

Principal's Report for Peirce Elementary

Principal Lori Zaimi

September 21, 2017

Competency A: Champions Teacher and Staff Excellence Through a Focus on Continuous Improvement to Develop and Achieve the Vision of High Expectations for All Students

- CIWP Updates
- Data Based Decision Making, Supports and develops high functioning teams
- School personnel and financial resources are used to support CIWP priorities.
- Creates a safe and orderly environment.

- CIWP Priorities continue for this year: Curriculum, Restorative Approaches to Discipline, MTSS & Balanced Assessment & Grading. Over the course of this year we will need to begin revisions for the 2018-2020 CIWP.
- Organizational structure has allowed for 1.5 Intervention teachers providing individualized support for students scoring below the 12th percentile on MAP and students who are below grade level on the K-2 Reading assessment (TRC)
- This year, we have an instructional coach who is also Bilingual Spanish Certified and is supporting math instruction along with providing additional support with our Bilingual/EL program.
- Opening week of professional development focused on eveloping collaborative practices with teachers, Emergency plan, Committee meetings, supporting English Language Learners, Principals leadership vision, Data review and goal setting, Differentiation, School-wide assessment planning, Playworks recess programming, Restorative approaches to discipline and school discipline plan, Behavioral health team & student supports, RTI Program/interventions/tracking of data.
- At the end of the 2016-2017 school year, Peirce teachers voted to flex out 3 professional development days into a series of monthly after school sessions. In addition, teacher directed professional development days were flexed into (9) monthly committee meetings along with participation in a variety of teacher directed activities and events.
- PBS, RTI, PYP, MYP, Bilingual/EL, Arts and Health & Wellness Committees have met (2) times this school year, each group has developed a goal and an action plan for the year to guide their work.

- Have not received 10th day adjustment numbers yet, we were (2) students above the projection and should receive a small amount of money returned to the schools budget.
- All but 1 recess coach have finished the staffing process - there was a 2 week delay in staffing for some coaches because CPS had prioritized the staffing of teachers.
- Weekly recess survey for feedback has been administered, feedback is generally very positive with the following indicated from comments:
 - **Strengths:** “General organization, no issues returning back to the classroom”, “No student complaints”, “very very organized”, “students were lined up and ready to return from lunch”, “less problems between students”, “My class was ready to go when I returned, lines are getting more organized”, “inclusion of students with varying mobility”
 - **Challenges:** “lining up after students are done eating is a challenge”, “Our class does not yet have a staffed coach and do not know who to go to”, “students only had 5 minutes to eat”, “there were a few days when middle school students were still playing in the area that 1st grade needed to line up in”, “The transition out to recess has been very slow and extremely crowded, resulting in classrooms being stalled in the stairwell outside door 6 from the first floor all the way up to the third floor. This seems to be due to the fact that all classrooms in second and third are to use the same stairwell and exit door and also arrive outside at the same time. Is there a way we could stagger the exit?”, “Teachers aren't always walking kids to line at start of recess which makes it hard to create an orderly start. Also the release of classes after lunch can become a bottleneck in hallway. That may just be a result of both 4th and 5th grades all heading back to old building at same time and the younger kids are entering for lunch.”
 - **Number of Incidents that returned to the classroom:** (3), after following up all 3 were very minor incidents (ex: student had small amount of water poured on them by student sitting next to them, student had an issue and did not know which coach to tell) 22% said that they had 1 incident return to the class and 78% said that no issues returned to the class.
- Attendance is currently at 97.75%, last year at this time we were at 97.51%. PBS team has created an attendance plan, details are: The classroom with the highest percent attendance at each grade level on a weekly basis will receive the grade level attendance trophy and a tentative visit from pickles, classrooms with a 97% or attendance rate each week will get a stickers on the school-wide attendance board.

