

District Administrator Report

September 14, 2009

Opening of the School Year

This was the most difficult beginning to a school year that most of us have experienced. Staff, students and the community were saddened and shocked by deaths of classmates as well as other members of our community within a short two weeks just prior to the start of the school year. Our student services staff gave above and beyond to provide counseling opportunities to our students. Jenny Kalson arranged for additional counselors to be available through our Employee Assistance program. Staff needs to grieve with their families meant some staff were not able to attend the beginning days of the contract year. We tried to respond with as much sensitivity as possible while keeping our schools operating smoothly. Our beginning of the year professional development went quite well. While it is not our first choice to front load our professional development in August, the desire to end the first week of June drove the calendar. Hopefully H1N1 won't sabotage those efforts. (See following section.) I cannot thank everyone enough for all of their efforts. Paula Landers put together a great array of professional development choices for staff that were aligned with building and district goals. Many of our own staff were the trainers. Theresa Daane worked with the counselors and principals to implement the crisis plan and follow through as we dealt with the loss of Paul Brumley and Jessica Arnold. Jenny Kalson, provided support to staff while also making the arrangement for two mandatory sessions for all staff on Bullying and Harassment and Blood borne pathogens that we are required by law or our risk management group to provide. Our custodians had the buildings and grounds in top shape. Larry Martin and his tech interns cleaned every computer of the virus, and reorganized equipment so that computers were ready for staff when they returned. This was a monumental effort.

First Days of Classes

Our enrollment appears to be very close to our projection. You will have detailed information in your October board report along with the third Friday count. While our elementary school is up about a dozen students from what we projected, our high school is lower by about the same amount. TRIS is down a few and the middle school is up 1.

We continued our in-town bus pick-up which has greatly reduced traffic around the elementary and intermediate schools in the morning. We eliminated one crossing guard position this year, but have found we need to keep one we thought we could cover with an instructional assistant because the assistant is needed to assist students with special education needs as they arrive and leave.

H1N1 Swine Flu

A committee of Jenny Kalson, Mindy Larson and Joe Francis have been working on our Pandemic Flu plan since spring. What makes this such a difficult task is that the advice from the local, federal and department of public instruction keeps changing. What is on the DPI site is not necessarily what the local health department recommends. Here is an example of what I received last week:

“Rachel Gallagher from the DPI sent out multiple documents yesterday. These were templates, plans for school vaccination clinics, etc. The state division of health is not yet endorsing these documents, as they are all in draft form. They say to proceed with caution on these documents and use them only as a reference.

There is no set percentage as to when the closure of schools would be considered. Any consideration of closing a school would be made in concert with the district involved. “

We have prepared a letter which is included in the board packet, on the District website and emailed to parents. We have cleaning products used on a regular basis that will help prevent the spread of the disease. We will continue to discuss at Administrative Team meetings how to proceed based on local conditions and best available advice.

The biggest issues will arise should the need to close school. At this time, we only anticipate closing school should enough staff be sick that we can't teach the children safely. If the health department does not order us to close, we will need to make those days up unless the State waives the mandatory days and hours of instruction. If the health department orders us to close, we will of course comply and those days do not need to be made up. Some of the latest information indicates that only lab results from those who are hospitalized or die will be sent to the state hygiene lab. That may make knowing how many cases of H1N1 compared to other illnesses we actually have. We will work with our school nurse to track our illnesses as requested by the Rock County Health Department.

We have hosted flu clinics for staff in the past arranged through our Dean HMO and will host one for students if requested by the health department. At this time, we don't have specific information on when that may occur and who it will be offered to.

My College Options

Attached is a report I thought you might be interested in. The survey of last year's seniors was done by a group called My Options that helps students identify potential scholarship resources. It is done in part with the support of the Association of American School Administrators (AASA). It compares the results from our students and compares them to the state and nation in such areas as the high school courses they report taking, the career clusters they are interested in, the college, and post high school plans. Almost 80% of our students indicate an interest in attending a state college. 32% indicate an interest in a private college (students can mark multiple options of interest). 26.5% are interested in a technical college, 8% are interested in the military. Their top career interest is in the Health Care field followed by education and accounting. The number of students interested in Engineering, computer science, architecture and math all exceed state and national averages.

Evansville Community School District

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Heidi Carvin
District Administrator
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September 11, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As we enter the new school year and the new traditional influenza season, we expect Wisconsin to continue seeing cases of the new pandemic flu. School and public health officials are working to keep our children safe and healthy. *We need your help!*

The most important thing you can do is to keep your child home if he or she is ill. If your child is so sick that you would normally seek medical care, please do so. It is important you have a plan in place prior to the spread of the illness. The following are recommended:

What can a parent do to prepare for flu during the 2009-2010 school year?

