



FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT – CHARLES CURNYN

This is the time of year that the budgeting process for the 2015-2016 school year gets finalized. I am happy to say that we have been able to put together a budget that substantially reduces the levy while still allowing Arapahoe Public Schools to operate in the fashion it needs to. If you should ever have any questions on how your money is being spent, please do not hesitate ask.

The year is off to a great start and we are excited to dive into the activities that come along with the fall season. Also, our first parent/teacher conference will be on Tuesday September 29th. I encourage everyone to visit your student(s) teacher(s) and learn more about what they are doing. Thank you for your continued support of our students.

PRINCIPAL UPDATE BY BOB BRAITHWAIT

August and September are gone and so is summer. The days are getting noticeably shorter, and the temperatures cooler. If you have elementary students, please make sure they have enough protection against the cold weather. Although the high for the day may be in the 30's, the mornings are usually pretty brisk. Thank you.

Things don't slow down a whole lot in October. Below are some things that may not be on your calendars:

- 1st: Autism and Bullying Assembly Grades 7-12 at 9:00
- 3rd: Harvest Of Harmony Parade in Grand Island
- 5th: NO SCHOOL staff goes to Holdrege for an all day workshop.
- 7th: 4th Grade Fitness Day in McCook. Juniors to attend the college fair in Cambridge
- 9th: Good Samaritan Staff will be at the school at 8:00 am to hand out free hats, gloves, and school supplies to our K-6th students. They will also bring doughnuts and orange juice for the kids.
- 13th: 5th-8th Grade Fall Concert at 7:00
- 14th: 10:00 start for teacher inservice.
- 15th: Cross Country Districts hosted by Arapahoe
- 23rd: State Cross Country in Kearney

26th-30th: FFA National Convention In Louisville, Kentucky

27th: LifeTouch Retakes

29th: FB Playoffs 1st Round

30th: NO SCHOOL Fall Break

31st: "Be Our Guest With Beauty And The Beast". Come and meet the Arapahoe High School cast of the musical Beauty And The Beast at 3:00 at the Ella Missing Center

COUNSELOR'S COMMENTS BY PAM BREINIG

The next ACT will be administered on October 24, 2015. Any students (primarily senior aged) who have not registered and wish to do so can still register (until October 2) and pay a late fee. See me for more information if this is the case. Parents should encourage their test taker to get a good night's rest, eat a hearty breakfast, and plan ample travel time to arrive at the testing site with at least 15 minutes to spare. Students should take their confirmation ticket, photo identification, pencils and a calculator to the testing site. Just a note to remember about future test dates . . . keep in mind that the site will be incredibly busy as the deadline draws close. Many students experienced long wait times or even being "timed out" of the site. Plan ahead and register early. The remaining test dates are posted in our school and will also be a part of my newsletters to juniors and seniors.

Speaking of testing, juniors will have the opportunity to take the PSAT (a pre-college entrance exam) on Wednesday, October 14, 2015. This cost of this test is about \$15, and students do have the opportunity to win scholarships if their scores are exceptionally high. If nothing else, the experience does provide yet one more testing practice.

All juniors will take the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) on October 22, 2015. Military personnel administer this test, but in no way does it send a student into the military. Instead, it provides feedback on students' natural aptitudes. It is a free test, and it does provide some career feedback within the results.

Applications for the post-graduate version of the Everett

and Pearl Gentry Memorial Scholarship are due on Monday, October 12, 2015. Eligible applicants must currently be attending college, living or working in the district with school loans, and cannot be a 2015 graduate of AHS. If you have questions, feel free to contact me at the school.

KINDERGARTEN NEWS BY KAREN CUSTER

The kindergarten class has been busy learning about our five senses. They have also learned to use some important science skills to help them learn about their world. We are pretty good at observing, comparing, measuring and sorting. Science sure is fun!

NEWS FROM THE FIRST GRADE BY ELIZABETH KLEIN

We have been busy learning many new things in first grade! One of our favorite topics in science is studying about our five senses. What fun it is to investigate objects with our senses. After all, that is how we learn about the world around us. We recently used our five senses to study celery and apples. Students enjoyed using hand lenses to observe celery up close. Students REALLY enjoyed being able to observe and eat apples. Science is fun!

SECOND GRADE NEWS BY SHARI MUES

Guppies, Guppies, and more guppies! There is so much excitement in the second grade classroom with baby guppies being born. The class has over thirty new babies and more on the way. Do you know that guppies give birth to live young, meaning that the mother does not lay eggs? Every month a mother guppy can have 7 to 50 babies. The second graders are watching the pregnant mother guppies to see when the babies will be born. This is a fun learning experience!

