

**West Elementary BOE Report from Principal Amy Flinn and West Items for the Good  
August 9, 2023**

**Enrollment:**

We are starting the year with the same enrollment as we ended last school year! We currently have the following numbers for West:

Third Grade: 125 – 11 new students; 4 withdrawn

Fourth Grade – 101 – 1 new student; 3 withdrawn

Fifth Grade – 128 – 6 new students; 0 withdrawn

Total - 354

**Welcome to New Staff:**

*Third Grade:*

Mason Meinhardt

Stephanie Linn-Schieferecke (going to go by Mrs. Linn for ease of students)

*Fifth Grade:*

Brianna (Bri) Rowe

*Instructional Aides:*

Nichole (Niki) Lattimer - Tech/Explore/Library

Carman Jackson - Reading/Math

*Elementary Sped Social Worker:*

Alyssa Smith

*Elementary Mental Health School Liaison:*

Amanda Remmert

*P.E. Student Intern:*

Braden Tharman

*Para-educators:*

Ciara Collins - Part-time Para; KSU Student

Abby (Jeanneret) Rhodes

Ryan Erickson

Kelsey Reynolds

Kinzye Whitehead - Part-time Para; KSU Student

Kennady Busamante

*Transfers:*

Fourth Grade - Mikala Vanderpool from Third Grade

Fourth Grade - Lisa Kruse from Title I

Fifth Grade - Cheryl Price from Instructional Aide

Instructional Aide - Lindsey Lull from Sped Resource

*\*I am looking for a long-term sub for Title I. There is no guarantee I'll find one. If we don't, this will impact the number of students served in interventions for the 23-24 school year. Mrs. Kruse will return to Title in 24-25.*

### **Technology Project Updates for West:**

Unfortunately, our new interactive Epson projectors have not come in yet. We are hoping they will be here in time for the installation to begin on Monday, August 14. The whiteboards that teachers will need have arrived. Installation is to start on the 14<sup>th</sup>. The installers plan to work all day, clean up for our Back to School Night, and continue with the installation the evening of the 15<sup>th</sup> and the evenings following until finished. Our teachers understand this may create some chaos to start the year, but we discussed this, and they would rather have the technology installed sooner than later. Also, the installers will be removing the old Promethean/SMART boards from classrooms. Current projectors in classrooms will be repurposed to other areas the building.

### **Renewed Focus on Social/Emotional Learning with Second Step Curriculum**

We want each child to be successful in school and that means supporting and encouraging their whole development. While excelling in academic classes is important, children also need skills to take on learning challenges, make good decisions, manage strong emotions, and get along with others.

Our staff is recommitting to full implementation of our SEL curriculum, Second Step. We will be working on increasing the understanding and awareness by all West staff members of the skills and concepts in this curriculum, which will help develop our students social/emotional learning and skills both inside and outside of the school setting. Four units will cover the following:

- **Growth Mindset & Goal Setting:** Children learn how to pay attention and manage distractions, develop a growth mindset, and apply goal-setting strategies to their social and academic lives.
- **Emotion Management:** Children learn how to identify and label emotions and use emotion-management strategies – including stress management for older students – to calm strong feelings.
- **Empathy & Kindness:** Children learn how to recognize kindness and act kindly, have empathy for others and take others' perspectives, and recognize kind acts and empathy as important elements of building and maintaining relationships.
- **Problem-Solving:** Children learn how to identify and state a problem, recognize if a problem is an accident, and use the STEP problem-solving process:
  - **S:** Say the problem; **T:** Think of solutions; **E:** Explore the outcomes; **P:** Pick a solution

Families will receive monthly overviews of the content we will be teaching from Mrs. Flinn and weekly communications from their child's teacher to help them reinforce Second Step language, skills, and goals at home. Weekly morning announcements will be made to reinforce the skills taught for that week. We are excited to continue to work together to build a safe and supportive school community.

### **Staff News/Preparations for 2023-2024 School Year:**

The building has been buzzing with staff preparing their classrooms for the new school year. Several have been involved in teaching mentoring, either as a new teacher or mentor. We will be focusing on several key goal areas in the next several days during professional development meetings. This includes the following:

- *Building Meeting – Review Non-negotiables/Teacher Expectations for the year and prep for first week with students (August 10 in the afternoon).*
- *New Math Curriculum Training – Receive Day 2 of Eureka Math Squared professional development (August 11).*
- *Second Step/CHAMPS/Behavior Training – Review goals and plans for Second Step implementation; Review and practice expectations for CHAMPS/S.T.O.I.C. classroom management strategies and techniques; Share behavior support strategies for students at Tier 2 and Tier 3 with behavior needs (August 14).*
- *PLC Teaming/Planning – Use time to work in collaborative PLC Teams to plan for instruction, specifically with new math core curriculum resources (August 15).*