

Principal's Report

May 18, 2023

By Branden Strauch



Students:

429 Students.

We had many school and community events to end the school year including the Kinderlauf, choralpalooza, Rilke Clubs performances, Wandertag, Sporttag, Kindergarten Elternnachmittag, and the 8th grade graduation and BBQ.

We have also received the results of the student assessments from the fourth quarter. We will use these results to develop academic goals and provide interventions moving forward.

Kindergarten through 3rd grade mclass results can be found on the back two pages. The mclass assessment is the new literacy screener for ASD. The results identify proficiency in the different components of literacy development.

MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) Reading Scores 3rd - 8th

Rilke Schule German School

	WINTER 2022-2023 ACHIEVEMENT						SPRING 2022-2023 ACHIEVEMENT						
Grade	Median Percentile	Achievement Percentiles					Median Percentile	Achievement Percentiles					Number of Students ¹
Grade 3	52nd	19%	19%	22%	19%	21%	53rd	23%	21%	19%	13%	24%	53
Grade 4	67th	14%	10%	17%	33%	26%	71st	7%	17%	12%	19%	45%	42
Grade 5	64th	12%	15%	20%	24%	29%	75th	7%	7%	22%	17%	47%	41
Grade 6	62nd	8%	22%	15%	30%	25%	49th	8%	35%	17%	17%	23%	40
Grade 7	61st	4	25%	18%	32%	21%	53rd	29%	25%	25%	21%	28	
Grade 8	81st	17%	8%	21%	54%		77th	17%	12%	29%	42%	24	

Percentiles Key: ● 1st to 20th ● 21st to 40th ● 41st to 60th ● 61st to 80th ● >80th

Math (Measures of Academic Progress) Scores 3rd - 8th

Rilke Schule German School

	WINTER 2022-2023 ACHIEVEMENT						SPRING 2022-2023 ACHIEVEMENT						
Grade	Median Percentile	Achievement Percentiles					Median Percentile	Achievement Percentiles					Number of Students ¹
Grade 3	52nd	19%	19%	22%	19%	21%	53rd	23%	21%	19%	13%	24%	53
Grade 4	67th	14%	10%	17%	33%	26%	71st	7%	17%	12%	19%	45%	42
Grade 5	64th	12%	15%	20%	24%	29%	75th	7%	7%	22%	17%	47%	41
Grade 6	62nd	8%	22%	15%	30%	25%	49th	8%	35%	17%	17%	23%	40
Grade 7	61st	4%	25%	18%	32%	21%	53rd	29%	25%	25%	21%	28	
Grade 8	81st	17%	8%	21%	54%		77th	17%	12%	29%	42%	24	

Percentiles Key: ● 1st to 20th ● 21st to 40th ● 41st to 60th ● 61st to 80th ● >80th

German A2 Exam Results: 18 / 41 6th grade students passed all four components of the German assessment (listening, speaking, reading, and writing). This outcome is lower than pre-covid results that had approximately a 75% passing rate year after year. We will use this data to make adjustments for next year's instruction.

German A1 Exam Results: 25 / 55 3rd grade students passed all four components of the German assessment (listening, speaking, reading, and writing). This outcome is lower pre-covid results that had approximately a 75% passing rate. We will use this data to make adjustments for next year's instruction.

German B1 Exam Results: We have not received the result yet, as the exams were shipped to Germany to be assessed. We do expect to receive them before the beginning of next school year.

Climate Survey: We have received the results of the [Climate Survey](#). There are many highlights, but also areas for improvement. Through analyzing the results, there is a need to build community and supportive relations between the students.

Staff:

41 Staff Members.

Over the fourth quarter, the staff has been engaging in classroom management professional development. We will use this training to develop school wide expectations

and a common language to better manage student behaviors and increase student achievement.

I recommend that the APC explores adding an assistant principal to Rilke Schule. Our school is one of the few schools over 400 students that does not have an AP. Herr Vincent Lang has taken on much of this work as Teacher In Charge, but I would like to make it an official administrative position. This position would be a Rilke employee like my position, so we would need to define the roles and responsibilities.

I also recommend hiring a counselor to support student social- emotional growth. Using the data from the climate survey, it is clear that we need to build more community and supportive relationships between students. A counselor could help lead social-emotional lessons, mediate student conflict, support students' mental health, and help students transition to high school.

Curriculum and Instruction:

The Alaska Reads Act has several new state requirements around student literacy development. This includes a new curriculum for kindergarten through 3rd grade students which we have already discussed and approved. K- 3 teachers will be reporting to school two days earlier than the rest of the staff to participate in curriculum training.

The AK Reads Act also requires K-3 teachers to acquire a reading endorsement to maintain their teaching certification over the next two years. ASD will support this endeavor by providing professional development to meet this state requirement.

Facility:

The library project is moving forward. Herr Hotch and I moved the shelves a couple of weeks ago, and the library committee has met with Lisa Sam, ASD Library Supervisor, for guidance as we prepare the library to open next school year.

During the tri-board meeting, we brought up the idea of an electronic sign to hang on the school to provide event updates to the community. I wanted to bring it to the APC to begin working on this project.

We had a technician visit Rilke this week to work on the HVAC system. He reported that a bearing was out on a fan and he plans to repair it. Hopefully, this will yield positive results.

Finances:

Herr Truog and I reviewed the budget last week. I will defer to him to explain the details, but I feel confident in our financial standing and our budget for next school year. In fact, we have already placed orders against it for new student and staff chromebooks, curriculum, the internship coordinator service, and school supplies.

Community:

We received emails from three different families who are concerned about the size of the 3rd grade classrooms for next school year. Therefore, we took some time to review class numbers, the budget, and the facility. To start, we followed up with the “intention to return” survey and contacted the 20 or so families who did not respond. As a result, we now expect 58 students in 3rd grade next year. If divided into two classes, as planned, class sizes would be 29 in each room, which would be our largest classrooms. However, there were 28 students per room in 3rd grade this year so it’s not unreasonable. If divided by three classes, we would have 19, 19, and 20, which would be the smallest class sizes in the school.

Therefore, Herr Truog and I reviewed the budget. We concluded that if we added this position, we would need to use roll over funds or the remaining ARP funds (COVID grant) which wraps up at the end of the 23-24 school year, unless the state increases the BSA. Knowing that the grant will conclude, and not knowing if the BSA will increase, gives me hesitation to add another staff member. I am concerned about creating a budget in the future that relies on roll over funds to balance it.

Lastly, we looked at the facility to see if we have space for a third 3rd grade class. If we brought in one more 3rd grade class, we could use our resource room, classroom 109, which supports small group interventions to build literacy, which is required by the AK Reads Act. Or repurpose the special education room, room 206, but in both cases, we would be taking away from our students who have the greatest need for support, and small group interventions would occur in the hallways or library. Additionally, it is possible that we would only be able to add three kindergarten classes the following year since all rooms would be occupied. All of these factors and long-term outcomes must be considered in this decision.