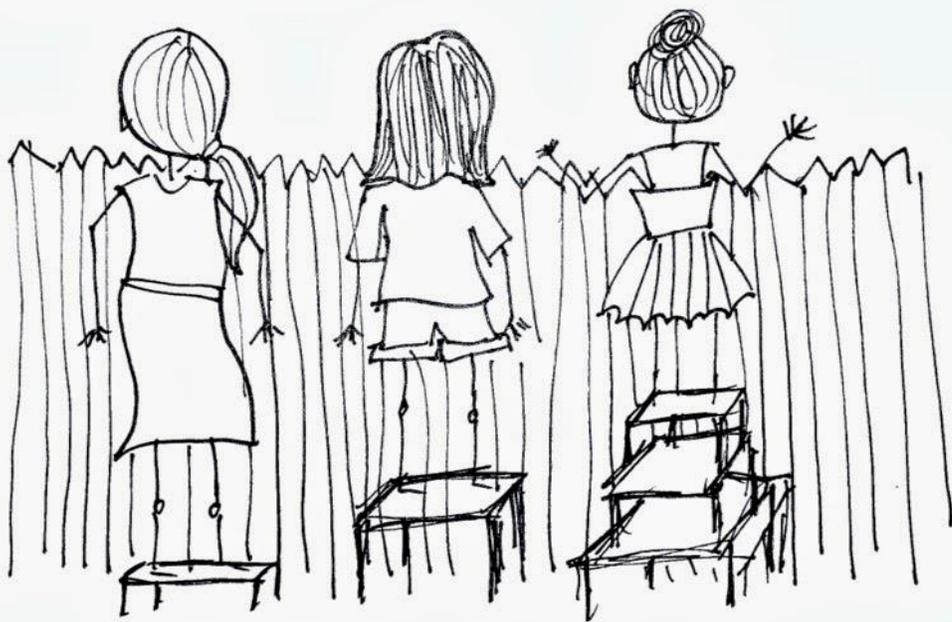


EQUITY!



Equity and Curriculum

September -
October
2016

IN THIS ISSUE

Equity and Curriculum

Welcome to the first Equity Department Newsletter. Each month we plan to highlight the happenings within our department which includes: **AVID** (Advancement Via Individual Determination) **Diversity and Inclusion**, **ELL** (English Language Learners Program), **MTSS** (Multi-Tiered Systems of Support), and **PBIS** (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports). It is also our goal to communicate resources and supports for our colleagues district-wide. We hope you enjoy our first issue and find it informative.

Diversity and Inclusion

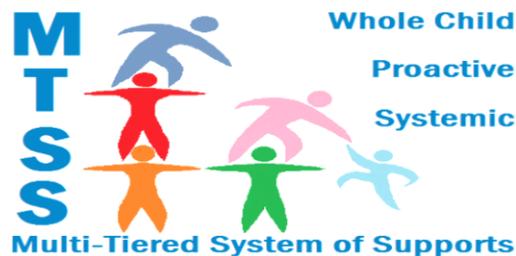
Diversity and Inclusion training took place for paraeducators, and building secretaries on September 20th. Part II of this training will take place on November 10. A full day training will take place on October 7 for all department Secretaries, Family Resource Coordinators, transportation

and technology departments. It is our goal to have every district employee undergo these sessions by the end of the 2016-17 school year. In addition, building staff will have the opportunity to participate in campus based diversity and inclusion activities to continue our journey of ensuring inclusion of all. Finally, the first Equity Steering Committee meeting will be held October 17th at 4:15 in the board office. This committee will continue the work of implementing the district strategic plan which includes many Equity initiatives.



Bilingual Education

Freeport School District 145 offers a Bilingual and ESL program for students whose first language is not English. The goal of the program is to provide support to students as they become English proficient.



MTSS

An integrated, multi-tiered system of instruction, assessment, and intervention designed to meet the achievement and behavioral health needs of ALL learners.

Bilingual / ESL Education

The Bilingual / English as a Second Language (ESL) program serves students of many language and cultural backgrounds. There are currently 8 different languages represented throughout our program.

Freeport School District 145 serves Bilingual / ESL students in grades Pre-K – 12.

Blackhawk Elementary School serves the majority of our Bilingual Spanish and ESL students in grades Pre-K – 4.

Freeport Middle School serves Bilingual and ESL students in grades 5 – 8.

