



Pana Junior High
Juletta Ellis, Principal
Report to Board of Education
August 2018

Rough Estimate of Enrollment:

6th Grade: 100

7th Grade: 92

8th Grade: 110

Total: 302 (up from 286 in May)

Nearly all anticipated students have registered as of this week.

Thank you to the registration workers: Sara Kallal, Dena Smith, Sarah Crosby, Stacey Spears, Amy Christian, and Tina Ambrose. Registration ran smoothly and had a steady stream of families and students come through all day long.

Special thanks to the committees who have worked so hard this summer: PBIS, M2G, MAP, Vertical Alignment. These committees have planned activities for both students and staff that will be valuable in improving student growth.

Thank you to the custodians, teachers, and other staff members who have made the building look awesome!



We have four new staff members this year: Jessica Mathon (7th grade L.A. and Social Studies), Lauren Bobarsky (5-12 Band), and Amanda Terry (6-12 Music), Desiree Henschen (Special Ed), Leslie Clavin (Special Ed). Mrs. Mary Cothorn is returning from retirement to assist with the Girls' P.E. until the vacancy can be filled. New Teacher Orientation was held on Monday, August 6th and all new teachers have been assigned mentors to help them be successful.

Congratulations to Taylor Cothorn who's Donors Choose project was funded. Taylor will be receiving an activity table with 6 chairs to facilitate collaborative learning within her classroom.

This summer we have been reflecting upon and revamping some initiatives for students.

- The PBIS Committee has been meeting throughout the summer. They are excited to begin a new curriculum as part of our school-wide tier 1 initiative called Panther Quest. We will spend a significant amount of time during the first week teaching school-wide expectations and procedures. The committee has also mapped out a first quarter plan to celebrate our successes.
- The SAP team (tier 2 PBIS) will be a resource for students once again this year. The committee has been working to streamline the referral process to allow for targeted interventions and strategies for struggling students. Teachers may refer students who are struggling socially, emotionally, behaviorally, or academically. The team will work to put a plan in place to assist the struggling student and communicate and collaborate with parents for that student's success.

- The Vertical Alignment Committee met and lined out a plan for 1st semester. The plan addresses some concerns from the work that was completed last year. It also includes plans to assist teachers in identifying skills that are key to building coherent and cohesive learning between grade levels and buildings.
- Mr. Donahue, Mr. Schmitz, and I have met to begin to develop a plan and provide resources to address student and teacher needs based on what has been gleaned from preliminary PARCC data. These resources include school improvement planning time, supplementary online curriculum resources, after school assistance, and instructional coaching. There are many positives in the preliminary PARCC results as well, and overall we are pleased with the gains made in the last year.

Ms. Skinner met with new students and parents on August 14th to review the chromebook policies. She has also been meeting with Mr. Savage and me about chromebook deployment, which we hope to do within the first two weeks of school.

Sixth grade orientation was held on Tuesday, August 14th, and 86 out of 100 students were present. Students were able to meet teachers, get schedules, learn locker combinations, and tour the building. Special thanks to the 6th grade team for planning the night and for the assistance of Bonnie Sowarsh and Sara Kallal.

Students returned Friday, August 17th. The day was devoted to reviewing policies and expectations. Each grade level also had a class meeting with Mrs. Sowarsh and myself. The theme for class meetings this year is "Be PJHS."