

Festus Elementary School

2017-18

Welcome to the Jungle, It gets BETTER Here Every
Day!

Introductions

- Desirae Brammeier- Music
- Molly Burgert- 3rd Grade
- Lindsey Roth- Nurse
- ?- SpEd Aide

Celebrations

- Babies
- Graduations
- Weddings
- Whatever
- Awesome news!

Share Time

- Talk to those around you and tell them something funny/crazy you did before you turned 16.

“Building Strong Foundations to Promote a Lifetime of Learning”

Festus Elementary School Mission Statement

Goals:

- Guidance Curriculum development
- All other curricular areas are in development and refinement phases.
- Revisiting Balanced Literacy and its various components
- Understanding current research on students from poverty and learning and the importance of Relationships.
- STEM

Math % Prof & Adv.	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total School	45.9	48.4	48.9	49.8	56.8	58.7	64.8	77.5	84.4	76.02	78.8	<u>87.5</u>
Super SubGroup	-	-	35.8	38.9	43.6	42.1	46.4	72.9	56	65.1	72.3	<u>83.2</u>
ELA % Prof & Adv.	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total School	45.9	48.4	48.9	49.8	56.8	58.7	64.8	77.5	64.3	78.05	81.9	<u>87.9</u>
Super SubGroup	-	-	35.8	38.9	43.6	42.1	46.4	72.9	56	66	61.7	<u>83.2</u>

Math MPI=439.2

ELA MPI=422.3

Math SSG MPI=422.1

ELA SSG MPI=405.3

APR

Won't find this out until this Fall!

Thoughts on last year

- Wow! We have fantastic teachers and students!
- Extremely proud to be a part of this school
- Remember as I say every year “Good is the enemy of Great!” Let us always remember that.
- [About sums it up](#)

Things to Ponder

- I attended a conference hosted by Eric Jensen on teaching and engaging children of poverty.
- I had some powerful takeaways.
- I have heard this said and said it thousands of times myself:

**THE APPLE DOESN'T FALL
FAR FROM THE TREE**



● Remember these facts-

- Children in chronic stress situations reach developmental stages slower
- In experiments using induced money worries- participants saw a 13 point dip in IQ
 - Worry and anxiety takes up ‘cognitive bandwidth’
- Amount of language exposure in 1st 4 years of life
 - High SES- 25-40 million words
 - Middle SES- 15-25 million words
 - Low SES- 10-15 million words
- Amount of positive vs. negative language that children receive from their caregivers
 - High SES- 6 positives to 1 negative
 - Middle SES- 2 positives to 1 negative
 - Low SES- 1 positive to 2 negative

- Symptoms of Chronic Stress are exactly the same as that of ADHD.
- We know that students of all backgrounds experience stress, but students of low SES backgrounds are more likely to experience Chronic Stress
- Research shows that Brains can Change!- but they can change for the worse or for the better.

- Strategies for helping students deal with chronic stress and ultimately improve brain function!
 - Work to manage and reduce your own stress
 - Give students more control and voice
 - Develop strong deep relationships with your students.
 - Jensen spoke of the 1st week of school being the most important week. Relationships are made or destroyed during that time.
 - In many cases, with parents, the first moment they see you, the teacher, the relationship is made or broken!

- Stronger Relationships leads to a larger Hippocampus!
 - Part of the brain in charge of long term memory and in the region of brain which governs emotion.
- By doing the following, more students will graduate
 - Relationship-building
 - Giving students more control
 - Teach coping skills
 - Learn stress management skills (both teacher and students)
 - Develop effective PLCs

New research shows this old adage does not have to be true!



Whomever said "the apple doesn't fall far from the tree" never met Lisa and Homer Simpson.

What does all this mean?

- Form real, positive relationships with your students
- Use lots of language, especially positive language with your kids.
- Teach vocabulary
- Teach working memory
- Teach emotions like gratitude
- etc...

PBS

- Vital to what we do
- Everyone in the building will continue implement this
- Lunch- Everyone will sit with students until the Tuesday after Labor Day (9/6/16)- 12 days.

Rules

Homework

- You have received your handbook and policy manual. Please review the handbook and policies. Turn in the signature sheet to the office by Sept. 1st. If you do not understand something or need clarification, please see Mrs. Benack or me.
 - Check your certification
- Do you ever feel like the teacher in this [video](#)

PBTE

- The school board adopted a new PBTE Model last year after a year long process led by Dr. Reuss and a group of teachers.
- First step is all of you will develop a Professional Growth Plan for your personal goal, you should have already submitted your Engagement goal plan.
- Again, thank you in advance for your patience as Sauny and I implement the PBTE model. We know it will be much smoother this year, but it is still new.

Transportation

- Transportation has a new computer system and things will be much better, but...
- All busses have been re-named, A, B, C, D, etc... and there are now 19 routes.
- Transportation will be here during open house all parents need to see them in the library.
- Transportation will be here on first day for questions.
- At open house, stress to parents that you **MUST** have the first day plans.
- Ask questions ASAP on first day, ask kids for notes, verify they do or don't have notes, if in doubt call parent early. Don't rely on the word of the kid, verify!

Open House

- Have parents bring down demographic sheets to office during Open House. Molly and Darla are here, but many times aren't busy so they can start entering corrected information. Bus information will be your responsibility to enter.

Open House Cont.

Important Information - To receive text messages about lunch balances, school cancellations, and other important messages you **MUST** "opt-in" by sending the letter Y to 68453. You **WILL NOT** receive text messages if you do not opt-in.

