



School Safety Remains a Priority in Calhoun CUSD #40

The District has partnered with school safety specialist, Dr. Steve Webb. Dr. Webb is the best selling author of "Education in a Violent World: A Practical Guide to Keeping our Kids Safe", an award-winning educator, law enforcement officer and the founder of Safe School Systems. This month Dr. Webb delivered his presentation on School Safety and Threat Assessment to the staff. The training was just one part of our dedication to the safety of your children and our schools. We are asking the community to join forces in helping us achieve our goals. 1) Remember to check-in the office whenever you are on school grounds. 2) Do not prop doors open or try to access the building without being given permission. 3) If you use the facilities, please double check to make sure everything is secured before leaving.

The Threat Assessment piece of school safety relies heavily on identifying and helping students that are in crisis or are sharing signs of mental distress. While securing the physical surroundings is more evident to the community, what happens inside the walls is equally as important. Calhoun CUSD #40 staff will continue to learn and apply skills to help with the social and emotional needs of students. The community can help with this goal by 1) Reporting any concerning behaviors of students to the administration or counselor. **See something, say something.**

Our Emergency Management Team meets periodically throughout the school year. We would like to bring Dr. Webb back for an evening to meet with the community. The partnership we have with our families is essential for safety. Information will be sent out once a date is confirmed. Second semester families will also be sent a survey. Your feedback is valued!

Calhoun Community U (University)

Topics in education can sometimes be extremely difficult to understand unless you work within the system. This includes everything from best practices in education to the many mandates from our state legislators. As your superintendent I wanted to offer you an opportunity to learn more about various topics that may be of interest. You are invited to join me on November 13th from 6-7 p.m. in the CHS Auditorium. The first class will be titled: School Finance.



OUR MISSION; LIVE THE WARRIOR WAY

CONGRATS

MRS. BURRIS, CHS PRINCIPAL WAS AWARDED THE 1ST QUARTER WARRIOR WAY AWARD! WE APPRECIATE YOUR DEDICATION TO THE DISTRICT AND FOR LIVING THE WARRIOR WAY!



Community Eligibility Provision

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is a non-pricing meal service option for schools and school districts in low-income areas. CEP allows the nation's highest poverty schools and districts to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled students without collecting household applications. Instead, schools that adopt CEP are reimbursed using a formula based on the percentage of students categorically eligible for free meals based on their participation in other specific means-tested programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Calhoun CUSD #40 has not qualified for this option in the past. Recent changes made by the USDA may allow us to qualify. Applications are due in April 2024 and more information will be shared when it is available.

Building Improvements

- The locker rooms at CHS have been made ADA accessible and also received an update to flooring, windows, and paint. New benches are being installed.
- CHS Library (now Media Center) should be receiving its new furniture next week. Mr. Grimes and his students have been busy refinishing the bookshelves for the new space. We hope that students will enjoy the updated and collaborative area!
- The district is currently working with GRP and outlining future work that needs to be completed at both schools. More information to come.

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK!



School Opportunities

Life in school is much different from what most of us remember. While the opportunities seem endless, the challenges for education are real. In an effort to provide our students with choices about their future, Calhoun High School has: expanded dual credit classes, created our first CTE pathway, promoted the Calhoun-Greene County CEO program, offered the teacher-prep Grow Your Own option, improved the work-based learning program, and added classes in the trades. All of this has been accomplished without hiring new staff. Thank you to our staff members who have been willing to teach new things and help expand learning opportunities for the students. At the Junior High level students are enrolled in a Project Based Learning Class. This class encompasses collaboration, problem-solving, STEM, and presenting.

Vision 2030

Having a vision allows an organization to focus on the same goal. Not only is this important at the district, classroom, and personal level, but it is essential at the state level. I'm fortunate to be serving on the Vision 2030 Committee with other Superintendents, ISBE, the Illinois Association of School Boards, and other professional organizations. The first meeting was held earlier this month in Springfield where work began on developing the future educational plan for Illinois. Through the development of these educational goals, this team of educators will also be providing a voice for state government and potential policies in the future. This opportunity is a win for Calhoun CUSD #40 as we will be involved from the ground level. Look for more information throughout the year and chances to hear more about Vision 2030.