

## Carbondale Attendance Center Parent Informer – February 2018

**A Message from Mr. Flax** – What a special treat for the students and for me to have so many of our grandparents and Very Important People with us last Friday! The students in grades 4-6 had been planning and working to make the day a great shared activity. Any of you who were able to attend had to notice all the smiles of students wanting to show off their school with the people they love. If for some reason you could not attend and would like to, just give us a call and join us another time. Thank you for taking the time to come in for part of that day. We had well over 200 visitors, and we were happy to see each and every one of you. Thanks.

**Activities Update** – It is just about time to wrap up the boys' basketball season here this next two weeks. We have six games in two weeks, beginning today when we welcome Osawatomie. As quickly as the season has gone by, it seems impossible that there are still five left. And just as if a timer went off, it's time for scholars bowl. Mrs. Hug and Mrs. Maichel have begun practicing with the teams, and lots of students are involved again this year. We will attend five meets this year, two of which we will host. That schedule will appear on the website, and I will make sure there is something sent home with those participating. I am sure Mr. Hug and I will be asking for helpers for the two meets we schedule. If you have any interest in that at all just let one of us know.

**Speaking of Activities** – This Thursday, February 8, we will be celebrating Charger Family Night during our basketball games vs. Iola. There will be no charge for admission, the junior high band will perform between games, and a junior high choir will sing the National Anthem. All junior high students (grades 7-8) will receive a coupon for a free popcorn at the game or for a snack from the snack cart for Friday during school. We want to invite everyone out for the games. I hope to see many of you this Thursday evening.

**Discipline** – I must say that I have been extremely happy for the most part with the general behavior of our students so far this school year. The number of office referrals is less than in previous years, and students seem to respond fairly well to our correction. That being said, at this time of year we usually see a few more students in the office. This year is no exception to that. Over the last two weeks several students have made trips to see me, having been sent out of class for various reasons. I want to thank you for your support when we deal with student misbehavior, even when we might disagree on the appropriateness of the consequence I assign. I remind them that it is my responsibility to decide that, and while I don't enjoy it I do accept what comes with it as far as unhappy students and sometimes unhappy parents. I tell students upon every visit to my office that I want them to discuss our visit with their parents. I also encourage them to own their mistakes, accept the consequences, and move on having learned from the experience. I hope that most of you trust that I will follow policy and use my professional judgement and discretion when dealing with each child and each situation.

**Parent-Teacher Conferences** – This is pretty much a repeat of last month’s conference information but I thought I would send this as a reminder. I will resend it in the March Parent Informer as well. The teachers in grades 4-6 will be scheduling conferences with you individually sometime during the week of March 12-15. There will be lots of flexibility in that schedule, so as to meet the time frame that works for both the teacher and the parents. The teachers of the junior high students (grades 7-8) will be available for drop-in conferences on Monday and Thursday, March 12 and 15 between the hours of 4:00-7:00. While the drop-in time is available, if you want to plan a specific time to meet with one of the teachers, please just make that contact with them to set that up. Additionally, Mrs. Maggie Mead, Mrs. Kristy Hamit and I are preparing for individual conferences with all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and parents. One of the three of us will be contacting you to get those scheduled sometime in the near future. These are conferences to visit about the transition to the high school, along with information about the ACT Aspire Tests that the students took in the fall.

**Spelling Bee** – We had some really exciting grade level preliminary spelling contests last week, followed by a great final spelling bee last Friday. Our building final found sixth grader Kaelee Washington as our champion. Seventh grader Kendalan Vancamp was the runner up. Both of these girls then traveled with me to Lyndon on Friday, February 2 for the Osage County Spelling Bee. Ten spellers competed there, with Kaelee Washington coming out the winner. She will advance to the State Bee later this month.

**State Assessments** – We are getting ready to schedule our annual state assessments. Mrs. Hamit is acting as the test coordinator again this year. I believe we will do much of our testing right after spring break, but there are a few of the sessions that will take place before that. When we get those scheduled I want to get that schedule out to you parents. If you know when your children are testing it will do them good to have a good night’s sleep, eat a good breakfast and hear encouragement from you as they leave for the day. Of course, that could be something you might do each and every day, and that would be great for your children. But at testing time, it does help give them an extra edge to know you are aware of what’s coming that day for them.

**PTO Meeting** – There is a PTO meeting this evening (February 6) at SAC beginning at 6:30. I must say that PTO has been so very good to the students of this district, and this past couple of years have been really active. I appreciate the parents and teachers who are staying involved. If you would give it some consideration I am sure the officers would be glad to see more of you at the meeting. PTO is getting ready to kick off our second annual Read-a-Thon in the next few weeks. We will be sending information out to you, if the teachers haven’t already done so. Please give some thought to stopping by that meeting tonight.

**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.)

2/6 8<sup>th</sup> Grade B-Team Basketball vs. Shawnee Heights at CAC 4:30 (2 games)

- 2/7 Mid-Terms will come home
- 2/7 Lil' Cheer Camp Practice at SFT
- 2/7 Advanced Art Trip to the Nelson-Atkins Museum in Kansas City
- 2/8 Basketball vs. Iola at CAC 4:15 \*CHARGER FAMILY NIGHT\*
- 2/9 Lil' Cheer Campers Perform at SFTHS
- 2/9 Well-Child Screening in Carbondale at the UCCC
- 2/12 Basketball at Prairie View 4:00
- 2/12 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Music Concert at CAC 7:00
- 2/13 Basketball vs. Anderson County at CAC 4:15
- 2/14 BOE Meeting at SAC 6:00
- 2/15 Basketball vs. Burlington at CAC 4:15
- 2/16 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Red Wheel Fundraiser Kickoff
- 2/19 President's Day – No School
- 2/21 Combined JH/HS Choir Concert at CAC 7:00
- 2/23 JH Ski Trip
- 2/24 Scholars' Bowl Meet at CAC 4:15
- 2/27 Greenbush Student Technology Workshop in Eudora
- 2/27 Scholars' Bowl at Prairie View 4:00

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.