- Plan for child care at home if your child gets sick or their school is dismissed (for a minimum of 5 school days).
- Plan to monitor the health of the sick child and any other children by checking for fever and other symptoms of flu.
- Update emergency contact lists.
- Identify a separate room in the house for care of sick family members. Consider designating a single person as the main caregiver for anyone who gets sick.
- Pull together games, books, DVDs and other items to keep your family entertained while at home.
- Talk to your school about their flu pandemic or emergency plan.
- Get your family vaccinated for seasonal flu and 2009 H1N1 flu when vaccines are available.

The new pandemic flu is very similar to ordinary seasonal flu. Each morning, parents and caregivers should check their children and other family members for flu symptoms such as fever, cough, or sore throat. A few cases of pandemic influenza have begun with nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea symptoms.

All sick students and staff should stay out of school until at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever or signs of a fever. This should be determined without the use of fever-reducing medications (any medicine that contains ibuprofen or acetaminophen) Aspirin is not recommended for children. Students will likely be home 5 days. Ill students should not attend alternative childcare. If a child or adult is ill with other symptoms, they should stay home at least one day to see how the illness develops and until completely well for 24 hours. Children who are ill upon arrival at school or become ill during the school day will be sent home. Children and adults who are ill should stay home and not go into the community unless they need medical care. **Notify the school of all flu-like absences and symptoms or confirmed cases of pandemic flu.**

At this time, health and school officials are not recommending school closures for individual cases of H1N1 flu. However, as with regular seasonal flu, we might recommend closing schools if larger numbers of students or faculty become ill.

In addition to staying home when sick, here are three important things you and your family can do to help stay healthy and keep others safe:

- **Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.**
- **Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hands cleaners are also effective.**
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs spread that way.**

Again, contact your medical provider and seek medical care if that is what you would normally do.

More information about new H1N1 flu is available on the following web sites:

<http://pandemic.wi.gov/>

<http://www.cdc.gov>

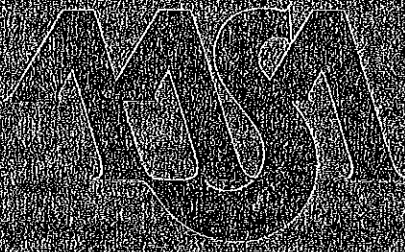
<http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>

You may also call the Public Health Flu Information line at 211 or your local health department 608.757.5440.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation during this time. With your help, we can help keep everyone safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Heidi Carvin
District Administrator

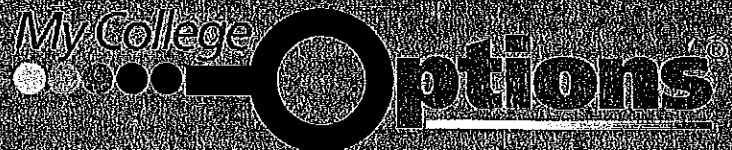


SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Evansville Cmty School Dist
2008 -2009



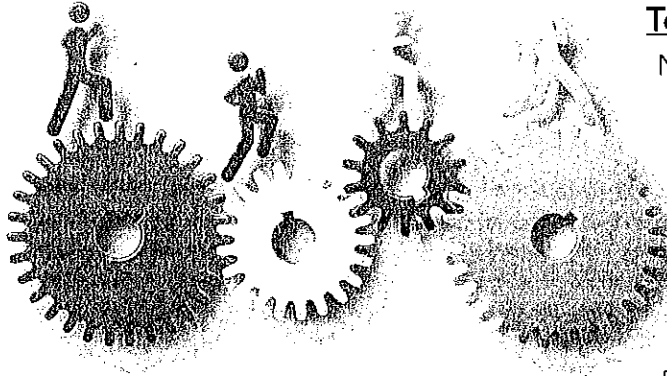
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STUDENTS' INTEREST IN STEM CAREERS

Career Clusters

STEM	28.10%
Engineering	12.80%
Science	8.70%
Technology	6.30%
Mathematics	5.60%



Top Ten Career/Major Interests

Nursing/Health Care	11.10%
Teaching/Education	9.00%
Accounting/Finance	8.30%
Medical Physician	7.30%
Computer Sciences	6.30%
Architecture	5.90%
Engineering (General)	5.90%
Mathematics	5.60%
Art	5.20%
Engineering (Mechanical)	5.20%

WHAT CLASSES ARE THEY TAKING AND WHO ARE THEY?



