

## Weekly Board Report 8 January 2016

The overall enrollment of Camp Verde Unified School District is 1536 as compared 1488 one year ago. Current enrollment vs. same time last year: Elementary 728 vs. 733; Middle School 340 vs. 323; High School 440 vs. 408; Accommodations School 28 vs. 24. South Verde Magnet School 68 vs. 97.

This coming week brings our scheduled winter audit visit. They will be finalizing the Fiscal Year 14-15 audit. A lot of preliminary work is done electronically and has cut the time the auditors are present on our campuses. So far, all looks good and we believe we are prepared and look forward to a good audit. The auditors never fail to give good direction in how we can better do our jobs.

We are in the process of scheduling our visit from AdvancED for the spring. We have some preliminary work to submit before their arrival, but feedback from the AdvancED team up to this point has been very positive with the Strategic Plan Process and other evidences of positive directions taken.

We again would like to remind the board we are scheduled to move into concurrent funding beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>. This simply means we will receive funding based on our actual FY16-17 Average Daily Membership, rather than the prior year, FY15-16, ADM. Our enrollments over the past couple years have increased or maintained. We believe the general direction of the District and the many positives we see daily will bring an increased enrollment for next year making concurrent funding a good thing for the coming year.

Semester 2 has started out with increase in enrollment at Camp Verde High School at this time. The teachers are working on analyzing their semester 1 pre-post test results. Also, they are working on item analysis of each test question to see if the material was covered, not covered as well as it should have been or was it a poorly written question. From the results, the teachers will alter their curriculum and test for future use. The students who failed a course at semester are assigned to Friday school to make up the credit. Friday school starts this week.

The boys' basketball team placed 5th in the Phoenix Christian tournament over the Christmas break. The girls' basketball team placed 4th in the Yvonne Johnson Basketball tournament. The wrestling team won the Window Rock tournament the weekend before Christmas. All three teams are preparing for a run at the state championships which are held in February. The robotics club is starting with Mr. Kresge as the lead sponsor and Mr. Weir as the co-sponsor. They are looking at a competition in late February. The student council is continuing the tutoring program with the elementary school and the tops club is tutoring with the middle school students.

We are exceptionally proud of our advanced digital media class as they are really demonstrating high work ethics and creativity with our news productions. The link below is to a broadcast they produced just before the Christmas break. In this particular episode, Nic Westervelt and Sam Villalobos took it upon themselves to translate their prompts from English into Spanish. There are several episodes to review on the YouTube channel, Team Digital. Please subscribe to see more as we post them.

EQUIPO. Digital - CV Noticias de la mañana - En español!!

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=lORGMKh1\\_ng](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lORGMKh1_ng)

2016 is off to a great start at Camp Verde Middle School! This week was genius week in Robin Tankesley's gifted class. Students had this week to learn about anything they wanted and then they had to report back to the class. Laura Norman's Title 1 reading class just started reading buddies with a 1<sup>st</sup> grade class, and they both are loving it! In Bryan Pelfrey's 6<sup>th</sup> grade Science, students are presenting research on Prokaryote/Bacteria. Steve Wilson's 7<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies students gave presentations and made

posters about the Civil War. Next week they are starting group projects about major battles of the Civil War. Yesterday in Lena DiBartolomeo's Social Studies class, students shared one of their goals they had set for themselves. They had to choose either a short or long term goal and then write a 5 paragraph essay describing how they plan to achieve that goal.

Abbie Monroe started linear functions in her 8<sup>th</sup> grade Math classes. They focused on slope all week and also practiced plotting points on a coordinate plane. Next week they are moving into slope-intercept form. She loves this unit because it's so new to the students and most of them enjoy it. Adrienne Wright's 7<sup>th</sup> grade Math students began a project on probability and statistics. During the three weeks prior to break she kept track of each class' contract ratings. In her classes they have beans that are collected each day, based on the social contract. At the end of the class, the students rate the class on a scale of 1-10 and put that number of beans in the jar. Mrs. Wright sometimes adds additional beans for additional class effort. With this data the students will find multiple ways of looking at data and central tendency graphs. They will create and analyze over 7 different graphs and tables: line graphs, bar graphs, circle graphs, box and whisker plots, frequency charts and histograms, and mean absolute deviation tables. From these graphs they will determine what information is given based on those graphs. They will then use the data to figure the probability of events occurring or not occurring. They will discuss outliers and how those can change data. They will also be discussing bias and unbiased opinions within the parameters of statistics.

