

Schools:

Junior/Senior High:

Homecoming football game was held on October 13th. The Homecoming festivities were successful. However, a natural gas issue at Fort Cherry Golf Club occurred at the dance on October 14th which required the evening to end early.

PSAT was held on October 18, 2023.

Ranger Rally on 10/13 – The Homecoming Court student acts were excellent and the student participation was high.

Several issues were reported to the principal regarding staffing concerns. Matters were investigated and addressed.

Student incident reported at Parkway West CTC was investigated by Dr. Craig and Chief Buchowski.

Blood Drive held at the high school on October 11th.

Elementary Center:

The High School Homecoming Parade was held in the hallways on October 13th and student and staff participation was excellent.

Helping Hands Homeroom Food Drive is underway and promoted on District social media.

Red Ribbon Week starts October 23rd, and the Halloween Parties will be held on October 27th.

The elementary center administration and staff are exploring opportunities to work with Penn State 4H to provide after school STEAM programming.

Due to mental health positioning opening at the Elementary Center, Mrs. Eva Kramer will begin meeting with students on October 24th.

Athletics:

PIAA enrollment numbers – were reported to the PIAA for the next two year cycle. Our 9,10,11 th grade numbers were 132 boys and 121 females. Our 6 th , 7 th and 8 th grade numbers were 138 boys and 105 girls. These numbers will be used across the state to determine classification parameters within the next few months.

Varsity Football - currently 8-0 and ranked number 1 in the WPIAL and 5 th in the state. Played Carlynton on Friday. Close out the season vs. Burgettstown on Friday October 27 th . The team was recognized as the Pittsburgh Post Gazette and Steelers game of the week. Tanner Garry won Steelers coach of the week honors and will be recognized at the Steelers game on October 29th . Matt Sieg was named the Observer Reporter athlete of the week. The team has a chance to finish 10 – 0 in the regular season and be only the second team in school history to do so. The last time that was accomplished was in 1998.

7/8 Football- 4-2 overall. Finished season this past Wed vs. Frazier.

Varsity Volleyball - Upset the number one and formerly unbeaten team in the section Keystone Oaks. Currently 11 -7 overall and 3 rd place in the conference. Played East Allegheny and Brentwood last week. Participated in the OLSH tourney over the weekend. Will qualify for WPIAL playoffs this week. Section All Conference - 1 st team – Jillian McCarty OH. 2nd team –Raney Staub L. 3 rd team Brooke Cornali MH, Lainey Hartner RS and Jazlyn Martino OH.

Varsity Boys and Girls Cross Country - Varsity Girls CC finished 2 nd in the section with a 12-1 overall record. Finished 2 nd at the County Coaches meet. Finished 3 rd at the Mingo classic. Several cross country varsity and jr high medaled at the County Coaches meet. The WPIAL individual championships will be held on Thursday at White Oak park.

Boys' Golf – Finished 2nd in the section and qualified for the WPIAL team playoffs. Walker Sherwin and A.J. Tarolli qualified for WPIALS. A.J. Tarolli qualified for states and shot an 89 after two rounds but did not medal.

7/8 Softball – Held its first season. The team had a successful year and finished 2 – 7 overall.

Boys Soccer co-op with Washington - finished the year 5 – 9 in the section and 5-12 overall.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Elementary Life Skills: Consultation with Watson Institute is ongoing. Monthly team meetings are being held with the classroom staff, related service providers, and administration to provide a forum for discussion.

Monitoring: I am continuing the process of gathering documents for the Facilitated Self Assessment (FSA) for the upcoming monitoring. We have a team of teachers available to complete the Educational Benefit Review (EBR) in November.

Paraprofessionals: We still have 1 opening at FCEC. The posting is open until filled.

Special Education Teacher: Tonight, we are recommending a candidate for hire for the vacancy. We anticipate a start date of 1/3/24, unless the candidate's former district releases them before the 60 day period ends.

Prior Written Notice: Effective immediately, teachers are using the new Prior Written Notice form to be given prior to a reevaluation of any child in Special Education. This form is a state mandate that must be in place by November 1, 2023.

GUIDANCE

Naviance: Counselors have requested additional training on underutilized areas of Naviance. Once a list of requests is received by administration, we will get a quote for the training.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Title I Schoolwide Plan (FCEC): The FCEC Schoolwide Plan was approved by PDE.

Monitoring: The District is scheduled for its cyclical monitoring in federal programs this year. Dr. Lauver is still waiting for information from the PDE Office of Federal Programs.

ESSER Monitoring: Dr. Lauver and Mrs. Burford completed the ESSER Monitoring questionnaire for low-risk school districts. At this time, it is unclear whether there will be additional on-site monitoring or not.

Elementary Life Skills: Consultation with Watson Institute is ongoing. The students in the classroom are continuing to make progress. Additional sensory items have been ordered at the recommendation of the team in the classroom to meet student needs.