High School Courses Taken

General College Prep.	74.90%
Advanced Placement	33.30%
Gifted/Accelerated	14.40%
College-Credit Courses	14.40%
Other Advanced/Honors	13.60%
Tech. Prep.	9.10%
Vocational	3.30%
Int'l Baccalaureate	0.80%
Online Courses	0.80%

First Generation Status

Not First Generation	80.50%
First Generation	19.50%



Career Clusters	District	State	National
STEM	28.10%	24.40%	24.10%
Engineering	12.80%	10.10%	9.70%
Science	8.70%	9.20%	9.00%
Technology	6.30%	3.60%	3.90%
Mathematics	5.60%	3.90%	3.90%

High School Courses	District	State	National
General College Prep.	74.90%	72.00%	70.20%
Advanced Placement	33.30%	19.80%	20.90%
Gifted/Accelerated	14.40%	12.40%	11.10%
College-Credit Courses	14.40%	16.70%	19.30%
Other Advanced/Honors	13.60%	18.10%	24.50%
Tech. Prep.	9.10%	8.40%	7.10%
Vocational	3.30%	3.90%	3.60%
Int'l Baccalaureate	0.80%	1.90%	1.80%
Online Courses	0.80%	2.40%	2.70%

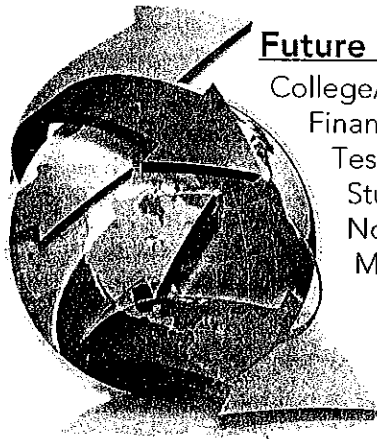
HOW DOES YOUR

Career/Major Interests	District	State	National
Nursing/Health Care	11.10%	8.20%	8.60%
Teaching/Education	9.00%	6.90%	6.10%
Accounting/Finance	8.30%	3.20%	2.90%
Medical Physician	7.30%	8.00%	9.20%
Computer Sciences	6.30%	3.50%	3.80%
Architecture	5.90%	4.00%	3.50%
Engineering (General)	5.90%	3.90%	4.00%
Mathematics	5.60%	3.90%	3.90%
Art	5.20%	7.40%	7.70%
Engineering (Mechanical)	5.20%	4.10%	3.50%

First Generation Status	District	State	National
Not First Generation	80.50%	72.00%	66.80%
First Generation	19.50%	28.00%	33.20%

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WHAT ARE THEIR FUTURE PLANS AND NEEDS?

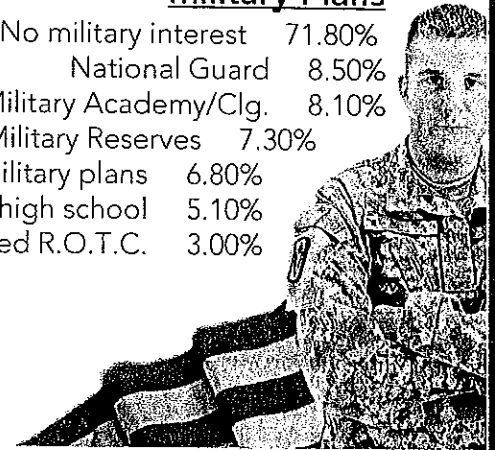


Future Planning Needs

College/Career Information	60.90%
Financial Aid/Student Loans	60.00%
Test Prep.	30.60%
Study Skills/Tutoring	29.40%
None of the above	14.50%
Mentoring/Motivational Prog.	11.90%

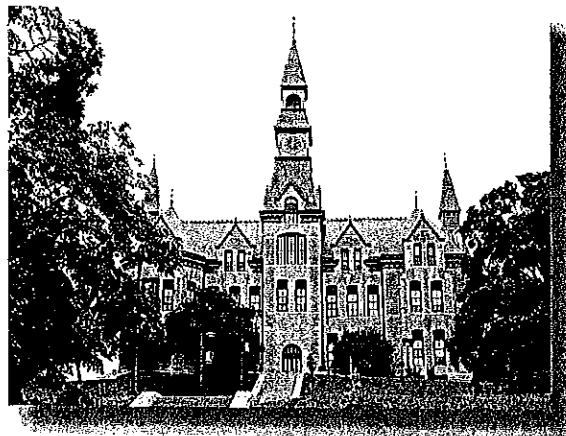
Military Plans

No military interest	71.80%
National Guard	8.50%
Military Academy/Clg.	8.10%
Military Reserves	7.30%
Other military plans	6.80%
Enlist after high school	5.10%
College-Based R.O.T.C.	3.00%



College Environment Preference

Moderate	66.20%
Liberal	25.40%
Conservative	8.50%



College Type Preference

State College/Univ.	79.60%
Private College/Univ.	31.90%
Technical College	26.50%
Community/Junior Clg.	7.50%
Vocational/Career Clg.	4.70%
Online College/Univ.	3.20%

ISTRICCT COMPARE?

