PTO General Meeting Minutes
Boyce Middle School PTO
September 12, 2018

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

The September 12, 2018 General Meeting of the Boyce Middle School PTO was called to order by Jennifer Schnore at 9:33AM in the Boyce Middle School LGI. Secretary Penney Miller recorded the proceedings. Twenty (20) people attended including the following executive committee members: Jennifer Schnore, Stacey Cobb, Gina Swanson, Daniel O'Rourke, Christine Mussomeli, and Penney Miller. Special guests were Chief Sean Bryson, and Amy Billerbeck.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reading & Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The agenda and May 2018 General Assembly meeting minutes were read (silently). Catherine Deep moved to approve both the agenda and minutes, and Andrea Amorose provided a second to motion. The motion carried via voice vote.

Statement of the Treasurer- Stacey Friday

Mrs. Friday provided a Treasurer's report for interval of July 1, 2018 through September 11, 2018 (see attached). Mrs. Friday reported an ending balance of PTO checking account of $36,618.54. The PTO collected $20,656 from Student Activity/Membership Fees and the Apples for Students program. PTO spent $392.97 on expenses related to the PTO Welcome Back night and new checks.

The Deer Valley account is at $6,161.31 with the only activity being interest payments of $0.53.

The Treasurer's Report will be placed on file for audit.

Correspondence- Penney Miller

- No correspondence this month

Executive Committee Reports

- President- Jennifer Schnore-Mrs. Schnore asked Mr. O'Rourke to start with his report.
- 1st Vice President- Gina Swanson-no report
- Board Advisor- Stacey Cobb-no report
- Teacher Representative- Matt Henderson
    - Mrs. Kelly Pascarella is a new ELA teacher in 6th grade and asks for book donations to start a classroom library.
    - The 6th grade science teachers need paper towel and toilet paper rolls for a science experiment. Please send any you have into school.
- 2nd Vice President- Dan O'Rourke. Mr. O'Rourke presented several items through a power point presentation (see attached copy of slides)

- Mr. O'Rourke thanked the Board and all attending for their contributions to the education of students at Boyce.
- The theme for this school year is "Educating the mind, inspiring the heart". Mr. O'Rourke hopes to encourage students to become better people by understanding their emotions and making good behavior choices.
- Mr. O'Rourke announced he was very pleased with Boyce's PSSA performance. Boyce showed an increase in all areas (see attached).
    - When asked how the results were compared with other districts, Mr. O'Rourke commented that typically Boyce compares high but he can't answer that question yet for this year because the information has not yet been released. Ms. Mussomeli pointed out comparing Boyce's scores to other schools is difficult because of the distributions of grades and number of students in USC middle schools differs from that in other districts (e.g., when comparing 5th grade scores and ranking 5th grades overall it is a challenge since some districts have up to 7 schools that have a 5th grade).
    - When asked why the scores were higher than last year, Mr. O'Rourke stated that it is a combination of many things (e.g., hard-working staff and students, analysis and tweaks to items such as curriculum, instruction, assessment, resources and/or professional development, and more). The large improvement in 6th grade math is largely due to an alignment analysis between test content and curriculum that was performed by staff last summer and adjustments that were made to better align the two.
    - When asked how it is K-5 content in other districts differs from that at Boyce (5-6), Mr. O'Rourke responded that the curriculum philosophy differs in this school district. Most districts are on a 5-7 year curriculum review cycle. In USCSD, review happens throughout each year, and curriculum changes can occur up to 2x's per year.
- Building and Infrastructure: Mr. O'Rourke seeks ways to improve the facilities to foster well-being of students and staff.
    - This summer, a physical well-being room was created for staff in a room off of the gym. The room includes weights and treadmill.
    - Floor leveling of Boyce classrooms 44, 45, and 48 was completed this summer. As of now, the floor is concrete and will remain so until the concrete passes moisture tests. Then, the concrete will be covered with flooring that is consistent with that of the other classrooms.
    - Laptop Carts. Two (2) carts holding 30 MacBooks are available now for classroom use. These carts serve as a "mobile" computer room because computer rooms were eliminated to construct maker spaces.
    - Every classroom was equipped with a new projector over the summer.
    - IPADs. 5th grade IPAD distribution is September 12. Mr. O'Rourke encouraged parents to remind their children that the IPADs are educational tools not toys, and poor choices can be caught through monitoring with

Securely. Ms. Mussomeli thanked the tech department for their work. When asked about directions for set-up of the IPAD, Mr. O'Rourke responded all would be explained clearly at the evening meeting, and technical support will be available should any problems be encountered.

