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BOARDROOM CHATTER

Prepared by Public Information Officer

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The Board Office of Allegany County Public Schools

Superintendent's Report

Maintenance / Operations Staff Recognition

“Mr. Marley and Mr. High are the two that are responsible for keeping our schools as clean and as updated as possible in Allegany County. No matter what the ages of the schools are, our schools are as well kept as any school I’ve ever been to. Great job.”

– Mr. Jeffrey Blank, Superintendent of Schools



Recognition of SkillsUSA Winner 2023

- SkillsUSA represents nearly 400,000 career and technical education students and teachers, allowing students to hone their hands-on skills against current industry standards in more than 140 occupational areas.
 - David Witt – State Competition Winner

“David Witt was our winner this year in the sheet metal competition at the state level. He’s a good kid. He picked right up on the curriculum, and did a nice job, a real nice job.”

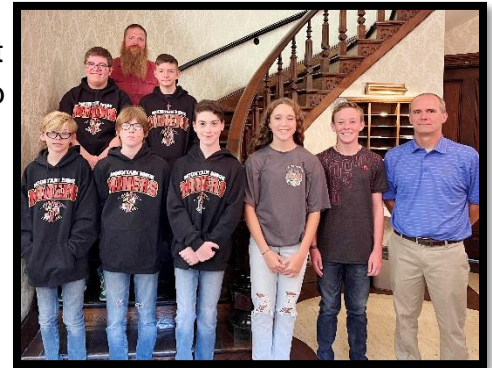
– Mr. Rob Shewbridge, Career Center HVAC Instructor



Superintendent's Report

Recognition of Mt. Savage Crew

- Mr. Matt Kline and Mr. Jason Neighly pioneered a collaboration of Mount Savage Crew students and the Agricultural program
 - Elementary school students hatched approximately 350 chicks to produce eggs for the school community
 - Mr. Neighly and his Mt. Savage Crew students met daily to design, construct, and build a chicken coop
 - Ag students helped create, design, and build the garden
 - Ag students have made salsa and honey for the community



Front Row: Alex Laisure-Murphy, Corey Sturtz, Elijah Huff, **Ag students**, Abby Malone, Chase Dewitt, Mr. Matt Kline Back Row: Dacota Fazanbaker, Mr. Jason Neighly, and Colton Whetsone

“I would like to extend my gratitude to our two teachers, Mr. Neighly and Mr. Kline. Without their positive attitudes and wonderful influence on our students, we would not have these programs.”

– Mrs. Laura Holland, Principal Mt. Savage School

Updated Security Language

- Schools are now implementing the “I Love U Guys” Foundation approach to managing critical incidents.
 - Standard Response Protocol (SRP)
 - Already being used
 - Action-based, flexible, and easy to learn
 - Rationally organizes tactics for responses to weather events, fires, accidents, chemical leaks, intruders, and other threats to personal safety
 - Uses a specific vocabulary that allows for flexibility so it can be put in effect in any crisis
 - Standard Reunification Method (SRM)
 - In the beginning stages of implementation



“The ‘I Love U Guys’ crisis and reunification approach is now implemented in over 40 thousand schools. It uses simple terms that kids, parents, staff, and law enforcement can understand. They are just basic commands that eliminate confusion.”

- Mr. Anthony Rumgay, Assistant Supervisor of Student Support Services and School Safety

Instructional Report

Summer School Update

- Elementary Summer School:
 - Conducted at 6 sites in the district
 - About 600 students registered in pre-k 3 through grade 5
 - Daily attendance averaged about 75%
- Secondary Summer School:
 - Conducted at Eckhart School for both students with disabilities and their general education peers
 - 175 students registered
 - About 130 students attending on a daily basis
 - Junior National Honor Society members from Braddock and Washington served as camp counselors
- Original Credit Summer School:
 - 78 original credits awarded
- Recovery Credit Summer School:
 - About 200 recovery credits awarded

“Special thanks to all of our instructional supervisors who managed the logistical details and the coordination of these programs, as well as the staff that worked to provide these classes and services. And also thank you to those who had a hand in coordinating all the logistical details, including transportation, food services, and custodial services.”

