

## **District News with Mr. Brian Gegg**

It's hard to believe, but we've already completed one-fourth of the school year, and it seems like it happened in the blink of an eye. Everyone has settled into a routine and the business of school is carrying on smoothly. We're off to a good start and before we know it, we'll be preparing for Thanksgiving and the winter holiday break.

Before we think about taking a midyear break, we need to address a homework issue. We're starting to see some students choose not to hand in homework. Completing assignments allows teachers to see how students are progressing and if they're understanding the concepts. If teachers can see that students are struggling with certain material, they can help them to understand and master the material, but homework completion must take place to help this happen. Almost all classes at Arapahoe Public School are sequential, so if a student fails one class, it disrupts that student's path to graduation. With parent support and student effort, there's a good chance that students will recover. To help your child and to track progress, please check your PowerSchool account. If you have any specific questions, reach out to the teacher and partner up with them because your child's success is what we're all striving for.

Like other schools in the state, we're continuing to deal with illness. It looks like we're starting to see a decline in the number of students and staff with COVID-19, but we're beginning to see students and staff with other upper respiratory issues. It's vitally important that we try our best to combat the spread of illness with prevention. We can do this if we wash our hands several times a day, drink plenty of water, eat well balanced meals, and get plenty of rest. The district is following our COVID protocols to keep everyone safe. Hand sanitizer is in all the classrooms, lunchroom, and at all of building entrances. Teachers and students have been using spray sanitizer in the classrooms to spray desks and bus seats are sanitized before each route. Restrooms are cleaned several times during the day and all classrooms are sanitized in the evening after the students go home for the day. We take student and staff temperatures upon entering the building or getting on the buses in the mornings. As a result, I'm happy to report that in the last week we haven't had any individuals with a temperature. In addition, research has shown that masking is one of the best ways to prevent the spread of viruses like COVID-19. Wearing a mask is a personal choice, but we recommend it if possible. More students and staff are wearing masks during the day as an extra precaution even though it's not a district mandate. Hopefully with everyone's concentrated efforts we can turn the corner and put the pandemic behind us.

In closing, I want to thank the students and staff for all of their hard work they've put forth during the first quarter. The school year has started well and with continued effort and dedication, we can finish the first semester on a high note.

## **Principal's Perspective with Rudy Perez**

It is hard to believe that we have finished the first quarter of our school year. It has been great to have the cooler Fall temperatures as we wait for the snow to fall in a month or so. I want to encourage all parents to send their children with proper weather gear as the mornings are pretty chilly and it can be cold when they go outside for recess.

The last month has been full of activities as our students have been involved with school activities and other activities outside of the school which our students enjoy. I know that the Preschool students thoroughly enjoyed the Pumpkin Patch trip as well as the fourth grade that attended Fitness Day. Homecoming Week was quite the event, as all grade levels participated in the many activities that occurred during the week. It was nice to see all the school spirit on the walls. It is that time when we are starting to wrap up the fall sports seasons, as the Cross-Country team finished up Districts, the volleyball team will begin RPAC tourney play and the football team will begin its playoffs.

Parent/teacher conferences were held on October 12. As we look to the Spring conferences, I would like to reach out to our parents and ask for any suggestions that would make the conferences more effective. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to email them to me ([rudy.perez@arapahoewarriors.org](mailto:rudy.perez@arapahoewarriors.org)). We want the parent/teacher conferences to be a productive conversation about the progress of your child in their classroom/s.

Last month, Bobby Truhe (KSB) came to the school and presented a very informative assembly to our students in grades 6th -8th and high school. Mr. Truhe spoke about Digital Citizenship. He spoke to our students about the do and don'ts of using social media and other technologies. As we had many students gone, he allowed us to record it

and will be presenting it to our students. If you would like to view this presentation, we will make it available on our school website page.

As we head into the second quarter of the school-year I would like to thank all our staff, students and parents for their flexibility as we are having an increase in sick and COVID-related absences. Please continue to communicate with your child's teacher/s to ensure that you work together so your child keeps up with their class(es). It is my hope that we will be on the mend and the numbers of absences will decrease in the upcoming month. Please stay healthy and continue to monitor your child's health and well-being.

