

11/15/21

Dear **Cardinal** Staff and Families,

Last week, we celebrated **Veterans Day** with an assembly at the 7-12 building. November 11<sup>th</sup> was proclaimed Veterans Day by Dwight D. **Eisenhower**, the 34th president of the United States and the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe during World War II. On this day, our country acknowledges veterans of all wars, and then all who once served in the U.S. military. Veterans Day is an opportunity to publicly commemorate the **contributions** of living veterans and to show **appreciation** toward them. Through song, instrument, and intentional listening, our students honored our country and learned how its past supports the present.

Presidents often find **common ground** in strong communication skills, courage to make unpopular decisions, integrity, relationship-building and uniqueness in other areas. This week's communication leans in to hear the words of two Presidents. **John Adams** stated, "Facts are stubborn things; and whatever may be our wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passions, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence." **Abraham Lincoln** shared, "I am a firm believer in the people. If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crisis. The great point is to bring them the real facts."

In honor of these presidents, I am sharing "**just the facts**" to answer a few common patron questions:

**Why are some CCSD teaching positions unfilled?**

- Due to the teacher shortage, lack of applicants, a desire for highly-qualified candidates, and plans for new offerings in other licensed areas, all open teaching positions were not automatically filled. The CCSD had one science position posted for nearly a year and was then blessed with two amazing new hires! Sometimes timing is everything.

**Why did the CCSD decide to hire for behavior positions and not for some classroom positions?**

- Behavior at school was one of the highest rated concerns on a 2018 stakeholder survey and in informal conversations over the last 2 ½ years. This concern was addressed through the BLA positions. Providing resources and focusing on specifically identified needs of the learning environment is critical. It is challenging to learn when obstacles are in the way.
- Behavior Learning Advisors (BLA) do not require a teaching license and are not included in the teacher shortage areas. Thus, the CCSD had many candidates for these open positions. And, we hired individuals with backgrounds in trauma-informed care, mental health and behavior management for this important position. Each day, our students and staff benefit from the tools these experts provide.

**Why is the CCSD spending district funds on Iowa Western Community College (IWCC) buildings?**

- The CCSD is enhancing their partnership with IWCC. Although IWCC is renovating, creating and financing a 21<sup>st</sup> Century science lab and enhanced spaces to share with the district, the CCSD is not spending any district money on these projects. As the district utilizes space, a nominal fee of utilities per square footage use will be in effect.

**When is the best time to express my appreciation for any one of the CCSD staff?**

- Anytime! However, this week is National American Education Week which celebrates public education and honors the individuals working to ensure that every student receives a quality education. Please, consider taking a moment to let school district staff know something you appreciate about their service. This small gesture might mean the world to someone in your child's life.

**How can I learn more about how vaping impacts my child and his/her learning environment within the CCSD?**

- All families and community members are invited to attend a learning experience focused on vaping. Rhonda Grebert, Page County Public Health, will be sharing the same presentation from October. Please join us in the auditorium of the 7-12 building at 5:30 for this event.

**Sincerely,**

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**#theCARDINALway**