

SUPERINTENDENT'S BULLETIN

"Advancing Student Learning through Customized Instruction"

SEPTEMBER 9, 2013

TO: ALL STAFF MEMBERS

FROM: PEGGY DININNO

SUBJ: UPDATES

THANK YOU FOR A GREAT Start to the 2013-2014 School Year!

Thank you to all staff members for making the start to our new school year a great success. Your efforts were greatly appreciated by me. Thanks also for your tireless efforts in helping to make Riverview a wonderful place to learn and to work.

SUPERINTENDENT'S BULLETIN

This Bulletin will be published periodically to provide staff with updates regarding curriculum, strategic planning, vision, and goals.

GREAT JOB!

A special thank you is extended to members of the class of 2014 and 2026 who participated in our Opening Day event this year. The students helped to remind all of us about our real purpose as educators. The articulation and comfort level of students who spoke on the stage that afternoon was quite impressive. This is a testament to our educators who prepare Riverview students for such experiences. Job well done!

THANKS TO LOCAL BUSINESSES

Please remember to take some time to thank and solicit the local businesses who so generously donated items to acknowledge the efforts of our staff on August 19th. It is wonderful to be supported by a collaborative community.

CARVING OUR INITIALS INTO OUR WORK

It is so nice to see so many of our staff members "carving their initials" into their work. As I mentioned during our first Professional Development Day, according to Thomas Freidman, as a result of Skills Bias Polarization, and a rapidly evolving global economy, our students will need a different set of skills to prepare them for the jobs they will hold in the future. To make use of these skills, employees will need to be lifelong learners who add "extra value" to their organization or work force. To do this, we need to prepare our students to think like the immigrant who approaches the world as if nothing is owed to him or her. They will need to add their distinctive touch to their work, like the artisan who carves his or her initials into everything he or she does. They will need to add their "extra" in areas where

they have control; much like the waitress who controlled the fruit ladle and earned an extra tip for providing her customer with extra fruit on his pancakes.

LEARNING GOALS

This year, we will continue to focus our efforts on the importance of providing our students with realistic learning goals. Research indicates that when teachers present a learning goal at the beginning of each lesson and they remind students of the goal during the lesson, and then ask students to determine whether or not the goal has been accomplished at the end of the lesson, student achievement increases significantly. Modeling this for students also provides them with a metacognitive strategy that can be used both during the classroom lesson – AND – with other learning experiences that are encountered. This simple instructional strategy can provide students with a tool that will assist them with becoming a life-long learner. As you create learning goals for each lesson this year, think about the importance of "carving your initials" into each goal. With this approach, we can only add great value to each child's learning experience.

SUPERINTENDENT'S BULLETIN

"Advancing Student Learning through Customized Instruction"

September 9, 2013

DISTRICT/DEPARTMENT BROCHURES

Thank you to Elissa Miller and the other Riverview staff members who assisted with the creation of a District Real Estate Brochure. Brochures have been provided to local Realtors, the Public Library, the Boroughs, Edgewater Development, and other locally relevant venues. The goal of using the brochure is to assist us with keeping the public informed of the great value that a Riverview education provides to our community's students. We appreciate the hard work and reflection of our staff members who are currently working on the development of Department brochures. These products will assist all of us in sharing the GOOD Riverview news outside of our district boundaries! 😊

EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

Employees are reminded that the Riverview School District Employee Handbook is meant to provide guidance, direction, and reference information. In addition, the handbook helps to provide employees with information related to processes and procedures that assist with implementing board policies. From time to time, due to changes in the law, implementation of stipulations in employee

contracts, and for purposes of clarification or refinement, it may be necessary to make revisions to particular sections or topics shared in the handbook. When revisions are necessary, the district will make the revisions to the Employee Handbook located on the district web page. Employees should refer to the handbook on the web page periodically for updates. As always, do not hesitate to personally contact an administrator (see the chart on pages 12-13 of the handbook) for further clarification or assistance on any matter of interest. Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we strive to support the needs of our employees and ultimately the needs of our students.

COLLABORATION

We continue to examine ways to support collaboration between staff members in an effort to learn and grow as educators. We believe that the best form of Professional Development often comes from our colleagues and peers who are working in the same roles as we are, examining the same needs and strengths of students, and designing instruction to support the needs of kids. If you have suggestions regarding topics where more collaboration or training is

needed, kindly share your ideas with members of the Professional Development Committee so that we can consider including these ideas during future Professional Development days.

RCEPs

To assist educators with customizing learning experiences to meet the needs of all of our students, two forms of a Riverview Customized Education Plan (RCEP) have been created. A simple one page RCEP Work Plan or a more detailed RCEP Plan is available and can be used based on student needs as determined to be appropriate by staff. The RCEP can be created through the collaborative efforts of teachers, administrators, parents, students, and other people who may have an impact on a child's academic or social needs. Please see your building principal or Dr. Coudriet if you have specific questions regarding the use of RCEPs.

PRIDE AND BEHAVIOR CODE

As shared with staff during PD days, the District is implementing a K-12 Pride and Behavior Code. The code is meant to provide a standardized process for responding to student discipline matters. It also provides students with

SUPERINTENDENT'S BULLETIN

"Advancing Student Learning through Customized Instruction"

September 9, 2013

expectations and standards for modeling behaviors that make us PROUD to be members of the RIVERVIEW team.

SCHOOL SAFETY

School Safety must continue to be the priority of every school. Students cannot learn, and staff cannot facilitate learning, in an environment where they do not feel safe. I am pleased that we have Safety Plans in each building and that drills are conducted to ensure the plans are followed. We are fortunate to have two local cooperative, attentive, and proactive police departments who offer their support and counsel. As you know, we have spent a great deal of time assessing the safety needs of our buildings this year. Assessments included physical surroundings, processes, and procedures. We thank those of you who have stepped forward to offer feedback on this topic and we appreciate the cooperative spirit that each of you have provided as we strive to ensure student and staff safety.

SCHOOL VISITORS

Employees are reminded to wear their RSD I.D. badges at all times. Please ask visitors to show you their Visitor Pass after they sign in at the main

office in each building. If a visitor is in the building and does not have a pass, or you do not recognize the individual, please direct that person to the office and/or contact school building office staff for immediate assistance. Thank you.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS

If you wish to be contacted through the Emergency calling system when school is delayed or closed, please be sure that you have provided Mr. Bob Dunkle with an appropriate telephone number. Notifications of delays and closing will also be provided on the district web page at www.rsd.k12.pa.us and on local television stations. Staff should refer to the Employee Handbook for details regarding processes to follow when school is unexpectedly delayed or closed.

PROSOFT UPDATE

Mr. Dunkle continues to assist the district as it transitions from Edunet to ProSoft as a means for supporting and operating our Financial and Student Information Systems. The process requires that we follow a deliberate timeline and implementation plan. Stakeholders are being trained throughout the

process. Thank you for your patience and support as we strive to improve upon the systems used in the past. Once fully implemented, these new tools should provide us with more efficiency and ease in our work.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

There is a need for substitute nurses, paraprofessionals and custodians. Please contact Linda Tamburro if you, or someone you know, is interested in any of these positions.

REFLECTION PIECE

How can you assist our students with developing a work ethic that replicates that of the immigrants who founded our country?

How can you assist our students with thinking like the artisan who crafts his/her initials into everything he or she creates?

How can you assist our students with discovering and using the "extra" they have to share with others?