- Dr. Kim Kalbaugh, Chief Academic Officer

2023 Class Report

- 488 total graduates for the class of 2022-2023
 - Almost half have elected to continue their studies locally at Allegany College of Maryland or Frostburg State University
 - Students accepted into 34 different colleges and universities across the country
 - Total of almost 5 million dollars in scholarships to students
- Advanced enrollment
 - If there is a lack of interest in an AP course, there are some opportunities to provide it through and online method
 - There is an increase in our dual enrollment classes for students
 - Some of the increases have been in college English, college speech, college psychology, college algebra, and college probability and stats courses
 - Will look into expanding both AP and dual enrollment opportunities
 - 13 students are currently enrolled in the “Grow Your Own Staff” teacher education program at Allegany College of Maryland
 - 3 students are currently enrolled in the Bobcat Academy at Frostburg State University

Instructional Report

Testing

- ELA Grades 3-8
 - Statewide the proficiency rate was 47%. Allegany County had a proficiency rate of 49%.
 - 8% of our students are at a Level 1, which means 42% of them are them are at Level 2. Of that 42% at a Level 2, 20% of them are within 10 points of being proficient
 - The growth rate in the state was 2.9%. Allegany County had a growth rate of 4.8%
- ELA Grade 10
 - Statewide the proficiency rate was 54%. Allegany County had a proficiency rate of 51%.
 - 5.5% of test takers were at a Level 1, which means almost all of those not proficient were at a Level 2.
 - Of the 43% at a Level 2, 26% were within 10 points of being proficient
- Math Grades 3-8
 - Statewide the proficiency rate was 25%. Allegany County had a proficiency rate of 28%.
 - 46% of students were at a Level 2. Of the 46%, 17% of them were within 10 points of passing.
 - The growth rate in the state was 2.5%. Allegany County had a growth rate of 3%.
- Algebra 1
 - Statewide the proficiency rate was 17%. Allegany County had a proficiency rate of 25%.
 - 53.5% of students are at a Level 2. 19% of them are within 10 points of being proficient.
- Science Grade 5
 - Statewide the proficiency rate was 34.5%. Allegany County had a proficiency rate of 34%.
 - 53% of students were at a Level 2, and 34% of our students are within 10 points of being proficient.
- Science Grade 8
 - Statewide the proficiency rate was 26.4%. Allegany County had a proficiency rate of 20.5%.
 - 56% of students were Level 2 and 25% of them were within 10 points of being proficient.

Next steps include seeing what steps can be done at the county, school, and teacher level, finding out what other school districts are doing and seeing what works best for our county.

Unfinished Business

Consider Repealing School Superintendent Policy

- Approved

Consider Repealing Temporary Administrative Assignments Policy

- Approved

Consider Second Reading of Alcohol, Drugs, & Tobacco Free Workplace Policy

- Approved

Consider Second Reading of Evaluation of Students Policy (Grading Policy)

- Approved

Hearing of Constituents

DeMolay Recognition

- Cumberland Chapter of DeMolay has been around for more than 100 years
- Youth organization for men that is locally sponsored by the Cumberland Scottish Right

“Each and every member of DeMolay looks upon and respects the institution of public education and we consider the access to that public education to be the seat of our liberties and one of our blessings as Americans. We are here today to acknowledge and recognize each of you, our board of representatives to our Board of Education and to thank you for your efforts to keep our most valuable institution of public education alive and thriving. We invite each of you to visit our chapter meeting at your pleasure, so that you may learn more. Until then, thank you from the Cumberland Chapter of DeMolay for all that you do to promote public education.”

- Mr. Dustin Long, DeMolay Master Counselor



Pictured Left to Right: Dustin Long, Levi Wiseman, Tyler Lankford, Matthew McKay, and Senator Mike McKay

New Business

Consider Regulation Review of Evaluation of Students Policy

- No motion

Vote to meet in Executive Session October 10, 2023 (as necessary)

- Approved

Reports of Special or Advisory Committees

Student Member of the Board

- Introduction of new student board member, Alexandra Robertson

“I am very excited and honored to be the student member of the board this year. I will act as a bridge between the students and the board. I am very involved at Fort Hill, so I can effectively communicate the students’ views to the board.”

- Alex Robertson



- State Student Member of the Board will be selected differently this year. Details to come
- Will be attending MABE’s annual conference on October 3rd, as part of the student panel
 - Plan to discuss different struggles, pensions, and realities of students, equal opportunities, new curriculum options
- September 28th – Allegany Association of Student Councils will have its first assemble of students

Board Member Updates

- MABE Conference is coming up
- Consortium on Community Coordinated Supports submitted an RFP for additional services to be provided for mental health and substance abuse type of services in addition to what we already have

Updated Mission and Vision Statements of ACPS

- ACPS Updated Vision Statement:
To support all students in reaching their potential by providing a positive, safe, respectful, and engaging learning environment.
- ACPS Updated Mission Statement:
To ensure that students acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes supporting them in becoming caring and productive members of their community.