- New Library Furniture. Read-a-Thon proceeds were used to purchase new library benches. Mrs. Husak chose colorful, moveable benches.

- Boyce has a new water bottle policy. Students are allowed to carry a water bottle. Mr. O'Rourke asks students to keep the bottles quiet and away from IPADs and books.
- Pride Time Clubs. Several new clubs will be implemented this year such as a Board Games club, International STEAM, Crochet, art, STEAM, and more. Staff hopes these clubs will build a sense of connectedness among the students.
- Boyce Middle School Panther Program. This program is to provide positive behavior interventions and support as well as teaching and fostering social emotional learning skills (SEL) in Boyce students. Studies have shown such programs benefit scholastic achievement. Boyce's program emphasizes five key words: BE Respectful, Responsible, Prepared, Productive, and Safe. As of this year, Boyce will be implementing an incentive program in which teachers report when a student's behavior demonstrates one or more these 5 words, and the student will receive a prize and entry for a drawing to win a bigger prize. Incentives will be articles such as USC t-shirts, socks, hats, etc. In addition, students will have lessons on positive actions and behaviors during their advisor time or Pride Time, which is scheduled on one day (out of six) of their rotation. For details, see the attached copy of Mr. O'Rourke's slides.
- School Safety Overview. Mr. O'Rourke presented the approach to school safety at Boyce. He stated his first priority is to keep students safe. The first thing he did when starting his position as Principal was to assess the safety and security of the school. Mr. O'Rourke mentioned one result of his assessment was to change the procedures for arrival and dismissal, and lock doors not being used.

  Mr. O'Rourke also stated there is a crisis team at Boyce which continuously evaluates school safety and security, conducts drills, and writes/revises emergency response plans and procedures. Mr. O'Rourke introduced Chief Sean Byson.

Special Guests

- Chief Sean Bryson provided his background. He grew up in Upper St. Clair, graduated from Pitt, and served as a dispatcher with the USCPD before serving as a police office in Arlington, VA for 20 years. He served as the Security Resource Officer (SRO) for Yorktown High School.

  Chief Bryson said an officer would soon be assigned to Boyce once the officers the district hired complete their training and review. The mission of the USCSD police force is "to support education by securing district space." Chief Bryson said he is a safety officer first, followed by being a police officer. Several experienced officers have been

hired including Tom White and Mike Belak. Officer White recently retired from Mt Lebanon Police Department after 22 years. He was a Juvenile officer and served on the Federal Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC). Officer Mike Belak served on the Mt. Lebanon Police Department for 24 years where he served as Corporal, Canine Officer (8 years), and as the lead trainer for the area SWAT team for 20 years. These officers will join full time officers Mike Banaszack and Jason Remmy. All officers will be certified and reviewed by others such as the Allegheny County Police Instructors because the USC school board authorized the officers to carry firearms in the schools. They will undergo periodic inspection and review. The district has also hired John Beadle as a part-time substitute officer to allow the other officers the ability to attend training and updates while maintain coverage. Officer Beadle served 35 years as a police officer with the USC township police department.

The USCSD Police force vision is: 1) to have one officer per school building; 2) to have an officer presence 85% of time in assigned buildings; 3) to rotate officers to ensure all officers know each building; 4) to develop relationships with students similar to those staff share with students (known as Officer Sean); and 5) to focus on safety at every level.

Chief Bryson welcomes communication from parents and his email is sbryson@uscsd.k12.pa.us

Several questions were asked by attending parents. When asked by Mrs. Waldron who monitors the school during early morning practices, Chief Bryson responded that police officers will be onsite for morning activities. He stated the hours officers will serve are: 7am – 3 pm elementary schools, 7:30 am – 4pm Middle Schools, 6:30am – 3 pm High School, and at extra events as deemed necessary.

Another parent asked if having a police officer in the schools was a new thing in Upper St. Clair. Chief responded that police presence in schools was not new and that the police have been uniformly covering every building in the district on a rotating basis during needed hours. But now, the Board has authorized to have one full time armed officer to be present in each building. The parent asked Chief to consider not having the children call officers by their first name as he was concerned this may soften respect the children have for the police. Chief said they would evaluate what would be best and not encourage disrespect.

