

Principal's Report

August 23, 2023

By Branden Strauch



Students:

467 Students.

The school year is off to a great start. Enrollment projects were very close for most classes, however, we do still have some openings in kindergarten which begins on Thursday. We will continue to advertise to fill up all open kindergarten seats.

Beginning of the school year testing runs from September 5th - 15th. This data will be used to inform instruction and respond to students' academic needs.

Staff:

45 Staff Members.

We currently have one paraeducator position open. However, we are reviewing our needs as a school to determine if we should fill that position or leave it vacant.

Curriculum and Instruction:

The Kindergarten through 3rd grade English teachers, and a few other staff members, attended two days of CKLA training for the new English Language Arts curriculum. The new curriculum presented some challenges, for example, it was planned to be 120 minutes of instruction which had to be modified to 45-60 minutes of instruction to fit the immersion model. Fortunately, Jane Wagner (previously Wahlman) was part of a work committee that tackled this project over the summer. We are grateful for the work that she, and other immersion teachers, did to prepare this curriculum for the school year for our immersion schools.

Facility:

Big thank you to Jason Hotch and all the volunteers who helped clean up the school grounds. Everything looks great.

The library project took some steps forward over the summer. The walls were patched and painted, and volunteers spent quite a bit of time organizing books. We still have a few tasks to complete, but hope to have it open soon.

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.

Community:

Popsicles with the Principal event was well attended. It was great to see so many students and families.

Rilke Open House will be held on Thursday, 8/31, from 5:30 - 7:00. This is a great opportunity for parents and teachers to chat about goals and plans for this school year.

Rilke will be hosting German exchange students from Frankfurt from September 7th - 21st. We have some great activities planned.

Requests:

I am requesting funding to hire an individual to work on and create German curriculum materials that align with K-3 CKLA materials. Since the immersion model consists of cross-curricular themes, topics, and learning goals, it is important for the German side to adapt as the English curriculum changes. While the English side has many books and slides to lean into, the German teachers must create many materials like student books, slides, and worksheets that connect to the literacy instruction occurring on the English side. My goal would be to hire an individual, at an hourly rate, to work directly with German teachers to create the materials they need for immersion instruction.

I would like to request \$20,000 to support professional development at Rilke Schule, and I would like this to be a permanent line item in future budgets. With this funding in place, I would like to attend the ACTFL conference in Chicago with three other teachers

from November 16th - 19th. Herr Locke, who will be attending the conference, estimates the cost of travel and attendance at roughly \$3,000 per person. Furthermore, I have been invited to present at the conference to speak about student outcomes in a German immersion school which is a great opportunity to collaborate, network, learn and share with other immersion educators. Additionally, with funding in place, I want to encourage staff members to propose a topic to present at national conferences to continue growing, collaborating, and networking at a national level.