

Parent Advisory Meeting 10/19/23 8am

What are we doing well?

1. Afternoon carline going well with extra teachers outside. Kids enjoy seeing their teachers out there.
2. Moving from another school, parents and students feel welcome and comfortable. Shout out to Mrs. Rawls specifically! She is providing extra resources to children who need it. All of our teachers are top notch and consistent.
3. Parents are happy with Mrs. Spriggs' promotion to Assistant Principal. She is very capable and deserving.
4. Sixth grade plan as a transition year to prepare for middle school is a great idea and helps get kids ready all while being comfortable still in the elementary school. Parents see their kids being well prepared and organized for middle school. It's been a learning experience for us, but overall it is a positive experience. Kids enjoy the experience as well. The addition of the link for parents to see what assignments are coming up is very helpful. The paper agendas for students are much appreciated as well. This helps students & parents stay on the same page.
5. Bus experience & convenience is fabulous! Shout out to Ms. Ann Yockers on the Frog bus! Students feel safe and have a very positive experience on the bus. Bus referrals are down school-wide. Would be nice to have a bus driver "favorites" list to celebrate bus drivers.

Where can we improve?

1. No specific items were given here, but the following questions were asked around the following topics.

Questions/School Updates:

1. Portables/Growth—We currently have 6 "cottages" or portables behind the school. We have two open classrooms built for K or 1st grades within the main building. Current enrollment is around 1140. School was built for 1200.
2. Class Size—Right now, class size is around 18-22 K-6th. We are very fortunate to keep our class sizes low, even in our upper grades 4th-6th.
3. We have a Math Coach this year who is a HUGE help to our students. Our Math Coach is Haley White. She oversees Math curriculum, intervention and our STEM lab.
4. Curriculum—Almost all of our teachers are LETRS trained for phonics. Items sent home through Open Court are designed to help along with the skill they are working on. Parents seem pleased with these passages that come home in 1st grade.
5. How does a parent know when to worry academically if STAR test scores are low and/or student seems to be struggling? Teachers may not worry because they have experience from years past as well as all of the data that STAR tests provide. We provide tiered intervention based on those scores, including our small group PTI's and before/after school tutoring. STAR changes from 1st to 2nd so it's natural at that age to struggle at first. In K and 1, the STAR assessment is read to the students through an assessment called early Literacy. At the beginning of 2nd grade, the assessment changes to STAR Reading, and the test is no longer read to students. Second grade parents can use mid-2nd grade scores as a good guide for when to

begin concerns. In 1st grade, passages are read to them. 2nd grade is when the students must read assessments themselves, and this is a difficult transition for most students.

6. Red Ribbon Week next week. Halloween Hop coming back for 4th-6th (yay!). Veterans Day Program coming up soon. No Boosterthon this year.

7. The new 3 mil tax has funded so much for us! VR, STEM lab, 6th grade planners, storage shed, 11 part time employees, etc. 3 mil money is overseen by a committee called the Daphne Education Advisory Committee. Soon there will be a Facebook page showing what all Daphne schools are doing with their 3 mil funding. The committee will meet at BFES October 23rd for Mr. Ellis to present how we are using our 3 mil funds. We took a break from school-wide fundraising this year in part to the resources being provided through 3 mil.

Ellis thanked all for attendance and participation in discussion. Adjourned at 8:55.