



César Chávez Academy Middle School



February Updates

Appropriate Attire:

- Unless you have a dress down pass, you should be appropriately dressed for work and not in jeans. While I have utilized the honor system thus far, it seems that some may have taken advantage of that. Moving forward, on the day(s) in which you choose to utilize your dress pass, please bring it to me so that I can sign it.

Formal Observations:

- It's that time of year...please select and **sign-up for a time for me to come in and observe your class**. While the last formal observation lasted the entire class period, this round will likely last 30 minutes. If you would prefer I stay the entire period, please indicate that when signing up. The schedule is posted on my door.

Shout-outs:

- Please join me in thanking Mrs. Taylor and Mr. McKay for assuming the role of 6th grade and 8th grade math teachers while we continue to look for Ms. Baxter's and Ms. Gamble's replacements.

Reminders/Others:

- **PD this Friday:** Betty Menchik will be back to present information on, and help staff learn more about, the M-Step so that we are equipped to prepare our students for the upcoming state assessment. Aside from a quick overview and latest MDE updates, she will be focusing primarily on note-taking and performance tasks.
 - http://www.mi.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709_70117_70118---,00.html
 - These sites work best when opened in Google Chrome
 - You will also have some time to finish your benchmark data analysis and complete your data reports.
- **Act 18 (now FTK – follow that kid) Aides:** As a reminder, the sole responsibility for one-on-one (FTK) aides is to provide support to their assigned student. In the event that their student is not here, other duties will be assigned.
- **Math Openings:** We are still working on finding a replacement for both Math positions. If you know of anyone qualified for, and interested in, teaching 6th or 8th grade math, please send them my way.
- **NCA:** Our North Central Accreditation (NCA) renewal date is quickly approaching. On Monday, District School Improvement Team members met to review our Mission statement. We will also discuss this at our voluntary staff meeting this afternoon – thank you to those who were able to make it. We value your input and suggestions!

- Thank you to those who have taken the time to answer the many surveys and contribute to our school self-assessment. We are compiling the data and working on writing the reports. Once done, the data and results will be shared with the staff.
- Please keep the upcoming NCA visit in mind when updating bulletin boards and posting student work in the hallways. As a district, we are trying to ensure bulletin boards and student work focuses on, or is tied to, academic standards.

- **Revised Staff Handbook:** An outline of the changes made to the staff handbook has been placed in your mailbox. Please be sure to see the complete document and read it in its entirety. You will find it on the shared drive within the "staff handbook" folder.

Final Thoughts:

Thank you Mrs. Santoscoy for sharing the information obtained from the Trauma-Informed professional development session you and Mrs. Garay attended. As Mrs. Santoscoy indicated in her email, "we've had quite a rough school year. Dr. Henry talked about Secondary Traumatic Stress/Compassion Fatigue. The definition he provided was "The natural and consequent behaviors and emotions resulting from knowing about a traumatized event from a significant other, the stress from helping or wanting to help a traumatized or stressed person" (Figley, 1995). It is very understandable that many of us may be experiencing varying degrees of STS."

She also shared how the impacts of Secondary Traumatic Stress on Staff may be manifested and broke it down into the following areas:

Cognitive Effects: Negative bias, pessimism; All-or-nothing thinking; Loss of perspective and critical thinking skills; Threat focus-see students, peers, supervisor as enemy; Decreased self-monitoring

Social Impact: Reduction in collaboration; Withdrawal and loss of social support; Factionalism

Emotional Impact: Helplessness; Hopelessness; Feeling overwhelmed

Physical Impact: Headaches; Tense muscles; Stomachaches; Fatigue/sleep difficulties

I ask that we bear these things in mind when interacting with each other. At the end of the day, it's not about choosing sides...we must remember that we are all on the same side--*the kids' side!*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8	9	10	11 COUNT DAY Brown PD	12 CCA Board Mtg. 6pm @ East PBIS Event: Valentines Dance	13 PD Day No kids RESA: Brown	14
15	MID-WINTER BREAK		18 MI Testing Conf: • Aurelia • Carrillo – need sub Santoscoy out	19 Unity Day MI Testing Conf: • Aurelia Santoscoy out	20 \$1 dress down	21
22	23 ELL Pilot Study	24 ELL Pilot Study	25 RESA: • RTI	26	27 Grades due for PTC 8 th grade FT- Jewish Ensemble Theatre	28
1	2	3 PTC 3-6pm	4	5	6 PD Day WIDA assessment – select students only	7