First day and procedures

- Bus procedures are basically the same as years past, but....
- First few days we will dismiss by intercom
- Will discuss specifics with team leaders
-

Substitutes

- We only have 30 or so subs available right now.
- We have several long term subs throughout the school year.
- Please be aware of this county wide issue when deciding to use a sick/personal/ or other day.
- Reminder: 5 day notice on personal day and 30 day notice on professional day

General and Random Reminders

- Do not cover door windows- can put small curtains on them, but should be open to view.
- Please be extremely careful with the adhesive product you use to hand on doors, walls, and ceiling. We have replaced most doors and tiles and painted most walls and want to protect the finishes.

G and RR cont.

- Homecoming Parade is Sept. 22
- Smarter Adults Safer Children video must be watched by end of August. You should have the email invite already.

G and RR cont.

- New policy- Because of the Federal Healthy Hungry Kids Act. Major changes could occur and still trying to figure things out.
 - All food brought from outside to be shared with all kids, even birthday treats and party treats, is supposed to adhere to food guidelines that our cafeteria has to follow.
 - Class food rewards might be affected by this.
 - Sack lunches from home are not impacted by this

Jungle Trivia

Time to nerd it up!

The following questions will test your knowledge of movies and the Jungle.

What colour should you not wear in the
jungles of Africa?

Answer: Blue

Blue attracts the Tsetse Fly

**What % of animal and
plant life is in the
rainforest?**

Answer: 50%

**What continents do not
have rain forests?**

Answer: All but Antartica

**How much rainforest is
cut down each day**

**Answer: About 80,000
football fields worth**

**Who sings “Bare
Necessities”**

Answer: Baloo

**What does George of the
Jungle need to watch out
for?**

Answer: That Tree

**What is the actual name
of the Man with the
Yellow Hat?**

Answer: Ted

(although in the books he never had a name)

**What is Curious George's
name in England?**

Answer: Zozo

General Business

- Calendars were created by Building Calendar Team
 - Changes to the calendar will be made directly to shared google calendar as necessary. If you want something on the calendar either let administration know or your calendar representative. (check your Birthday!)
- Forms- PD, Sick, School Business, etc... are on the shared drive.
 - Make sure you adhere to the time requirements on each kind of form
 - 5 days advance for both school business and personal day
 - 1 month advance for PD Day.

General Business cont.

- First impressions!

- When working with parents:

- **Smile!!!!!!!**

- Remember to keep records, make frequent contacts, and don't wait to contact them until you have something negative to talk about.

- Remember a human voice carries more impact with parents than words on a piece of paper (they may never read them)!

General Business cont.

- Any problems with the schedule let the office know ASAP!
- Key Cards/Keys- Get from the office. All doors, except MidMeadow crosshall door have key card readers
- New Pictures will be taken at the district breakfast. This will be your official school photo for years to come...

General Business cont.

- technology- Please remember tech requests are made to helpdesk@festus.k12.mo.us
- Collect parent/student handbook signature sheets at open house and turn into office on Sept. 1

General Business cont.

- •**Bullying**- All acts of bullying need to be investigated and/or reported to administration.
- •**Amy Hestir Act**-
- –Staff/Student Relations
- •Serious issue
- •Obviously no inappropriate physical and verbal contact
- •Electronic communication with students
- –Policy governs both school devices and accounts and personal devices and accounts. Staff should only use school devices and accounts unless unable to do so, and then only with principal permission.
- –Communications with students must be appropriate and only for educational purposes
- –Can only occur between 6am-10pm
- –If contact is made with student on personal accounts and/or device then be prepared to provide communication to supervisor.
- Failure to adhere to policy or failure to report possible violations of policy can lead to disciplinary actions.

Attendance and Parent Contact

- Encouraging good attendance is of utmost importance!

- Student Attendance Procedures:**

- The attendance of all students should be encouraged except for sickness or unavoidable circumstances. Excessive absenteeism will be investigated. Students should be given a reasonable amount of time to make up missed assignments- 1day per each day absent. On extended absences, parents can contact the school for assignments. If a parent requests homework, assignments and books should be in the office by 1:00pm.

- Attendance will be taken utilizing the SIS program. Information should be entered no later than **9:15am (10:15am on Wednesdays)**. If you are absent or SIS is not working, an attendance slip must be sent to the office. If you receive any kind of reason for the absence (text, note, email, call, etc.) the teacher must ensure that the reason is entered into SIS and the absence is changed to 'verified'.

- * Use your new classroom phone for parent contact purposes!!!

Attendance and Parent Contact

- **Teachers must contact parents if a child misses 3 days in a quarter.** During this contact, the teacher should remind the parent of the need of good attendance. They should also remind the parent that once a child reaches 5, 10, 14, and 15+ absences, the office will be contacting them with an official attendance letter. Upon the 15th absence, the school has the option of contacting Child Services.
- **All contacts, whether for attendance or other, must be logged into SIS on a regular basis.** This includes attempted contacts. Logs of contacts need not be lengthy: State who you talked to, subject, and any resolution or needed information to remember. If it was a particularly important phone call/face to face visit then log more information. No opinions as these are public record.

Parent Contact

- Remember- Contact is best through face to face then phone calls. Written contacts are the weakest form of communication. We must do a better job of making contact with parents.
- All teachers must make a positive contact with at least 5 parents before Labor day. Then again before the end of January. Please put these in the SIS log.**

Counselors

PBS

**Don't complain about
student attitudes. Notice
them and plant seeds that
can nudge and change
them for the better!
Have a great year!!!!**