- School-Wide expectations are posted, teachers reviewed with classrooms and each class created essential agreements. Principal followed up with teams during grade level meetings around the school-wide discipline plan and answered questions as needed.
- Bryn Mawr is now closed to westbound traffic at Glenwood from 7:50 - 8:10 and the main entrance is also closed until 8:10am - encouraging students to enter from the Gregory Side of the building. There has been a significant decrease in traffic and issues in front of the school during morning drop off.
- Each CPS school is required to hold the following drills each school year: bus evacuation, shelter in place, lockdown, allergen and fire drill. Peirce has already completed the Shelter in Place and Allergen and will be completing the Lockdown drill on September 22nd. The schools fire panel has not been working since the end of last school year - additional security guards are placed on each floor of the school on a daily basis in the event that there was a fire. School engineer has been working with facilities to get this fixed and after a repair was made, it was determined that the entire fire panel needs replacement.
- Building engineer has been working on the following issues:
 - Completed: emergency lights in the auditorium, repaired hole in wall on 1st floor, repaired every toilet, urinal and faucet, security signs placed outside of the building, teachers lounge countertop
 - Issues still in progress: turf flooding, installation of new fire panel, exterior lighting (some progress made), air conditioning in the lunchroom, heating and air conditioning controls, drinking fountain repairs, exterior doors repaired, security cameras

Competency B: Creates Powerful Professional Learning Systems to Guarantee Learning for All Students.

- Lesson Plan and Unit Development aligned to IB standards and CCSS.
- Curriculum Planning with a focus on our Diverse Learner and English Language Learner population.
- Ongoing Professional Development and instructional coaching
- REACH Teacher Observations with constructive feedback provided to teachers.
- Staff hiring

- Our PYP IB program was formally authorized over the summer - thank you to Kim Lebovitz & The PYP Team for their work towards authorization.

- The MYP evaluation site-visit is scheduled for November 8th-10th, 2 days at Senn and 1 day at Peirce. This visit occurs every 5 years as a follow up from IB.
- After the release of our budget, we received 3 additional Sp.Ed. Classroom assistant positions.
- 2017-2018 Staff Organizational Chart is attached to email (see staff directory on website also).
- A new teacher orientation was held for all new Peirce staff before school began.
- All 1st year teachers have a mentor from Peirce and will be meeting monthly.
- 9 staff members attended IB training over the summer, additional staff members will attend IB training throughout the school year.
- Dr. Riemer held (2) My Voice My School Focus Groups with Peirce Staff to closer look at the data and make recommendations for improvement. Focus Group Findings were:
 - Strengths: Math Instruction, Loyalty to the School, Teacher-Parent Trust & Parent Involvement
 - Growth Opportunities: Teacher Collaboration, Teacher-Teacher Trust, Teacher-Admin Trust & High Quality Professional Development
 - Over the course of the year, explicit connections to the My Voice My School Survey will be made during grade level meetings and professional development days.
- Peirce staff are invited to participate in “IB Inquiry Walks” bi-weekly during the school year alongside of administration - each walk will have a different area of focus, participants will visit classrooms, collect evidence, discuss evidence with the team and then share back findings to staff. The first walk will be on Friday, September 22nd with a focus on Culture and Climate.
- Teacher Flex PD Day on September 20th focused on Creating Safe Spaces for LGBTQ Youth, workshop provided by the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance.
- Mr. Lerner has begun working with teachers around the implementing of the Japanese Math Curriculum in K-5th grades, he has aligned all grade level content and created a scope and sequence for teachers, met with teams to identify areas of needs that each has, modeled lessons and observed and provided feedback.
- Principal received \$18,000 from the McDougal Foundation to support Lesson Study for the 2017-2018 school year.
- (3) teams of teachers attended the Lesson Study Summer Institute and have already created their research lesson for this school year. Additional teams will participate in the process throughout the school year.

- (3) Peirce teachers attended the Golden Apple Summer STEM Institute - these teachers will be focusing on inquiry in the classroom and will have a coach from Golden Apple come out on an ongoing basis to support inquiry in the science class.

Competency C: Builds a Culture Focused on College and Career Readiness

- Academic and Social Emotional Learning Goals, Student Portfolios
- College Visits, HS Visits, Career Day
- Access to an enriching curriculum which includes the arts and science.
- Use of restorative practices for student supports.

