

Superintendent Report for Meeting

Aaron Rex

12/14/21

- I want to congratulate all of our students and staff members who have been involved in the recent musical performances of our high school band and choir and our elementary students. We even had the privilege of having Harmony in Motion perform at the Administration Building.
- Last week I had the honor of speaking at the Student Advisory Council meeting at the high school. This is a great student organization intending to bring about awareness and positive change in our schools and the community. This was an excellent idea and the student leaders are doing a great job!
- Congratulations to both of our high school academic teams for being tournament champions! The JV and Varsity represented us well, defeating schools from all over the area to be recognized as the top school in academic excellence!
- Christmas break will start on Friday, December 17. It will be a well-deserved break for our students and staff members. I want to wish all of our families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
- As you know our board and administration was able to tour the elementary schools to see our reading and phonics instruction in the classroom. I was very proud of what we were able to witness and it makes me proud to be part of an educational institution that cares about student learning, from the classroom to the leaders on our School Board.

Board Report
December 2021

- Completed all the necessary reports for the state football tournaments
- Mr. Rex, Mr. Minnig, and Mr. Selvey have presented an idea to look at updating and remodeling the Large Group Room and the Library at the high school. The goal is to make them more of a learning center and more small group instructional places for teachers to utilize. A facilities meeting will need to be called once the wish list is finalized.
- I did have Laura Little from Garmann and Miller come by to walk through the space and present first thoughts.
- Normal..routine.. road checks
- Worked with the maintenance..prepping for the upcoming winter. Ice melt delivered.. salt available at the county, and the garage is ready for winter vehicles.
- Dealt with a small bus accident. Driver scraped a parked vehicle. No injuries..all parents called. Driver was cited.
- Held an LMC meeting. Discussed unfilled extra bus trips and unfilled custodial overtime. It was agreed, if spots are unfilled, work can be assigned..Language will be developed and sent out to WCA.
- Met with a sign company to look at an electronic sign for Wapakoneta Elementary School.

Have a Merry Christmas and a great new year.

12/14/2021

-TESTING-

We are in the middle of MAP, DIBELS and Diagnostic testing. We also anticipate that the results of the Third Grade State Tests will be returned to us soon. Next month I will share some data with you.

The guidance department at WHS is in the midst of completing a round of End of Course Exams for the students that need to pass some of the tests to graduate.

-PRESCHOOL-

Our new classroom is up and running! The class is full. This week we also had three more referrals that we will begin working on. Those three children have not been placed in classes.

-READING INITIATIVE-

We've met as a K-4 group with grade level reps along with elementary and middle Principals to discuss how phonics is going as a whole group intervention/instruction. We spent the majority of our time together discussing how to better report progress and achievement to parents. At the K-2 level, we will move toward using the weekly phonics to help guide instruction, create groups, and determine if students move onto the next concept. Words will not be sent home as this encourages words to be memorized not application of the phonics skills. Weekly assessments are not graded as students are still practicing and practice shouldn't be graded. The Orton Gillingham Benchmark Assessments will be given at the beginning of the year, middle of the year, and end of the year to share information with parents.

At the 3-4 level students will be assessed using word sorts, dictation sentences and orally reading words as skills are finished. It was also discussed that the 95% group interventions may not be enough for 3rd grade. I anticipate using OG through Third Grade beginning next year.

All of the teachers and tutors working with the 95% Group interventions in grades 3-10 also met as a group this week. At that meeting we discussed how to begin to include progress monitoring assessments to give us a direction for supporting students who are not progressing like other students. We also solidified a plan to ensure that all of the intervention data and notes were entered into Data Map.

HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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Wapakoneta Virtual School Grades 8-12

- All first semester virtual school classes must be completed on January 13th.
- We will continue to make communication a priority with our students. Every student will receive an email with a video attached explaining the expectations and how to navigate the program.
- We continue to contact parents to update them about their child's progress and grades. Parents have the ability to receive a weekly progress report if they provided us an email address.
- Our guidance department receives weekly progress updates on all virtual school students and has been active in communicating with families.

12-14-2021

Wapakoneta High School Board Report:

This past week our teachers participated in Learning Walks. Each teacher took the time to observe several other teachers teaching in their classroom. This is the second time this year that we have done this and many of our teachers have learned a lot from each other. We have fantastic teachers in our building and it only makes sense that they get out and see each other in action.

Officers Eisert and Clark led our students through ALICE training this past week. During this training they explained what to do in the case of an active shooter in the building. Our students also had the opportunity to ask questions to ensure their understanding. We are planning to do a full scale drill on December 14 to put our knowledge into practice. We always pray and hope that we never have to use this, but we also know that we must be prepared.

Finally, we have semester exams on December 16 & 17. Our staff and students have been working hard to prepare for these assessments. I know it is always a relief for our students once they are over.