Future Planning Needs	District	State	National
College/Career Information	60.90%	61.20%	64.10%
Financial Aid/Student Loans	60.00%	45.50%	46.40%
Test Prep.	30.60%	29.50%	26.50%
Study Skills/Tutoring	29.40%	24.30%	28.80%
None of the above	14.50%	17.70%	14.40%
Mentoring/Motivational Prog.	11.90%	9.50%	11.40%

College Environment	District	State	National
Moderate	66.20%	70.40%	70.50%
Liberal	25.40%	19.20%	18.20%
Conservative	8.50%	10.40%	11.30%

Military Plans	District	State	National
No military interest	71.80%	71.50%	70.20%
National Guard	8.50%	7.50%	7.00%
Military Academy/Clg.	8.10%	6.00%	6.90%
Military Reserves	7.30%	6.10%	5.50%
Other military plans	6.80%	8.50%	8.70%
Enlist after high school	5.10%	5.60%	5.50%
College-Based R.O.T.C.	3.00%	3.60%	5.30%

College Type Preferences	District	State	National
State College/Univ.	79.60%	82.60%	84.50%
Private College/Univ.	31.90%	28.10%	25.90%
Technical College	26.50%	18.60%	10.70%
Community/Junior Clg.	7.50%	7.30%	14.40%
Vocational/Career Clg.	4.70%	5.20%	7.10%
Online College/Univ.	3.20%	4.60%	5.10%

2009-2010 Building Goals

Levi Leonard Elementary School Goals for 2009-2010

Mission:

The mission of Levi Leonard Elementary School, in partnership with families and the community, is to teach students the skills that will empower them to become responsible and productive world citizens.

Goals:

1. 80% of K-2 students will attain 90% or more of Math standards based on SAGE goals and district alignment documents, and as measured by common assessments at each grade level. At the 2nd grade level, the number of students who meet their target growth goal as measured by the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) administered in April/May 2009 will increase by 5% over last year. Areas we will especially focus on:
 - Short assessments or “Probes”
 - Progress monitoring
 - Benchmarks for each grade level based on SAGE goals and district alignment documents
2. In order to create continuity and cohesion in the K-12 curriculum, Levi Leonard teachers will participate in the district wide curriculum mapping. The benchmarks developed in the first goal will be a basis for this mapping. Teachers will communicate with colleagues in grade levels to either side of the ones they teach, as well as with K-12 teams, to create a fluent and comprehensive curriculum.

Theodore Robinson Intermediate School Goals for 2009-10

Vision:

The Theodore Robinson Intermediate School staff will provide an inviting, safe, clean environment that promotes positive attitudes, attention to diversity, and the desire to learn. We will provide meaningful education through interdisciplinary approaches within the curriculum. We will encourage parent and community involvement to help enhance the level of pride and respect in our school.

Goals:

1. At least 70% of students will meet or exceed the math benchmarks by May 2010 as measured by teacher developed posttests. (REACH goal)
 - a. Teachers will develop common assessments that support our math benchmarks at each grade level.
 - b. Teachers will monitor progress of students and program interventions for those needing additional support.
2. At least 60% of students will meet their target growth goal as measured by MAP (Measures of Academic Growth) test scores

- a. Particular attention will be given to those students with disabilities not meeting AYP (adequate yearly progress) in reading on the 2008 WKCE (Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam).
- b. Reading resource staff will provide support with reading strategies and professional development as needed.

JC McKenna Middle School Goals for 2009-10

Mission/Vision: School will develop this coming school year through the REACH grant.

Goal #1 The school will improve or maintain an 85% advanced or proficient scores in all categories on the WKCE.

- The staff will review the item analysis for WKCE...
- Give sample test questions to students to get them used to the format of the exam.
- Language Arts has formed a PLC to review scores on WKCE and MAP testing. In addition, working with DeCarte and MAP scores will improve WKCE results.

Goal #2 Special education student scores will be at or above the Wisconsin average on WKCE by the end of the 2009-10 school year.

- Special Education will review the goal at monthly meetings.
- Math curriculum is already being modified to help students achieve this goal.
- Instructional Assistants will be given instructions in how to improve student reading skills when working one-on-one with students this September.

Goal #3 All academic areas will improve student target growth by 5% on the MAP test. Academic areas that already have a growth rate above 70% will maintain their current growth levels.

