

## **Community Update from Mr. Hlasko**

October 24, 2014

Good Friday afternoon! I hope this update finds you doing well and enjoying our warming trend into the weekend! Unfortunately, that warming trend caused quite the issue on Thursday with perhaps the second oddest fog situation I've encountered. It certainly kept us on our toes throughout the morning and, as if the fog wasn't a sufficient challenge, many of you noted that the text alerts did not work after the 2 hour delay. For those that have not heard via our webpage or subsequent text alert, some cell phone providers recognized our mass text alerts as spam and prevented the messages from being received. Our text alerts are run through our local internet cooperative (NOACSC) and all schools using this service had the same result. The NOACSC continues to work to resolve this issue with the cell phone providers. We apologize for any inconvenience. We would also urge our affected community to always double check other sources such as radio and TV, if possible.

### **Calendar**

Since we've had such a crazy weather year already and we've not yet seen snow, it might be wise to review our calendar since it technically changed from "days" to "hours" per Ohio law. To make a long story shorter and, hopefully, more understandable, we worked last year to ensure that our calendar would remain as similar as possible to the "old" version to avoid any confusion and to ensure our students received the same amount of instruction hours (above the state minimum). Per Ohio law and the Board-approved calendar we still have the equivalent of 5 "calamity days". After the 5<sup>th</sup> day we will be required to make up the time/days either on Presidents' Day, Spring Break, or at the end of the school year. We can also make up the hours in increments if the situation were dire enough (such as last year). We also have the option of "Blizzard Bags" this year to make up school days (last year was the first year we implemented this take-home/online make-up option). Finally, while the delays (both 2 and 3 hour) do technically count against our total hours for calendar purposes we are not counting them towards the 5 calamity days. This is not a change from past years. For simplicity sake, the only time 2 or 3 hour delays would cause an extension of the school year is if we encounter a year when we have to delay more than one-quarter of the school year. While it is a remote possibility, if we would reach that point we would need to look at making up hours to remain within the minimum school year. If you should have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school.

### **Bricks**

For those anxious to see the commemorative bricks, we have not yet forgotten about them, but the weather has hindered the installation. We are still aiming for installation before the last home football game, but it remains weather and time dependent.

### **School Improvement Efforts**

Our teaching staff and principals have been diligently working to improve student academic success at CR. As I've noted in previous updates, we've updated our District Plan (DLT), have implement Teacher-Based Teams (TBT), and will be working to review our curriculum in the areas of greatest need. While many other improvements are occurring, these "big-ticket" items are what will be the driving force for significant improvements. Our teachers have taken the task to heart and their efforts have been noted by the State Support Team (SST). We've been working with the SST as an outside resource to help us with our goals and were pleased to hear from them that our TBT work and DLT plan is headed in the right direction and, in fact, hold some exemplary pieces for other districts. The load on the shoulders of educators has never been an easy one and the state and federal legislature certainly has not made that load any less-challenging with constantly changing mandates. Regardless of what lies ahead we will continue to strive to improve and ensure CR students receive the best possible education.

### **Vote!**

Don't forget to get out to the polls on November 4<sup>th</sup>!