The second graders are reading books for accelerated reading. The students must read three books at their reading level and then take a test. Every test the students pass earns them points towards earning a dog tag. The second graders cannot wait to earn their first dog tag.

THIRD GRADE NEWS WITH MRS. SCHUTZ

The third graders are learning how scientists investigate questions. We read that Science is about Earth and everything beyond it. We also found out that we are all scientists! We look at the world around us and come up with questions about it. We learned what a hypothesis

is, and how to predict and plan an investigation. An experiment we did in the classroom was creating paper airplanes to see how far they could fly. Students then made a second airplane a little different to see if it would fly farther than the first one. We predicted, observed, and inferred our results. It's so much fun being a scientist!

FOURTH GRADE NEWS NBY JULIE STAGEMEYER

On Wednesday, October 7th, 4th grade students from Arapahoe and other schools across the area will participate in a one-day health and fitness day hosted by the YMCA and Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department, McCook Public Schools, and many other sponsors. This is an exciting way for the students to learn the importance of fitness and nutrition. During Nebraska Kid's Fitness and Nutrition Day, students will participate at 6 nutrition stations and 16 fitness stations. The nutrition stations include information on proper hand washing, label reading, my plate food guide, picking appropriate snacks, picking proper portion sizes and energy balance. Fitness stations include an obstacle course, parachute, fitness balls, kickboxing, dancing and more. Each student will receive lunch and a t-shirt. We also have invited two seniors, Austin Koller and Tabetha Reiman to join us. Austin and Tabetha will be in charge of a station as fourth graders visit it during the day. We want to thank Austin and Tabetha and the many sponsors for this fun and educational day!

MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH MRS. WILLIAMSON

Show your work! Show your work! Sometimes I feel like a broken record as I repeat this phrase throughout the day but showing work is essential to working accurately. It is so easy to make a little mistake that makes the whole math problem incorrect. By writing down the math problem, students will easily see what to do and won't make careless mistakes. Therefore parents, as you check over your children's homework if you see only an answer, remind your student to show his or her work.

As we begin to move past reviewing, students should be becoming very comfortable with addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts. Students should be able to recite facts easily without having to count on fingers or count up or down the answers. If your child is having problems with math facts, I would encourage you to spend a little time each day working on flash cards. Regular practice of flashcards will make an amazing difference in just a short time!

5TH GRADE READING BY CHRIS SNYDER

The theme of our first reading unit dealt with challenges. This was quite appropriate as the first month of school can be challenging for 5th graders. They are given more responsibility and independence.

In our reading and language arts classes, we work on vocabulary, phonics, comprehension, fluency, writing, grammar, spelling, and speaking. My favorite part is how confident the students have become with standing in front of the class to share writing or act out vocabulary words and sentences. The students are flourishing, and I am very proud of their effort and hard work.

ELEMENTARY KEYBOARDING NEWS BY LYNN CROSLY

The sixth graders are currently enrolled in Elementary Keyboarding. This class will meet for one quarter. Second quarter the fifth graders will be Keyboarding, while the sixth graders are in Study Hall. Second semester will finish out with the fourth graders completing Keyboarding during third quarter and the third graders during fourth quarter. The fifth and sixth graders meet four days a week for an entire class period. The third and fourth graders meet for two days a week for 20-25 minutes each time.

ELEMENTARY GIFTED NEWS BY SUE HELMS

The elementary gifted students have begun the year with Geocaching. They are finding out that the given coordinates are not always spot on, which means the cache may be close by. This can be frustrating or challenging. Hopefully this activity will lead to fun family outings or even a lifetime hobby. It doesn't require expensive equipment. For you techy folks, a GPS app can be downloaded onto your phone. If you don't know what Geocaching is, ask one of the students in the Elementary Gifted Program to tell you all about it.

MATH WITH MR. STRAND

This year we are using a website to begin class where the students go to figure out what we are learning each day. The website is mrstrandmath.weebly.com. There is a link on the site where students can access schoology, which is where I post all class notes and assignments. If they have not accessed schoology yet, they should set up an account and register for my class (they will need a code to do this). There are also links to the state practice test for their grade level, and a site (IXL) that provides practice problems that cover all of the standards that are

assessed. There is a cost to become a member of IXL, but they are allowed 20 questions a day for free if they want extra practice over a certain concept.