- Math has formed a PLC to review MAP data and make recommendations for change.
- Scores for teachers are now tailored to classroom teachers, that will allow for better feedback and zero in on areas of need for a given class period.

Goal #4 The school will reduce the number of students who miss fifteen or more days by 10% during the 09-10 school year.

- Parent meetings held with school social worker and/or Mr. Flaherty before the start of the year.
- The building is holding weekly attendance meetings with office staff and social worker.
- Each grade level has “adopted” students who miss frequently. They will give support to students and help them understand the importance of consistent school attendance.

Levi Leonard Elementary School
School Board Report
September 14, 2009

BOARD THEME/CURRICULUM TOPIC:

Our beginning of the year went very smoothly. Our students came in eager and excited, and parents looked happy too! Staff members will be implementing our Response to Intervention (RtI) process this year as documented in the handbook shared with the Board last spring. Our data retreat helped us to focus on how our instructional methods impact student achievement. Teachers are keeping this in mind as they submit Professional Learning Team goals. So we are off to a great start with enthusiasm and energy!

Goals:

1. 80% of K-2 students will attain 90% or more of Math standards based on SAGE goals and district alignment documents, and as measured by common assessments at each grade level. At the 2nd grade level, the number of students who meet their target growth goal as measured by the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) administered in April/May 2009 will increase by 5% over last year. Areas we will especially focus on:

- Short assessments or “Probes”
- Progress monitoring
- Benchmarks for each grade level based on SAGE goals and district alignment documents

2. In order to create continuity and cohesion in the K-12 curriculum, Levi Leonard teachers will participate in the district wide curriculum mapping. The benchmarks developed in the first goal will be a basis for this mapping. Teachers will communicate with colleagues in grade levels to either side of the ones they teach, as well as with K-12 teams, to create a fluent and comprehensive curriculum.

New Staff:

Please join the Levi Leonard Elementary staff in welcoming two new teachers to our staff. Both are highly qualified and bring a diverse set of experiences and expertise to our school community.

Jennifer Young is our new kindergarten teacher who will teach the transitional kindergarten. She is a graduate of Martin Luther College in New Ulm, MN. She has been an early education instructor at Garden Homes Lutheran School in Milwaukee. Her former colleagues describe her as a “strong leader and team player,” dedicated to the young children in her care.” She has been involved with many community volunteer experiences, and is excited to join the Evansville Community Schools.

Heather Hanson will be our new Reading Resource teacher working with Deb Fritz, Reading Specialist, to support student learning. She comes to us from McFarland Schools where she worked as a resource teacher on a part-time basis. She has attended the UW-Madison for her elementary certification and is currently finishing her reading teacher certification through Viterbo University. McFarland administrators describe Heather as “bringing tremendous talent, positive energy and commitment” to her work. She “is known for seeking out, nurturing, and succeeding with challenged and challenging students.”

Lindsey Wilder is our new speech and Language therapist and will work at Levi Leonard on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. She will work with students at all levels. Lindsay received her Bachelor’s and Master’s Degree from UW-Madison and worked in the Washington Elementary District in Phoenix, Arizona. Lindsay is very knowledgeable about appropriate articulation development and provides language activities in the classroom as well as for parents to use at home.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT:

This summer many of our teachers worked on curriculum projects and attended classes. Deb Fritz, our Reading Specialist, finished her classes for certification in Special Education. Jackie Rose, Jenny Young, Terri Belz and Jenny Wiedel attended an Everyday Math Session. Kathy Kellen, Cindy Beedle, Mackensie Wade, Jenny Mohns, Karla Sendelbach and Amy Gribble attended a class on Field Trips and connecting them with curriculum through specific objectives and strategies.

On October 1, Marilyn Brink and I will present our elementary Response to Intervention (RtI) process at the Wisconsin ASCD conference in Appleton. We will attend several conference sessions as well since the overall topic is 21st Century learning.

CELEBRATE!

Congratulations to Heather and Zach Vogel on the birth of their son Tristan in July 2009!

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:

September 9-23	School Fundraiser
September 16	Staff meeting – Review the RtI process
September 21	Epi-Pen and Glucagon inservice
September 21-October 8	MAP assessments for 2 nd Grade
September 25	Prairie Day – whole school event
September 30	Picture Retake Day

Please join us for any of the above events or drop in to visit and talk with students and staff. You are always welcome!

