

Carbondale Attendance Center
Parent Informer – September 2017

I usually begin my Parent Informer with “A Message from Mr. Flax.” This month I wanted to first address with you the passing of Mrs. Stephanie Ziegler. Our staff is saddened by this loss, as I know many of you are as well. Stephanie served the students, teachers, and families of this district and our communities very selflessly and graciously. She is missed. I ask that you remember Stephanie and her family as the year goes on.

A Message from Mr. Flax – Welcome back! The first of September is here, and we now have two weeks under our belts. Things seem to be running smoothly here, but I know better than to take that for granted. Every year I begin with pretty much the same message. I tell students that I can only promise their parents two things each year. One, that I will do everything I can to keep every person in this building safe, and two that I will do everything I can to make sure the students are receiving an appropriate and engaging education. I don’t guarantee those things will happen, but I do promise to do my best to see that they do. Please do not hesitate to call or email with questions, or just stop by. I appreciate hearing from parents and patrons of the district. I hope you all have a great end of summer and autumn, and that you all can get out and enjoy the fall weather. Have a great year!

Fundraiser – Every fall I start the year with a Red Wheel fundraiser. We are going to do that again this year. The kickoff for sales will be next Wednesday at 2:45. Students will bring their packets home with them that day. Sales will go for two weeks. The last day to turn in orders is September 20. The delivery date is October 4. I will send out a couple of reminders via alert as we get closer to those two dates. I do not use this money as a savings account. Student trips in the spring are paid for out of this fundraiser. I encourage teachers to provide field trips that apply to their curriculum and classroom activities. As always, participation in this fundraiser is optional.

DAP – Beginning next Wednesday we will have our first day of the Directed Academic Program. DAP is our after-school study hour. Each day a certified teacher is assigned to work with students on whatever homework and skill work they need. In order to get your student in this program (which is free of charge) please contact Mrs. Hamit or your child’s classroom teacher. This is not just a general study hall, nor is it child care. Students who are admitted will be expected to work during the hour. I am pleased that we have this program available. Mostly, I am pleased because I have already had several students remind me that it is time to get the program started for the year. That tells me they value it and that it pays off for them to get work done before they head home for the evening.

School Pictures – Today we had the fall pictures for students and staff. We are now using the services of Interstate Studio and Publishing Company for our school pictures. The company will send us the proofs for you to look over in a couple of weeks. You can then decide if you want to order pictures or just return the proofs. I will make sure you get a note either through the alert system or on paper when those arrive.

Homecoming – I have been criticized about this every year since I have been at CAC, so brace yourselves for the annual (what has been called on social media) “Mr. Flax hates school spirit” notice. We have asked for the homecoming parade to be at Carbondale this year, as last year the parade was rained out. Arrangements are being made for that to happen, and a note will be sent out during that week. Now for the part many of you dread: The staff at SFTH prefer to celebrate our own spirit week during October, as we have teams of our own to celebrate. That is no reflection on the high school or how I personally feel about it. We just prefer to have our own Spirit Week. We will not be participating in the dress-up days that the

high school does during the Homecoming Week for their Spirit Week. We will do our dress-up days, planned by CAC/SFTJH students, during Red Ribbon Week here. And for the record, there are probably very few people in this district ((who didn't grow up here) who appreciate Santa Fe Trail as much as I.

Parking Lot – I am glad to have the south parking lot and drop-off lanes ready for use this year. The gates are up, and beginning Tuesday Wells Street will be closed during busing time (approximately 7:00-7:35 and again from 3:15-3:45) so the bus can unload and load each day. That parking lot is for your use as well. So far things have worked really well for us, and I feel a lot better knowing that students can cross that street safely without traffic during those times. Thanks for helping us keep the children safe.

Evacuation Drill – We have had our first fire drill and tornado drill of the year this past week. There are two more drills that we will run this early fall. We will do a lock-down drill and an evacuation drill in the next weeks, as well as our monthly fire drill. I will let you know when we do the evacuation drill, as I know it is unnerving to see all of the students and staff rushing out of the building. We use the football field at the southwest end of the property for this. School crisis plans are written very specifically. We ask that parents do not come to the drills, as we want to ensure that all staff and students know exactly what they are to do in the event of an evacuation. There is rarely a need for a school evacuation, but we want to be prepared just in case it becomes necessary.

New Staff – We have a large number of new staff in the building again this year. I am going to give you the rundown of teachers this month and support staff next month so spread that out a bit.

8th Grade Language Arts – Mrs. Amanda Kolbek

6th Grade – Mrs. Michele Schieferecke and Mrs. Jennifer Dobbs

7-8 Technology – Mrs. Ashley Michaelis

7th Grade Social Studies – Mr. Brit Dewey

Special Education – Mr. Samuel Hendee

4th Grade (transfers from OAC) - Mrs. Mandi Lattier and Mrs. Tina Arb

Library – Mrs. Michele Herren

Bike Locks – The Carbondale Police Chief and I were visiting a few days ago about the bike racks at school. I mentioned that several of the bikes do not have chain locks on them. The very next day, Chief Smith dropped off a box of bike locks to give to the students who ride their bikes to school. I have handed out several, and the students and I have practiced getting them open. Because there is no record of the combination locks, I have been writing down the student's name and bike combination in case they forget theirs. I still have a few left if any of the bike riders want to stop in my office and get one. I appreciate the police department working with us towards the safety of the children and their belongings.

Hurricane Harvey – We are having some discussions about what we can do to aid the victims of the hurricane in Texas. After some thought, I have decided that we will donate the profit from the concession stand sales at our next home volleyball and football games. I know many of you are not able to or choose not to attend those activities. If you would like to make a donation anyway, just send it to school in an envelope marked specifically with the Hurricane Harvey project. Do not feel obligation; I just wanted that out there.

Thanks – I want to thank the parents and students who came to Open House and attended my visits in the gym. I really want the communication from my office to you all to be what you need. Please do not hesitate to stop in and see me when you have a question. I will do my best to explain the *hows* and *whys* of what we do here. Have a great semester.

Items for your Calendars:

- 9/5 Volleyball vs. Prairie View at SFTHS 4:15
- 9/5 PTO Meeting at OAC 6:30
- 9/7 Cross Country at Lyndon 4:00
- 9/7 Football at Anderson County 4:00
- 9/11 Volleyball vs Anderson County at SFTHS 4:15
- 9/13 BOE Meeting at SAC 6:00
- 9/14 Cross Country at Wellsville 4:00
- 9/14 Football vs. Osawatomie 3:30 *Note the earlier time for this game*
- 9/18 Volleyball at Burlington 4:00
- 9/21 Volleyball at Osawatomie 4:00
- 9/21 Football at Iola 4:00
- 9/21 Cross Country at Royal Valley 4:00
- 9:22 Homecoming Parade and Pep Rally at Carbondale 1:00
- 9/23 Volleyball 7 and 8 B-Teams at Jeff West
- 9/23 Volleyball 7 and 8 A-Teams at Perry
- 9/25 Volleyball vs. Iola at SFTHS 4:15
- 9/28 Volleyball at Wellsville 4:00
- 9/28 Football vs. Burlington at SFTHS 4:00
- 9/28 Cross Country at Council Grove 4:00
- 9/30 Volleyball at Osawatomie (A-Teams only) 4:00