

Principal's Report

February 15th, 2023

By Branden Strauch



Students:

429 Students.

Student achievement scores are attached to the end of this report. When analyzing the data, we can see a raise in students “at risk” for not developing grade level foundational literacy. In response, we have provided more professional development for paraeducators to provide foundational literacy education to our “at risk” students. Furthermore, we reviewed schedules and assignments to make sure every class has support to provide these instructional interventions.

It should also be noted that these scores mirror other immersion programs whereas English literacy development is hindered in the early grades due to the fact that half the instructional day is held in another language. However, also in line with other immersion data, the older students score very high on reading assessments with roughly only 20% of our students scoring below the 40th percentile.

Student enrollment lottery opened on February 15th. We look forward to many families signing up for the lottery.

Staffing:

41 Staff Members.

We have filled our evening custodial position with Mr. Vue.

There is also discussion between charter schools to hire and share a school counselor. In this role, I foresee a counselor being at Rilke two days a week to focus on student

mental health, helping students transition to high school, and other student services as needed. I would like to request APC support and funding for this potential position.

I still expect three teaching positions and one paraprofessional position to be open beginning next school year. On February 24th, we will be able to post open positions for the next school year.

Curriculum and Instruction:

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) is providing funding through the Alaska Reads Act to ASD to adopt a new ELA curriculum that has been approved by DEED. ASD is reviewing the curriculum options, and will likely adopt one of the options. It is my intention to follow ASD's lead and adopt the same curriculum for Rilke Schule. There are several reasons for this decision:

1. The proposed curriculum has been meticulously vetted by educators at the state and district level to best meet the needs of our students.
2. The state and the district will provide funding for materials and training to support the implementation of the proposed curriculum.
3. This is the last year of our current curriculum contract and we would need to renew or adopt a new curriculum anyways. However, if we deviated from the rest of the district, we would need to use our own funds or seek out our own funding from the state.

If there are no concerns, I will present this curriculum to the APC for adoption once ASD has decided on which program to use.

Frau Oakley participated on the ASD math curriculum review committee to analyze algebra, geometry, and algebra 2 materials. We will be presenting a proposal to the APC in the near future for algebra and geometry curricular materials for next school year.

Facility:

Jason and I worked on a proposal to update the library. If there is no other feedback on the proposal, I recommend we submit it to ASD and the landlord as soon as possible for approval. The library committee met with the ASD library supervisor Ms. Sam to discuss the next steps to upgrade our library.

The student council submitted a proposal to build a gagaball pit on the playground. I would like to support this project to improve the playground and give students more

options while at recess. Other improvements should also be considered such as basketball hoops and four square.

Marketing:

Social media marketing has been going very well. The data indicates that thousands of people have viewed our marketing videos. Furthermore, we have had over 30 families sign up for school tours.

We have had some success at the school fairs which have resulted in more families signing up for tours. We still have two events, the Immersion Open House and the Charter School Fair, to make connections with families.

Community:

We have been invited to Fulda, Germany to celebrate the founding of our sister school Rabanus-Maurus-Schule during the week of September 21, 2023. I have attached a copy of the invitation to this report. For the sake of building relationships and practicing world citizenship, we would like to send Frau Robertson and myself to the event to represent our school, ASD, and our nation. Therefore, we are asking for funding to cover two plane tickets and three nights of accommodations to attend the event.

- Flights costs have ranged from \$1000 to \$1300 per round trip.
- Accommodations range from \$100 - \$150 per night. However, Frau Robertson would be staying with a friend.
- Overall, I would expect the cost to range from \$3,000 to \$3,500.