

Parent Communications 9/12/13

Dr. Worthington, Director of Schools, and Elise Shelton, Chief Communications Officer, welcomed the new and returning parents for the school year. Dr. Worthington shared the purpose and responsibilities of parent communication group representatives. The purpose is to provide a two-way communication process for parent representatives from each school to share concerns, receive information, and obtain clarification on district initiatives. Responsibilities include listening, coming with an open mind, providing communication to parents from school represented, and gather feedback from parents regarding the monthly questions.

Elise Shelton announced that CMCSS is the recipient of a DoDEA Grant for Parent Engagement. The grant totals \$4.5 million dollars over four years. The grant allows for the creation of a new district position focused on getting parents connected, involved, and engaged. Dr. Worthington provided information pertaining to Common Core and the related expectations. Common Core overlays well with the STEM program and has increased rigor for students. Dr. Worthington updated the group on High School Academies. The Academies opened this year with a district total of 345 students. The Academies are aligned with job opportunities and student interest. Ms. Shelton stressed the importance of returning the Federally Connected forms that are sent home every fall. These forms are necessary in receiving Impact Aid funds that help replace money lost from property tax for land that is federally owned. Ms. Shelton made parents aware of an upcoming survey call related to parent involvement.

New this year, webpages have been tailored to specific student groups within the district. The parent representatives had discussion and provided feedback to help determine what should be included on the group pages. These pages are dedicated to easing the transition into CMCSS. The monthly question was discussed and feedback provided. "Do the system's mission, vision, beliefs and strategic work plan reflect what the schools should be doing to prepare students for a successful future? If not, what else should be considered?" Reminder - all parents can provide feedback to monthly questions. Parents may submit by leaving feedback in the comment box for parent communication group or submitting directly to your parent representative.