

Principal Updates – 2-5-21

Congratulations to Senior Support Specialist, Rhonda Furr on her promotion as Lead Secretary for the district's Positive School Culture Office. While at SCPA, Ms. Furr served as the secretary for Assistant Principal's Ms. Brown and Mr. Copenhaver. Her last day at SCPA will be February 18th. Interviews are taking place currently for her replacement.

We are transitioning back to blended in-person learning. I am aware of how this transition back to in-person learning has created additional stress and anxiety for our families and students. Unfortunately, SCPA does not have the capacity or technology to effectively support a full remote model for students. That being said, families who wish to remain remote 5 days a week, must enroll their student into Cincinnati Digital Academy. Tracey Wilson, School Registrar will be the point of contact for this option. Students enrolling from SCPA to CDA (Cincinnati Digital Academy) will have their "spot" held and return to SCPA for the 2021-2022 school year. **Seniors who opt to attend CDA will be allowed to graduate from SCPA.** The Preparing **BACK** to Blended Learning at SCPA Guide can be found on our school website <https://scpa.cps-k12.org/principal-updates>.

Virtual Parent Teacher Conference Night – Schedule a conference, Thursday, February 18th, 4:00 p.m. – 7 p.m. This is a great opportunity to talk about current progress.

CPS Staff Vaccinations – CPS Staff began receiving vaccinations last week. Over one third of districts employees have been vaccinated during Group A. Group B employees are receiving round one of the vaccination this week and weekend.

Graduation Requirements

- Legislation that would have potentially modified the requirements for the Class of 2021 has stalled in the Ohio General Assembly.
- **As of today, no changes have been made to high school graduation requirements for the Class of 2021.**
- Class of 2021 students are still required to meet their [credit requirements](#) AND one of the following three **graduation pathways**:
 - [Earn 18 points on the Ohio State End-of-Course Exams \(w. 4 points in Math, 4 points in ELA, and 6 points across Science and Social Studies\)](#) OR;
 - [Remediation Free Scores on the ACT or SAT](#), OR;
 - 12 Industry-recognized credential points in the same industry area + a 14 or higher on the ACT WorkKeys test
- The Class of 2021 and 2022 also **may use the [Class of 2023 Permanent Requirements](#) as an alternative route to graduation.** In this scenario, the student must have:
 - credit requirements, AND;
 - Competency scores (684 or higher) on Algebra I and ELA II*, AND;
 - *After two attempts on the Algebra I and ELA II tests, students that have not yet earned a 684 may continue to retest or may pursue alternatives to competency ([see page 11 of this ODE guide for more details](#)).
 - Two High School Diploma Seals (w. at least one of the seals being one of the 9 Ohio-defined seals- [see page 12 for more details](#)).

Our School Goals

- 1st Graders being proficient readers by the end of the school year
 - Synergy amongst the 1st Grade teachers is incredible
 - Additional staff and faculty have committed to reading to 1st graders every Friday in small group
 - 27/89 First Graders have been identified as Proficient Readers thus far. Reading Improvement Plans are in place for those who aren't proficient. In-person learning will support moving more students to proficiency.
 - Launching Leader Readers to engage Leaders from Cincinnati to join in reading a story to K-3 students (SCPA TLIM Shared Leadership Committee)
- One Years Math Growth for our African-American Subgroup
- Positive School Culture (80% minimum attendance goal; Social Emotional Wellness for staff and students). We are working with our PSC Committee and Wellness Partners – Children's Home and IN5.
- Graduation – Maintaining a 99%+ Graduation Rate
 - Efforts by our school support team, teachers and community partners are taking place to contact missing seniors who we deem are "critical concerns."

Congratulations to our newest members of our National Honor Society! On January 25th, our newest members were inducted during a virtual induction ceremony. Plans are to conduct a spring induction ceremony to welcome juniors and seniors who might have missed the winter deadline and also include our sophomore students. If you have any further questions, contact Molly Hamilton NHS Advisor, hamilmo@cpsboe.k12.oh.us.

ACT Prep & Testing (Junior Class Only) – Juniors will take part in the ACT Prep with school partner, Torch Prep. Each grouping will be divided and a full day of ACT Blitz will occur. The ACT Blitz will occur Feb. 16 & 17th for students in Group A, and Feb. 18th and 19th for students in Group B. The ACT Test will be administered in person Tuesday, February 23rd. All student accommodations have been approved.

Student Scheduling – Students who are "rising" 7th – 12th will be scheduling their elective classes online for the 2021-2022 school year in the coming months. **There will be a special scheduling link provided for students/parents, a link to our course descriptions to aid in scheduling.** The goal is to have students begin scheduling electives the week of March 15th. Parents will receive a letter showing classes to be scheduled the week of April 12th and any corrections submitted online by April 23rd.

Senior Graduation Fees – Parents of seniors will receive a letter reminding of them of the deadline to pay all outstanding fees. If you have any questions, direct them to our SCPA Treasurer, Mary (Katie) Donnelly at 513-363-8041 or donnelm@cpsboe.k12.oh.us. Graduation fee notices will be sent by the Senior Class Advisors, Mr. Gerard and Mrs. Hansen. Fees can be paid via www.payforit.net, or cash and money order. **No checks please!**

Five Year Strategic Plan – Administration has been working with a Strategic Plan Facilitator, Brett Stover on our Five Year Strategic Plan since October of 2020. We are at a stage of inviting "**Strategic Planning Advisors**" to take part in providing feedback on our identified goals. There will be approximately 30

Strategic Plan Advisors representing various school stakeholder groups (i.e. CPS Leadership, Parents, Staff & Faculty, Community Partners, Donors, Students, and Alumni). We look forward to this collaboration.

Finally, parents **thank you** for the small and big victories during these unprecedented times. It's certainly been a big lift for all of us. Do not give up! Give yourself permission to fail and pick back up again. You are our most precious partners and we depend on your support, trust and dedication. We do not take you for granted. Continue to stay present and know that we appreciate you.

Respectfully,

Principal Owens