

THRIVE Grant, Testing, and Counseling

Amy McDonald
October 2020

Counseling

Lots of uncertainties this year! Teachers, staff, and students are working to thrive in this new way of learning. We are doing a good job! I've had a blast visiting outer sites (Coffman, Hollis, Kasaan, and Naukati so far).

I am working on some things to support our staff. There are a lot of uncertainties, some in our control and some out, and it seems that staff are on the edge waiting for what is coming next. It is important for all of us to keep in mind that we are an amazing group of caring and connected adults that want what is best for our students.

High school students are in classes and graduation plans have been evaluated and we are moving toward graduation for our students.

Testing

SISD had a **MAP testing** window from September 21 through October 1.

Testing in the state is being evaluated at the Department of Education and Early Development as new information comes out. As of now, it looks like NAEP will go on as scheduled (although no SISD schools were selected this year).

I am hoping for a conversation with the SISD leadership team about testing at SISD and which protocols we want to designate are "required" for SISD to use. This will be a discussion that includes how we use testing data and how this data may, or may not, drive instruction in our classrooms.

THRIVE Grant

Due to COVID restrictions, we are unable to do **PHlight Clubs** in the traditional format so we are working to modify the format so that we can still have the important connecting activities for our students and educators.

On September 25th we had our first **Web Masters** event. This is for students who have participated in multiple PHlight Clubs. This group met at Eagle's Nest Campground for an afternoon of connection and web building. A HUGE thank you to Chad Dillman, Maggie Gore, and Heidi Young for making sure students were able to attend.

Just yesterday Kerrie Carl (Klawock) and I facilitated an amazing **PHlight Camp** with students in grades K-3 from Klawock and Thorne Bay. It was the first one we have done and we were both pleased with how it went. A HUGE thank you to Aly Howell and Julia Trischman for participating with their students. We will have another PHlight Camp on November 3rd with students in grades 4 - 6. Once we have these two "first time" events complete, we will reach out to other schools to be involved.

We have the following future events planned:

8 am to 5 pm, Friday, October 23 - PHlight Club at Sandy Beach

9 am to 3 pm, Thursday, October 29 - Web Masters at the Vo-Tech Center in Klawock

10 am to 2 pm, Tuesday, November 3 - PHlight Camp for grades 4 - 6 in Thorne Bay

8 am to 5 pm, Friday, November 13 - PHlight Club at Sandy Beach

9 am to 3 pm, Friday, November 20 - Web Masters in Thorne Bay

In conjunction with Brightways Learning, we will be offering two optional professional development opportunities, Ed Snax, for staff. The first, **Finding Resilience: Teaching & Survival Strategies in a Pandemic**, will be offered on Saturday, October 24 and will be facilitated by Kerrie Carl and Cristal McGill. The second, **reVitalize: The Kaleidoscope Behind Educator Resilience**, will be offered on Saturday, November 21 and will be facilitated by David Pavish and Derek Peterson.

Here's a link to learn more:

<https://www.brightwayslearning.org/events/2020/5/6/ed-snax-bite-sized-pd-experiences-for-educators-june-8-10-amp-17-2020-5rhal>

As you all know, we have two sets of curriculum for classroom teachers to use to continue the work we do at PHlight Club events: **Prism Lessons (K - 6th grades)** and **Kaleidoscope Lessons (7th - 12th grades)**. We are currently compiling a book list that will go along with, specifically, the Prism Lessons, but could also be used with the Kaleidoscope Lessons. More on that soon!

In the past few months, I have had the opportunity to work, virtually and in-person, with educators around the US. It is fun to share what we are doing at SISD and how well webbed our young adults are and how connected our teachers are!

PHlight Camp!