Scott Minnig
Principal

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Middle School
December 14, 2021

Building Updates:

Measures of Annual Progress (MAP): Currently we are completing our Winter MAP testing. Students will complete this individualized and computerized student assessment that is aligned to state standards. Before taking the test, students look at their past scores and set a goal for a new score. Students use the test to instantly reinforce their work and growth. Teachers will use this test to identify which students are on grade level, which students are growing, and which students are not. They can then plan their instruction accordingly. The January report will provide insight into the results of these whole grade assessments.

Students Shine at WMS Christmas Concert: The Wapakoneta Middle School Choirs performed their Christmas concert December 7, 2021. The show began by featuring the Nothing But Treble show choir performing two positive, uplifting songs choreographed by WHS senior Jordyn Nuss. The sixth grade choir then performed with heartfelt enthusiasm and energy, ending their portion of the concert with Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah." The seventh grade took the stage and sang with great enthusiasm and intense focus while performing familiar holiday carols and a thoughtful, encouraging lyrical selection. Parents and families listened attentively while the performers were singing.

6th Grade Sells Candy Canes to Help Less Fortunate: WMS students just finished their annual candy cane fundraiser. They advertise, sell, and distribute candy canes. The proceeds from this sale are used to buy presents for families in the community. Thanks to all the sixth grade teachers for providing this excellent learning experience for our students and strengthening their understanding of community service!

December 2021 Report to the Board of Education

Staff and Student Thank You: We want to thank all of our students and staff members who helped to support local families this holiday season. Their generosity is quite evident, as in December alone:

- We have had staff members organize the WEA Christmas Cheer program in our building. They have donated money to the cause and enjoyed wearing Christmas apparel each Wednesday of the month. Our winner even donated the earnings back to the program!
- We have had staff members participate in "adopting" families and purchasing Christmas gifts for these families, in conjunction with the Auglaize County Job and Family Services.
- We have had staff members help to coordinate and participate in donating gifts for our students and for their families.

We are very grateful for the generosity of our students and our staff this holiday season!

PTO Thank You: We want to thank our PTO committee members and our volunteers for sponsoring two wonderful programs this December:

- Christmas Classroom Parties: Although we could not have visitors for these parties, our PTO members were able to find volunteers to sponsor the games, crafts, and activities that were held in the classrooms with our students. Our PTO committee also provided snacks for our students to enjoy at their parties.
- The 12 Days of Christmas Classroom Giveaway: New this year, our PTO, along with the help of local businesses and families, donated enough prizes so they could gift each classroom with an indoor recess game or activity to enjoy during these winter months.

We are extremely grateful for the generosity of our PTO!

BOE and Administration Thank You: We want to thank our BOE and Administration for their support as we move through our 5 year district plan for reading. We truly appreciate the interest everyone has shown in being a part of our plan. We are grateful to have a BOE and an administrative staff that truly supports teacher instruction and student learning. Thank you for your time and commitment to our district!

Our Wish to You: We want to wish each one of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Cridersville Elementary Board Report 12/14/2021

Cridersville Elementary held a family math night on December 2. During this event, students were able to travel the decorated hallways and visit nearly every classroom to perform or compete in tasks related to math. In addition to doing math activities, students and families were able to sit upon Santa's lap and tell him their holiday wishes. This is typically our most attended event of the year. This year the line for Santa was over 45 minutes long and we had approximately 500 people in the building. The tradition continues of Santa telling me about some students' wishes at the conclusion of the evening. We should all be proud and honored to be a part of this school district where children with nothing but a few pairs of pants, a couple of shirts, and very few toys ask Santa to help or give toys to kids that have nothing. We continue to build relationships with others and build in them the idea that helping others is more important than our own self net-worth.

On December 9, Mrs. Dildine and her superb cast of musical support held our first 4th grade Christmas concert at CES. Mr. Rex was KIND enough to play the role of Santa Claus and participate in the program. The gym was full and the students did an amazing job singing, dancing, and playing instruments.

The Winter benchmark of testing for all students at CES will come to a close as of the 15th. I am personally excited to see the growth and projections of future growth based on the data gathered in the next few weeks. Teachers are happy and students are still energetic about the reading intervention program being implemented. In my next board report, I hope to give specifics in regards to grade level data.

On December 16, students that were top sellers in the school fundraiser will be taking a limo to lunch at Astro Lanes. Mr. VanMeter will have ready for them pizza and drinks. Because of the large number of participants, it will take four trips for every student to ride in the limo. Thank you goes to the PTO for putting on such a great fundraiser.

We would like to thank the efforts of our PTO for providing the students an opportunity to shop for Christmas presents for family members. This is one of the ways that we teach students that giving to others is more important than receiving. The PTO purchased items that could be given to any family member. Students walked through and made their selections and it only cost them \$1 for each item. It is great to see the thought process for most of them as they try to give the most special gift they can find.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each of you from me. I pray that you all spend a great deal of time with family and are able to enjoy their presence.

ATHLETICS
12/14/21

- W- The boys basketball team is off to a 3-0 start to the season!
- W- The wrestling team won the McCracken Sidney Invitational, which was their first tournament of the season!
- W- Both the boys and girls bowling teams are off to undefeated starts to their seasons!