

PreK-8 Principal Board Report April 2025

It's April and we're movin' and groovin' at the elementary school.

We had an incredibly successful "Pancakes with Peeps" family event on Thursday morning. Our cafeteria was packed and helped to get our students set up and ready to go for their final day before a long weekend. We are grateful for the kitchen staff, our Title I Interventionists (Deb Helgoe and Margaret Thompson) and our PAC team for their continued work for these events. It's always good to get families on site.

We just wrapped up MCA Reading tests last week with our 3rd through 6th graders. I am incredibly proud to say that we have completed the reading tests with all students who are testing with the exception of one who was absent for the week. We had two students opt out of the testing. Early data is giving us some good information that will help to further drive our instructional goals and focus for next year and beyond. This week, we'll tackle the math sessions on Wednesday and Thursday, then our 5th graders will take over and do the science tests next week. When it's all said and done, I'll put together a data sheet and send it your way. MCA testing is difficult and I know I've shared why I don't use it as the leading data point when making goals and decisions, however, this is mandated by law and is a public piece of information-we take that seriously.

Our ELA curriculum review is moving along. We had a meeting with the representatives from CAREi's Functional Phonics and Functional Morphology on Thursday afternoon. The team LOVED this program and we are working on a pilot for all teachers to try out prior to the end of the school year. We need two components fulfilled when choosing curriculum; foundational skills and knowledge building. Functional Phonics and Morphology would fit the foundational skills portion and is highly aligned with state standards, meaning we CAN use literacy funds to pay for this curriculum. We have looked at Wit and Wisdom for the knowledge building piece (another highly aligned curriculum) and I am working on getting a meeting set up with them. With our current scores, we feel separating the two pieces rather than a comprehensive curriculum would be much more effective.

Our 5th graders attended a field trip on April 10th to Camp Shamineau, building leadership and teamwork skills. 2nd grade will head to the Children's Theater Company in Minneapolis on May 1st and MallRats is coming to celebrate with us on Friday, May 2nd.

We've had a busy few weeks and we're cranking up for a huge push to the end of the year. It's been a great time!