

Weekly Board Report 16 October 2015

The overall enrollment of Camp Verde Unified School District is 1535 as compared to 1504 one year ago. Current enrollment vs. same time last year: Elementary 718 vs. 738; Middle School 351 vs. 320; High School 443 vs. 415; Accommodations School 23 vs. 27. South Verde Magnet School 71 vs. 95.

As our fall sports wind down I wanted to relate to you a story one of the team bus drivers shared with me: As we were arriving at the town where our event was to be held I had the following animated conversation with three student/athletes I was transporting to our event, “Oh, so this is ’Name of City where our event was being held’. I’ve never been here. This is nice. “Another athlete commented, “Neither have I. I’ve heard people talk about this place.” The other student commented that he had been here a couple times. We then had a discussion about the town and the stores that were there and other particulars about the area. The town we were arriving at was Prescott Valley. Sometimes it is hard to relate to our student population and understand where they are at and from where they have come. Occurrences like this help us better understand our students. Sometimes with our necessary focus on academics we forget the value of the extra-curricular experiences we provide for our students through athletics, field trips, and all the opportunities our District provides.

Camp Verde High School held the PSAT test for all juniors and sophomores on Oct. 14th we had over 220 students take the test. Additionally seniors from Camp Verde and South Verde took the ASVAB test proctored by several military officers.

The freshmen worked on creating their ECAP file for the graduation requirements, with some areas of the ECAP file focused on career interest inventory, resume, job letters, academic and career goals, and 4 year plans. Matforce was also in attendance providing a presenter to speak to the freshmen students on the use of drugs and alcohol and the negative effects.

On Thursday, Oct. 15th the counseling department organized and put on a college fair for all seniors, with over 20 colleges from Arizona and surrounding states presenting to students opportunities with their schools and admission requirements. We will host another college and financial aid fair for junior, senior students and parents on the evening of January 20th.

On Oct. 22nd, Camp Verde High School will hold the first quarter awards assembly in the theater starting at 10:25 am. The fall sports teams are honoring their seniors at their home games over the next few weeks. Winter sports will start practice on Nov. 2nd.

At mid-quarter of quarter 1 at Camp Verde High School had 159 students with one or more F's (84 students with one F and 75 with two or more F's). At the end of quarter 1, there were 119 students with one or more F's (54 students with one F and 65 students with 2 or more F's). This is progression, but obviously we are not satisfied until we reduce this number of F's even further.

We have had our required Friday credit recovery students decrease from 53 in the beginning to 34 this week due to the students finishing their credits they were behind on.

Included pictures are from the middle school classrooms.

Mr. Shank's 6th grade Social Studies class has been studying the Fertile Crescent. He has had many interesting student projects including a marshmallow/Graham cracker ziggurat.

Mr. Tankesley's 7th grade Science class is studying the difference between rocks and minerals.

Mrs. Gustin's middle school accommodation students are learning the scientific method and how to do a lab report by studying owl pellets.

High school student Joel Beauty and JOM tutor Cindy Eaton are averaging 15-20 Native American students for tutoring after school each day.

Today was the first Friday School for remediation.

Mr. Howe has a phone call scheduled with The Flippen Group for October 29 to learn some exciting news about Camp Verde Middle School. This is the group through which Capturing Kids Hearts is done. We are hoping this is the call that lets us know that we are a National Showcase School. More to come after the phone call.

Shelley Surber provided the teachers with a fast-paced smorgasbord of information about websites that can be used to enhance teaching and learning in the classroom and beyond. Ms. Surber included an overview of LAN Schools, a student monitoring system that allows teachers to view and guide student learning from a single monitor in the computer lab. This helps teachers keep students on track by assisting them in logging in and out of sites, instructing from their monitor and redirecting student attention.

Teachers were asked to discuss several open-ended questions during recent team meetings. Questions included: What is working well in our school? What needs improvement in our school? What short-term and long-term goals should we set for ourselves as a school? What types of professional development are you wanting? Results will be condensed and will be reported next week. This is the first of many planned opportunities to foster open communication between teachers and school administration.