Mrs. Friday asked what kind of training do officers have to recognize threats entering USC Schools. Chief Bryson responded that officers are trained to recognize the outward signs. Mr. O'Rourke added that he picks staff to monitor student arrivals who have broad interactions with all the students, e.g., Mr. Stocke or PE teachers, because they are typically the ones who can identify students who don't belong. Ms. Mussomeli added that in the High School, an administrative staff member stands with a security guard in the front foyer to greet students in the morning. She also mentioned that teachers are often stationed in the Nutrition Center during those times. This enables staff to make behavior pattern connections with the students and allows staff to recognize when there may be a problem. She commented that students will often tell administration when things are off.

In a final question, Mrs. Miller asked when should parents say something if they notice something of concern? Chief Bryson responded that if parents see something, they should say something. If parents notice anything, they should report out of bounds behavior. He added nothing replaces a [parent's] internal barometer.

- Following Chief Bryson's presentation, Mr. O'Rourke led a game of Pocket Potpourri to show the types of prizes that will be awarded to students through the Boyce Pride.
- School Board- Amy Billerbeck

  Mrs. Billerbeck thanked all involved with the PTO. The start of school went smoothly. There were a few transportation and personnel adjustments.

  - Dr. Rozzo is the new Superintendent and has been with USCSD for 14 years.
  - Mr. Ray Carson is the new Human Resources director for the district. He will be responsible for new hires, including replacing the position of Assistant Superintendent vacated by Mr. Rozzo.
  - Mr. Sean Bryson is the new Chief of USCSD police force. He recently assessed the security at all schools. This process was accelerated due to the Instagram posting, and he made the recommendation to hire new officers, which was approved at the August school board meeting. Mrs. Billerbeck commented the School Board is still synthesizing the information from the August meeting and will seek to implement policies addressing many of the concerns. Because of these new changes, the Board goals workshop will occur in the Fall.
  - Construction Update:
    - Boyce: The concession and restroom construction is underway.
    - High School Stadium: The high school stadium is in full use. The central office complex construction is going well.
  - Mrs. Billerbeck encouraged parents to get in touch with the School Board anytime. The school board is available.

Standing & Reporting Committees/Reporting Organizations

- Book Fair. Catherine Deep, Deonna Dreher. The book fair needs volunteers! The book fair will be held on Wednesday 9/26 and Thursday 9/27. Last chance shopping will be Friday morning (9/28). Flyers are going home next week. Online sales begin next week through October 2. Per Mr. O'Rourke's request, they will also be running the "All for Books" program. Money donated will be used by the school librarian to purchase books for the school library, and Scholastic Books will match books and send them to a school in need. Mrs. Schnore shared she would send an eAlert and post this event on the Boyce Bulletin to recruit volunteers.
- Membership. Stacey Cobb. Mrs. Cobb shared that 367 families joined the PTO.
- 2017-2018 Memory Book-Chris Furlong. The yearbook is traditionally delivered in October of the following school year in order to capture the spring event pictures. PTO is thinking of switching companies to get the memory book sooner (by year's end).

- Student Activity Fee/Binder Reminder-Erin Guarino, Kathy Ginsburg. 95% of Boyce families paid the fee and students received their binder reminders.
- Family Welcome Day-Jen Schnore
- Deer Valley Fundraiser-Stacey Cobb. Money raised by your child goes to your child's account. This year the kids will be asked to sell candles and wrapping paper. Information about the sale will be at the Open House. Candle samples will be available to smell. Candles are $10. For every candle your child sells, $4 will be deposited in your child's account. Ms. Mussomeli reminded parents that they must have their clearances to go to Deer Valley. She also added it is a great experience.
- Spirit Night-Toby Sirota and Cara Lindstrom. Spirit Nights have been scheduled at ChickFil-a for November 15, 2018 and March 20, 2019. Mrs. Sirota and Mrs. Lindstrom are filling out applications for Chipotle spirit nights as well as investigating having a spirit night at Bone Fish Grill. Mrs. Waldron recommended Mrs. Sirota speak with the spirit night committee chair at Stream's Elementary, who used Bone Fish Grill for one of their events.

