

**Schools:**

**Junior/Senior High:**

Students have participated in a Ranger Rally on September 8, 2023, to recognize fall sports.

Ranger Rally on 9/22 - Senior athletes, band members, majorettes; Senior officers; Senior Who's Who; Athletes of the Week; Braedon Welsh 2023 WPIAL Wrestling Championship; Homecoming Court

Several troubling bus incidents occurred at Parkway. The situations have been addressed by Parkway CTC's principal and District staff

Fort Cherry received a bomb threat on September 18, 2023. The Jr./Sr. high school staff responded well and evacuated the building in a timely and orderly manner. All safety protocol was followed by faculty and staff.

CDT (Classroom Diagnostic Tests) have been completed. The results will be used by teachers to align curriculum, identify student academic needs, as well as to drive daily instructional needs.

**Elementary Center:**

The Boy Scouts of America had an assembly for our boys and girls in grades K-5 on September 15th.

The Washington Wild Things mascot came in to kick off our Read and Quiz program on September 7th.

The D.A.R.E. Program began on September 7th for the 6th grade with Officer Davidson from the Washington County Sheriff's Office kicking it off.

The first Elementary Center PTO was held on September 6<sup>th</sup>.

PTO and teachers did a fantastic job celebrating Tom Cherry Day on September 8, 2023.

**Athletics:**

**Varsity Football** – 4 – 0. Played OLSH this past and celebrated fall senior night. Big game against Bishop Canevin this Saturday at 7pm at Dormont Stadium. The JV football team has played 3 games so far this season and have been very competitive with a 2-1 record.

**7/8 Football**- 2 – 1 overall. Played Burgettstown last week. Will play Monessen this Wed at home 4pm.

**Varsity Volleyball** - Had big wins over South Park and Seton. 5-4 overall and 4-2 in section play. Highly competitive within AA section. On the road this week. JV team will compete at the Beaver JV tourney this weekend. Jillian McCarty was named the player of the week by the WPIAL VB coaches association. She was also named to the all tourney team at Moon.

**Varsity Boys and Girls Cross Country** - Girls are having an outstanding season and are currently undefeated. Run a key section meet against Seton and Keystone on Tuesday. Jr high has strong numbers. The teams are hosting a charity 5k on Sunday October 29th with all proceeds benefitting the wounded warriors.

**Boys' Golf** – finished in 2nd place in the conference. Will compete in team WPIALs. Walker Sherwin and A.J. Tarolli qualified for the individual wpials on Sept 25th.

**7/8 Softball** – Great start to season. Have played 5 games. Highly competitive and doing awesome. Have one win currently. Looking to finish season strong.

**Boys (co-ed) Soccer co-op with Washington** - Competitive within conference. Battling for the last playoff spot. Had big win over Brownsville 2-1. Dylan Wudkwyh had 6 goals in one game.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

**App:** The new FC App currently has 387 (increased from 309) registered parent/guardian users. This has continued to grow.

**Devices:** All devices have been distributed to students. So far, there have been minimal issues. Of importance is that we have 10 K–2 devices still on backorder. This means we have no extras at the moment until these devices arrive. This is due to increased enrollment.

**Device Warranties:** 409 students have fully-paid device warranties. This is an increase from 339 warranties last year. This comprises 43.8% of our student population being covered.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

**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.

**Special Education Teacher:** Dr. Lauver conducted special education teacher interviews for an opening at FCHS on August 29. Unfortunately, all candidates declined further participation in the process after the first round interview. Mr. Samosky and Dr. Craig interviewed a candidate on September 18. Additionally, both Dr. Lauver and Mr. Samosky have used PAEducator.net and LinkedIn to attempt to find quality candidates; however, with many districts hiring for special education, candidates are hard to come by at this time.

**Special Education Policy Change:** I attended a webinar from PDE (8/31) on the policy change regarding the maximum age for school-age education in Pennsylvania and a subsequent meeting with IU1 directors and staff on 9/1. PDE is now allowing students to attend as school-age students until the age of 22. This includes inviting students back to school who aged out last year. Fort Cherry has 0 affected students in this classification; however, the District has complied with state mandates regarding posting on the website and public notification of the policy change.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

**App:** The new FC App currently has 387 (increased from 309) registered parent/guardian users. This has continued to grow.

**Devices:** All devices have been distributed to students. So far, there have been minimal issues. Of importance is that we have 10 K–2 devices still on backorder. This means we have no extras at the moment until these devices arrive. This is due to increased enrollment.

**Device Warranties:** 409 students have fully-paid device warranties. This is an increase from 339 warranties last year. This comprises 43.8% of our student population being covered.

