

Friday Focus

October 4, 2012, 2012

Thank you to all teachers who have helped prepare the 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders academically. The kids have had a great foundation of learning at Costello and they are going to show off all that they know. To all, thank you in advance for helping to establish a positive testing climate for your students as they take the MEAP test. We certainly don't want this to be a stressful time for the students and whatever we can do to ease any testing anxiety is important.

I will be stopping by at some point on Monday to talk with your class about the test.

Karen, we appreciate you coordinating the details of the testing. Organizing the small group instruction and specifics of each level is no small task!

Specials teachers...your flexibility during these tests makes things so much better.



Jenny, thank you for shopping for the much needed MEAP snacks and mints!

Primary Grades...

If you are a buddy class to a testing grade it might be a fun idea to have your students write a "do your best" on the test letter to their friends.

Shhhh...non-testing grade levels, please be mindful of walking quietly in the hallways during testing 😊

504's

Much of our principals' meeting this week was spent on the topic of Section 504. This is a federal statute that protects students from discrimination based on a disability. The Troy School District needs to ensure that its students are protected under this Act.

A 504 plan should be offered to a student if a child's major life activities are substantially limited by the impairment. When applicable you will be involved in the evaluation process of determining if a child in your class meets the criteria. I am reviewing the medical needs list and determining who may need a 504 based on the medical alerts. Many of you have students with allergies, asthma, students who are taking medications for ADD/ADHD, etc. Some, not all students with these concerns may require a 504. Some of the information used for determining eligibility includes, but is not limited to, observations, assessments, behavior checklists, medical information, and parent input.

If a student has an IEP and a medical plan, a 504 is not necessary. Some

students may require a medical plan, and not a 504.

The plans will be shared with all necessary staff members, completed 504's will be placed in the child's CA60, and a copy will be on file at the District Special Services Department.

Look for the purple **Section 504 Checklist** for more details on this process. A copy of this will be placed in your mailbox.

The part you have been waiting for...

Medical alert lists will be placed in your box. **Please review this list and RETURN IT TO ME including any students that you think need to be on the list. (There are several students that are not on this list who take medication for ADHD, and these students should be on this list). If you do not have any modifications, please initial the list and return it to me by Monday, October 8th.** Thank you!



Goal Setting Meetings

Today you will find copies of SMART goal examples in your mailbox.

Please read through the examples. The PLC/NCA team is going to craft the student growth goal that will look the same for all staff members. Itinerant staff, your subject area growth goals should follow this same format. Additional goal(s) will also be written, one for tenured staff and two for non-tenured staff. In our meeting we will discuss why you chose your goals. Jenny and Jillian are going to manage my calendar. Please schedule a 10 minute meeting with me when it works for your schedule.

TRC Support

Many of the offerings that the TRC has are after school and have conflicted with some of our other meetings. I have invited Ron Keoleian to come to Costello during the day to offer support for EdLine, GradeQuick, and any other technology areas that you may find helpful. Please check the electronic calendar for dates and times when he will be here. **Forward me any specific topics that you would like him to share.**

Joe and Ron have helped to connect Costello to Twitter, how cool! More

details to follow from Joe on this topic. We really want to utilize this as a way for the staff to share ideas and take a peek into what is happening from room to room. This will be a great collaboration tool and a way to share artifacts of student work, feedback, and many other best practices, without clogging up e-mail!


Joe is also going to set up some after school workshops too. **Let him know if you have a specific area that you would like to learn about.**

Animoto...

Check out your students pictures on our website. Click on the *Learning is Fun* link below the News headline. Animoto is a fun and super easy tool. I have a membership if you would like to use it let me know.

News

Learning is Fun at Costello.
See what fun we have learning!



Walkie Talkies

They additional ones have arrived, yeah! Thank you for teaming up and keeping track of your grade level radio.

Security

Please be sure to keep your valuables in a secure place and lock your doors at the end of the day.

Police Education Programs

Fourth and fifth grade students will participate in the Troy Community Coalition Prevention programs again this year. Programs will begin on November 1. **I need fourth and fifth grade to stop by today to choose 3 times for each program.** The sooner we get our times in the more likely we are to get our first choices.

Fifth grade your programs are Tuesdays and a few Wednesdays. Fourth grade, Thursdays only.

FYI...PTO Meeting on Monday at 7:00

Communication...Electronic Calendar...

Don't forget to check for updates.

Schedules...

Thank you for posting these outside of your classroom doors.

Newsletters...

I do want to see copies of your newsletters. If you need me to proof it I am happy to do this, however I don't want you waiting for me to delay sending out your information.

Substitute Folders...

If you have not turned in your substitute folder **please do so ASAP.** Thank you.

Progress Reports...

You do a terrific job of communicating to your parents, as a parent I know how much this is appreciated. If you have a student that you are concerned about or there has been a major change in his or her **grades, October 8 is the official progress report date to communicate to parents.** Please do what you have done in the past and team up with any new staff members on this process. Thank you.

Grading...

End of marking period is Friday, November 2. Grades will be due to me by November 9. Report cards will go home for grades K, 1, and 2 on Monday, November 12. Parents will

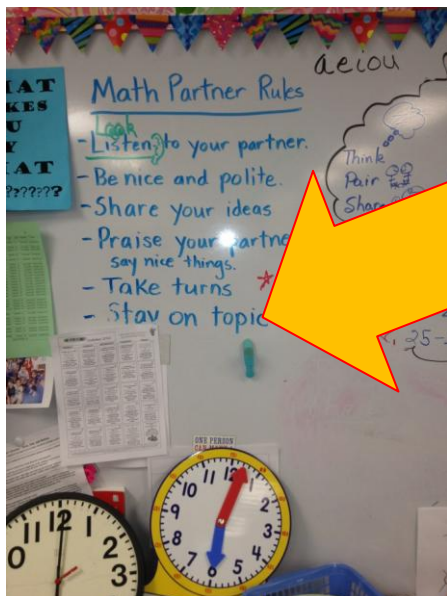
receive grades electronically from grades 3, 4, 5. These will be available for viewing on Edline on Monday, November 12.

*Third grade teachers, please review e-mail regarding grade cards.

Have a terrific Friday and a fabulous weekend! Tammy



Not posed....serious engagement!



Rules to live by!