December 19, 2019

Greetings to Pine-Richland Students, Parents and the Community,

Happy holidays to all members of the PRSD community! I hope that you are able to enjoy time with family and friends over the winter vacation. In addition to the regular school day, we continue to have a wide range of activities and events across the district. Led by the high school with participation by all schools, six buses were filled with gifts and toys through the Stuff-A-Bus program. We have hundreds of students demonstrating hard work and skill through the seasonal concerts and theatre performances. The middle school hosted its annual senior citizen dinner. AFJROTC hosted a large drill competition. The forensics team is engaged in debate tournaments. The winter athletic season has already completed a month of practice and initial competitions. These diverse opportunities help promote engagement by our students, staff and community.

One of the key methods used to improve our educational program is the in-depth program review process. Representatives of the English Language Arts, Library and Music Departments are actively engaged in the study phase of this work. Within those departments, subcommittees are working to understand research, best practices and trends in each area. Interviews are being held with other exemplary schools, colleges/universities and businesses. Please look for future invitations to town hall meetings in these areas. Student and parent meetings are designed to gather input and perspective. Eventually, this work will lead to a final report and set of recommendations for continuous improvement. While the study phase is critical, implementation is the reason we engage in this strategic work. We have six departments focused on implementation (i.e., Health/PE, Science, Math, Business & Computer Science, Social Studies and Gifted Education).

As we head into the second semester, we will refocus on the four main dimensions of the PR Graduate Portrait. We know that a quality education includes more than knowledge and skills. This image reflects the four major domains: knowledge; skills; health & wellness; and personal qualities & characteristics. More importantly, the four main categories or dimensions reflect the well-rounded expectations of a quality educational experience. Each of those categories then identifies more specific elements.

Yesterday, we shared a comprehensive communication about school safety and security. That communication provides opportunities for conversation at home. If you are interested, great topics with your children would include:

- Listen and observe for concerns about a classmate or situation;
- Serve as a responsible reporter by telling a trusted adult at school or home;
- Use the available staff, Tips Line or Safe2Say Something resources;
- Reinforce appropriate technology use and digital choices.

Finally, parents are invited to a stress, anxiety and mindfulness workshop on January 14th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the Pine-Richland High School STEAM LGI. More information about this event will be sent via eBlast. Thank you for your support of the Pine-Richland School District and enjoy the holidays.

Respectfully,
Brian Miller