FLEMING COUNTY SCHOOLS

WEEKLY LEADERSHIP CONNECTION

Friday, December 19, 2014

Principals, Happy Holidays from the Board of Education and District Office. We will resume the Weekly Leadership Connection on Friday, January 9, 2015.

Make sure to have faculty and staff sign in and out on December 22, 2014 or January 2, 2015 which ever day they work to make up for the day missed on November 17, 2014.

● **DISTRICT MESSAGE**

We are PUMPED! We are now 12 weeks away from our District Review in March. Remember, as conveyed to the Board of Education, this is our warm up to something much bigger – SACS Accreditation. In the coming weeks we will need your assistance as we finalize our information and processes for the District Review. Furthermore, we will continue to attend the faculty/staff meetings at each school in order to communicate information pertaining to district updates, our vision, and next steps.

Next semester, we are going to focus on assisting schools and teachers in post learning targets, data and goals – more importantly how to use data. Yesterday, while meeting with SMS students, the students indicated that they would very much enjoy tracking their own data – as it shows them where they are in regards to other students and classes. Additionally, data tracking encourages student buy-in which increases student achievement. A suggestion would be to perform "2 minute data drills" each day where students can plot their data, utilize their data notebooks, or review data. Plus, review the email that was sent yesterday (Thursday, December 18, 2014) pertaining to school data – as it provides excellent examples of student data usage.

Lastly, you can now follow Mr. Creasman on Twitter at **#FCSSuper** where you can receive information, snapshots of events, or even "I Gotcha Moments." Below, Mr. Bacon is seen discussing the school's PDSA with students and their involvement in the school becoming a "School of Distinction." Have you shared your school's PDSA with your students?

● **TEACHING AND LEARNING**

As we approach the end of the year, this is a good time to reflect on the past half school year. There has been a great deal of progress in Teaching and Learning with the work being done in all schools with Engage NY materials in ELA and math, as well as the curriculum work that has begun in social studies and science. As we move forward in the next half of the year, let's not forget about literacy as it touches all content areas. Keep in mind the text marking and note taking strategies adopted district-wide last January and the literacy mission statement:

Our mission in Fleming County Schools is to create a culture in which reading, writing, speaking,listening and thinking empower College and Career Readiness and life-long learning.

See Mr. Leet's great visual representation that he created during the NISL convening this week.

	● **PERSONNEL** As the first semester ends it is now time for the Personnel Department to begin thinking about the 2015-16 school year. With the uncertainty of future budgets it becomes essential for each building to evaluate all current staffing positions. It is important to know as soon as possible if your buildings will have any retirees or openings for next school year. Once this is known we must assess and evaluate these open positions to determine if they will need to be refilled. Our goal as leadership will be to have all personnel decisions made by the end of this school year heading into the summer months. The District Personnel Committee is continuing to work on a recruitment plan to use when they begin to attend college job fairs in March. We currently have two career fairs scheduled and hope to schedule two additional fairs in the upcoming weeks. Our goal is to bring the best applicants to Fleming County Schools as well as keep our current staff for years to come.
	● **TECHNOLOGY** The tech staff will be in the buildings over the break to complete some of our larger projects. We are in the process of replacing our core router to maximize available bandwidth. We will be working to ensure that our Guest wireless network is fully functional as well. Please remind everyone to shut down and turn off all technology equipment prior to leaving for the break – our energy conservation efforts have been very successful and we would like to continue that trend. Many of our students will receive electronic devices for Christmas – promoting the use of our online instructional applications (IXL, MobyMax, Khan Academy, etc.) at home is a great way to keep students academically engaged over the break.

● **EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN**

As 2014 comes to a close, it is time to reflect on where we've been, what we've done to improve, and ultimately, where we will go! I can think of many initiatives and improvements that FCS have implemented or have in the works to help moves us to that ultimate goal of becoming a District of Distinction. I know we still have several things to accomplish to move closer to that vision, but I think that we've made great gains in just a few months. With the dedication and determination of the great staff of FCS, I know we will get there!

We have many initiatives to look forward to in 2015: Pre-School in our building(s), revised/improved student intervention (RTI) system, continuous improvement at all levels, district-wide common curriculum, just to name a few! I'm looking forward to what the future holds for FCS. Thank you for all that you do to help move us along!

● **FINANCE**

Race to Excellence plans are currently being reviewed and feedback will be provided to each principal on January 2, 2015.

UPCOMING EVENTS		
▪	**Friday, January 2, 2015**	School Leadership Meeting at 9:00 am – Board Room (All Day PLC)