New Business

- PTC Backpack Drive will be extended about a month. Please donate any extra backpacks. There will be a box in the Boyce office. Backpacks will be donated to the Langley Pittsburgh City School.
- USC Wellness Committee Green Out Game 9/17/18. USC Women's Soccer teams are hosting Green Out Games for Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month. JV game is at 6:30pm and the Varsity game is at 8:00pm. Please wear green to the game!

Next PTO Meeting

- The PTO wants to reschedule the November 7, 2018 meeting to November 14, 2018 because it conflicts with the PTC meeting. Mrs. Schnore is checking on room availability and will notify the PTO of the change

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:06AM.

Respectfully submitted by Penney Miller

Date Approved: November 14, 2018

Boyce PTO General Meeting - September 2018

Treasurer's Report

PTO Checking Account

Beginning checking cash balance as of 07/01/18: $ 15,045.51

PTO Income from 07/01/18 to 9/11/2018

$ 1,310.00	Apples for Students 7/26/2018
$18,850.00	Activity Fee/PTO Membership 9/11/2018
$ 785.00	Activity Fee/PTO Membership 9/11/2018
$ 1,021.00	Activity Fee/PTO Membership 9/11/2018

PTO Payments from 07/01/18 to 09/11/18

$ 47.77	Online Check Printing Fee
$ 265.00	Check #1230 Kona Ice for Family Welcome Day
$ 74.89	Check #1231 Jennifer Schnore for PTO Membership/Activity Fee copies
$ 5.31	Check #1232 Jennifer Schnore for copies

Total PTO checking balance as of 09/11/18: $ 36,618.54

Deer Valley Account

Beginning Money Market cash balance as of 07/01/18: $ 6,160.78

Deer Valley Income from 07/01/2018 - 9/11/2018

$ 0.27	Interest payment on 7/31/2018
$ 0.26	Interest payment on 8/31/2018

Deer Valley Payments from 07/01/2018 - 9/11/2018

No payments

Total Deer Valley Money Market Balance as of 09/11/2018: $ 6,161.31

Boyce Middle School

"Educating the mind, inspiring the heart"

Welcome Back!

BOYCE PRIDE



Celebrate Successes

USC

Customizing Learning,
Nurturing Potential...
Delivering Excellence

2017-2018 Boyce Middle School PSSA Data Overview
Proficient + Advanced

The 2017-2018 students set the stage at Boyce Middle School! The 5th and 6th graders scored higher than any previous class in both ELA and Math since the PSSA changed. Additionally, there was an increase in all four tested subjects, and this was the highest percent of students scoring advanced in all four tests! We are very proud of the students and staff!

- 5th Grade ELA - the highest percent of students scoring proficient and advanced since the test changed
- 5th Grade Math - the highest percent of students scoring proficient and advanced since the test changed
- 6th Grade ELA - the highest percent of students scoring proficient and advanced since the test changed
- 6th Grade Math - the highest percent of students scoring proficient and advanced since the test changed

2017-2018 Boyce Middle School PSSA Data Overview
Percent of Students Scoring Advanced

- 5th Grade ELA - Highest Pass Rate and Highest Advanced Rate Since the Test Changed
- 5th Grade Math - Highest Pass Rate and Highest Advanced Rate Since the Test Changed
- 6th Grade ELA - Highest Pass Rate and Highest Advanced Rate Since the Test Changed
- 6th Grade Math - Highest Pass Rate and Highest Advanced Rate Since the Test Changed

