

Pana Junior High
Report to the Board of Education
December 2015

Enrollment and Attendance (11/17/2015-12/17/2015)

6th Grade: 92 students @ 95.99%

7th Grade: 87 students @ 95.13%

8th Grade: 91 students @ 93.26%

PJHS: 270 students @ 94.80%

PJHS Band students performed at a holiday concert at PHS on December 11.

PJHS Chorus students performed at a holiday concert at PJHS on December 15.

PJHS Band students travelled to various retirement homes in Pana to play and carol for residents on December 17.

The PJHS Book Club/Community Outreach groups had their final visit of 2015 to Hickory Estates on December 17.

PJHS will collect Chromebooks from students for safekeeping over the Christmas Break on December 18.

Various door decorating to get everyone in the holiday spirit has been going on throughout the building.

Christine Feller from the High Tech Crimes Bureau and the Illinois Attorney General's Office provided our students with Internet Safety tips and thoughts on December 17.

I have been very pleased with how well PJHS staff has developed their Pre-Assessments for the upcoming second semester SLO pilot. Staff created thoughtful and meaningful assessments designed with rigor to challenge our students.

PJHS is assisting students with a June trip to Washington DC. Rosily Schutt, Susan Ade, and Ellen Beyers are coordinating a trip through World Strides. There has been good interest and the itinerary is full. Exposing our students to various museums, monuments, Arlington National Cemetery, and the White House at a reasonable, all-inclusive rate is our goal. This is not a school trip. It is being facilitated through the school. Many staff, including myself, are planning to go on the trip with our students. We are currently coordinating some fund raising activities for the students and making sure parents and students meet registration deadlines. A further update on this trip will come as details and numbers become more finalized.

At the present time, 7th and 8th grade boys basketball squads are just past the midpoint of their seasons, 7th and 8th grade girls have begun volleyball practices, 6th grade boys have started basketball, and 6th grade girls have begun volleyball practices.

Kudos to our art students and Ms. Henkel who continue to fill display cases with fantastic artwork.

Chris Boston from the ROE has been working with students out of Wellness classes with the Too Cool For Drugs program that encourages kids to make good choices when confronted with tough options.

I want to again recognize Jessie Miller for all her work in coordinating our 1:1 program. Whether it be checking in or out devices, following up on potential problems with devices and student use, helping students and staff with creating

presentations, or just generally being a cheerleader for the use of tech in classes...her efforts are vital to staff and students.

Work to begin PARCC preparations have begun. The work of Judy Scherzer and Dara Thompson at the unit is invaluable in these preliminary stages and throughout. The coordination of building schedules for testing, accommodations for IEPed students, and when we will test have begun. March and April will be our primary testing times at Lincoln, PJHS, and PHS. Still no concrete word on Science as a tested area, but...

Jessie Miller and Scott Savage will also be invaluable staff in getting the coordination of the testing done as well.

Please make sure you check the Pana CUSD 8 Facebook and Twitter pages for updates on all things PJHS.

PJHS did host a 8-3A Girls Basketball Regional in late November/early December. Teutopolis won the Regional and went on to finish 3rd in the class at the State Tournament. PJHS will be hosting an upcoming Boys Basketball 8-3A Regional. PJHS will also be submitting a cd from our 7th/8th band for consideration of them playing at an upcoming IESA State Tournament series tournament.

PJHS will conduct WINTER sweeps for AIMSWeb on January 5. Staff will be giving SLO Pre-Assessments in early January. MAP Winter Benchmarking will take place around the 3rd week of January.

I hope everyone on our Board of Education enjoys family and the reason for the season as we celebrate Christmas and the upcoming New Year.

PARCC 2015 NOTES:

<http://www.illinoisreportcard.com/District.aspx?source=Trends&source2=Parcc&Districtid=03011008026>

Online scores vs. Paper/Pencil Scores

All of the students we had test, tested online for the first time. Chromebooks and Thin Clients/Desktops were used at the three buildings tested. Technology related issues were addressed and when necessary, reported to Pearson.

Scores earned by our students in 2015 will be a baseline for comparison moving forward to 2016.

Test scores are broken into three categories: ELA, MATH, and COMPOSITE (combined ELA and MATH)

Within the scores there are 5 levels of proficiency: EXCEEDED, MET, APPROACHED, PARTIALLY MET, DID NOT MEET.

Our district and school focus is on our scores and working with staff and students to increase the percentage of students in the EXCEEDED and MET categories and decreasing the number of students in the APPROACHED, PARTIALLY MET, and DID NOT MEET categories.

Since the PARCC assessments are based solely on Common Core Standards, district curriculum focus remains on gathering and using data on these standards for instruction and student learning.

Parents will be receiving score reports for their child(ren) around the time of the issuance of their 2nd quarter report cards. An additional copy of their scores will be maintained in their cumulative folders.