## **GUIDANCE**

**Naviance:** Counselors will be working to implement the Common App for college this year with seniors via Naviance. Additionally, letters of reference will be live on Naviance this year.

## **FEDERAL PROGRAMS**

**Title I Schoolwide Plan (FCEC):** The Schoolwide Title I plan is being presented tonight for board approval, and it will be submitted to PDE prior to the September 1 due date.

**Monitoring:** The District is scheduled for its cyclical monitoring in federal programs this year.

More information will be coming from the PDE Office of Federal Programs.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP**

**Parent Meetings:** Since the last board meeting, I participated in 2 parent meetings.

In-Service Meetings: I led the following staff development sessions:

- Technology training (FCEC & AMP; FCHS)
- Special Education Department Meeting/Preparing for Cyclical Monitoring
- Act 13 Training (teacher effectiveness model)

## **Facilities and Grounds**

The Fort Cherry School District Building and Grounds department have been busy over the last month. With the beginning of the school year many problems, concerns and needs always arise. Our staff, Maintenance, Custodial and Cleaners have all stepped up and kept the focus on the safety of our students, staff and community during this time.

As the school days go along our daylight staff responds to countless calls for cleanups, unloading of trucks, mail runs across campus and other general daily functions throughout the district. These are the untraceable interactions that set our staff apart from other districts in the area. The students and facility within our district know that we have and will continue to build the importance of this response to keep each day moving. Our Maintenance team has spent many hours keeping our grounds looking well for the start of the school year. With the addition of 7 th and 8 th grade softball time has been spent keeping not only the softball field in working order but also the football field. Averaging three games days a week on the football and softball fields the staff has worked tirelessly to keep them field painted and trimmed for these events. The softball field has been more labor intensive do to the current broken 4x4 tractor used to groom the field causing this to be handled by hand.

Grass cutting and grooming take a large amount of our resources during this time of year. Our staff has done a great job keeping the campus looking inviting and welcoming to visitors, students and parents. The addition of our newly hired weekend custodian have been a great help in keeping the grounds near the buildings taken care of.

The custodial and cleaning staff have done a fine job in working together for evening events such as meetings, games and dinners early this year. They have also used the new FMX work order system to help pass along needs to the maintenance staff.

We are beginning the process of consolidation on the number of chemicals used on campus for general cleaning purposes. This will help us control costs and make for a safer environment for our students,

staff and visitors as we will have a better grasp of what is being used in our buildings. We will continue to use very hi-grade disinfectants to keep the spread of germs / disease as controlled as possible.

I have also began the assessment of the lighting replacement plan for the district. My hope is to have more concrete answers on a restart and implementation proposal in the coming months. This is a much needed improvement to our learning environment in both buildings.

A small list of some of the accomplishments of the Facilities staff over the last few weeks:

- Finished the installation of the new kettle in the EC kitchen.
- Moving of brackets , gas line and water lines.
- Building of multiple PTO donated furniture items in the EC.
- Installation of the new stove used in the HS Life Skills classroom.
- Multiple work orders regarding lighting.
- This show more of a need to shift to LED / upgrading lighting.
- HVAC emergencies during the recent stretch of warm weather or system was pressed.
- Dave and the staff quickly and attentively responded to the HVAC issues and kept the students / teacher comfortable.

We also are working on quotes for a new tractor. This piece of equipment will have multiple uses within the facilities department. The current tractor is a 2008 model with over 3000 hours of usage. The new tractor will be used for field grooming, general lawn care and most importantly with our location will be used to cut the multiple banks and hillsides on campus.

#### **State Funding Applications, Mandates and Updates:**

The Chief Science Officer Program's (CSO) first meeting will be held at CMU this month. Thank you to Mr. Evan for sponsoring the program. The CSO is designed to assist schools in developing organic STEAM programs.

Thank you to Mr. Robinson for volunteering through the TEALS program to support our AP Comp Science program.

The District is conducting interviews to fill our School Security Officer, paraprofessional, and MH positions.

The administrative team and supervisors are submitting new monthly reports for the board.

I had an enjoyable visit with State Representative Jason Ortity on September 19, 2023. Rep. Ortity was supportive of the District's initiatives and agreed to assist in identifying alternative funding sources.

Met with the Ventura and Associates to finalize trauma informed video plan which will be PCCD Grant Funded on September 5, 2023.

Visited Duquesne School District to discuss career readiness and STEAM programming with Mrs. Eiler and Mrs. Cieply.

Completed Special Education interview for vacant jr./sr. high school position.

Administrative Team debrief regarding bomb threat and campus evacuation plan.

Policy development for NIL and new protocol for clearances.