This week in Rhonda Koepp's classes the students are learning about healthy vs abusive relationships. Ms. Laurie Abdelnour from the Yavapai County Health Dept. is leading the kids through scenarios, games and role playing to discover what to look for in their dating and friendship relationships and how to respond to each other in safe and positive ways.

In PE, students are playing a game called Basketball Skillastics. Soon to come will be the Archery unit that all the kids look forward to. The basketball teams are still on a roll. Out of 8 total games this week they won 7. They have 5 more games each, and then the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade will get ready for their tournaments.

Yesterday Camp Verde Middle School held its Quarter 2 Awards Assembly. Once again we are seeing record numbers of students on the Honor Roll, receiving Perfect Attendance, and making the Principal's List. In order for students to be on the Principal's List, they have to earn a 4.0 grade point average and have no referrals. Today Tammy Carter monitored Friday Remediation School from 8-Noon. Students have to attend Friday school if they earned an F in a core class on their report card, or if they have 9 or more absences.

The elementary robotics team, the Cyber Cowboys, have had a custom-built rolling cabinet donated by the Home Depot. Peggy Dickey, the elementary robotics coach tells the story, *"In November of 2015, I was chatting with a school parent about the robotics program and showing him the robots, accessories, competition table, etc. This man also works at Home Depot as the Assistant Manager. During our conversation, I inquired about Home Depot donating wood for a rolling robotics cabinet. As our conversation progressed, he offered to have Home Depot build the cabinet for the Camp Verde Elementary School Robotics Program. Later that month he and the builder came in to take dimensions, then they were off to build. They delivered our new Rolling Robotics Cabinet on January 6th, 2016."* The board will be asked to approve the donation during the February board meeting. Below are pictures of the cabinet being delivered.



The elementary school's Odyssey of the Mind team is working on both their long-term and spontaneous problems utilizing creative, critical thinking processes as well as communication skills. In the words of our Gifted Instructor, Denise Meyer, "EVERYTHING is initiated, created, and evaluated by the students themselves. I am just a facilitator. They are pretty amazing students, and I would like them to be recognized for challenging themselves and having fun in the process!!!!"

From the Odyssey of the Mind website: Odyssey of the Mind is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college. Team members apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. They then bring their solutions to competition on the local, state, and World level. Thousands of teams from throughout the U.S. and from about 25 other countries participate in the program.

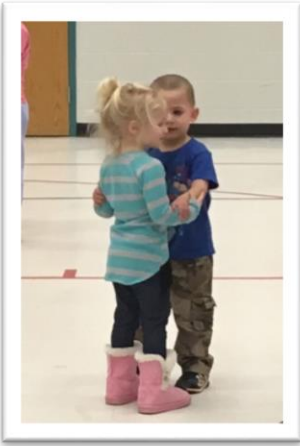
Also, it is exciting to note that Gifted enrollment is up to 39 students!

We have 18 of our elementary students involved in Cub Scouts. This weekend is a great time to see these students perform at the Cub Scout Pinewood Derby on Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the town gym. Before winter break, scouts were given a block of wood, four nails and four wheels to build their cars—a great S.T.E.M. learning activity! Come out and support our scouts!

Elementary school student, Chandler Plante, has launched his third annual bulletin board contest to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This year's theme is "My Dream" and will allow students to work together, encourage others, and build teamwork. The class with the winning bulletin board will receive an ice cream party.

Chandler has also organized his 6<sup>th</sup> MLK Jr. March for the town of Camp Verde. This will take place on Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Main Street in Camp Verde.

Even our smallest students can learn to dance! Our preschoolers learned several dances during P.E. this week including the Hokey Pokey, the Chicken Dance, Freeze Dancing, and the Mexican Hat Dance. Below, two of our tiny ones learn how to dance in pairs.



Our 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will have a great opportunity to learn about local history when they participate in a guided tour of Tuzigoot and Montezuma Castle. Three classes will go on February 17<sup>th</sup> and two classes on February 18<sup>th</sup>, with a follow-up presentation from a national park ranger in the theater the following week. These field trips are offered free of charge and foster in our students a greater understanding of the rich heritage of our community.