LATEST UPDATES

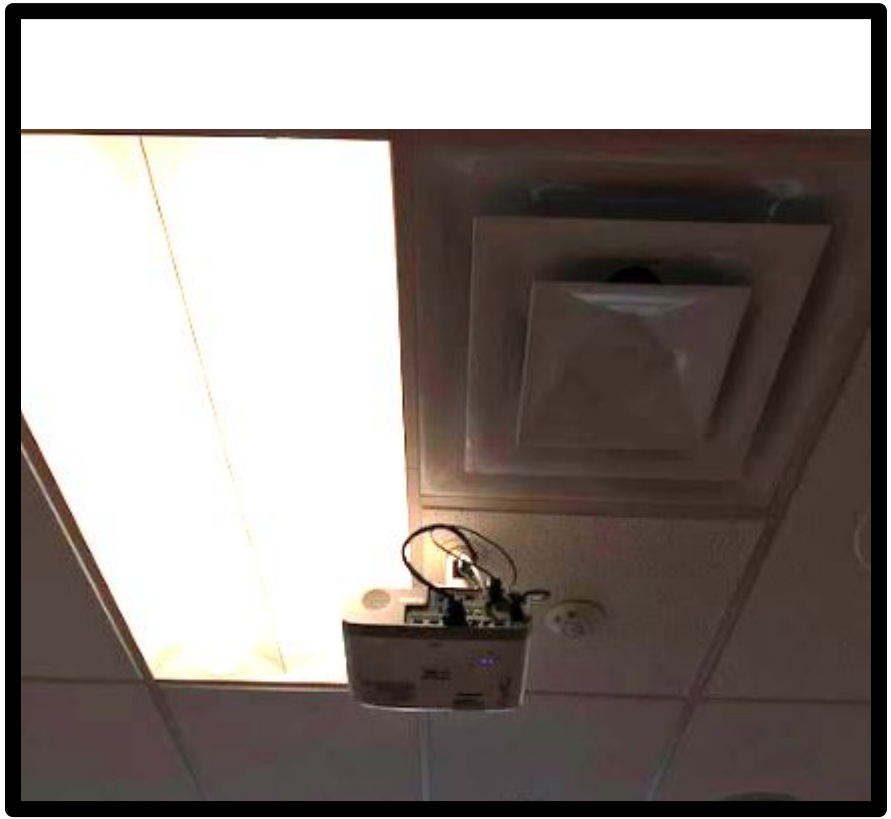
Laptop Carts

- We have two carts of 30 Macbooks





Projectors Have all Been Replaced (some were replaced last year)




