

Carbondale Attendance Center Parent Informer – March 2018

A Message from Mr. Flax – This week marks the end of the third quarter of the school year. I can't believe how quickly this year is going, but I say that every year. I know there have been so many interruptions due to the weather and the flu bug, so I am hopeful the wintery days are done. Spring break is just two weeks away, and after that the days all get blurry with the end of year rush. I just remind everyone that it is so important that students are here every day they can be. I have told students that if they are able to participate in their sports and after school activities they must be at school. Every year I have that discussion with a parent or two, but we can't have students only attend school on days they have an activity. Thanks for getting them to us each day possible.

Safety Issues – I know you are all aware of the recent school shooting in Florida and about the threats of violence that students have been making here in Kansas the last few weeks. I speak to students often about the importance of watching what they say at school and over social media. Some students are in the habit of making threats (and to whatever level of violence or magnitude does not matter), and that absolutely must stop. I am charged with investigating every single time that is reported, and I take that seriously. We will be running a lock-down drill this week and an evacuation drill later this spring. I want our students to have as much preparation for incidents of school violence as possible. Additionally, the district is bringing in a speaker on bullying for every student and staff member. He is scheduled for our building on March 15 at the start of the day. Ask your child if they know what they are supposed to do in emergency situations at school. They should be able to tell you what we do for each kind of drill.

Activities Update – Our scholar's bowl season is almost halfway over, and we are doing well. At our first event of the year, one of our eighth grade teams took third place. The two seventh grade teams worked their way through pool play and the semifinals to meet each other in the finals. The teams have placed at every meet so far this year, with three competitions remaining. The high point, though, at this time is that at the league scholar's bowl meet we took the championship in both the seventh and eighth grade divisions. I am excited to hang those banners in the gym this spring. The coaches, Gretta Hug and Courtnee Maichel, have done a great job working with the students and deserve thanks. The track teams are practicing, and we will be looking at track meets the first week of April. The first meet is April 3 at Central Heights beginning at 3:30. We will be hosting three track meets this year, with the last one being the Pioneer League Track Meet. Those will all be out at SFTHS. Even if you do not have a child participating you might consider going out there to watch our student athletes. They compete hard, and they always enjoy seeing lots of folks in the stands.

Speaking of Activities – One of the things I do for teachers at this point in the year is to provide for them a list of all activities and events we have left on the calendar for the year. The purpose for that is as teachers begin looking at field trips, guest speakers, etc. they must consider what else is happening with our students and staff those days. So last Friday I worked diligently on that list. With only 12 more days of school in March, and a total of 44 days left this school year, the calendar

is almost full already. Knowing that my list is incomplete at this time, as teachers have stopped in to ask about additional activities to be added, there are 84 items that impact students or staff already scheduled. I always remind teachers to use every minute of class time wisely, as there are interruptions to someone every single day. I just thought you should know how active students and teachers are at this time of year.

Parent-Teacher Conferences – The second semester parent-teacher conferences are on the calendar. For the fourth, fifth and sixth grade students' conferences will be the week of March 12-15. I am sure the teachers have been in contact with you to set those meetings up. The seventh and eighth grade teacher will be in the building from 4:00-7:00 on the evenings of Monday, March 12 and Thursday, March 15. Please drop in and see them about the progress your child is making in their classes. Mrs. Hamit, Mrs. Mead and I have begun with the 8th grade high school transition meetings. I know the other two have a great start, and I am still in the process of getting each one on the schedule. If I am hosting your child's conference you will hear from me today. Thanks for the responses to my emails regarding these.

State Assessments – The state assessments have been scheduled. Mrs. Hamit has looked over the required tests, visited with teachers, and they are on our calendar. The only subject that will be tested before spring break is social studies, which is only required for 6th and 8th graders. When we return from spring break the entire building will take two sessions each of reading and math, and the fifth and eighth graders will take two sessions of science. Mrs. Hamit works so very hard to get these all scheduled, having to work around all of the other activities and events that are on the calendar for the last quarter.

Short Shout Outs –

Mrs. Michaelis took a group of students to Eudora to the Student Technology Workshop. Ours students did well. We will send out information on results as soon as I get them.

Good luck to Kaelee Washington as she represents us and Osage County at the State Spelling Bee this month.

Items for your Calendars: (I am always worried that I will leave a bunch off since we don't have the paper calendar anymore. I am sure I did so in this list.☺ Please check the district website for a more complete list.)

- 3/5 League Band Clinic at Iola (Concert at 7:00)
- 3/5 Scholars Bowl at Sabetha 4:00
- 3/6 PTO Meeting at OAC 6:30
- 3/8 Teacher Prep Day – No School
- 3/9 Staff Development – No School
- 3/12-13 Grades 4-6 Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 3/12 Grades 7-8 Parent-Teacher Conferences 4:00-7:00
- 3/13-16 Grade 4 to One-Room Schoolhouse (One class each day this week)

- 3/12-14 SFTHS Cheer and Dance Team Tryout Practice at SFTHS 6:30
- 3/13 Scholars Bowl at CAC 4:15
- 3/14 BOE Meeting at SAC 6:00
- 3/15 Joe Coles to Speak about Bullying at CAC 8:00
- 3/15 Grades 7-8 Parent-Teacher Conferences 4:00-7:00
- 3/16 3rd Quarter Celebration to Burlington Rec Center
- 3/19-23 Spring Break
- 3/27 8th Grade Red Wheel Delivery in Cafeteria 3:00-5:00
- 3/28 FBLA State Conference in Topeka
- 3/29 Star Base for 5th Grade Begins
- 3/30 Good Friday – No School

Have you read to your child today? Have you read with your child today?

Something the children hear me say almost every day: Be kinder than you need to be; everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle.