

Principal's Report

March 23, 2023

By Branden Strauch



Students:

429 Students.

As we approach the end of the school year, students will be taking several assessments including AK STAR, the state summative assessment for our 3rd - 8th graders, and the German assessments A1 (3rd grade), A2 (6th grade), and B1 / DSD1 (8th grade). ASD is implementing a new assessment, mCLASS, to monitor foundational literacy skills for kindergarten through 3rd grade students. The new mCLASS assessment aligns with the Alaska Reads Act which is why ASD began using this assessment this spring.

Furthermore, students have recently completed the German STAMP assessments, the ASD world language assessment for our 2nd - 8th grade students. We are looking forward to the results and using this data to meet the needs of our students.

Student enrollment lottery opened on February 15th. We currently have 106 kindergarten and 10 1st grade applications. We are making one more marketing push with the application window open for two more weeks.

The German Declamation contest was a hit with outstanding performances from our students.

Staff:

41 Staff Members.

We anticipate six positions open for next school year: two German teacher positions, SPED teacher, two paraeducator (TA) positions, and ELL tutor. Staffing for next year is a priority, and we have been holding interviews since the end of February and will

continue to do so until all positions are filled. We have met with some good candidates, so I do not expect vacancies to be an issue for next school year. We will be able to extend job offers beginning next week.

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.

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.

ASD and Rilke are collaborating on CHAMPS (classroom management) professional development over the fourth quarter. ASD will be leading the training at Rilke Schule over six weeks, and staff will have the option to earn credit from UAA through additional academic work. Professional development has been a focus for us this year, and the staff has been appreciative of these opportunities.

We continue to meet as a German cohort to analyze our German curriculum and identify needs. Our focus is on foundational literacy in K-2 German in order to provide a strong base for student growth.

Facility:

The library project has been approved and some of the work is in process. We met with Lisa Sam, ASD Library Supervisor, and she provided us with a list of items to purchase

such as bar codes, scanners, and a computer to set up the library. These items cost approximately \$1,200, so I am planning to make the purchase.

HVAC system continues to be a problem as we are unable to regulate the temperature. Many staff members are complaining about it and rightfully so.

The student council is still working on a plan for the gagaball pit, but nothing is solid yet.

Finances:

We are reviewing and analyzing the school supply and activity fund prepare for next year. This information will help us plan for school supply and field trip expenses, and set an appropriate student supply and activity fee for next year.

Community:

Herr Radke and I will be attending the PASCH grant ceremony at Service High School on Thursday, 3/30. German Ambassador Haber and other German diplomats will be attending the event as well. This will provide us an opportunity to build relationships.