Respectfully submitted;
Lou Havlik,
Principal

**Theodore Robinson Intermediate School
School Board Report**

*Vicki Lecy-Luebke, Principal
September 14, 2009*

New Staff

We welcome two staff members to our building this year. Michelle Mitchell is joining our special education team. Michelle has four years experience and previously taught in the Edgerton School District. After a one year “stint” in Seattle, Michelle moved back to her hometown of Oregon, Wisconsin. We are so happy to have her on our staff. She is already making an impact on our students. Julie Curran is joining our OT/PT team. She has been an occupational therapist for 21 years and graduated from the UW-Madison. She has experience working with students, as well as adults, in schools and in hospitals. One of her references remarked that she had a “heart for children with special needs.....maximizing a child’s ability to engage in learning.”

Staff Development

This summer several staff attended workshops or worked on curriculum. Topics included Everyday Math, Character Education, Math Differentiation, Designing Progress Monitoring Tools in Reading, Inclusion Practices, and Reading/Language Arts Curriculum. Information was shared at our first staff meeting in August.

Celebration

We had a great turnout at our August 27th Open House. Music filled the halls and the building was “hopping” with parents and children!

Once again our school made the Top 10 in the Hoops for Heart campaign. 999 schools participated. Raising over \$6,000 for the American Heart Association put us in spot number 4!!

Deb St. Aubin became Mrs. Ehlinger in July. We congratulate her!

Gifts/Donations

We received a large amount of school supplies from Ann and Tom Kerkenbush. These are available for any student who is in need. Tom and Ann have been very generous in the past as well.

Shari Haakenson donated a large amount of supplies that were no longer useful at her place of business. These supplies were mainly items that teachers could use in their classrooms and they were “snapped” up.

Our PTO gave each teacher in the building a \$25 gift certificate from Target to help them with their classroom expenses.

JCMC
School Board Report-Bob Flaherty, Principal
September 2, 2009

How We Orient New Students and Staff!

During the year, all new students who come to the building meet with the Linda Rehfeldt and/or Mr. Flaherty. We give them a tour of the building, introduce them to staff, and try to find them a buddy for their first day.

Our incoming 6th Graders are given a tour of the building by 5th Grade staff members. Two years ago we also produced a DVD for our incoming special education students that they could review a number of times to make them more comfortable with the transition. We also invited them for a concert at the end of the year to give them another opportunity to visit the building and become familiar with the music program. Many of our 6th graders came to school in August to learn the basics of their band instruments.

Students receive a special meeting in the auditorium in the fall to introduce them one more time to staff members. Students report to a "home base" teacher during the open house as well as before first period on the first day of school. The teacher helps them navigate the middle school and understand the schedule. We had two new students start the year in wheelchairs. The first day was especially challenging for these students since they needed to become familiar with the elevators.

Next year we would like to have just sixth grade students start the day on the first day of school and use an identical schedule as the high school. We feel our youngest students would benefit from the special attention the staff could provide them.

New Staff to the Middle School:

Meghan Farnung

Hello! My name is Meghan Farnung and I am the new library media specialist at JC McKenna Middle School! I grew up in Madison and graduated from UW-Whitewater last May. I worked as a long term sub in the high school library last fall and really loved my time there. I also worked as the library media specialist at Maywood Elementary in Monona this spring. I'm so excited to be back here! I felt a quick connection with the staff, students and community of Evansville last year and have that same feeling again. Everyone at the middle school has been extremely helpful and so nice to work with. I am really looking forward to having a great year with the wonderful students and staff at JC McKenna!

Janessa Fjelstad

My name is Janessa Fjelstad and I am a recent graduate from UW-Whitewater where I majored in special education - cross categorical. I knew I wanted to be a teacher ever since I was a little girl, and I am so excited to be a teacher in this great district. Everybody has been so wonderful, especially all the staff at JC McKenna. I have never felt so welcomed! I am truly grateful to work alongside such wonderful people.

Staff Development:

New Staff Members receive extensive training and in-service before the experienced teachers return to school. I spent three hours with my two new staff members introducing them to the staff handbooks and reviewing how to handle specific situations (i.e. fire drills, home base, security system, etc.). We also talked about the principal's expectations on meeting the needs of all students.

During staff development we worked on developing universal vocabulary lists for each subject that is taught in the middle school. We also reorganized the school leadership committee around the REACH grant. Staff members also looked at Measure of Academic Progress data as well as developed professional learning communities. We also spent a considerable amount of time dealing with the tragic death of Jessica Arnold.

Donations:

We had a considerable amount of graph paper and other classroom supplies donated by Karen Tway and Varco Pruden Buildings. The estimated value of the donation is \$300.

The Aware Agency also donated school supplies for students in need. An estimated value of \$100.

Evansville High School
September 14, 2009 Board Report
Scott Everson

The 2009-2010 school year has gotten off to a positive start at Evansville High School.

