

# Elementary School Board Report

Heather Friday, PK-8 Principal

January 11, 2021

## ***Pittsville School District's Vision and Mission:***

Our Vision: Expecting Excellence and Innovation, Honoring Legacy, and Embracing Partnerships.

Our Mission: Expecting Excellence and Integrity from all, developing Innovative students, strengthened through Partnerships with parents and the community.

## **Student and Staff Notable Learning**

### ***Grades 6 - 8 Band***

Grades 6 - 8 held their Band Concert, but in a different format this year. On Sunday, December 6th the students came into the auditorium to perform their grade level songs on stage. Each grade level had their scheduled time to reduce the number of students in the music room at one time. Their performances were recorded and Mr. Bertino created a video recording to share with families. A special *thank you* to the high school students who helped play instruments along with our middle school students in order to help make their performance complete. Thank you to Mr. Bertino for directing the band concert and for continuing to grow our students in the area of music.

### ***Specific Grade Level Information From Mr. Bertino:***

The 6th Grade Band performed their first real sheet music song! At their first and only concert last year, the 6th graders played short, 10 measure songs. Now, they are expanding their experience by performing 50-60 measure songs. The main focus of the 6th Grade concert was to teach the band members how to count independently, listen to each other, and watch the conductor in order to play together.

The 7th Grade Band students were exploring articulations. The main articulations they used were staccatos (short and separated notes) and accents (weighted notes). In rehearsals, the students were able to grasp this idea easily. Students discussed what it would be like if people did not articulate while they were in conversation with others. The class agreed that conversations would be dull, robotic, or boring without inflection and articulation.

The 8th Grade Band students worked on challenging 1/8 note rhythms that highlighted a call and response theme throughout their piece. These rhythms were passed back and forth between different sections of instruments to create one sound for our audience. On top of that, the 8th Grade Band members are diving into building a rich, balanced tone quality to improve the overall sound of the band. They do this by tuning wind instruments before rehearsals and concerts.

### ***Choir and Singing Performances***

Ms. Schirger worked with Grades K - 8 to record their performances as well. This was done during the school day so parents would not have to bring their child / children in at a different time. Each

grade level performed their songs together and they were recorded. A special thank you to Ms. Schirger for putting videos together for families.

#### ***4K Winter Performance and Other Learning***

A special thank you to Mrs. Frericks, Mr. Sanken, and Mrs. Scholzen for organizing and recording our 4K singers! 4K students are learning words that start with different letters. When I was visiting, they were learning about the Letter J. They have their special words they read with Mr. Sanken from the chart. Students are very excited to be learning about letters and sounds.

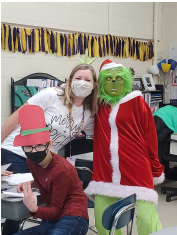
#### ***Mobile Mind - Optional Professional Development***

Mobile Mind is our district's optional way of receiving professional development on Google and its features. Each session is about 5 minutes with a small assessment at the end to show evidence of learning. Ms. Molitor has completed 111 sessions, Ms. Blaser has completed 106 sessions, and Ms. Raygo has completed 105 sessions! Congratulations to these staff members for continuing to grow!

#### **Innovation and Recognition**

##### ***Making Spirits Bright***

It is always a goal to create a school culture of learning with the idea that school is fun! During the holidays, our staff certainly brought to life the magic spirit of the holidays. There are four elves who visit classrooms during the night and they leave messes everywhere. Those elves seem to visit the office at least one time during the holiday season too! It is truly magical to see the excitement in the students and teachers find creative ways to integrate learning into the visits! For example, students write about their visit from the elves. To add to the excitement, the Grinch and the Elf on the Shelf made appearances during the month of December too.



#### **Looking Ahead**

##### ***Schedule Changes Starting January 18, 2021***

With all the students in Grades 6 - 8 returning to 5 days / week learning, changes needed to be made to the elective / special schedule. Grades 6 specials will remain the same. Grades 7 and 8 have changes that will impact students' schedules. 7th Grade: students who are currently in band and choir will remain in those music electives. Other classes in 7th grade are: Strength Training, Art, Mythology, and Personal Development. 8th Grade: students who are currently in band and choir will remain in those music electives. Other classes in 8th grade are: Programming, Sports Literature, and Communication (8th Grade had Art 1st semester). All students will participate in Programming and Communication (quarterly classes). Students will participate in each of these classes 2 days a week, with a structured study hall on Wednesdays. A special thank you to Karen Garrels and Ashley Raygo for collaborating on the revised schedule.

### ***Summer School Planning Begins***

Mary Lou Masanz, Summer School Administrative Assistant, and I have started planning for Summer School. Due to construction at the Elementary School, all Summer School classes will be held in the High School this year. We are planning for 6 weeks of Summer School starting Monday, June 7th. Classes will be held from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Monday through Thursday. There will be no classes the week of July 5th. Teachers will begin creating classes soon!