- Alderman Osterman worked with the City of Chicago to secure 17K in grant money to support the Bricolage in our school garden on Gregory!
- A Peirce Alumn has generously supported our Makers Space Program by donating \$7,500 towards the purchase of materials.
- Congratulations to Ms. Thompson for writing and receiving \$35,000 in Out of School Time Grant Money to support our after school programs! Sign Up information will be going out very soon with programs to begin mid-October.
- Ms. Graney is coordinating our sports programs, this fall students in 5th-8th grades will be able to participate in Cross Country, Soccer and Volleyball.
- Ms. Bencel wrote and received a grant to keep the CAPE partnership working with her this year with a focus on STEM education and the arts.
- Ms. Thompson coordinated the Urban Gateways Performance: Cha Cha Cha on September 20th in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.
- Peirce will continue the band program as a fee-based after school program, instrument trials took place earlier this week.
- Chicago Run is currently working with PK-3rd grade classrooms - coaches come out from the organization and lead classrooms in activities along with encouraging running.
- Peirce Students and Staff will participate in the International Day of Peace on Thursday, September 21st - students are creating pinwheels and writing their wishes of peace on them.
- Ms. Graney is coordinating student and family involvement in the Edgewater 5K race, scheduled for Sunday, October 1st at 8am - corner of Rosemont and Kenmore.

- We had 0 SCC violations between 9/5 and 9/20

Competency D: Empowers and Motivates Families and the Community to Become Engaged.

- Families engage in PTA, PTO, BAC, PAC, parent-teacher conferences and other school related events.
- Newsletters, open-house, report card pick up, family events, robo calls
- Addresses family concerns
- Engages LSC in school governance.

- The PSO hosted a Parent Mixer at the Pork Shoppe on September 12th.
- The LSC parent vacancy was advertised and will be voted on during the September 21st meeting.
- PAC/BAC organizational meetings will be held on Friday, September 22nd at 8:15am in the fieldhouse.
- SMORE emails were sent over the summer with back to school information.
- Families were encouraged to sign up for parent portal as a way to find out who their teacher was for the school year. Parents are also able to monitor students grades in parent portal.
- A group of Peirce Parents held a series of Kindergarten Play Dates this summer.
- Peirce Parents Nora Hughes & Betsy Boemmel led the efforts around the Back to School Picnic, families visited classrooms from 3-4 and then were able to picnic from 4-6.
- Friends of Peirce raised \$1500 from the YUBLR School Supply Sale.
- Friends of Peirce is hosting a Family Fall Festival on Saturday, September 23rd from 1-4pm at St. Gregory's gym.
- Friends of Peirce is hosting a fall fundraiser "Harbor Night" on Friday, October 20th.
- Principal sends a monthly e-newsletter home to families, works with parent leaders in maintenance of the school website and supports the dissemination of information to the school and PSO Facebook sites.
- Principal works to have a 24 hour turn around window when responding to parent and family inquiries although in some cases 48-72 hours is needed.

Competency E: Relentlessly Pursues Self-Disciplined Thinking and Action.

- Values and accepts diversity
- Builds collaboration between groups

- Responds and resolves concerns related to students, staff, parents and community members.
- Uses ongoing written and oral communication to effectively communicate with different stakeholders about school curriculum, activities, student achievement, and safety.
- Motivates and inspires staff to contribute to success of school.
- Maintains honesty, integrity, and professionalism in carrying out leadership responsibilities.

- Principal selected to participate in the Principal Advisory Council with the Chicago Public Education Fund for the 2017-2018 school year.
- Principal worked with Assistant Principal to host 2 My Voice My School Focus Groups to gather input around strengths and growth opportunities for our work as a staff.
- Principal attended grade level meetings during the month of September.
- Principal worked with the PPC to develop a structure for flex day and teacher directed day time - solving the issue of committee meetings over the course of the year.
- Principal worked with the PPLC to develop a new structure where committees have a representative at each PPLC meeting to report back on the work happening in committees.
- Attended several CPS professional development meetings over the summer: Legal Conference, Budget Meetings, Principals Summit, Network Meetings
- Principal attends monthly network meetings.
- Principal meets with teams of teachers as needed/requested to respond to concerns/celebrations.
- Principal maintains an anonymous suggestion box on the school website.
- Principal works with teachers and parent group leaders to disseminate information - robo calls, emails, website, backpack mail and social media are current tools of communication around activities.
- Principal encourages staff to give each other “shout outs” in our weekly staff bulletin.
- Principal takes staff, parent and student confidentiality seriously - works to maintain a positive relationship with all stakeholders.

Budget Transfers

None