



STERLING
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Executive Director Board Report- March 2024

School News

- Academy Enrollment Update - 38 Three Year Old Spots Filled, 63 Four Year Old Spots Filled, 62 Kinder Spots Filled, 6 Kinder offers out/pending acceptance, No spots at this time 1st through 6th grade, 9 Seventh Grade Spots Filled, 2 Eighth Grade Spots Filled, 8 spots at MS still to fill – may do radio spots later this spring or back fill at LE, keeping numbers in LE classrooms at 30, instead of 26 to 28
- 561 intent to return forms were completed this year, our return rate is at 99.99% – we are still waiting on 2 additional intent to return forms. Those 2 non-responses are one 5th grader and one 6th grader, who are considering withdrawing due to not offering more HS credit math courses. We have one additional family, two additional students in this age band considering withdrawing. Which would bring our UE class head count down to 6 students. Class sizes are estimated at between 30 and 34 for next year. This is not ideal. We would like to be right at 30 in each UE classroom.
- 18 students have filled out intent to return forms indicating they will not be returning. 12 Families. Three 2nd graders, Three 3rd graders, Three 4th graders, Two 5th graders, Five 6th graders, and Two 7th graders. Six at LE. Ten at UE. Two at MS. With these numbers, no waitlist calls at LE and our LE classrooms will be at 28 students. Based on our current enrollment numbers we could back fill all of these withdrawals with sibling preference of recently accepted MS and Kinder students. We would like to hold LE numbers at 26 to 28 (due to room size) and UE numbers at 30 (ideal for model). We will know more over the summer and as we approach the start of school.
- 222 Parent Survey Responses – 40% return rate – less than last year, but still a good data set of information – visuals will be shared with the board in May
- Blood Drive was a success on March 6th

- Our Music program launched a soft set of scenes from the Montessori Musical, presenting to UE students in hopes of getting a group of excited 6th graders eager and ready to do the full production next fall

Staff News

- Directors and staff have begun to talk about next year's professional development partnership with Peaceful Schools and beyond
- Staff have been really impressed with and appreciated the new evaluation rubric – pointing out at ILT meetings how useful it is to really review the domains and see all the work they do each day. Staff have appreciated doing a self evaluation and then connecting with their Directors about the similarities and differences.
- The CH team is working on identifying professional goals for the fall now.
- LE, UE, MS, EC, and Specials will use their data from this year as a base line to begin this professional goal setting in May
- Generally the entire staff is stronger at having difficult conversations, being brave, and learning from mistakes.
- 18 staff, directors, and board members attended the national American Montessori Society Event in Orlando earlier this month. This PD opportunity was deeply appreciated by all lead guides, assistants, specialists, EC staff, and Directors
- Parent Teacher Conferences went well earlier this month

Administration News

- Staff Evaluations are in and all staff contracts will be renewed over spring break
- Staff Retention rests at 91% for the year with 9 expected departures total over the year (October to July)
- Directors are continuing to meet with Peaceful Schools and will move into more in depth conversations about how best to coach and support staff in having brave conversations between adults and among students.
- Directors are preparing for Rise Up Evening events in April (details to follow for all kinder, 3rd, and 6th grade families)
- Kinder students (am) and new MS students (pm) will be invited on to campus on Monday, April 29th
- Our 2024-2025 External Event Calendar is being drafted and will be ready to share with the parent community at our International Festival
- Carrie, Justin, Aushequa and Stephanie preparing for Alumni Events on April 28th and 29th
- PFSA continues to work in partnership with Stephanie on upcoming spring events (Garden Day, Alumni Events, International Festival, Spring Movie Night, Teacher Appreciation Week, Book Fair, Charleston Wrap Fundraiser, etc)

Facilities and Operations Update

- Dumpster rental for Garden Day is booked and ready to go
- Bus Proposal is complete and will be reviewed with the board
- We are getting a quote on a second set of solar panels to put on the roof of A building (Surplus \$154K, 2024-2025 budget)
- The Fire Marshall visited and we are awaiting her full report. She is a new Fire Marshall and was stern at the start of her walk with Todd and softened over the day. She left campus extremely impressed. We are looking forward to review any suggestions she has for next steps, but predict a high score on this report.