TINKER LAB
explore
make
create
think

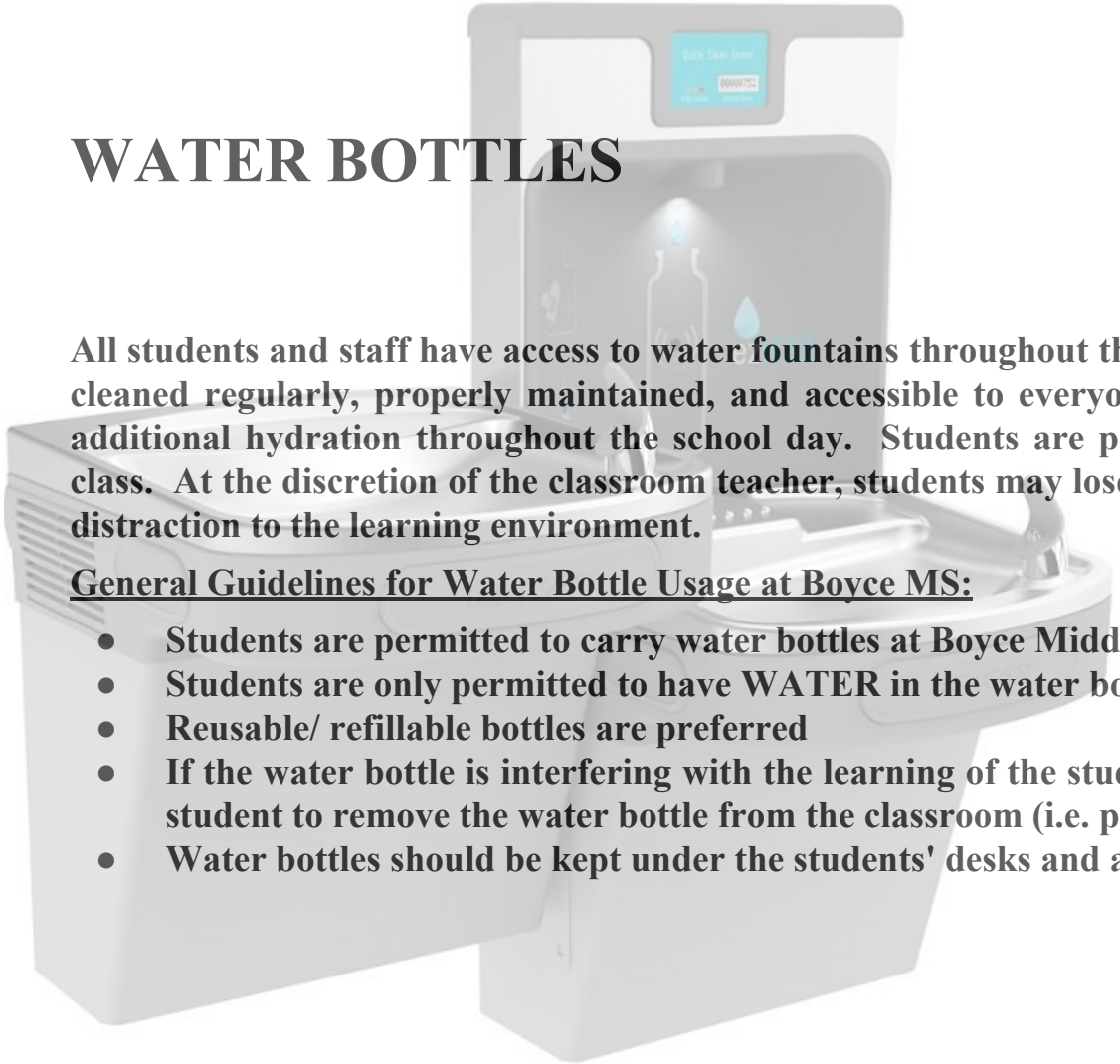


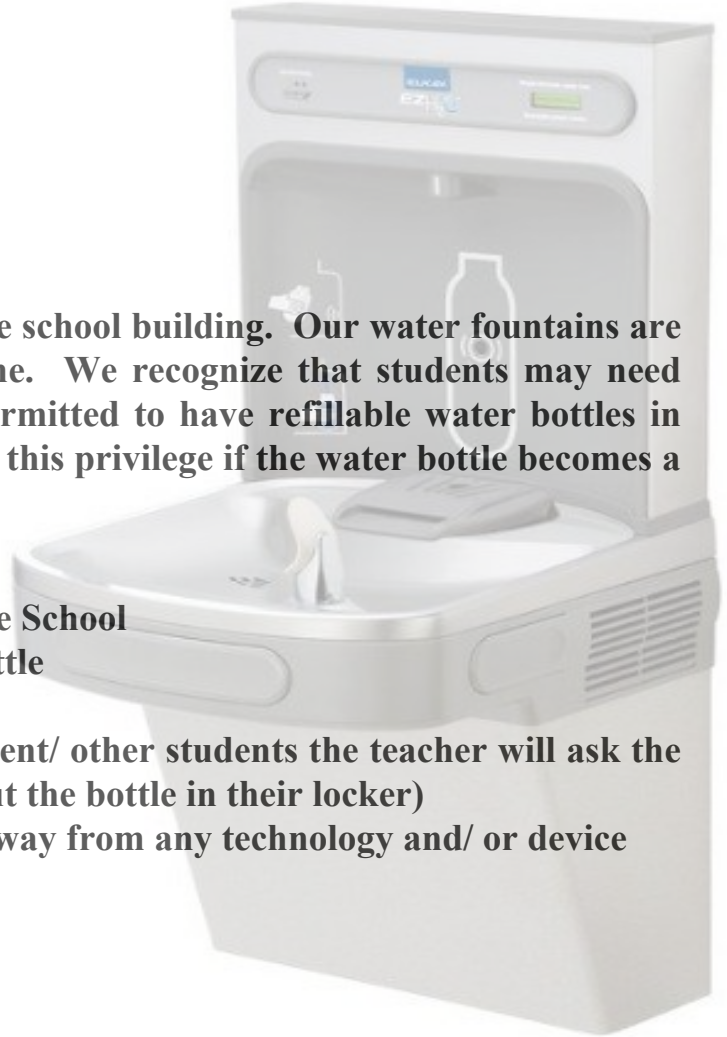
iPad Information





WATER BOTTLES





All students and staff have access to water fountains throughout the school building. Our water fountains are cleaned regularly, properly maintained, and accessible to everyone. We recognize that students may need additional hydration throughout the school day. Students are permitted to have refillable water bottles in class. At the discretion of the classroom teacher, students may lose this privilege if the water bottle becomes a distraction to the learning environment.