Monitoring: I am continuing the process of gathering documents for the Facilitated Self-Assessment (FSA) for the upcoming monitoring.

Paraprofessionals: We still have 1 opening at FCEC. The posting is open until filled.

TECHNOLOGY

Installed and configured new SmartDeploy imaging software and PDQ Deploy & Inventory software. This allows us to create and deploy computer images and easily deploy software and updates to district laptops and desktops.

- Finished setting up the new Studio Macs in the multimedia lab and updated them to Sonoma OS with the latest version of Final Cut Pro for video editing.
- Configured TechEd desktop with Windows 11 and CorelDraw laser engraver software for the in-service STEAM training session.
- Met with Kristin Van Strien to discuss first steps for the E-rate process. We discussed the possibility of running a new fiber line between buildings and what the overall scope of the network upgrade project would involve.
- Attended Technology Coordinators meeting at the Intermediate Unit. We discussed upcoming changes to how Google manages third-party apps. We also went over some upcoming E-rate deadlines and discussed several tech tools and resources along with various cyber security and AI integrations.
- Contacted several vendors to obtain quotes for new teacher laptops and negotiated with them to get the best deal possible. Met with Mary to discuss the available budget and make sure ESSER funding is available.
- Met with several representatives from Juniper Networks to view a demo of their Mist software as a possible replacement for Cisco/Meraki.

Overall Direct Support/Communications and Meetings--Helpdesk tickets resolved this month: 87, Student devices repaired this month: 43, Emails sent this month: 450, Meetings attended this month: 30

Upcoming Technology Discussions

Teacher Laptop replacement, Configure 50+ iPads for custodians/STEAM camp, E-rate process for funding network upgrades

Facilities and Grounds

The month of October has been a busy one within the Facilities department. We have continued to split our focus into multiple directions. We have spent time beginning to prep for the winter season. Checking plows, installing spreader wiring onto our new vehicles and preparing inventory for the winter season. As we spent some time looking down the road, we have had to continue to spend the bulk of our time outside on the football field and softball fields. Softball just finished up the first season of Junior High softball. Football has been playing one or two days a week at the stadium between our Varsity teams and Junior High. Also the Saturday usage of the little Rangers has put stress on the grass

playing surface which has caused us to spend more time manicuring the surface. As the seasons begin to wrap up we will do a winter prep as we air rate and fertilize for the winter.

Other exterior jobs handled over the last month are the beginning of leaves falling and the continued grass growing season. The team has worked weekly to keep the grounds looking in pristine condition. We are beginning a list of exterior jobs that will take place in the spring. These include but are not limited to the painting of the curbs, the replacement of a few ADA ramp markers that are beginning to deteriorate. The largest project for the spring is a collaboration with Mrs Hoover and the vo-ag classes as they will help / plan the refurbishing of the main welcome sign in front of the auditorium. Inside the buildings we have been working on both reactive and proactive maintenance. Light switches, bulbs and fixtures have been fixed over the last month. Over the last month the cleaners and custodians did a great job stepping up efforts to welcome the students, parents and community to open houses at the Elementary center as well as many Volleyball games held at the High School.

I thank the entire school community for their help with identifying problems when they arise. This past month we had a transformer go offline at the stadium and thanks to the Little Ranger boosters were able to address the problems and got in touch with our Power supplier and got the situation rectified. As relationships continue to be cultivated this will only continue to improve our response to situations. We have also been able to work with outside groups to help their events be successful. We were able to work with youth football to have a season ending party. Set up the foundations new tent for an event during homecoming.

On the custodial and cleaner side of our department we have had informal refresher conversations on the importance of disinfecting of the rooms. As cold and flu season begins we have to remind ourselves of this responsibility we have to keep the students and school community safe and healthy. As always please reach out with any thoughts and concerns about the building and grounds here at Fort Cherry. Myself and our team care about everyone's input and know different sets of eyes do bring other things to light. I value all of this input as we work to make Fort Cherry a welcoming home for all of our school community.

State Funding Applications, Mandates and Updates:

Interview for special education position held and candidate selected.

Met with PTO executive board and addressed questions from PTO at general meeting.

Elementary and High School Homecoming Parade was a success. The students at both schools actively participated in the parade and rally.

Met with Penn State University to determine feasibility of offering STEAM programming at the elementary through 4H program (no cost).

Emergency Closure Day application for bomb threat approved by PDE.

Attended IU1 Leadership Conference.

Grant application submitted to Washington County Local Share Account (LSA) regarding Career Readiness program partnership with Southwest Training.

Submitted Food Services equipment grant for Heating Cabinet at the elementary (replace broken unit)

Submitted Food Services equipment grant for Kettle Unit at the high school (current kettle is leaking and needs replaced)

ACT 80 Professional Development held on October 6th and 9th regarding Structured Literacy training mandate from PDE.