



Carbondale Attendance Center Board of Education Report
Submitted Friday, May 7th, 2021

USD 434 Board Members,

May is here, and this month for us at CAC is all about transitions. The students and staff at Carbondale are racing towards the finish of the school year at a furious pace. We are looking forward to celebrating the end of a challenging but memorable school year.

State assessments, MAP testing, and Fastbridge assessments have all but wrapped up at this point. The data collected from these assessments is critical to helping us identify students in need of supports in reading and math as we move into next year, and allow us to gauge the growth our students have experienced this year. Test season is stressful but important, and we are glad to have it almost entirely behind us now. We will be sharing with the Board of Education the data gathered in future communications.

We are in the process of rolling out our plans for next school year. Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) leads the way, with the implementation of an intervention period for Tier 2 and Tier 3 supports. This also means the creation of flexible nine week exploratory classes in the same time period for students that do not require Tier 2 and Tier 3 supports. Enrollment information has gone out to students and families. As stated previously, as we align our building to meet KESA and other State of Kansas requirements we will keep the Board of Education and our patrons informed. Additions to the staff and amendments to our staff and student handbooks are in progress for next school year.

Eighth grade graduation is next week, and those plans have been released to our families and the communities at large. The eighth grade celebration trip to Burlington Recreation Center is scheduled for May 13th during the school day at no cost to students. The gowns are ready to go for the next day after that – eighth grade graduation is set for May 14th. There is a limit of six tickets per student, and a streaming option for those not in attendance.

A successful junior high athletic season has concluded at this point. We have summer camps for our students in the works, along with off-season preparations and meetings for Lari Jarrett.

Summer school at CAC is now enrolling students. Our summer math program for select students in grades four through eight in the summer will help us close instructional gaps resulting from COVID. This program will be in the mornings five days per week in two sessions (May 24-June 11, and July 19-30). Our math program is a great complement to the summer school program in reading at OAC. Between the free summer meal program, our summer school program in math, extended school year services through the Three Lakes



Cooperative, and our building hosting the Crosswinds summer program this year we expect a busy summer at CAC.

Students and their programs are certainly ending the year with a flourish. Mason Slotke and Corben Sisson were the winners at CAC in the Stock Market Game, placed 2nd of all middle schools in the region, and placed 7th place all schools (including high schools!) in the region. They took a virtual nest egg of \$100,000 to invest, and in eight weeks yielded a total equity of \$123,045.76. Kudos to Ashley Michaelis for her work with this group. Our reading syllable challenge in the fourth and fifth grade has spanned the entire second semester, encouraging our students to improve their skills. Carrie Hawks did a fantastic job making this happen for our students at CAC. Our fifth grade classes all cycled through another successful visit to the science-driven Starbase program at Forbes Field, incorporating STEM and science content that our students universally enjoyed. Our Starbase 2.0 program at CAC concluded on May 5th with rockets launching from the north playground after school! Visitors from the Topeka Zoo brought an interesting animal experience to the students at CAC through their “Zoo to You” program last week. While we as a school could not go to the zoo, it was great that the students had that same feel in our gym. Our annual band concert is scheduled for May 7th in Overbrook (by the time you read this submission I fully expect that we will be celebrating another fantastic program courtesy of Mr. Quilling and Ms. Rice. Our CAC book Club achieved an audacious goal this week when they celebrated nineteen students who read forty or more books since the club got rolling this year. Hats off to Keturah McKitterick in the CAC library for supporting our kids with this successful club program.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben O'Dell".

Ben O'Dell