

Central Middle School PTO Meeting
6th Grade Welcome
May 11, 2018
Media Center, CMS

1. Call to Order:
 - Kelly Hopper called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM

2. Roll Call/Welcome:
 - The following PTO members were present: Kelly Hopper, Katie Cole, Carrie Van Beusekom, Kerri Howard and Amy Strezo.

3. Vote to Approve November Meeting Minutes and Agenda.
 - Kelly Hopper made a motion to approve the March meeting minutes as well as today's agenda. Amy Strezo seconded the motion.

PTO Business:

- CMS PTO is very different from the elementary schools. There are fewer events throughout the year, and fewer volunteer opportunities. However, the PTO does need parent volunteers many times throughout the year, the volunteer opportunities are communicated to parents via email.
- There is one fundraiser at the beginning of the year. This year, the fundraiser brought in about \$15,000 in profit. Next year, the fundraiser will be changing format. Will be moving to a fund drive done via email instead of having kids go door to door and sell products. This type of fundraiser has been implemented in neighboring school districts with major success. Kids will be rewarded with prizes for their varying levels of participation. More information to come at the beginning of the school year.
- CMS also has a school store, which requires daily volunteers. School store is open during lunch hours and parents volunteer for one day a month to open and run the store. Sign up sheet was passed around to either sign up for a recurring day of the month or as a substitute. Sign ups taken today are on a tentative basis as current volunteers are given the option to keep their spot for next year or give it up.
- PTO funds are used to fund the annual PTO budget which helps pay for various things such as staff appreciation lunches, 7th and 8th grade field trips, 8th grade end of year party, 7th grade picnic, and other yearly expenses. Any money raised from the fall fundraiser that goes beyond what the annual budget requires is used for "Teacher Grants" which are grant requests teachers write to benefit their classrooms. This year the PTO gave out around \$9600 in teacher grants! Examples are: counseling department yoga mats and other tools to help students when they come to the counselors, 8th grade English department reading space/reading environment creation, exercise bikes for the PT department, gift

card prizes for the Math and Reading Academies, gift card prizes for Eagle Pride Ticket recipients, etc.

Nathan Swanson, Principal, Central Middle School

- Nate discussed the district mission statement to “Inspire each student to learn continuously so they are empowered to reach personal fulfillment and contribute purposely to our ever changing world.”
- Transition to middle school is a big one, most students have spent the same 7 years in one building and now come to CMS where they will spend two years with multiple different teachers.
- CMS tries very hard to make such a big school seem smaller. This is done by having “teams” for both 7th and 8th grades. Each team (which is assigned a color name) has about 150-180 students within it. Within that color/team there is a core group of teachers assigned to those students. The kids in the same color will have lockers in similar spots, they share similar lunch times and their classrooms are located somewhat in the same area. This allows teachers to really get to know their students throughout the school year. Also, students have an advisor period every morning to start the day. These advisor periods have around 25 children in them and meet every single day of the school year.
- Nate introduced Rich Larson, Associate Principal; Connie Ewing, Activities Coordinator; Kristine Myers, Dean of Students; Randy Thomson, Guidance Counselor and Kelly Hopper, PTO President.
- Nate outlined the four areas that CMS really focuses on while students are here.
 - POWER Binder – this is a system that helps kids learn organization skills and stay organized throughout their CMS experience.
 - Focused note taking – by using the Cornell Note system kids are instructed how to take in almost every subject. Kids then interact with their notes by writing questions about them, summarizing them and referring back to them while studying for tests. Data shows these interactive notes result in higher levels of material retention.
 - Critical Reading Strategies – This focus area helps kids not only become better readers but become more critical readers, strategies taught throughout each subject helps students retain more information and achieve subject mastery.
 - 4 C’s – communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity. These areas are very important for students to learn and need to be actively measured. Staff has worked very hard on communication and collaboration and will continue to work to teach children critical thinking and creativity as well.
- Naviance program – this is a quarterly system that is used to set not only academic goals for children but to set personal goals as well. Students check in to see where they are at with achieving these goals every quarter. This system is used within the district from 7th grade all the way through 9th grade.

Randy Thompson, Counselor, CMS

- There are four counselors on staff at CMS 2 for 7th grade and 2 for 8th grade. The grade level counselors transition from 7th to 8th with the kids in order to keep kids with a familiar face throughout their middle school experience.
- Counselors are here to help kids through every aspect of their transition into middle school and their transition out of middle school.

Rich Larson, Associate Principal, CMS

- #CMSWay – Be Safe, Be Responsible and Be Kind. Behavior expectations are clearly defined and then taught throughout the school year. This is done using the PBIS (positive behavior intervention system) which uses a matrix to explain expected behaviors in various areas, then demonstrating what these behaviors actually look like, then rewarding students when they model these behaviors.
- Matrix and funny videos are rolled out in the advisor period and teachers/staff then give out Eagle Pride tickets to students when the students exhibit appropriate behaviors. It is a positive form of recognition for the students. Then on Fridays, all the Eagle Pride tickets are entered into a drawing. Names are drawn and those students come to the office to select a prize (gift cards to various locations around EP). Students are super excited about this and it has been a big success so far.
- CMS is very intentional about the culture within the building. The Be Safe, Be Responsible and Be Kind theme is seen in the CMSWay song, the Monday videos and other areas throughout the school.

Lindsay Klaverkamp, 8th Grade Social Studies Teacher

- Lindsay submitted a grant request to FEPS (Foundation for Eden Prairie Schools) and was able to secure Google Expedition hand held viewing portals. Students use these to take virtual field trips throughout the world. Today Lindsay demonstrated a tour of Machu Picchu and a college campus tour. This is an incredibly hands on experience that students are enjoying. The Google Expeditions are also used in science for a tour of the inside of a human body as well as recently in the English department during a Romeo and Juliet unit.

Nate then offered tours of the school to interested parents.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:07 AM.

Next meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 14, 2018.