

REYNOLDS SCHOOL DISTRICT

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TO: Board Members and Administrators
FROM: John Sibeto, Superintendent of Schools
DATE: February 24, 2017
RE: Information Update Report



Highlights from Reynolds Junior-Senior High School:

1. Mrs. Tofani reported her new block of Library Skills and Research class has just completed a unit on how to properly use the library. To practice for the test, they went on a scavenger hunt. All of her students did very well and are now able to find everything they need within the library.
2. Mrs. Woge reported that her adapted language arts class just finished reading the short story "Zebra" and some short non-fiction pieces that complement the short story. The students learned a little about the Vietnam War and the Vietnam War Memorial in connection with these texts, and completed a small amount of research on Vietnam related topics. They also worked on sentences-the different parts and types of sentences and writing complete, focused interesting sentences in preparation for writing paragraphs and longer pieces.
3. Mrs. Mecchia reported she is currently teaching grade K-12 Autistic/Emotional Support. Her students are mainstreamed within the regular education setting. Each student has his/her own personal goals within their IEP's, which are generated based on their emotional support needs. She has students working on empathy lessons, working on coping and social skills, yoga and breathing techniques to help with anxiety, frustration, and anger. They also have monthly peer buddy activities that allow her to see firsthand social interactions between her students and their peers. Although she has a curriculum map that she created at the beginning of the year of topics she would like to cover, each week that could change. She is in constant communication with her peers, parents, administrators, and staff regarding her students and their ever changing needs. Should a behavior of concern come up that week or day then she makes herself available to create a social story and/or mini-lessons to help that student understand the social rule or consequence. She also incorporated Positive Behavior Support Plans within the classroom and it helps students to achieve their goal and rewards through interactive lessons, communication with teachers, and a genuine positive attitude toward each of her students which shows them that she cares about them.
4. Mrs. Winkle reported that her students continue to work diligently to prepare for Keystone exams this spring. Mrs. Winkle worked with Mrs. Donnelly and her English 2 classes and Keystone Literature classes to prepare their students. They are utilizing the Study Island program as it is directly tied to the anchors and eligible content of the PA standards. The practice activities in this program are parallel to the Keystone exam questions, so it is her hope that their students will be prepared and confident for the exams this spring. This marking

period, Mrs. Winkle's students have been focusing on the areas of genres, characters, setting, plot, theme, tone, style, mood, and point of view, in addition to drama and poetry. Mrs. Winkle has also helped the members of Junior High Student Council sponsor the junior high MORP dance on Jan. 13th. The Student Council students decided on the MORP dance theme (opposite of prom) because they wanted a dance that was informal and low cost with the hope that all students would be able to attend. They did not want students to have to deal with the pressures of dressing up and having dates. The dance was a great success. They had about 90 junior high students attend and they had a great time! DJ Craig Fenton did a wonderful job with getting kids up, dancing, and participating. The Student Council members hope that this can become a regular activity for their junior high students for years to come!

5. Mr. Meskel reported that his 9th grade English classes have just finished reading Romeo and Juliet. This of course was a challenging text with lots of poetic language for the students to sort through. To aid in understanding, students practiced paraphrasing the Shakespearean language and then comparing it to a parallel text. Practicing paraphrasing will be useful as students begin the 9th grade research project. His 7th grade ELA course is currently discussing theme. To aid in this understanding, students read "Amigo Brothers" by Piri Thomas. This is a short story about two close friends who must compete against each other to represent their neighborhood in the Golden Gloves tournament. As the match nears tensions grew between the two friends and questions about the ability of their friendship survive the impending match begin to surface. Students analyzed the story and hopefully learned some important lessons about friendship and competition. His 7th grade ELA class is also finishing a grammar and writing chapter on sentences and fragments, subjects and predicates, and the different kinds of sentences. This will aid students in making their writing more easily understandable by avoiding sentence fragments and clearly structuring sentences with subjects and predicates.
6. Miss Dobson reported the guidance office was busy in January & February: Report cards, failure letters, scheduled parent conferences, individual student meetings, mandatory tutoring scheduled for second semester. She met with all 8th through 11th grade students to schedule for the 17-18 school year. She consulted with Scott Shearer and academic departments for scheduling and different class concerns. On February 3rd the 8th grade students visited Mercer County Career Center. On February 14th she attended a Dual Enrollment Meeting at PSU Shenango. On February 21st Mid Term grades were due. On February 22nd Miss Dobson & Aavidum members attended a CTC meeting in Mercer. On February 24th she attended a Mercer County Counselors Meeting.
7. Mrs. Donnelly reported that her sophomore English classes are in the process of creating an MLA research paper. The students are reviewing proper research skills, various sources available, and proper format of a paper.
8. Mrs. Hoovler reported that her 1st and 7th period Algebra two students are completing a project with examples of all the ways to solve quadratic equations from graphing to the quadratic formula. They learned several songs to help them learn the quadratic formula. Her 2nd and 5th period Algebra two students are solving real life quadratic equations from changing dimensions for area to using gravity and finding the time it takes for a spiked ball to hit the ground. They also learned the songs for the quadratic formula. The most common tune was pop goes the weasel and the Adams family theme. Her Trigonometry students are graphing sine and cosine functions. This week they used model of temperature and wavelength to derive the equations. Her Calculus students have been graphing functions with the first and second derivative test. They also derive the equation from the given max, min and points of inflection with increasing, decreasing and concavity.
9. Mr. Tofani reported that his Intro to Art classes are working on the value drawing unit. They started with a value scale and progressed through a series of drawings increasing the difficulty with each drawing. The students drew from still life objects and also from a reference photo using a grid in order to draw the reference photo with more accuracy.

10. Mrs. Miller reported that her German I students will be learning how to describe clothing and give compliments on them in the next chapter. They will also spend some time discussing "Karneval" in Germany and German speaking countries and how it compares to how this is celebrated here. Her German II students have finished learning about the past tense and finished up with a speaking presentation on a trip they took in the past. The next unit takes place in Hamburg so we will spend time learning about that area of Germany. The next three chapters deal with health, and the first of these is living healthy so we will talk about the vocabulary needed for living healthy. They will also spend some time discussing "Karneval" in Germany and German speaking countries and how it compares to how this is celebrated here. Her English I students are in the beginning of their research unit. They will learn the different parts that make up a research paper. They will then research a topic on World War II and create all the parts of the project with the final product being a 3-5 page research paper.
11. Mrs. Mirizio reported the RHS Blood Drive was held on Thursday, Feb. 23rd collecting 57 units of blood from both students and staff for the Central Blood Bank.

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