#### **Counselor's Comments with Mrs. Pam Breinig**

The last ACT experience of 2021 will be on December 11th. Students can register on-line at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org), with the last day of registration set for November 5th. Some colleges and universities are taking ACT scores from after the start of the year; but if you are a senior tester, you should check with your college or university to be certain. Nine juniors took the PSAT on October 13th. While few of our students go on to take the SAT, the PSAT is good practice for other entrance exams. Results should be available in mid-December. The ASVAB will be administered on November 2nd. The ASVAB is an aptitude test for all juniors and is administered by military personnel. It is a valuable tool because it does have a career component that most students find interesting and useful. Even though military personnel will review results with students, in no way does this test push students towards a military career. The sophomores attended a career workshop on October 19th at the Ag Center in Holdrege. CONNECT THE DOTS helps students make correlations between their skills and aptitudes with career possibilities. The ESU partnered with Nebraska Extension Services to provide the event. Juniors and interested seniors attended a Career & College Fair on October 20th at Southwest High School. The morning event gave students the chance to visit with area business and in/out of state college representatives as they focus on life-after-high-school plans.

#### **Library News with Mrs. Elizabeth Klein**

Save the Dates! We are planning to host a Scholastic Book Fair in person again this year! Our fair will run from November 29th-December 3rd. The proceeds we receive from hosting the fair allow us to get more quality books into our students' hands. As we get closer to the fair dates, detailed information will be sent home with students and posted on our school's Facebook page. Thank you in advance for your support!

#### **Title I with Mrs. Katie Helms**

NebraskaREADS is a reading improvement act that went into effect in the 2019- 2020 school year. This act has emphasized "the importance of strong early reading instruction and individualized supports for students who struggle" (Nebraska Department of Education). It addresses the importance of students developing their reading skills in the early grades, Kindergarten through 3rd grade particularly, in order for them to be successful readers as they get older.

It is important for us at school and for families at home to provide as many literacy opportunities during these early years as possible. Some suggestions for practice with younger children include:

- Practice rhyming with them. Read them books and poems with rhyme.
- READ! As much and as often as you can! Read to them, have them read to you, let them see you reading often.
- Encourage your child to tell you stories, whether they are real or made-up.
- Play word games. Games like Zingo!, Bananagrams, Quiddler, and Scrabble are great for word practice.

Other great tips for all ages:

- Have books easily accessible for them. Stock up at home or visit the library regularly. The more access they have, the more they will read.
- Encourage all types of reading – traditional books are great, but so are comic books, graphic novels, audiobooks, magazines, etc. All reading is good reading!

#### **Kindergarten with Mrs. Julie Stagemeyer**

19 kindergarteners make up our very busy class! We love earning Brag Tags! Whenever we have accomplished a goal, such as writing our name correctly or counting to 10 or 100 or learning how to tie our shoes, we earn a Brag

Tag! A Brag Tag is a printed tag on paper that we put on our very own key ring. We are hoping we can fill the ring up by the end of the year! That's a lot of tags and a lot of learning! We also love to show off the things we have learned by putting a picture or a video on our very own portfolio on Class Dojo. The items in our digital portfolio can only be seen by our parents, ourselves and our teacher. Our favorite part is making a video on the iPad of ourselves reading, some of us like the way we look!

### **Business News with Mrs. Lynn Crosley**

The seasons are changing from spring to fall, similar to the first quarter melting into second. The Business Education room has been very active the first part of the year. Accounting I and Accounting II are both working on Reinforcement Activities. Following the completion of their projects, both groups will embark on a checking account packet, which the First Central Bank provides for the school each year. Marketing Class will be working with Mrs. Angie Moore and the Chamber of Commerce on some marketing ideas for the Arapahoe Holiday Season. Insurance is currently the topic in Personal Finance and Business Economics has been discussing community service. Hope you November if off to a fantastic start!

### **Government with Mr. Dustin Kronhofman**

We have had another great start to the year in American Government. We began the year learning about the origins of American Government the previous governments of the United States and the need for a new stronger central government. We celebrated Constitution Day and discussing the completion of the constitution and the difficulty of ratifying it. Earlier in the year we had group projects identifying various types of governments throughout the world. Right now, we are working on Green Screen Movie Amendments projects. It's great having students back in the classroom and we are looking forward to a great year in American Government.

### **Graphic Design with Mr. Reid Stagemeyer**

After starting, I found out that the old graduating class photos and sports records were taken down when the school was redone and have yet to be put back up. I know that many people enjoyed looking at them during games and other events.

Since I teach the Graphic Design/Digital Marketing class, I decided it would be a fun project for my students to work on. So, we are in the process now of digitizing all the sports records and class photos to put up on our website where you will be able access them 24/7 from wherever. Once done, we plan on making them accessible via a touch screen in the Commons Area where you can search by name or year etc.

I only have 2 students in my Digital Marketing/Graphic Design Class this year, so they have been working very hard at trying to get all the graduating class photos scanned in.