Our 1<sup>st</sup> grade team is busy arranging a presentation from members of the Yavapai-Apache Nation. This program was sought out by 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher, Mrs. Lucy Rodriguez, and will introduce our younger students to the traditions and culture of our local tribal neighbors.

Sometimes it's fun to get a peek into someone else's world. Here at the elementary school, our days begin with quick hallway meetings to share ideas and materials, trips to the photocopier, mailroom and computer lab. Teachers have morning duty as well and our IEP and SST process meetings are held from 7:15-7:45 a.m. Our first bell rings at 7:50, tardy bell at 7:55 a.m. and we are off and running. Regular ed. classroom teachers cover reading, writing, spelling, grammar, math, science, social studies, and penmanship. In addition, they try to include other areas of study in their lessons such as art, character education, and drama. Music and P.E. and are taught by separate teachers, while computers/technology and library visits are facilitated by the general education teacher as well.

Lunch is a fast and furious affair that takes place within a thirty-five minute window. Teachers take their students to the cafeteria and walk them through the line, making sure everyone is settled in before going to their room. This process takes about 10-15 minutes, leaving the teachers with a few minutes to eat before the students head out to the playground for a 15 minute recess or back to the classroom. Most teachers use recess as a time to work in small groups or 1:1 with the students who are struggling to master concepts or complete work. This usually means a teacher has about ten minutes total to eat, gather materials, use the restroom, or make quick phone calls.

The afternoon is spent in our second “block” of learning time. For our students, the state recommends the following, based on a 4-day week.

	Daily	Weekly
Reading	112.5 Min.	450 min.
Language Arts	75 min.	300 min.
Mathematics	75 min.	300 min.
Social Studies	37.5 min.	150 min.
Science	37.5 min.	150 min.
Physical Education	37.5 min.	120 min.
Art	15 min.	60 min.
Music	15 min.	60 min.
Health	15 min.	60 min.

We accomplish this in blocks with most classrooms focusing on English language arts in the morning and math in the afternoon. (Some teachers choose to do the reverse, based on students’ needs.)

Students board the busses at 2:40 with busses leaving at 2:50. All teachers are on duty until the busses depart. At this point, there is approximately an hour and a half for other duties. Many teachers choose to tutor students in small groups during this time. In these cases, they must walk the students to the M.U.C. by 3:55 for pick up. By the time the last student has been picked up, teachers who tutor have from 4:10-4:30 to complete any remaining tasks such as grading, phone calls to parents, etc.

On the days that tutoring does not take place, there are a large variety of meetings that occur including Site Advisory Council, Morale Committee, Literacy Committee, E.D.I.S.A., Curriculum Committee, Go Math! Pilot Committee, Grade-level team meetings, Student Study Team meetings, IEP meetings, Professional Learning Community (staff) meetings, and Capturing Kids’ Hearts Process Champion meetings.

Beyond this, there are the regular duties that include grading anywhere from 125-200 pages of student work per day, lesson planning for all subjects covered, data examination, test creation/grading, locating or creating materials, planning for conferences and field trips, creating emergency sub plans and keeping them up-to-date, filling out paperwork for the SST process and ILLPs, planning differentiation for all levels of learning including ELL, Sp.Ed., and Gifted, tracking grades in Schoolmaster, writing newsletters for parents, meeting with the counselor or principal to find remedies to specific student challenges, following up on student discipline or health issues that occurred during the day, and completing any committee work needed.

It’s a big (even overwhelming) job, but the elementary teachers and staff do it with enthusiasm and tenacity. They are an amazing group of people! We invite you all to stop by for a visit or to lend a hand in a classroom. You are always welcome!

South Verde enrolled eight new students this week, three sophomores, three juniors, and two seniors. Mrs. Zawel will be adding more students to the roster, as the school is interviewing two to three students per day. Some of these students have been out of school for a period of time and are looking to catch up on missed credits. These students have blended seamlessly into the school and are welcomed

wholeheartedly into the fold. The school will be reaching out to past students, encouraging them to return to school to complete their coursework.

Five new students have been added to the art class, headed by the very talented Jason Voss, a local artist. Mr. Voss has already spotted some new talent and is excited about upcoming projects he will be spearheading this semester.

Over Christmas break, South Verde's music teacher tragically passed away. Graciously, Luke Hicks volunteered to lead the band class, which encompasses five highly musical students/performers. Currently, the students are writing lyrics and accompanying music, which will be a memorial to Jesse Ebel to be performed next month.

