

Elementary Principal Report

September 2023

NSCAS Testing

We had initially planned to administer the fall NSCAS assessment on September 12 and 13, but have decided to not do the fall testing. This decision was made after I attended a meeting at ESU 11 and received some updated information. The fall and winter assessments are optional. At one point, it was suggested that if a student tested at benchmark or above with the fall or winter assessment that would count even if they didn't meet proficiency in the spring. That is no longer the case. The only score that really counts is the spring score. Several factors were taken into account when the decision was made to test in the fall or not ... 1) Are we over testing our students? 2) The additional resources that are used to administer the test 3) The loss of classroom instructional time and 4) The disruption in the daily schedule. After discussions with Mr. Drews, Mr. Perez, Mrs. Klein, and Mrs. Helms; the decision was made to cancel the fall NSCAS testing. We will still plan on the winter assessment scheduled for December 12 and 13. This will give our students the opportunity to experience the test format and see the types of questions on the state test. This will also allow us to goal-set for the spring assessment which is scheduled for April 22, 23, and 24. Our students made significant gains last year and our goal is to see even higher proficiency rates this year.

National Substitute Teacher Appreciation (September 4-8)

We rely on our substitute teachers pretty much on a daily basis. Having a good pool of substitutes is critical to keeping the school running smoothly. We have great substitute teachers and are thankful that they choose to work at AHPS. During National Substitute Teacher Week, we expressed our gratitude each day ... Tuesday - donuts were provided to everyone (we have staff members that are often asked to sub during their plan times); Wednesday - little flashlights were provided to our subs (You light up our building when you sub @ AHPS!); Thursday - Eileen's Cookies (Our School Would Crumble Without You!); Friday - Lifesavers (You're a Lifesaver). A big thank you to AEA for also providing trail mix for our substitute teachers (AHPS is nuts about the energy you bring to our school! Thank you for being a substitute!"

Online Safety Presentation (Sept. 7)

On September 7th, State Trooper Tim Flick provided a presentation to our third, fourth, fifth, and sixth graders about online safety, responsible internet usage, and cyberbullying. His message focused on being responsible while on the internet and not sharing personal information with others. He also addressed digital citizenship and using the internet responsibly.

Parent-Teacher Conferences (Sept. 21)

Elementary teachers have met and scheduled conferences. Notes have been sent home to make sure times work for parents. Conferences will be held Thursday, September 21st from 2-5pm and 6-8pm.

Fire Prevention Week (October 8-14)

The theme for this year's Fire Prevention Week is Cooking Safety Starts with YOU! I have been in touch with Brian Sisson of the Arapahoe Fire and Rescue Department to plan a day and time for the department to visit the school. I have also talked to Mrs. Spaulding about having her FCS class come into grades 4,5, and 6 to talk about cooking safety.

Fall Field Trips

Kindergarten - The pm students went to Star Corbin's house to pick apples on September 7th.

Fourth Grade - The 4th grade will attend the "Kids Fitness Day" in McCook on October 11th.

Homecoming

I have been in contact with Mrs. Helms about the elementary students participating in some of the Homecoming activities. They will participate in the dress up days, the hallway posters, and seeing the Homecoming Parade off on the west side of the school. The dress up days are:

Tuesday - Hawaiian Day; Wednesday - Color Day; Thursday - Disney Day; Friday - Spirit Day.

The elementary hallway poster theme will be Finding Nemo.