<u>General Guidelines for Water Bottle Usage at Boyce MS:</u>

- **Students are permitted to carry water bottles at Boyce Middle School**
- **Students are only permitted to have WATER in the water bottle**
- **Reusable/ refillable bottles are preferred**
- **If the water bottle is interfering with the learning of the student/ other students the teacher will ask the student to remove the water bottle from the classroom (i.e. put the bottle in their locker)**
- **Water bottles should be kept under the students' desks and away from any technology and/ or device**

Clubs

- Pride Time Clubs will be implemented this year
  - Students will have 2 clubs throughout the year
  - Clubs will last roughly 14 weeks
  - Students will have clubs every other week (roughly 7 total sessions)
  - Students will be provided with a summary of the slubs and choose their top club options

The Upper St. Clair School District

Boyce Middle School Panther Program

Social-Emotional Learning and School-Wide Positive Behavior Interventions & Support

"Educating the mind, inspiring the heart"



What?

- SWPBIS - School-Wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Support
- SEL - Social-emotional Learning
- Research has shown that when combined can have a positive impact on students and schools

The Upper St. Clair School District

As a student at Boyce, I will be...

RESPECTFUL

RESPONSIBLE

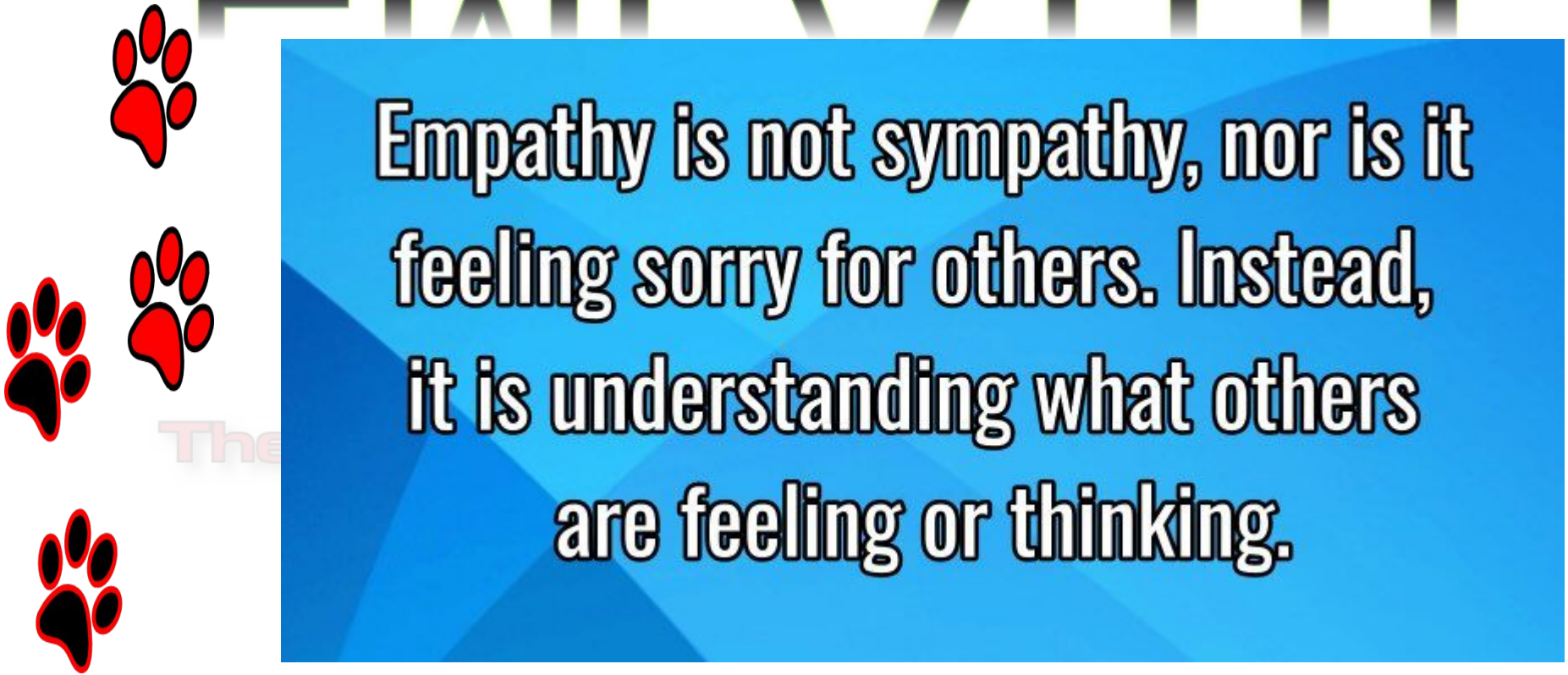
PREPARED

PRODUCTIVE

SAFE



EMPATHY


Empathy is not sympathy, nor is it feeling sorry for others. Instead, it is understanding what others are feeling or thinking.

