Cardinal Community Connections Communication

Together, we are our best!

Purpose of Cardinal Community Connections Communication Updates: Increase communication to foster positive stakeholder relationships and engage the community in school happenings around accurate, transparent information as a way to nurture school community pride.

Building Updates

June 22, 2019

Thanks to charter school grant funds, a dedicated staff, and lots of diligent planning and financial management, we are able to reconstruct and redesign some of our classrooms to better meet the individualized needs of students.

As adults, when we take the time to learn, we make choices to find places, positions, and an environment that meets our learning needs. We understand that our environment can determine our learning potential. We want our students to be able to make the same choices.

As students learn and explore what works best for them, and why certain options contribute positively, or serve as a barrier, to their personalized learning needs; students are developing problem solving and goal-setting skills, self-advocacy and metacognition skills, and forming confidence and independence.

Our newly designed learning spaces allow a classroom setup that affords staff and students the ability to work across grade levels and in an increasingly collaborative environment. Learning is inherently social, and it is important to create structures and environments that positively contribute to a student's development, both as an independent and collaborative learner.

You will begin to see some changes to our classrooms as we prepare for our new charter schools, and begin to institute the best practices of whole group, small group, and individualized instructional environments. You will see walls taken down to make classrooms larger. This accommodates for a more collaborative setting in which we more deeply engage students in learning through projects and collaborative experiences, both within and across grade levels.

Another change you will see includes moving our fifth grade students to the middle school wing of the building. This move is simply a geographical move, as the students are still considered "elementary" students, and will remain on the elementary schedule. This change is based on the additional classrooms need for our increased sections of four-year old kindergarten, as well as the increase in student enrollment in our elementary school.

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Lastly, we are beginning the vision to create a larger makerspace area in our elementary school to accommodate for the hands-on learning experiences our students need to apply the world-class knowledge and skills of their individual subject-areas (reading, math, writing, science, social studies), as an interdisciplinary experience. In the real world we apply various knowledge and skills concurrently, and we want students to have the same application through highly engaging learning experiences.

Thank you to our custodial team for saving our district tens of thousands of dollars by doing much of the redesign work. Other contracting commitments include drywall finishing, a bigger wall removal and reconstruction for N-Gage Academy (6-12 grade charter school), which requires a professional contractor. The cost of our contracted services total approximately $65,000. We are able to pay for these expenses through the reallocation of savings we have been able to realize in various departments (food service transfer, maintenance costs, transportation costs, etc.).

Thank you to the leadership of our supervisors, we have been able to realize significant savings as an ongoing strategy of fiscal responsibility and management. Through the creation of SMART Goals and district improvement plans, our supervisors are working diligently to find ways to shift expenses from indirect to direct student services/support. Through the work of this team, we have been able to responsibly manage our resources so we are able to better and more efficiently directly meet the needs of our students.

To find out more information on the district improvement work, please feel free to peruse our website at https://www.necedahschools.org/.

If you have any questions about the redesigns, or the purpose of our improvement work, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. It is very important to me that our community is involved in our improvement processes.

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