

Directors' Report
CCS Board of Education Meeting, January 8, 2024

We are reviewing a compensation proposal developed by the Compensation Committee, and need to gather some additional information from Joe Aliperto before making a decision about how to move forward with the committee's ideas.

Online Program

Enrollment: Currently we are at 344 enrolled students (31:K-5, 40:6-8, 273:9-12) 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. As of today we have 4 students enrolled for the start of Semester 2, and an additional 9 students who have requested information over winter break.

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.

Osprey Wilds field trip update: We sent out a survey before break asking if there was any interest in attending. We received 20 replies saying they were interested and one more verbal response not yet in our survey information. So, we set the date for April 10-12. We have students from elementary, middle school, and high school. It should be enjoyable and interesting. Logistics and more information will be worked through in the coming weeks.

Seat Based Program

The students loved Santa's workshop! The PTO has been so very generous and supportive, including staff Christmas gifts! This is very kind and generous of them!

The LAKE foundation measured and ordered additional storage and cabinetry for the building. This has been installed over the holiday break and is amazing!

We have been working with the LAKE Foundation to enhance additional security measures. They have been monitoring more security cameras and updating our system. They have also been working on our heating and cooling system through a few different vendors. One of our maintenance men, Bud Roberts, has been incredibly helpful and instrumental in assisting with this process. Jennifer Miller and Will Lyke have also spent hours over the Holiday Break to assist with the process.

We are also embarking in the process of what the roundabout addition in Crosslake will look like for the school and its functional operation. This week, I had a meeting with the LAKE Foundation, the Crow Wing County Engineer, and the design and development group. This may affect us quite a bit with our deliveries as well as the parent/guardian and bus pick up and drop off.

Due to the intensity of some student behaviors, we are trying to redo the student lunch bunch groups and do more very direct teaching of our social skills and utilize the Social Worker even more. We have an all-school first Wednesday celebration scheduled for the first day of school after break. We will be reviewing the THINK motto of when to speak and show kindness as well as pointedly instruct students. Each student will be making a bracelet with the letters THINK on them that they will be able to keep.

These behaviors are also leading some middle school students to inquire about new schools including our online program. While we totally believe that families should receive the most appropriate education they believe is necessary, we also want to equip students with grit and tenacity to work through the hard things. Despite the talk, our enrollment remains steady.