We have been using learning groups at the beginning of class to try to help get a little more one on one instruction if it is necessary. We divide up into groups, where one group works on the beginning activity while another group is going over any questions on the homework. Hopefully this lets students feel more comfortable asking questions and getting help with problems they are having difficulties with.

GOVERNMENT BY DUSTIN KRONHOFMAN

We have had another great start to the year in American Government. Right now we are learning about the origins of American Government. This week we learned about the previous governments of the United States and the need for a new stronger central government. We also celebrated Constitution Day and just finished discussing the completion of the constitution and the difficulty of ratifying it. Earlier in the year we had group projects identifying various types of governments throughout the world. It's great having students back in the classroom and we are looking forward to a great year in American Government.

HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH BY HEIDI THOMAS

Basic English 9/10 is working on how to plan - in writing. They begin each day discussing their planner - a very necessary part of daily living. Success in modern society includes a written plan. Daily also, the students read current event articles, learning about fascinating events in this country, and in the world, in regard to social studies and science. Quarter 2 will bring fiction reading.

English III has started the school year reading about early American heritage in *Black Elk Speaks*, by John G. Neihardt. It's always fascinating to find out what 17-year olds believe about Manifest Destiny, and about Hope, two compelling takeaways from this particular book. Their final project will be to build a documentary, including a lengthy annotated bibliography. Quarter 2 will bring persuasive writing practice for Nebraska State Writing.

Basic English 11/12 has started the school year reading about early American heritage in the *Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, by Mark Twain. Their connection to early American History and American Government will be made by researching events in the mid-1800s that directly correlate with the characters and events in the book. They, too, will build a documentary, including a lengthy

annotated bibliography. Quarter two will bring persuasive writing practice for Nebraska State Writing for 11th graders, as well as scholarship essay writing for 12th graders.

Beginning Speech started out the year with talented performers showing their skills in a repeat performance of "Frozen" from junior high speech competition. 18 students are learning about public speaking, and are nearly finished with demonstration speeches. Wow! We have learned how to do amazing things through demonstration. Coming up: informative, persuasive, entertainment and extemporaneous speaking.

MUSIC "NOTES" BY MRS. STEPHENS

As we leave September and approach October, we start our concert season! On Tuesday, October 13th at 7:00 pm the students in grades 5-8 will perform a Fall Concert. The concert theme is "The Music of Mother Nature". Students are performing songs that are about clouds, lightning, wind and rain. They will also create a rainstorm for the audience. Don't want to miss it!

The high school vocal class has been studying music for the pops concert as well as the large chorus numbers for the upcoming musical "Beauty and The Beast". Tickets will go on sale this month, so please contact Mrs. Stephens or Mrs. Leising if you would like tickets to the dinner theater, which will be held on Saturday, November 7th. We will also have two matinee performances on November 6th at 9 am and on November 8th at 3 pm. Tickets for the matinee can be purchased at the door.

There will also be a "Be Our Guest with Beauty and The Beast" at the Ella Missing Center on Halloween at 3 pm. This is a meet and greet the cast of the musical. They will be in full costume and will be reading the story of Beauty and The Beast as well as performing a few numbers from the show. They will be available for autographs and pictures as well. This will be a free-will donation to help defray the cost of the expensive costumes for this show. If you have a child that would

like to come, they can come in their Halloween costume and enjoy the fun before the parade downtown!

JUNIOR HIGH FOOTBALL BY COACH STRAND AND COACH STEPHENS

This year we have 16 junior high boys at football. We only have five 8th graders, so we are relying on the incoming 7th graders to hop in and play right away. We had our first game against Medicine Valley and they came to town and beat us, but I think we learned from it. We have been trying to work on playing faster and more physical, because most of the boys don't have the size right now to overpower their opponents.

We had our second game of the year against Elwood on the 17th, and suffered another defeat. Even though we lost, we found out some things that worked well, and once again were able to find some weaknesses that we will have to work on to get better.

We still have four games left against Bertrand on the 24th, at Dundy County-Stratton on the 1st of October, Alma on the 6th, and then we finish up at Southwest on the 15th.

VOLLEYBALL BY COACH CLUBINE

The volleyball teams are doing well and working very hard. Thank you for coming out and supporting us last week against Southern Valley and Bertrand. The win against Southern Valley was an exciting one. We may have lost to Bertrand but we are learning. Each game that we play offers us the opportunity to learn and become better. Homecoming week is a big home game Thursday night against Cambridge. Please come out and support us! We want you to cheer very loudly for OUR team! We are planning to bring home another big WIN! GO LADY WARRIORS!

Arapahoe Public Schools
School District No. 18



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