



McPolin Elementary School Weekly Office Updates
Wednesday, January 13th, 2021

Dear parents and caregivers,

Most importantly, we are still open for in person classes and I could not be more excited to focus on student learning. January is the time of year we complete a variety of assessments to measure how well we are supporting learning for all of our students.

The current assessment being completed is DIBELS (Dynamic Indicator Basic Early Literacy Skills). This one assessment offers us reliable reading development feedback for students' in grades K-3. Only students not meeting end-of-year 3rd grade expectations continue to be assessed in 4th and 5th grades. This information along with the other MOY assessments will be shared during the upcoming Parent/Teacher conferences the first two weeks in February.

Especially important in elementary learning is behavior. We continue the Motivated Moose work including our R.O.C.K. rules; Respect, Organization, Cooperation and Kindness. As I referenced learning loss in last week's McPolin Moment video, this year in particular, students are learning like never before life-long inter and intra-personal skills. When your friendship or classmate group is limited to your immediate class, opportunity abounds for learning new strategies and skills for solving disagreements or frustrations. Our students have been amazingly creative. The evidence of my confidence is the limited number of negative student interactions. Our hypothesis is that students are more flexible and more motivated than ever to get along given there is no other choice if they are to continue to have fun. Another way of describing this positive result, necessity is the mother of invention. When choices are limited, and having fun at recess or enough players for the current game is the mutual goal, finding friendship solutions can become more easily found.

Moving on, our good news and consecutive run of perfect days continues in 2021. NO, I am not referencing the crushing win of the Crimson Tide over THE Ohio State on Monday night. I am of course referencing that the Summit County Health Department has started scheduling vaccinations for all PCSD staff. We are appreciative of the collaboration of the district and county to expedite the vaccination process for all staff. Best of all, an end to this pandemic is in sight.

Though the end is in sight, we still have a long journey ahead of us. I have recently come upon a quote from one of our country's great patriots, Thomas Paine and his Common Sense:

"THESE are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman."

I reference this powerful and historical passage as it describes so well our theme of all for one and one for all. My effort is to continue to compliment everyone for all we have accomplished this school year, including the fact that we opened on day one and continue to stay open. I do see these great accomplishment as an example of our commitment to our community. A reminder that this pandemic is not over and while the end is in sight that is quite often the hardest part of any journey. At McPolin we will stay strong to the end, we can do hard things!

Sincerely,
Bob Edmiston

Upcoming events:

- Monday, January 18th – NO SCHOOL
 - **Martin Luther King Jr Day**
- February 1st-12th
 - **Parent/Teacher Conferences**