

Administrative Bulletin to Board Members May 13, 2016

High School / Elementary Principal

FFA Officer Interviews

Along with Mrs. Keebaugh, Mr. Lynch and Jill Palmer, I participated in the FFA Officer interviews for the 2016-2017 school year. There were six students that were interviewing for seven positions. All of the students presented themselves with poise and answered the questions with professionalism. The committee gave the FFA Advisor our recommendation as to how to fill the positions for the upcoming school year.

National Merit Scholar

I am happy to announce that Christina Bright (the student representative to the board) has been awarded a National Merit Scholarship. This is a HUGE honor and is rare to occur. Christina is the first National Merit Scholar in recent history from Southern Fulton School District. This honor will give her a full academic scholarship to West Virginia University to pursue her career in the engineering field. This award is based on GPA, rigor of courses, extra-curricular activities and PSAT scores.

USA Today, Best High Schools in America, Bronze Winner

This is the fifth consecutive year under my leadership that the Southern Fulton High School has been awarded the Bronze medal according to the USA Today, Best High Schools in America. Again, this is a huge accomplishment for our school. Those awards are based on achievement level of students, graduation rate, attendance, AP offerings, highly qualified status of instructors along with the special education ratio, low income students and ESL students.

24 Challenge

The Southern Fulton School District swept the 24 Challenge competition (Math) at the IU winning the top 3 slots of the day. There were teams from the elementary and high school.

K-NEX

If you recall, several weeks ago, Southern Fulton students attended a K-NEX challenge (STEM) that was held at the IU. One of the junior high teams won the competition that qualified them for the state competition. The following students will be participating at the state K-NEX competition in Harrisburg today: Ava Hull, Rachel Bradshaw, Aliah Iden, Cheyenne Risbon.

Facilities Manager Report

The boy's baseball scoreboard is now working. It will now work with either the new direct wire controller or the existing wireless controller that had been upgraded. We will complete the girls' softball scoreboard as soon as the weather permits.

Hillyard was here Monday to assist and instruct us in prepping the gym floor for paint and finish. Miller repainted the burgundy and white while touching up the black colors on the floor

on Tuesday and Wednesday. Hillyard will be returning next Monday to re-prepare the floor and assist in giving the floor a coat of finish. If time and the situation would call for a second coat of finish I would like to apply the second coat. I personally don't think one coat is enough; the second coat will call for another prep and recoat meaning additional drying time and work. Seems some contractors want to get in and out in the same day and we are left with what we have. For those of you who don't know who Hillyard is, they are the company that we purchase our custodial supplies from. They are not charging us for this service as we are purchasing their product and I am the new boy on the block and need to be trained.

The folks from CSESI are coming May 26th to install two control boards, one controls the intercom system and the other controls the phones in the classrooms which will need to be reprogrammed. They have been loaning us two used boards while we decide what we wanted to do with the existing system. A new system would cost about \$15,000.00. I had already replaced the relay board in the Simplex bell schedule system that was not working and I found a company who rebuilt the existing boards for \$900.00 as CSESI couldn't fix nor did they know where to get the boards repaired. Hope all goes well.

Technology Specialist Report

Emma K Doub Elementary School Visit

On Friday May 6th myself, Mrs. Hendershot, and various people from other schools and IUs went to the Emma K Doub Elementary School in Hagerstown, MD. They are an Apple distinguished school. The reason for this visit was to see how they are implementing their one-to-one program whereby every student gets a device that is connected to the Internet. More details on this visit will be forthcoming but they rely heavily on QR Codes and an app called Aurasma. QR codes are those blocks of black images on white paper that you see on things like lottery tickets. They are an advanced version of bar codes in that they hold more information. For education, QR codes are usually scanned by a tablet or smart phone via their camera that then takes the person directly to a web site.

eRate Form 471 Submission

I submitted eRate Form 471 for the 2016-2017 school year. This form is used to specify the vendor for our telecommunications services and our monthly costs. I submitted this for our basic and long distance telephone service. If approved, we will get approximately \$3,000 back from eRate. They are phasing out rebates for this service so for 2016-2017 we are only eligible for a rebate of 30% of our yearly cost.

The cost for our Internet service and fiber line between the elementary school and high school is covered by the IU's eRate forms. The cost we pay per month is the cost after they've received their eRate discount.

Act 129 – Power Saver Grant

As part of Act 129 which is a grant to help schools conserve power, I have installed power management software on various computers in the district. The program, provided free from the grant, allows me to set a time to have these computers automatically shut down/turn off. Currently, it is installed on student computers and set to turn off computers at 3:30pm each day.

Keystone Exams

To help with the Keystone exams, I'm installing the DRC testing program onto various newer laptops from the elementary school. When installing, the program needs to be configured differently since the laptops will be using at the high school.

I will also be checking our TSM server to see if any updates are needed. When the DRC testing program is opened, it contacts the TSM server and any updates to content (i.e., test questions) are then downloaded to the computer. When a student submits an answer to a question, that response goes directly to DRC. If there is a glitch somewhere, that response goes to the TSM server instead and when the glitch is cleared up, the response gets sent to DRC. This way, the student is not interrupted waiting for a response from one question to be sent to DRC. The TSM server is one of our existing servers with a special DRC program installed.

There is a requirement that any remote control program on a computer being used for Keystone exams be disabled. Ms. Booth uses a program called Visions to control her student computers and to be able to "send" her screen image to all student computers. I wrote a little program that will get run every time a student logs onto a computer that will disable that kind of program.

High School Dean of Student Report

Our budding AP Program continued this week with the Biology and Statistics Exams. The students worked very hard, and are anxiously awaiting their scores.

Our students competed in the 24 Challenge at Juanita College. Southern Fulton students took first and second place at this major competition.

The seniors travelled to Washington, DC for the annual Semper Fi trip. We are very grateful to the Szwydek family for their continued support and sponsorship of this trip.