

SUPERINTENDENT'S BULLETIN

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News for School Board Members and District Personnel



Superintendent's Update:

Dear School Board Members and District Personnel,

October was an action packed month for both learning and meaningful activities. It's a month for the celebration of the importance of banning together to prevent bullying and is named National Bullying Prevention Month. The signature event for the month occurred on Oct. 19th with Unity Day. Students and teachers wore orange to symbolize their support of kindness, acceptance and inclusion of everyone in school activities and events. This week is Red Ribbon Week and students are learning about and showing their

support of a drug free lifestyle. It was also a month to celebrate Hispanic Heritage and the events throughout the schools have been remarkable as well. These celebrations and remembrances are purposeful in that they create opportunities for students to understand the importance of healthy living from a physical standpoint but also the emotional significance of Bullying Prevention, respecting and understanding the Hispanic Heritage and living a Drug Free Life. To see first-hand the amazing activities the students have been enjoying go to the MCSD Facebook Page and enjoy.

Yours in education,
Terri

Assessment and Accountability

We have reached a break for assessments. The FAST Progress Monitoring 1 window ended October 7th, fall retakes for FSA and EOCs ended October 14th and all students in grades 8-11 took the PSAT on October 12th. Seniors also took the SAT School Day on October 14th. The Florida State Assessment Family Portal will soon be populated with student FAST PM 1 scores. The State Assessment Portal is available automatically when parents are logged into the Focus Parent Portal. Additional information will be sent out by schools on how to access the State Assessment Family Portal once the data is populated. It is highly encouraged to create a Focus Parent Portal account so this access is automatically available.

Community Relations



Throughout October, MCSD students celebrated and recognized Hispanic Heritage Month. Some of the activities included a Hispanic Night event at CSHS, a poster competition at MHS, a Hispanic Heritage Extravaganza at PKS, and a Hispanic country dress up day at KLS.

Also, we celebrated the “Be Like Mike Week” initiative with an opportunity to “give back to Keys kids on Meaningful Monday” with an option to pledge \$1 per pay period to Take Stock in Children (TSIC) with the purpose of generating funds to cover TSIC scholarships for children in need. If you haven’t pledged yet, it’s not too late!

Superintendent Axford was invited by the Key Largo Chamber of Commerce to speak about the state of the school district and to share details on our new M.O.V.E. program. She was joined by Deputy Superintendent, Amber



Archer-Acevedo, and the CTE team - Caroline Bleske and Deanna Martinez.



Lastly, we extended our gratitude to Mr. Bobby Highsmith for eight years’ service on the Monroe County School Board – his leadership, dedication and commitment to the students is commended; and his vision in supporting extra-curricular activities and athletics in Monroe County have made a positive difference.



Finance and Performance

Open Enrollment is a wrap! This was our second year of using Focus for Open Enrollment and we are happy to say it has been another success. A big thank you to our Management Information Services (MIS) team for their ongoing efforts to make Focus more user friendly and efficient. How are you finding the new MyMCSD App? The MIS team had a key role with the roll out of this too. The app is for parents, students, employees and community members and it offers everything at your fingertips – the Focus Parent Portal for student grades and attendance, District news, social media, and so much more! Download the new MyMCSD App today at the AppStore or Google Play. On a more official note, it is time for the Finance team to complete the School District Annual Financial Report (AFR), which is the unaudited data submitted to the FDOE as required by state statute. Lastly, we're happy to share that employee raises have been distributed and another raise is on the way! Our team is in bargaining with the United Teachers of Monroe and we hope to announce the results very soon!

Human Resources and Instructional Leadership

The 2022-2023 Instructional and Administrative Contracts have been created in Focus, which included instructions to go into ESS to review and sign Employee Agreements. FDOE Survey 2 reporting is coming where FL certified teachers working on adding educator certification required to teach courses out of field have been reported to the Board for prior approval. Notices are then provided to advise parents of out of field educators. An appeals process is available to teachers who wish to appeal components of their 2021-2022 evaluation ratings. This process has been emailed to educators with the steps to follow should they choose to appeal where it may change their overall summative rating.



Operations and Planning

Sugarloaf School construction is nearing the substantial completion phase of the project. Substantial completion is the stage when a construction project is deemed sufficiently completed to the point where the owner can use it for its intended purpose. District personnel along with construction management, engineers and architectural representatives will complete a thorough checklist prior to certifying the facility as substantially complete. Director of Construction and Distribution Services, Doug Pryor says, "Certification of Substantial Completion relies on a top to bottom review of the entire structure, ensuring work conforms to contract specifications prior to occupancy." The project timeline for Sugarloaf School has substantial completion scheduled for December 2022.



Operations and Planning, continued....

To kickoff National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, the MCSD IT department held a security seminar sponsored by one of our trusted security partners, UDT. Mike Sanchez, CISO of UDT was the keynote speaker. The topic of his presentation was Understanding the Threats Against K12 Districts. The district's security team also presented on the practices we use to protect our district. The team also participated in security exercises to practice executing procedures to respond to a compromised device and users account. You can count on the MCSD IT department to be vigilant when it comes to cybersecurity. We need everyone in the organization to do their part to stay cyber safe. **Think Before You Click. Report Suspicious Emails. Protect Your Access to Information.**



Teaching and Learning

Restorative Circles, also known as Learning Circles, provide a structure for teachers and students to build connections and relationships within a classroom. Teachers provide a topic for the activity and all students have an opportunity to give their own personal responses/reactions to the topic. Over time, consistent use of the practice creates a positive, supported learning environment. Additionally, the circle is a great springboard for jumping into academic projects. Recently Ms. Kellie Guilfoyle, Program Coordinator for the Institute for Small and Rural Districts (ISRD), modeled a restorative practice with ninth grade students in an algebra class with participation by Key West High School teachers. Multiple schools within Monroe County School District are also collaborating with ISRD to learn more about Restorative Circles.



<Monroe /> COMPUTES and **<Monroe /> SKILL\$** incentives range from \$50 to \$300 depending on the difficulty of the certification exam. Golden Fleece, the foundation which sponsors the two programs, has pledged over \$200,000 in incentives to students earning industry certifications in grades 4-12. The program has contributed to the exponential growth of students taking computer science courses in Monroe County for the past 8 years and recently expanded its incentives to include additional Career & Technical Education certifications, in fields such as culinary, marketing, and auto mechanics. "The students acquiring these skills will get better jobs and achieve higher personal incomes," explained John

Padgett, co-founder of the Golden Fleece Foundation that supports **<Monroe /> COMPUTES** and **<Monroe /> SKILL\$**. "It's as simple as that."