

Field Mighty Mice Miller Moments

April 19, 2017

Welcome to the fourth quarter! I hope that everyone enjoyed spring break.

Included in this communication are parts of the notes I sent out in the fall as a reminder of our processes and expectations, the results of our budget and a concern that was shared to me by a parent.

Netflix Concern:

“There is a Netflix show called, "13 Reasons Why". I've heard that many middle schoolers are watching it, and that it is not good for anyone with suicidal impulses. Also, it is concerning that the girl assigns blame for her suicide. Anyway, there is a list of talking points put out by SAVE (Suicide Awareness Voices of Education). It might help parents talk to their kids about some of the false concepts portrayed in the show.”

[S.A.V.E.](#)

Budget:

Budget is always tight for Field. My goal this year was to bring back visual arts and we were able to do that and this is how it was done:

- Two science teachers, Mr. Boler and Mr. Husby, volunteered to go from full-time to a .8. They will teacher the 6th and 7th grade core science classes.
- One of our student support staff chose to leave prior to spring break. We are not renewing that position therefore freeing up some money.
- There is a slight reduction in Spanish and only 7th and 8th graders will be offered Spanish.
- We also increased our physical education offering. All 5th and 6th graders will have physical education per state requirements.
- We were given funding for a level three special education teacher (School Based Allocation), along with two special education assistants (SEAs). Students who live in the Field attendance area and receive level 3 special education services would be able to choose their neighborhood school to receive the appropriate support.
- District cut all reading and math specialists. We have a reading specialist this year.
- Everything will remain the same.

Our next step is to plan for supporting all students at all levels, especially in reading and math, scheduling and celebrations. Ms. Peggy Doten is retiring and Mr. Sundlin, along with his wife, are moving to Honduras to teach abroad for the next couple of years. Congratulations!

Communication:

Improved communication will be a focus for this coming year. Some things, such as weekly newsletters from the grade level teams, will continue. Other ways will be new. Ways we will be communicating:

1. Grade level teams write weekly newsletters. They are usually sent out on Mondays via email.
2. Principal Miller will write a monthly newsletter titled: Miller Mice Moments. (I like alliteration.) It will be on the Field web-site along with being emailed to all families.
3. Emails will be answered within 24 hours by all staff members. I am encouraging staff to communicate using phones so that there is greater understanding of the topics. Please email me, Principal Miller, if you have not received a response to your email within 24 hours.
4. In between monthly Miller Mice Moments, we will use the school messenger service or send out quick emails as necessary with pertinent information. We do not want to inundate your voice-mails or your in-boxes unnecessarily.
5. Miller and Martin will hold informal monthly meetings (Muffins with Miller and Martin) on every third Monday of the month at 7:30am. These meetings are an opportunity for conversations about the positives and the concerns of Field.
6. The PTA sends out weekly notes and a monthly newsletter.
7. Site-Council minutes will be on the Field web-site and posted within a week of the monthly meeting.

Incident Investigation Process:

Even with all the best planning for positive climate issues and incidences will occur. Written below are the steps that we take when investigating an incident:

1. All students involved and students who witnessed the incident will write a statement. (We will not take action with only one given perspective.)
2. Staff will speak with all the students. (Depending on the time of the incident the interviews could take place the next day.)
3. Students will be asked to reflect on their actions and to think about how to restore the broken relationship.
4. Depending on the situation, students could participate in a simple restorative conversation between two people with an adult mediator or a restorative circle lead by an adult. Other consequences could occur depending on the severity of the incident and following the district behavior policy guidelines.
5. Unless it is an emergency or of deep concern, parents and guardians will be notified within 24 hours by school staff about the incident and the end result of the investigation while maintaining and respecting the confidentiality rights of students.
6. When a behavior concern arises in a classroom and the teacher refers a student to the student support team, the teacher will contact home along with the student support team to share their perspective with the parents/guardians.

Thank you for everything you do students, staff and Field! It is always appreciated.

VaNita Miller