The elementary school's annual cookie dough fundraiser is underway. This is main fundraiser of the year and usually nets us around \$5,000. Sales began on October 6th and will end on October 20th. Delivery and sorting of cookie dough orders is set for November 12th. This is always a monumental undertaking so we are asking any board members with a few hours to spare to join us in during our distribution night. If you'd like more information, please contact Melissa Howe.

Young Aggie Boot Camp is currently taught by Kristi Mulcaire at the high school and will be held on October 20th. Mrs. Mulcaire always does a great job with our students and they love going to the camp. This month's topic is *Seed to Pumpkin*.

Our gifted teacher, Mrs. Meyer, has completed the first round of testing for the year, which will allow us to identify even more gifted learners in a timely manner. Currently, our second graders are analyzing the value and character in the lives of fairytale characters while learning about the judicial process. Third, fourth, and fifth-graders are studying the properties of waves, light, and sound through hands-on physical science experiments. They are also working on creating musical instruments using found objects. The culmination of this project will be a judging held on October 22nd during gifted parent night.

Last year, our gifted students participated in Odyssey of the Mind and had an incredible educational experience. This year, we currently do not have the funds needed to participate; however, students are preparing as though they are going while administration work on a plan to find the needed funding.

Oct. 16th—Go Math! Teachers in Pine/Strawberry for observations
Oct. 22nd—Kindergarten classes to the pumpkin patch
—Parents' night for families of gifted students 6:00-6:30
Oct. 26th-29th—Red Ribbon Week
Oct. 27th—S.T.E.M. Program in the Multi-use Complex for 5th and 6th graders
Oct. 29th—Halloween parade @ 1:30 p.m.

Last Saturday, October 10, two band students performed at a car show down at Thousand Trails RV Park, along with Jesse Ebel, their instructor, and his daughter, Molly, an accomplished musician and singer. Jesse relayed how much the audience appreciated the talent of our drummer and guitarist. One set was the song "Wipeout," a first for the drummer, but he played his heart out. His father expressed that his arms were quite sore the next day!

Special thanks to Bob Weir and Danny Howe for kindly giving Mrs. Zawel a tour of their campuses. She was especially impressed with the culinary program and the CTE programs. The students were friendly and respectful, as well as the staff members who gladly showed Mrs. Zawel their classrooms and curriculum.

Wednesday, October 14, six South Verde juniors and seniors joined with juniors and seniors from the high school in the library to take the ASVAB test. Mrs. Rowe chaperoned, later extolling her pleasure in the behavior of the SV participants and their seriousness in the testing environment. We would be very proud if some eventually make the military a career and serve our country with distinction. Due to frequent absences, which has resulted in a number of volleyball games being forfeited, the SV volleyball season has sadly been cancelled. However, this may be a true motivator for the upcoming basketball season, where students may fully realize the importance of attendance and dedication.

The SV cross country team - four members this time - competed at the Verde Valley School. Once again, times improved and one student was near the top of the heap. No matter their results, though, they all display great attitudes of positivity and truly enjoy themselves while running.

Gordie Bufton, a speaker sponsored by MATForce, came to SV to share his story of addiction, recovery and hope to the student body Wednesday morning. His engaging and grounded story struck a resonant chord with many students. SV is working with MATForce and its representatives to provide outreach programs for those who need help dealing with substance abuse.

Transportation is moving along great, we are seeing steady mileage numbers without much change which is a positive for the future 100 day count. We are experiencing less discipline issues this year which is helping with the safety of all students. We have experienced more repair orders than in previous years but that is due to a partially aging fleet.

Facilities is also moving along great, we have completed the repair of the Accommodation School and the staff is back with little disturbance. We are in the middle of scalping the grass so we can plant our winter Rye and keep our school nice and green. In short, everything is looking good.

