

Hello again and greetings from USD 467!

A few weeks ago I gave information from goal area 2, Responsive Culture-Leadership. This week I will continue with areas which we will focus our efforts to improve student achievement.

Social Emotional Factors Measured Locally - At the elementary teachers were polled at the first in-service this year, and it was revealed that teachers wanted to nominate students more often than monthly, so students are now nominated weekly for Character Trait Awards. This allows additional students deserving of the recognition to be included. As part of the recognition, the students' names are displayed on a bulletin board outside the office, they receive a certificate signed by the principal, and they earn Prizes with the Principal. This is a monthly celebration where students meet with the principal and get a small prize and popcorn. The school counselor continues to provide guidance lessons at the elementary school as well as individual and group counseling for students as necessary. The counselor continues to work collaboratively with the school psychologist, principal and Compass Behavioral Health staff. Social Emotional surveys were given to all students in the fall of 2018. At the Jr/Sr HS, Student of the Month is recognized based on various character traits. Students received a certificate, tee shirt and a picture that is posted in the building. Twice a month character lessons are presented to students within seminar time.

Kindergarten Readiness - Kindergarten began school last year two days after the other grade levels. This delayed start allowed parents to meet with kindergarten teachers before the filled out the ASQ (Ages and Stages Questionnaires). The two days were dedicated to getting surveys completed, and the computer lab was set up to allow parents to easily access the internet for survey completion. This year the Kindergarten parents will be asked to come to school on August 12th to complete the surveys. The preschool has a morning and afternoon class this year with a total of 32 students. fourteen are state funded spots. Weekly parenting classes were offered for pre-kindergarten parents during the first nine weeks of school; it hasn't been decided if this will continue for the next school year.

Individual Plans of Study - Wichita County Schools are just beginning Individual Plans of Study (IPS) for their students. They are using the Career Cruising program to help students identify vocational interests and aptitudes through twelve pathways. The High School assigns students to home room advisors who will stay with them over the course of their tenure. During those seminar classes, teachers provide opportunities to work on IPS activities. Relationships are built between adults and student aides when they help in the classrooms.

High School Graduation

Ongoing data collection is being done to review High School graduation information and postsecondary completion. Postsecondary data is used to get an idea of how well prepared our graduates are when they go off to a 4-year, 2-year or vocational school, join the military service, or enter into the workforce. Looking at our data sometimes gives a picture of a lesser percentage of students going on to a college or vocational school because we have a transient population; we have students that come to our district from other places, looking for work or staying with relatives here. Often their families leave and go out-of-state and we don't always have a method to track those students to see if they go on to a postsecondary school. Not having this

information causes the state to determine that they did not go on and our numbers go down.

Academic/Cognitive

Preparing students for post-secondary success in college by providing them with a firm educational foundation through rigorous coursework is Wichita County School District's goal. Students must be able to process information, relate it to their background experiences, and understand the languages required for their post-secondary degree.

Technical

Some students may not be college bound so they must have the ability and knowledge to perform certain tasks in order to be successful post-secondary. CTE pathways will help accomplish this.

Employability

Students must possess the ability to communicate in a variety of ways, work as a team, and have organization and problem solving skills. It is also important to be on-time, productive, and reliable.

More information from the Onsite Visit will be presented over the next few weeks.

Thank you for taking the time to read this; I hope to share the good things that are happening at USD 467! If you have specific questions or want more information about what's happening in the buildings or district, don't hesitate to contact Lori Maxwell, WCES Principal, at 375-2314, Delbert Schmidt, WCJSHS Principal, at 375-2213, or me at 375-4677. Thanks!

Educationally,

Keith Higgins, Superintendent