We've been doing them 1-2 classes at a time as we take them out of the storage boxes and the years aren't in order. So, it's been fun so far to see which year we grab next. We have scanned in over 60 years so far and are roughly  $\frac{2}{3}$ 's of the way done already!

Once we are done with Arapahoe, I'd like to get Holbrook and Edison's added as well.

After we complete this project, I plan on having them start designing/posting graphics on our social media accounts for weekly school activities etc.

### **9<sup>th</sup> Grade World History with Mrs. Marcia Foley**

The freshmen are off to a great start in World History. The class began by studying the development of systematic agriculture and the six elements of civilization. After that study, the class spent their time learning about the continent, people, and history of Africa. This study began with the early civilization of Mali, the Atlantic slave trade and its impact on African civilizations. Then they studied the era of the colonization of Africa by European nations in the late 1800's, the independence of the African nations after World War II, and finally modern problems in Africa. During the second quarter the class will study about several different eras in Asia.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade World History with Mrs. Marcia Foley**

World History 7 is designed to teach history from 500 B.C. until the age of exploration. The 7th graders started their class with a unit on geography and map reading, as it is so essential to the understanding of history. Currently the

class is learning about ancient Rome as a republic, and seeing parallels to US History. For example, the similarities between Cincinnatus and George Washington. One of their favorite parts of the unit was the Punic Wars between Rome and Carthage along with watching the History Channel video about the construction of Roman and Carthaginian warships.

### **FFA Newsletter with Mr. Chandler Hambidge**

The FFA Chapter has had an exciting and busy start to the new school year with lots of new faces. This year we are proud to announce that we have fifty-four members with over fifteen of them being new members of the program. Many of these members have been very active within the events and activities that have already taken place. We are excited and looking forward to having a successful year full of chances to learn, lead, and have fun as the school year progresses. We will try to keep you updated on the many different events that our chapter will be involved in throughout the year. But here is an update as of now.

This year the FFA chapter helped harvest grapes at the Old Cellar Vineyard were they picked almost 12,000 pounds of grapes, twice as much as years previous. Many students have been practicing their range plant identification skills as they competed in the Area Range Judging Contest in McCook and in the State Range Contest in Valentine. Competing in Valentine was a great opportunity for the members to better their range judging skills as the plant system in Valentine is incredibly diverse.

This year the FFA Chapter will be participating in the Connecting Chapters program through the Nebraska Farm Bureau. Connecting Chapters is a program that equips high school FFA members to connect with elementary students and peers to increase agricultural literacy – awareness, knowledge, and appreciation, in their communities. On October, 12th five FFA members traveled to Maywood to complete the training session and will be reading and donating a book to an elementary classroom as our first step to completing this program.

The FFA Chapter will be heading to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana this year and will likely already concluded their trip by the time this newsletter is sent out. This year we will be sending five members to represent our Chapter. These students are excited and looking forward to experiencing just how large the National FFA Organization is, along with the many different activities we have planned to attend.

Upcoming events for the FFA chapter include our annual Fruit Sales fundraiser. FFA members will begin selling their assortments of fruit boxes, meats, cheese, chocolates, and cookie dough towards the end of October and sales will conclude in mid-November. This year there will be an online store option for those that wish to purchase online and have their items delivered directly to them.

The Annual FFA Bull Fry and Labor Auction will be returning this year and we would like to invite all that would like to attend. The date is set for Friday, November 12th so be sure to set your calendars, as we look forward to seeing all the supporters in the community. We will be serving roast beef sandwiches, bull fries, and baked potatoes.

### **High School Band with Ms. Kendra Gardner**

You may have heard and seen the Jr. High and High School bands outside at the beginning of the school year. The high school band attended 3 parades and the Jr. High attended one. The high schoolers marched to *Gonna Make You Sweat* and the jr. high marched to Land of 1000 Dances. Thank you to everyone who helped and supported the bands during their marching season. The high schoolers are now working on Veteran's Day music, and both groups are also starting to work on Christmas music for their concert on Monday, December 20 at 7:00 pm.

The 5th grade band is working hard to master their first 6 notes. They're beginning to play many [hopefully] recognizable tunes. The 6th graders have continued to expand on their skills. Both groups have just gotten started on Christmas and holiday music for their concert on Thursday, December 9 at 7:00 pm.

### **From the Podium with Mrs. Valerie Leising**

It is time to prepare for Christmas in the vocal room. Grades 4-6 have started their Christmas program, "A Storybook Christmas." Watch for information about auditions soon!

High School Choir has been preparing for their Pop's Concert this spring and working on Christmas music. Jr. High Choir will be performing at the Veteran's Day program and they have been working on a piece for that. Christmas music will make an appearance soon in their classroom too.