



November 6, 2020

Focus...

A Family-Friendly Weekly Update

To provide additional communication for families, this short newsletter will be available each week.

Notes:

Yesterday, the District sent an update to parents on the phased reopening of schools. The information outlines the work currently being completed on the plan, the various modes of instruction available, and the conditions under which the plan can be implemented. We hope this document provides additional details on the matter.

All staff members continue to work to improve learning, procedures, and applications in order to best support students. Administrators stress the importance of communication – with your child, your child’s teacher, and any other staff member that may be needed. Many additional provisions have been put in place to help navigate the situation created by the COVID pandemic. Please take advantage of contacts and programs with our nurses, our counseling department, our social worker, and our Food Service Department. They are all equipped to help families through this difficult time.

This week, the newsletter will begin telling the stories of our classrooms. These highlights are selected at random by when they are submitted. We hope to provide a wide-range of grade levels, subject areas, and programs.

As promised an additional method of communicating with the District has been added to the web site. On the right side of the home page, beneath the quick links menu are now four buttons, the fourth being an eMailbox. Clicking on this area allows visitors to submit comments, questions, or concerns about the District. It is hoped that these buttons will provide easy and quick access to District information.

Committee Reports:

Reopening of School

Information for parents continues to be distributed as it comes available.

Parents/guardians are reminded to see the District web site for Reopening of Schools information.

Health & Safety

The committee continues to meet and review safety measures.

Request information was added to the daily check-in form and allows all staff member to ask for needed PPE items. The procedure includes items in supply and how to re-ordered stock when necessary.

Nurses are also working with staff to answer questions and establish best practices for when students enter the buildings. They remind parents to please communicate with them if your child is absent from school for illness.



Allegheny Valley School District
Together We Can

Focus On: The Classroom



Vote!! The topic for the week. Students at many grade levels learned about the election process, its history, and the importance of casting a vote. In First Grade, Ms. Taliana introduced the words ballot, decision-making, and voting. Students talked about how voting is a privilege in the United States. From this lesson, students also learned about data tracking and reading bar graphs.

Springdale Jr-Sr High School also conducted an election. Secondary students voted: Trump/Pence - 49%, Biden/Harris - 48%; and Jorgensen/Cohen -3%. Although it may not be the same end result as the country, the students did identify COVID-19 as the most pressing issue for 2021, with the economy at a close second, reflecting national views.

Focus On: Support for Students

Mrs. Garbisch, the school counselor and Mrs. Britton, the District's social worker, will be conducting educational support groups for students in grades 2-6. The groups are designed to teach students skills and offer support. A tentative list of groups that may be offered depending on need and interest:

- **Study Skills** for students who may need extra organizational and study skills;
- **Resiliency Group** for students going through tough situations or needing additional social emotional skills.
- **Care for students** who are grieving the loss of a loved one;
- **Zen for students** who would like to learn mindfulness skills and practices;
- **Changing Families** for students whose parents are separated, divorced, or remarried;
- **Friendship** for students who would like to improve their skills in making friends and getting along with others;
- **Smoother Sailing** an anger management group for students who want to develop more beneficial ways to express their emotions;
- **Uniquely Me** for students who would benefit from activities to improve self-concept;
- **Stress Busters** for students experiencing stress and anxiety.

Mrs. Britton will also be starting student support groups at Springdale Jr-Sr High School beginning the week of November 16. These groups are for students in grades 7-12, are voluntary, and will help students focus on gaining skills for in- and outside the classroom. Here is list of groups currently being offered:

- **Stress & Anxiety Group** that will help students manage their stress and anxiety as well as learn appropriate coping mechanisms;
- **Social Skills Group** that will help students manage their anger, use appropriate communication, develop positive relationships, and use problem solving skills;
- **Grief & Loss Group** to help students work through the recent loss of a loved one.

Support groups will meet once a week for 6-8 weeks and are scheduled to begin the week of November 16. If you believe your son/daughter would benefit from one of these groups, please contact Mrs. Britton at dbritton@avsd.k12.pa.us for more information and a permission form.

Contact Information:

Nurse Hotline

A resource for parents/guardians to ask medical questions.

cell 724-900-5443

office 724-274-2911

Food Service Department

A resource for questions about the Free Meals Program.

meals@avsd.k12.pa.us

Technology Assistance

Help and information on iPads and Chromebooks

TechSupport@avsd.k12.pa.us

Dynamo Virtual Academy

Elementary:

Jennifer Vecchio

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Elementary

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Questions & comments should be emailed to:

pgarczyk@avsd.k12.pa.us

Focus On: Important Dates

Nov. 10 School Board Planning Session
Nov. 17 School Board Meeting

Friday Flashback is a publication of the Allegheny Valley School District. All questions concerning the newsletter or information contained in the newsletter should be sent to: pgraczyk@avsd.k12.pa.us.