied Meghan. There has been no direct email communication from Meghan to parents about homework because SLLIS teachers determine how to organize their homework routines by grade level.

Teachers should recognize homework should always be a review of material covered in class.

Parents are concerned around the learning gap widening amongst children / families who do / do not complete the homework. Please provide your input into this discussion from an educator's point of view.

Homework should always be a reinforcement of what is learned in the class. A gap should not exist between students who do and who do not do homework, as it is a reinforcement of what is learned in the classroom

Have all parent volunteer forms been scanned and sent for background checks? If not, what is still needed and when? Parents have volunteered to support wherever possible and we can have parents available as needed. What else needs to be done to complete this process and 'get parents into the school'

All volunteer forms that were filled out properly have been sent in. We have received many back. Please do not show up at school saying you want to volunteer. In order for this to be most beneficial, please contact the AP if you'd like to volunteer so we can best match you with the volunteer experience with what our student's needs are.

8. When is the Chinese Moon Festival? This was a big event at the school last year, and this year there are rumors that it will now be an in-school activity. Are parents invited for a portion of the day? What is needed from parents to help with planning / organization? What should children wear? How will the French classrooms also be included (at least for a small portion of the day?) - we assume with two campuses, the Spanish school wont be involved this year - please confirm. Parents are interested and want to support.

We have a new structure in place this year: Language and Culture Teacher Leaders plan two events per language program.

The Moon Festival, planned by many teachers in the Chinese program was Friday, October 7. At our Board meeting on September 20 our Language and Culture leaders presented the SLLIS language and culture calendar. The calendar can be found online under Board documents from the September meeting.

Please explain the end of year surplus we had last year.

Last year, a highly conservative fiscal approach was taken due to previous years' attrition rates at SLLIS. The June 2017 payment from DESE to SLLIS resulted in a surplus which was due to a higher average daily attendance rate and ending with a higher enrollment rate than projected. As you may know, the goal of any public school is to end the fiscal year either with a balanced budget or a surplus. The fiscal year for public schools runs from July 1 to June 30. Because the fiscal year in public schools ends on June 30 each year, any positive balance goes directly into a cash-on-hand balance for a school. If SLLIS were ever to owe the state money in June, the cash-on-hand balance

would be used to pay back the state. Any surplus in June does not get "rolled over" and applied per se to the next fiscal year's budget.

An organization needs a certain amount to meet the requirement of lenders, rating agencies and others, such as the state. The State of Missouri requires charter schools to have a positive cash-on-hand balance of a minimum of 3% of its overall budget. SLLIS has been working towards increasing its percentage of cash-on-hand. SLLIS needs to increase its cash-on-hand balance for several reasons: 1) to be able to cover critical emergencies (think major unanticipated facilities emergencies at both campuses--remember that the school lease's were executed "As Is" which puts the fiscal onus on SLLIS to remedy any facilities issues), 2) to show potential lenders we are fiscally stable as we take steps to secure low-interest loans for a future Master Campus, and, 3) to be able to begin paying down current loan balances to lenders. If SLLIS continues with its current projected attrition rate through the winter, SLLIS may be able to pay down the principal of one of its several loans. However, if SLLIS experiences an attrition rate over its current projection, SLLIS would need to safeguard those funds to protect against any potential budget deficits for 2017-2018.