

Principal's Report

October 19th, 2023

By Branden Strauch



Students:

467 Students.

We are at the end of a successful first quarter to the school year. We have had many student activities including guest speakers, field trips, and exchange students visiting Rilke. This was the first time since 2019 that we have hosted German exchange students and it was a fantastic experience that involved field trips around Alaska, engaging class activities, and staying with a host family.

This school year, we have two travel opportunities for students. 7th/ 8th grade students will once again be applying for an opportunity to travel to Germany, while 6th grade students have applied for and been selected to travel to Washington, DC. We are very excited to provide opportunities for students to travel and learn about our world.

Staff:

45 Staff Members.

We have opened one paraprofessional position (teacher-assistant) and are accepting applications.

Curriculum and Instruction:

We continue to work hard to implement the new K-3 curriculum, CKLA. There is extra work involved with implementing a new curriculum in an immersion model, and the staff is doing a great job of collaborating and problem solving to meet this need.

We have also requested CKLA 4th and 5th grade curriculum materials to consider if we should adopt a new curriculum for those grades. We will continue to work with those grade level teachers to make a recommendation to the board this spring.

Frau Stacey and Frau Tarrant are working with a new German 1-3 curriculum to build foundational literacy skills. So far, there has been positive feedback from teachers. We will continue to work with the 1st-3rd grade German teachers to consider a curriculum recommendation this spring.

Facility:

We are collecting feedback from teachers and receiving information from vendors as we consider options for furniture upgrades. We are also assessing new projector upgrades for next school year.

The parking lot lights disconnected and will not be repaired until the summer. Therefore, lights have been strung from the building to each post.

Budget:

We are currently pulling together expected costs for the 24/25 school year as we develop the budget. Along with the standard operational budget of personnel and facilities, we are going to consider furniture upgrades, technology upgrades, new curriculum, staff professional development, and additional personnel when developing this budget. I plan to provide the first draft of the 24/25 budget for the November meeting.

Community:

We had an awesome spirit week and Oktoberfest with many students, staff, and families participating.

Next week, we host Parent-Teacher Conferences, and we encourage everyone to attend to collaborate with teachers to support students and develop shared goals.

Sankt Martinstag is on Thursday, 11/9, and this year, we are incorporating student music to the event.