Why?

- **“Statistically, 1 in 5 students may struggle with a mental illness”**
  - **“NAMI (The National Alliance on Mental Illness) estimates that 20% of youths aged 13-18 live with a mental health condition”**
- **“50% of all mental illnesses begins by age 14..the average time between the onset of symptoms and treatment is 8-10 years”**
- **“Most educators realize that the work of acknowledging and supporting students mental health is a critical part of whole-child education”**
- **WE CAN make a difference - “it is proven that empathy, active listening, and instructional supports that take into account each individual learner’s emotional state are all important for maintaining mentally healthy schools”**

The Upper St. Clair School District

What is SEL?

According to CASEL, “SEL is the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to:

- Understand and manage emotions
- Set and achieve positive goals
- Feel and show empathy for others
- Establish and maintain positive relationships
- Make responsible decisions”

The Upper St. Clair School District

SELF-AWARENESS

The ability to accurately recognize one's own emotions, thoughts, and values and how they influence behavior. The ability to accurately assess one's strengths and limitations, with a well-grounded sense of confidence, optimism, and a "growth mindset."

- Identifying emotions
- Accurate self-perception
- Recognizing strengths
- Self-confidence
- Self-efficacy

SOCIAL AWARENESS

The ability to take the perspective of and empathize with others, including those from diverse backgrounds and cultures. The ability to understand social and ethical norms for behavior and to recognize family, school, and community resources and supports.

- Perspective-taking
- Empathy
- Appreciating diversity
- Respect for others

RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKING

The ability to make constructive choices about personal behavior and social interactions based on ethical standards, safety concerns, and social norms. The realistic evaluation of consequences of various actions, and a consideration of the well-being of oneself and others.

- Identifying problems
- Analyzing situations
- Solving problems
- Evaluating
- Reflecting
- Ethical responsibility

SELF-MANAGEMENT

The ability to successfully regulate one's emotions, thoughts, and behaviors in different situations — effectively managing stress, controlling impulses, and motivating oneself. The ability to set and work toward personal and academic goals.

- Impulse control
- Stress management
- Self-discipline
- Self-motivation
- Goal setting
- Organizational skills

RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

The ability to establish and maintain healthy and rewarding relationships with diverse individuals and groups. The ability to communicate clearly, listen well, cooperate with others, resist inappropriate social pressure, negotiate conflict constructively, and seek and offer help when needed.

- Communication
- Social engagement
- Relationship building
- Teamwork



© CASEL 2017

What are the benefits of SEL?

“A growing body of research demonstrates a clear link between quality SEL programming and improved academic outcomes. Students who have learned social and emotional competencies are more likely to:

- **Attain higher test scores and GPAs**
- **Develop more meaningful connections with educators and peers**
- **Have improved attitudes towards self, school, and others**
- **Demonstrate positive social behavior**
- **Have fewer behavior incidents and decreased emotional distress, stress, and depression**
- **Bottom line, SEL makes teaching easier. Social emotional competencies can be taught through evidence-based curricula, intervention strategies, and established pedagogy. Teaching students social emotional competencies can lead to improved academic and life outcomes for all students.”**

The Upper St. Clair School District

“SWPBIS programs need to explicitly teach and reward desired behaviors”



Panther Paw

Name_____ Grade_____ HR_____

Issued by_____

For being:

- ☐ Responsible
- ☐ Respectful
- ☐ Prepared
- ☐ Productive
- ☐ Safe

Description (optional):



Students and staff can receive these "Panther Paws" when they demonstrate one or more of the five desired behaviors. They can submit it for a small reward, and will then have the chance to win a bigger award.

Panther Program - Lessons

- Mindfulness
- Growth Mindset
- Filling Buckets
- Anti-bullying
- Casel - 5 groups of core social and emotional competencies
- 5 key words - BE respectful, responsible, prepared, productive, safe
- Safety
- Anxiety/stress relief
- Kindness, inclusion, accepting others
- Supporting Students - beyond the surface level academics

The Upper St. Clair School District

School Safety Overview

-Student and Staff Safety is our #1 priority
-SWOT Analysis and discussion
-Drills, procedures, plans, crisis team, etc.
-Chief Sean Bryson