Freeport High School serves Bilingual and ESL students in grades 9 – 12.

We are focused as a team to ensure that **all students have equitable access to all curriculum.** We are also focused in promoting best practices in the classroom and moving our students



forward. It has been a great start for our program and we look forward to seeing academic gains with all of our students.

Our first Bilingual / ESL parent night was held on September 21st at Blackhawk Elementary School. We discussed assessments that our students will be taking this year. We also had a curriculum walk that highlighted the curriculum that we use at all the grade levels.

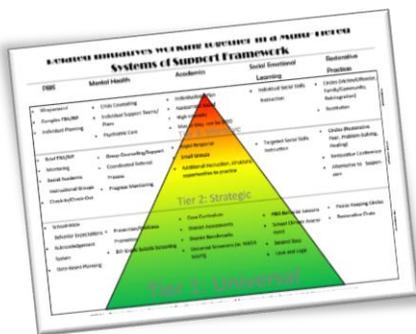
Thanks to everyone that participated

in this event. We look forward to seeing you at our next event in November. More info to come in our next issue.

PROGRAM CONTACT

If you would like additional information about the Bilingual / ESL program please contact:

IGNACIO GARZA
815-801-0115



Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)

Prior to the start of the 2016-2017 school year, progress was made to further our Multi-Tier Systems of Support (MTSS) efforts. Elementary and middle level administrators collaborated and aligned discipline processes across common grade levels. A draft form of our MTSS framework was created to help guide our review process this year and establish desired outcomes for implementation next year

With Senate Bill 100 legislation, staff are being educated on alternatives to exclusionary discipline with culturally relevant, restorative practices. Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports. An overview of restorative practices was conducted on September 20 for

secondary staff. The same overview will take place on October 7 for Elementary staff.

(PBIS) coaches have been identified at each building and will have opportunities for professional learning and collaboration throughout the school year, all in an effort to further align our behavioral expectations and support services across the district. We are currently reviewing academic interventions to be implemented during the 2017-2018 school year.

If you have any questions regarding MTSS, please contact Jessica Larson, MTSS Coordinator, at (815)801-0127 or jessica.larson@fsd145.org

AVID CONTRACT SIGNING BREAKFAST



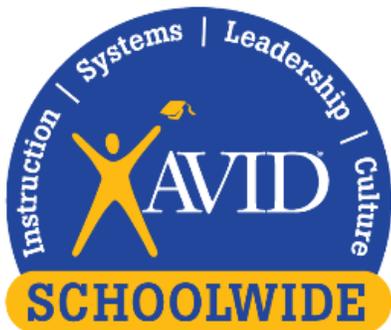
AVID CONTRACT SIGNING BREAKFAST



FAST FACTS

71%

- 71% of AVID Seniors enroll in college after high school.
- AVID is closing the achievement gap with equitable persistence among diverse groups of college students.



AVID

AVID kicked off the 2016-2017 school year with a Contract Signing Breakfast at the FMS cafeteria on Saturday, September 10th. This is an annual celebration of the start of the school year and an opportunity for families, staff and students to come together to show our support of the AVID students in FSD145. We hosted over 150 guests including over 50 AVID students and their families. This included students from all 3 buildings where AVID secondary is offered: Carl Sandburg Middle School, Freeport Middle School and Freeport High School. We also had over 20 FSD145 employees and their families. This included AVID tutors, AVID teachers, AVID site team members, building administrators, FSD145 central office staff and a school board member. The catering for the event was handled by 9 East Coffee. They supplied a fantastic breakfast buffet consisting of 4 different egg casseroles, an assortment of breakfast pastries, coffee and juice.

The morning included a brief presentation on the importance of fostering grit in our students and approaching learning with a growth mindset. The highlight of our morning was our special guest speaker, Ciarra Ardsen. Ciarra graduated from FHS in

2009 after being an AVID student from grades 7th through 12th. She later graduated from the University of Dubuque in 2014 with a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Criminal Justice/Sociology. She is currently employed in Freeport with the Voices Domestic Abuse Prevention group. After Ciarra's talk about the importance of AVID in her life and how she overcame obstacles to achieve her dreams, we raffled off many door prizes including AVID shirts, baked goods, and some miscellaneous college spirit materials donated by colleges from around the nation. We finished our morning by having our students, parents, principals, teachers, site team members and tutors all sign contracts pledging to support our AVID students as they strive to make their college dreams reality.