The Special Education Department has been growing this school year. The current population of students who have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) in the Camp Verde Districts is 202 with the following breakdown by school location/service:

Camp Verde Elementary, including the preschool, serves 64 students.

Camp Verde Middle serves 39 students.

Camp Verde High serves 46 students.

Camp Verde Accommodation serves 3 students.

Students who receive strictly speech services district wide number 36.

ASDB serves 6 students district wide.

South Verde Technology Magnet serves 8 students.

These numbers represent 12.6 percent of Camp Verde Unified School District receiving some type of Special Education services while the population at South Verde Technology Magnet represents 11.6 percent of the population. These percentages are slightly higher than the State average for Special Education.

The Special Education department is looking into the use of the Response To Intervention/Multi-Tiered System of Supports model (RTI/MTSS) in qualifying students for Special Education. This system, when implemented with fidelity, improves the instructional supports that students receive while also identifying areas in a student's processing skills that need support. This system is currently being used in many school districts throughout the state (My last district used this system extensively, with very positive results). It is also being promoted by the state as an alternative way to identify students who have Specific Learning Disabilities who need Special Education services.

The ESEA Grant received its final approval from the state. This is the combined grant with Title I, Title II and the carry-over of the Rural & Low Grant. The approval covers our continuous improvement plans for the Title I schools and the budget of how we plan to spend the funds. Both of these are living documents that are amended throughout the year to meet the needs of the program. Title I is excited about a new supplemental reading intervention program by Reading Horizons that is being used for the first time both at the middle school and the elementary school. Title I and Title II grants will be used in funding the new Assistant Principal/ Instructional Data Coach position for the needs at the elementary school.

ADE approved our SEI teaching position for SEI FY17. Annually we submit a spreadsheet with our average class size, teacher counts and student population. Each year they say that we do not have a sufficient need for the state to fund an SEI teacher for the district. However, we appeal asking for a SEI teacher for the elementary school using the rationale that the 1st and 2nd grade combination class is fundamental in early literacy and English language acquisition. Also, our SEI class has had a reclassification rate twice the amount of other elementary students on ILLPs. ADE then approved our appeal.

At the beginning of each quarter, teachers with ELL students on ILLPs must create specific language goals for each of their ELL students. These plans include choosing 4 goals in each of the following areas: oral conversation/ vocabulary, reading, writing and grammar. Now that it is the end of the first quarter, the teacher will also complete a progress report that is part of the ILLP and then choose new goals in each area for the upcoming quarter. These plans are created electronically in a program called E-ELLPRO which is a student data management system for our ELL students.

The start of the year is when the Title VII staff spends a lot of time gathering and verifying that the forms for the Native American grants are completed accurately. The number of these forms that are collected directly affects the amount of funds that we receive in both Impact Aid funds and Title VII funds. We anticipate having approximately 40 more qualified forms this year than last year which will definitely

increase available funds. Title VII is hosting the first Cultural Presentation for staff on October 20th 4:30-6:00 PM. The first Parent Committee meeting is scheduled for October 28th at 5PM.

We have made an eRate bandwidth increase request with increments up to 1 Gig. This process should be relatively seamless due to the nature of the request and internet providers. In summary, Processes are simplified because our current internet provider “Suddenlink” is now on state contract. Suddenlink is the only vendor in the territory that can provide high internet speeds; therefore, the district just has to go through the procurement process. In summary, the district will start to receive increased bandwidth in early 2016.

The district wide newly created infrastructure and host/server architecture have proven to be successful. The district is running smoothly with very minimal to no down time during school/business hours. Staff are using the department/district drive mapping to collaborate and store shared documents, with data security distributed through group policy, security groups, and organizational units.

Infrastructure at our schools are prepped for AzMerit testing and upcoming changes to SchoolMaster and ADE’s integration processes.

The technology 5 year plan was accomplished several years ahead of schedule and the district is running at an enterprise level. I believe this is due to the support and decision making of the technology team, staff, and the board in making the proper decision to move forward.