

Rilke Schule German School of Arts and Sciences

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**Principal's Report
January 21st, 2016**

Budget

The budget brought before you includes the projected annual funding based upon 485 students, a number derived at through an estimate of attrition trends and a reduction to three kindergarten classes. The budget for SY2016-17 was entered into IFAS on 12/23/2015 in coordination with personnel at OMB. It is being submitted for APC approval, after which it may be posted to our school website.

Alaska Measures of Progress Initiatives

In an effort to enrich student experiences and to increase individual assessment scores, the faculty and I met to discuss the results of the first year of the AMP. We analyzed the data and identified some trends. In response, we have taken the following steps:

- Time spent on Chromebooks with the Keyboarding Without Tears program. Login information was also sent to parents in order to encourage usage at home as well.
- A greater focus is placed the utilization of Lexia reading and Math Whizz programs. More accounts have been created.
- Teacher Assistant Frau Martin is soon to begin offering a before and after school half hour Lexia and Math Whizz session.
- Khan Academic website of free academic tutoring is also encouraged both in class and at home in specific classes.
- Last year's AMP scores are being disseminated to each student's current teachers. These scores will be compared to current AIMSweb assessments in an effort to identify specific strategies that may be implemented with individual students.
- Continued efforts by teachers to differentiate instruction.
- A significant focus will be placed on AMP practice tests.

School Website

The old website will soon be taken down and we will continue to advertise the new website through the ASD portal at rilkeschule.asdk12.org. All needed info has been moved over to the new site and many updates have been, to include staff and contact information.

Staffing Update

Heather Reier has stepped down from her position as clubs manager. We are all very grateful for all that she did to establish procedures and maintain them. She put in many hours in dedication to the task. Jacki Bond, who has subbed for us frequently and has worked as a temporary school attendant has taken on this important role.

Setting Up Media Center

We have received approval from Kiska, LLC (our landlord) to paint the end wall white in the media center. A ceiling mount and projector have been purchased. We expect to soon receive a quote from Criterion's

cabinet shop for the shelves that will be attached to the sidewalls. We are currently pricing stools and floor rugs. Once these items are in place, volunteers will be solicited to help with cataloguing books. We will make use of the ASD library system so that student will be able to sign out books from all over the district.

Acoustic Panels and Moveable Door

I have received word that these items will most likely be installed during the first week in March.

Dress Code Clarification and Enforcement

The faculty and I met to discuss the uniform enforcement of the Rilke Schule dress code. A letter of clarification was devised and revised and will be distributed to parents. Consequences for non-compliance are addressed within the letter. We need to work together as a community to enforce the adopted code. It is important to note that the information does not reflect changes to the code, merely useful information intended to provide clarification.

New Electronic Newsletter

I have begun to make use of the free Mailchimp application in order to send out school news electronically. The program is very user friendly and the product is much more appealing when viewed from a Smartphone.

ACTION ITEMS

Request for Additional 8 hour TA

The teacher assistants have performed an analysis of the number of students who would benefit from added academic assistance. The most recent calculation indicates that we have 97 students at Tier II and 30 students at Tier III. Although referrals are made to the Student Support Team, more TA support is very much in need. The additional person comes at an estimated cost of \$24,700 (full year salary, incl. benefits). TA's often step in to fill other school duties and are, thereby, taken from their main focus. This has happened as a result of unsuccessful attempts to fill lower paying positions.

Computer Refresh

As our staff has grown and computers have become outdated, new to staff have received a computer from the middle school supply of Mac laptops. I propose a purchase of twelve Apple Macbook Pro 13" laptops at \$1,089 (\$13,068). I am also requesting funding for two Dell Latitude E5450 laptops for staff members who prefer PC's and whose current laptops are on their last proverbial leg, despite IT techs' attempts to improve their performance. Each Dell comes at a cost of \$1,015.09 (\$2,030.18). Thirdly, I am requesting funding for 76 Dell Chromebooks at a cost of \$311 (\$23, 636). This initiative would provide four Chromebooks to each classroom in grades K – 5. It would significantly increase our efforts to differentiate instruction through Lexia, Math Whizz, and other enrichment programs. A portion of the activity fee paid is dedicated to technology refreshment and the need is prevalent. Some items may also be purchased from Smart Start money. The total for this refresh is \$38,734.18.

Request to Make Use of Rilke Schule Logo

Rilke parent Krista Whitlock is volunteering with our Battle of the Books teams. She has requested in writing the use of the Rilke Schule logo to make nametags for our competitors. I approve of the request. In accordance with Policy 002, the request now comes to the APC.