Lori Boyce, one of the teacher aides in the A+ lab, will be working with a group of students on Friday afternoons who are needing more time to devote to their A+ classes. These students must provide their own transportation.

Today, January 8, the staff and students will be wearing the jerseys of their favorite sports teams to commemorate this weekend's NFL playoffs. Pat Max, the math teacher - a Redskins fan - inspired the idea, leading one to suspect she received a nice Christmas present last month.

It is time to begin researching and planning for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant. It officially doesn't open until March but it is a very long and comprehensive planning process for this grant. I have been reviewing past successful grant applications and am meeting with Lynn Leonard from Beaver Creek to learn more about their grant.

This is an exciting grant for afterschool and 5<sup>th</sup> day programs. The grant is a 5 year award for a max of \$140,000 per site per year. The funding stays 100% for the first three years and then reduces by 25% in year 4 and year 5. Programing must be offered a minimum of 4 days a week (12 hours per week) and a minimum of 120 days per year. A 21<sup>st</sup> Century program must have each of the following components: Academics, Youth Development and Family Engagement. Direct Services to the students must be offered 8-10 hours each week and a minimum of 2 hours a week of adult family services must be provided. The adult family services are provided to adult family members of those students who are actively participating in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century program.

21<sup>st</sup> Century is intended to be a long term academic intervention targeting students who need it most. It is not a "drop in" program. For a student to be considered a regularly attending student, they must attend the program for 30 or more days. Funding is directly tied to active participation counts of the students. From initial research it looks like that a site would need approximately 120 actively participating students to qualify for the maximum amount of funding. Further along in the process, we will decide whether 1, 2 or 3 sites are optimal for operating at capacity and therefore receiving the maximum funding. The funding is very attractive but we also have to build a sustainability factor into the grant for when the grant reduces funding and eventually ends.

Another grant opportunity crossed my desk this week for 4<sup>th</sup> graders to have a free field trip to the Petrified Forest. The National Park Foundation is providing funding for transportation, lunch and a ranger guided tour. The information for that was forwarded to Mrs. Booth to see if the teachers are interested.

Support Services had a great Christmas Break we were able to get a lot of preventative maintenance accomplished while also having time to enjoy with family. Transportation is in full swing getting ready

for bus inspections any day and we expect another great inspection season. Facilities has been preparing for storms and making repairs once the storms pass. Roofs are always a challenge but we do the best we can as fast as we can so the educational process is not disrupted. We will continue to support the needs of the district and needs of the parents to the best of our ability.

There was also a wonderful letter to the editor in our newspaper last week expression their feelings of admiration on the grounds at the high school. Nicely done facilities.

Technology has received eRate bid responses for the increased bandwidth initiative and are able to receive gig speeds to the campus. These speeds will provide better access to web resources and overall improvement throughout the district. The district currently has a 100mbs internet connection – these speeds have been an improvement to the districts previous 6mbs connection; however, the need for increased speeds are exponentially increasing due to industry standards, state mandated testing, increase in devices, and future initiatives.

Technology has finalized and posted the RFP for the district-wide wi-fi and managed cabling project. This initiative couples with the increased bandwidth project and future projects. The wi-fi project will provide better wireless capabilities and a uniform CISCO centralized network management system. Vendor walk throughs are being scheduled for mid-Jan.

We would like to welcome Lance Ricci to the technology team. Lance will be housed at the High School and will be cross-trained on multiple technologies so he is up to CVUSD technology standards.

The District is preparing for the AzMERIT test. This is the second year for the test in the state and changes are still taking place on the test. The State test will be administered between March 28 and May 6 to students in grades three through eleven. The test will measure student achievement in writing reading and math. This test will be administered online, as it was last year. By administering the test online the District does not need to test every student in a particular grade level or subject on the same day as it does with the AIMS science test. This allows the District to have some flexibility in scheduling when tests are administered and which grade levels are tested on specific days. The writing portion of the test must be completed by April 15. The reading and math portions do not need to be completed until the test window closes.

The AIMS science test will also be administered during this testing window. The AIMS science test must be completed by April 22. The AIMS science test is a paper based test unlike the AzMERIT. The AIMS science test will be administered to students in grades four, eight and ten.