- The building meeting of our staff development days seemed positive. Our staff worked through activities and collectively came up with five key components they have identified as elements of “excellent instruction.” These five components that make-up our high school instructional vision will eventually drive our building goals, and they are as follows:
 1. Instruction should be interactive and engaging
 2. Real-world connection/application
 3. All students will be learning
 4. Awareness of different learning styles
 5. Personal connection with students

- The Freshmen First Day with only Freshmen in the morning and all students in the afternoon appeared largely successful. Informal, conversational feedback from Freshmen was all positive. We will be following-up with a formal survey re: the Freshmen First Day in the near future.

- One significant change was made to our schedule in the form of our 20 minute period every morning. During this time, we have maintained an advisory period for 9th graders but we extended it to five days per week. Last year, most of the 10th – 12th grade student body was in the commons each day this time as a free period. This year, we have assigned almost every student to a study hall. Some students who need extra help immediately have been assigned to a directed study, and students who meet a GPA, behavior, and attendance criteria will be allowed an honors pass and use of the commons.

- We are welcoming some new faces to the building this year as well. Mike Maves has joined our Special Education Team. Courtney Tyson has been hired as a .50 FTE Language Arts Teacher. Becky Hookum is new to our building as an art teacher, transferring from the middle school. Kim Stieber-White is presently filling in as a long-term substitute in our library. Lastly, Jenean Hamilton has taken on the role of educational assistant within our Special Education department.

School Board Report
September 14, 2009
Curriculum Topic: Beginning of Year Teacher Orientation and Staff Development

Evansville Community School District
Office of Curriculum and Instruction
Paula J. I. Landers, Director of Instruction

Orienting New Staff

New staff orientation took place on August 24th and 25th, 2009. During these days, new staff were oriented to the insurance plan and payroll system, the Evansville Education Association, the Evansville Beginning Teacher Program, and Dane County New Teacher Project. New staff were treated to lunch with their principals both days and had the chance to acclimate to their building with the help of their building buddy – an experienced staff member to show them the ropes. New teacher meetings will take place throughout the school year. Activities planned for these meetings will consider the needs of beginning teachers, and will support them in their everyday tasks, working successfully with students and their families, and completing professional responsibilities such as the State Professional Development Plan (PDP) required for licensure.

Staff Development

Staff Development for 2009-2010 took place during August 27, 28, and 31, 2009. On August 27th, staff participated in building-based activities including a data retreat lead by the building principals. A District staff development day was planned for August 28th, and multi-building meetings were held on August 31st.

The District day offered thirty workshops addressing topics in educational technology, instructional differentiation, instructional interventions in reading, behavior management and classroom routines, supporting student success, and assessment. Fifteen of the presenters were district staff – quite a testament to the talents and abilities of the professionals in our District. Three presenters came from DPI, Stoughton Hospital, and CESA#2, and an additional presenter serves as an autism consultant to the District.

Upcoming Events

September 16 & 16, 2009 – Instructional Mentoring Workshop
Dane County New Teachers Project
Cardinal Stritch University, Milwaukee, WI

October 8, 2009 – DPI Title III and Bilingual Conference
Holiday Inn, Stevens Point, WI

October 8, 2009 – Tech Prep Counselors Breakfast
Blackhawk Technical College

Evansville Community School District
Student Services Board Report
September 14, 2009
Theresa G. Daane, Director of Student Services

Topic Focus: Start of the Year - New Staff and Recent Events

Student services and special education have five new staff members this school year. Michelle Mitchell accepted the one-year position at Theodore Robinson Intermediate School. Having a fifth teacher will not only bring down special education caseloads to within the guidelines of the Department of Public Instruction, it provides the staff support during implementing team teaching at the third and fourth grade levels. Two special education teachers are working primarily in inclusive settings, team teaching reading, language arts and mathematics. Ms. Mitchell will focus on providing the pull-out instruction for students that require more extensive instructional support. The third and fourth grade team teaching teams will have support in implementing universal design of instruction from Alice Udvari-Solner, an instructor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus in the department of curriculum and instruction.

The middle school has welcomed Janessa Fjelstad as a special education teacher, replacing Lori Drake. Janessa brings a lot of enthusiasm and a strong desire to see students be successful in the educational setting. This is Ms. Fjelstad's first teaching position.

The high school welcomed back a former student from Evansville, Michael Maves. This position was possible by a decrease in the number of students at the elementary level. This additional position at the high school has permitted caseloads to decrease. His focus will be working with students that have emotional and behavioral challenges. This will permit staff working with students with these issues more support as they work to keep struggling students in school and focused on post high school goals.

