

REYNOLDS SCHOOL DISTRICT

531 REYNOLDS ROAD, GREENVILLE PA 16125, MERCER COUNTY



John Sibeto
Superintendent of Schools

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TO: Board Members and Administrators
FROM: John Sibeto, Superintendent of Schools
DATE: December 15, 2017
RE: Information Update Report

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'JS', is written over the 'FROM' line of the memo.

Highlights from Reynolds Junior-Senior High School:

1. Miss Morris reported her Band students are learning to play all major scales in rhythmic figures as small as eighth notes in various formats (unison, round, etc.). Her Choir students are focusing on sight-reading exercises that use the diatonic pitches of the C Major Scale, as well as reading around the notes for items such as articulation and dynamic markings. Her Guitar students are learning the pitches produced on each string in first position.
2. Mrs. Coburn reported her AP Chemistry students are learning about bonding and how this affects the shape of a molecule and its properties such as solubility. Students used paper chromatography and looked at solubility between a mobile phase and stationary phase along with the dyes in black markers. Her Pre AP Chemistry is also learning how to draw the shapes of molecules as well as learning of the differences in ionic and covalent bonding. This was reinforced with a lab looking at properties of ionic vs covalent compounds such as melting point, conductivity and solubility in water. Her Chemistry 1 is learning about the history of the periodic table and performed a lab grouping 20 everyday items into a periodic table based on physical and chemical properties. The students created some extraordinary periodic tables that were different from our modern periodic table.
3. Mrs. Wilcox reported her students in Biology have been learning about diffusion and osmosis. They completed the lab osmosis in an egg. They were able to see what happens to a cell that was put into a hypertonic solution and a hypotonic solution. They then had to relate this to what happens to their cells, if homeostasis is not maintained.
4. Mr. Risavi reported students in his 7th grade Social Studies classes are currently learning about the physical geography of the United States and Canada, and how it affects the way people live in this region. His 8th grade Civics classes are learning about the fundamental rights and liberties established and protected by the United States Bill of Rights.
5. Mrs. Tofani reported her Applied Computer Literacy classes just completed their unit on Word and are currently learning how to use the Excel portion of the Microsoft Suite. The students are learning how to use data to create spreadsheets and graphs, which will come in handy for use in many different class reports.

6. Mrs. Winkle reported her students are diligently working on preparing for the upcoming Keystone Literature tests. They are utilizing classroom instruction through the stories in their literature books, standards-aligned Scholastic Scope Literature magazine, and Study Island to practice for the exams. The students are always working toward increasing reading fluency skills and comprehension. In addition to time spent in the classroom, Mrs. Winkle has been working hard to help students transition from school to the work force. She has taken on the role of Community-Based Vocational Instructor for her high school learning support students. Every week, she takes students into the community to increase vocational skills in order to become better prepared, for the work force. Mrs. Winkle and her students are currently participating in completing various work-related tasks at Kraynaks store, Building 100 (Kraynaks warehouse), and St. John XXIII nursing home, all located in Hermitage. Several of her students have also participated in tours of technical schools such as New Castle School of Trades and Hiram G. Andrews Center. Mrs. Winkle also co-advises Jr. High Student Council with Mrs. Kitchen. The Junior High Student Council students recently organized the fall candle sale for the junior high students and are now working on the upcoming door-decorating contest and the junior high MORP dance, taking place on January 19th, in the high school cafeteria. They are planning for many spring activities!
7. Mrs. Mecchia reported she is currently working on her students' IEP goals. The students that she works with are working on social and coping skills to help them cope within the classroom setting. They watched a video on bullying and how to stop a bully. They discussed the protocol for bullying at Reynolds and with whom they can talk to about this. Other students worked on growth mindset activities and positive thinking versus negative thinking and the impact it has on their lives. They watched an inspirational video on Goalcast to follow up with this concept. Some of her other students discussed friendship and how to make and keep friends. They finished reading a book "Healthy Boundaries", which discussed healthy and unhealthy relationships. She will continue to work on IEP goals and progress, and monitor the AS/ES students at the Jr/Sr high level.
8. The secondary guidance department has been busy with college representative visits, Armed Services visits and Student Assistant Program (SAP) meetings. They also scheduled a Career Center visit for the 10th graders, ASVAB interpretation, 8th grade Career Fair and a New Castle School of Trades field trip. Coming up in January, Miss Dobson and Mr. Scarvel reported the Keystone Exams will be held as listed: 1/9/2018 – Algebra, 1/10/2018 – Literature, and 1/11/2018 – Biology.
9. Mrs. Donnelly reported her 10th grade English students have learned persuasive techniques and have also studied effective public speaking strategies. Her students are in the process of preparing a persuasive speech based on research. This includes a graded MLA outline, notecards for prompting, a visual aid, and speech delivery.
10. Mr. Mull's reported his 7th grade Reading and English classes have been working on identifying theme in Literature as well as symbolism, and characterization. They have Read the Short Stories of "Amigo Brothers" by Piri Thomas, "What Do Fish have to Do With Anything?" by Avi, "A Crush" by Cynthia Rylant and two Novels: *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens and *Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick. These stories have given the students the ability to develop skills around these concepts. The students have been learning how to respond to Literature in regards to theme. They have developed thematic statements and supported these statements with text based detail in the form of an open ended response. They have been enjoying Characterization by creating Christmas cards as if they were Scrooge and re-writing Christmas carols as Scrooge. They look to culminate this activity, by singing Christmas carols in the Spirit of Scrooge and spreading "Christmas hatred." One final activity will be to read Christmas stories written by Mrs. Donnelly's 11 grade students and identify the theme. They will identify the theme while writing a letter to the authors of these stories.

Highlights from Reynolds Elementary School:

1. Miss Hassel reported that during the month of November her Kindergarten class studied the history of Thanksgiving. The students were the illustrators of their own book, which they used to retell the story of the Pilgrims. They learned that the Pilgrims lived in England until King James made them go to his church so they moved to Holland and eventually sailed on the Mayflower to America where they could practice any religion they wanted. They also learned how the Wampanoag Native Americans helped the Pilgrims learn the skills they needed to survive in America, which led to the first Thanksgiving feast. The first Thanksgiving was a celebration between the Native Americans and the Pilgrims and it lasted 3 days.
2. Mrs. Aretz reported throughout the month of December her 1st grade students are learning about "Christmas around the World," in which students are "traveling" to a variety of countries. During this unit, her students are visiting Germany, Italy, Sweden, Mexico, Israel, as well as many other countries. They are learning about various traditions that these countries practice centered around Christmas and other seasonal holidays, as well as many cultural practices in general. This learning experience allows her students to learn about different cultures, languages, and locations of countries around the world. The students enjoy learning and experiencing new ideas and information in this unique way.
3. Mrs. King reported her students in 2nd grade have been very busy. They have new reading and math series that are keeping them hopping! They are starting multiplication in math and working on poetry and text details in reading. Multiple meaning words and compound words are also important concepts they are working on!