



## Carbondale Attendance Center Board of Education Report Submitted Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Ben O'Dell**

Principal  
bodell@usd434.us

**Kevan O'Shea**

Assistant Principal/ Athletic Director  
koshea@usd434.us

**Maggie Mead**

School Social Worker  
mmead@usd434.us

**Angela Black**

School Counselor  
ablack@usd434.us

**Kristy Markham**

School Nurse  
kmarkham@usd434.us

**Theresa Courtwright**

Office Manager/Treasurer  
tcourtwright@usd434.us

**Chelsie Masters**

Assistant Office Manager/Lunch Clerk  
cmasters@usd434.us

USD 434 Board Members,

The students and staff at Carbondale have come back from the winter break rested and ready to roll. So far we have not experienced an enormous spike in COVID-19 cases after the holidays, though there have been some kids and adults in the building that have been forced to quarantine to start the second semester. Absences due to health considerations from time to time have unfortunately become the new normal, and we continue as a school to review and revise procedures to address these absences.

In brighter news, we have gladly welcomed back Lari Jarrett and Maggie Mead after extended health-related absences. We were also extremely fortunate to add new staff to the team who are now off to a great start at CAC. Veranna Bauske, a December graduate of the University of Kansas, comes to us highly recommended from the Tonganoxie school district where she student taught. She teaches eighth grade math. You are all familiar with the work of Melanie Wallace of course; she has taken on instructional duties in ELA for grades six and seven.

Per Board of Education direction, we have launched both Summit and non-Summit instruction platforms in sixth and seventh grade. Student class schedules have been solidified according to parent requests, and students are on their way with the new schedules. All student data for non-Summit students and staff has now been purged from the Summit system. The only student and staff data in the system at this point is for students and staff currently using the platform.

The staff at CAC have requested revisions to the bell schedule for second semester to stretch the length of the daily core instructional periods to improve direct instruction in core content classes. A staff meeting on Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup> is planned to provide options to the staff, and allow the staff to select the best option for us to use. Our plan is to implement the staff-selected choice when students return on January 19<sup>th</sup>. This will allow us time to revise and share the finalized plans with parents prior to the projected bell adjustment on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Athletically speaking, Boys basketball continues practicing in preparation for their first competitions the week of January 11<sup>th</sup>. As stated previously, KSHSAA has prohibited spectators through January, and arrangements have been made to stream games for our families to watch the action for the entire Boys season.

We are looking ahead to the CAC Spelling Bee competitions. The plan is to hold grade level contests on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, and the building-wide competition on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Since spectators will not be allowed, we are exploring the possibility of streaming the competitions if possible for our families to view remotely. The CAC Spelling Bee competitions are preliminary to the Osage County Spelling Bee coming up in February.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben O'Dell