Lindsey Wilder has joined the staff as a speech and language pathologist. She will work three days a week with students in early childhood through second grade. With connections to the Waisman Center's communication disorders clinic, she brings experience working with augmentative communication devices. In addition, she has experience using discrete trial, (A-B-A therapy) to teach communication and language skills and those that have an autism spectrum disorder.

Julie Curran has joined our occupational therapy team. While the decision to restructure, eliminating the position of an occupation therapy assistant position, was difficult, it does permit caseloads and workloads to decrease. This is critical with the need to move towards more community based programming this next school year.

Recent Events:

This past month has been a challenging one for families within the Evansville community. With the recent deaths there is likely not a single family that has not been impacted by a death of a community member. The death of a child, regardless of the reason, is especially traumatic. The death of a child by suicide brings mixed emotions for those directly and indirectly involved. "Appropriate and timely interventions to a suicide are an important protective factor and prevention measure for other members of the school community who may be vulnerable or at risk." (National Alliance on Mental Illness [NAMI], 2006; Frameworks, Youth Suicide Prevention Project, page 68) This has been the focus of the student services team.

The student services team came together following the notification of each student death. As a team we implemented the District's Suicide/Sudden Death Plan. This plan was a critical starting point in addressing student and staff needs. The student services staff members each took on tasks as laid out by our plan. These tasks included determining the best contact person for the family, determining what notice needed to be provided and to whom and determining what support would be needed. Jenny Kalson, Human Resources Director, assisted our team by contacting our employee assistance program to

obtain outside support from grief counselors. Given the proximity of the two student deaths, we needed this outside support to meet student and staff needs.

As with any crisis, there are those who will agree or disagree with how a crisis is managed. In the case of suicide, it is important to respond in a manner that is carefully considered. The National Alliance on Mental Illness states, "suicide contagion can occur when events (such as memorial services and media coverage) glorify the life or sensationalize the death of the individual. This increases the risk factors for youth who are depressed, troubled, or at increased risk for suicide. Media reports, as well as memorial services, are two of the biggest factors that contribute to suicide contagion. It is a human tendency to overstate the positive qualities of the deceased while at the same time minimizing or even ignoring less positive attributes, particularly their decision to take their own life. Yet this inclination can increase the risk level of suicide for survivors." (Frameworks Youth Suicide Prevention, 2006 page 71). Student services staff and building administration used the resources available to make the best possible decisions in handling the deaths of our students.

Over the next couple of weeks all staff will continue to monitor students. Parents have been provided information on monitoring their child's response to the death of a friend. We will continue to provide support to staff, as needed. In addition, middle school student services staff members are working to establish a parent support group, in conjunction with Hospice, to meet their needs. Our health curriculum at the secondary level will need to be adjusted in terms of addressing suicide and suicide prevention. Student services staff and health teachers will work collaboratively to teach the necessary curriculum in a sensitive manner. Through this experience we will learn and adjust our Suicide/Sudden Death Plan. Our hearts ache for the families of our students. Our hope is to provide support to those in need.

Announcements:

Evansville has joined the Rock County Interagency Agreement between local and county law enforcement and Rock County Social Services and Juvenile Justice System. This agreement permits increased collaboration around student and community issues.

Evansville High School
Associate Principal/Athletic Director
School Board Report
September 8, 2009

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT/PROGRESS ON LEARNING GOALS:

New Student Orientation

Approximately 325 students and parents attended the 2009-10 freshman and new student orientation on Monday, August 24th. Student Council members welcomed new incoming students to Evansville High School. Mr. Everson, Mr. Cashore and Mr. Keister presented important transitional information to incoming students. Following the presentation the high school Student Council members provided building tours to new students and their parents.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Participants in Fall Sports:

High School:

Boys/Girls Cross Country – 20 (**25**) (Boys = 11, Girls = 9)

Boys Soccer – 40 (**44**)

Volleyball – 44 (**65**)

Football – 68 (**74**)

Pom-Poms – 29 (**25**)

Cheerleading – 11 (**9**)

Total = 212 (242)

Middle School:

Football – 52 (**47**) (7th=28, 8th=24)

Volleyball – 51 (**49**) (7th=31, 8th=20)

Cross-Country – 6 (**6**) (7th=4, 8th=2)

Total = 109 (102)

(2008-09) Totals in Bold

Staffing Updates

The 2009-10 school year begins with one change in our high school coaching staff. Michael Maves will replace Jeff Deininger as JV football coach. Michael joins our football staff with 8 years of football coaching experience at Ellsworth.

There will be one change in our middle school coaching staff. Cathy Kruckenberg will replace Becky Demmin as 7th grade volleyball coach.