

**Directors' Report**  
CCS Board of Education Meeting, December 18, 2023

Many thanks to Abi Swenson and Mindy Glazier for their work preparing for the annual WBWF meeting and summary report!

Strategic planning is moving forward, we are getting a lot of great work done in our meetings together! We had a great response to the student/staff/family surveys in both programs.

We have exceeded our target enrollment for the school year - our ADM and budget is looking great! We continue to keep a close eye on this and continue to be conservative with our spending.

**Online Program**

Enrollment: Currently we are at 345 enrolled students (30:K-5, 39:6-8, 276:9-12) plus 2 tuition-paying students (out-of-state or homeschooled). Enrollment for grades 6-12 is closed for this semester, interested students are able to join us at the start of Semester 2. K-5 students can enroll at any time.

We anticipate about 15 "Early graduates" who will complete their HS requirements and receive their diplomas in January. We will celebrate these students and any other early graduates in our ceremony that will be held on May 31 at the school building.

We are working on our final wrapping up of semester 1 and getting ready for semester 2. Online 6-12 students have JTerm from January 16-19. During this time, high school students do the "Planning My Future" college and career readiness program, and middle school students focus on learning about mental health in partnership with ReGroup therapy.

The MTSS Leads have been working so hard this year, improving our processes and aligning our MTSS program with best practices. They regularly connect with our Regional Center of Excellence advocates and are working together to help us improve our entire program. Many thanks to Rose Bierce, Amy Miller, Gena Jacobsen, and Erin McCullough on their work in this role!

Some online staff are participating in an optional "Secret Santa" gift exchange - this is a fun tradition we have been doing for the past few years!

The Extended Time Request application has been submitted by the Dec 15 deadline, we use these funds to help cover the cost of online summer school.

Sheila Berg, our Student & Family Engagement Coordinator, has a number of fun things in the works! She will be starting a regular Family Newsletter, monthly all-school themed "Meets," and is planning a virtual Family Fun Night and various field trips. She has also done a great job with teaching Seminar courses this semester (for ALL our 276 high school students!).

We have some funds that need to be spent on summer and extended school day programs. We are looking at what some options might be for our online students to go on some field trips, perhaps to Osprey Wilds or other EE-focused endeavors.

## **Seat Based Program**

We are BUSY! Besides testing this week and learning all of the other weeks, we have managed to incorporate some fun and service into the last month as well! The STEM class continues to have engineering resources from Sourcwell. The kids love this! The primary students have been visiting the Whitefish Senior Living Center - playing bingo, reading books and singing Christmas Carols. Some Fourth grade and up students have been participating in archery (second session will start soon!) The Middle School Students had a Dance and also attended *A Sherlock Carol* at Central Lakes College last week. Everyone also participated in the door decorating contest. The Community Engagement Committee sponsored one of their activities: the Holiday Open House. We had our own singing Santa (Bud Roberts), made crafts and ornaments, and decorated cookies. We never know how many people will show up for things like this, but I would say the attendance was medium this year.

Each month the student body gathers to meet together. We have speakers, do activities, read with book buddies and celebrate great behavior! It's a fun time! This past month the students from Mr. Williams' class along with Mr. Williams and Mrs. Swenson performed a 12 days of Christmas skit. It was great! We also had book buddies, which is a classroom of older students paired with younger. It is a type of mentoring. Last month we read books and Mrs. Powers' class taught the THINK Acronym about thinking before speaking. In January we are making bracelets with the acronym THINK.

The staff had an evening of gathering to assemble porch pots with pine branches, birch sticks and other things. Thanks to the PTO for sponsoring this fun event! The Wellness Committee is also sponsoring the 8 days of Christmas including fun things like crazy socks, fun exercises after school, a cookie exchange and the Secret Santa fun! All of this adds up to a cheery workplace environment!

Our enrollment remains steady. We have some students leaving after semester one, as well as a few new kids enrolling in January. We are fully staffed and are enjoying getting to know our new people. With the trait of low staff turnover, it's a fun dynamic to welcome new people!

We are continuing on a good pace with our High Reliability School Level 2 Certification. Our data collection is on target, and I am trying to get into the classroom to observe our awesome teachers as much as possible.

A new mandate this year by the Minnesota Department of Education is for all paraprofessionals to have passed the para-pro assessment. All of our staff is current and fully assessed. Congratulations to them!