

Shelley Richardson, Director of Instruction
August 14th, 2017
Board Report

School Improvement and Professional Development

Teacher Institute activities began today with the Back-to-School District Meeting. As last year the meeting was hosted by Parkview Christian Church at their Legion Building. We would like to thank Parkview for hosting our teachers and staff and for their generosity to the district.

Mr. Buss led the meeting by welcoming everyone back and provided updates on work that has been done to the facilities this summer. After the meeting everyone was released back to their buildings to prepare for the start of the new school year. Faculty meetings will be held tomorrow followed by department and team meetings.

This year's professional development plan includes the continuation of the "Peer Study" that was introduced last year. Teacher groups will meet during School Improvement Days and Teacher Institutes to research educational topics relevant to curriculum and teaching. They will once again draw conclusions about the subject and report findings on the last Teacher Institute of the year. There was a lot of positive feedback about this method of professional development from last year and I am excited about this opportunity for teachers.

Online School Registration

This year was the first year for online student registration through the Lumen parent portal. Parents were encouraged to complete all registrations online prior to school registration. Computer Labs were open at all schools for those parents who did not have access to computers. We had many volunteers who were there to assist parents with this process.

Jeannie Kennard and Kristi Berry worked over the summer with Lumen to make this process available. We will be meeting in the next few days to review the process and look at ways to improve for next year. The goal for the FY19 school year will be to add online payment. Thank you to Jeannie and Kristi and all volunteers who made this possible.

Grant Activity

The ESSA grant applications (formerly NCLB) were released from ISBE on August 8th. These grants have usually been released in the spring; however, with the changes at both federal and state levels these were delayed. We have been given permission by ISBE to expend funds prior to grant submission in order to have the materials and supplies we need to start the school year.

Curriculum

This summer we sent our new engineering teacher, Clint Phillips to Project Lead the Way training in Chicago. Clint will be responsible for teaching the PLTW engineering courses this year at Mt. Carmel High School.