

Merrill PTA Meeting

Monday, April 24th, 2023

7-8pm, Merrill Library

Attendees: Sarah Witt, Christy Stroope, Kate Mead, Claudia G. Brown, Megan Hollinger, Simone Freeman, Eric Weisenhorn, Julie Montgomery, Kate Panek, Michelle Gartner

Meeting called to order at 7:00

Welcome and Introductions: Sarah Witt, PTA President

- Remaining events for 22-23: Incoming sixth grade night, eighth grade dance/celebration, Teacher Appreciation Week, and the last day of school BBQ.

School Update: Mrs. Panek, Merrill Principal

- ISASP Testing: Things went smoothly. A big Thank You to all the parents who helped their student(s) prepare for each day, it helped tremendously! Scores are expected back mid-summer.
- All city orchestra, choir, and band was last week.
- Track, soccer, and other spring sports are underway.
- Many clubs are still meeting each day during the school week.
- Thank you to everyone who helped raise funds for the library. We reached a total of \$2,940.
- Destination Merrill project will begin June 5th. Track, Basketball court, with 6 hoops, mini pitch, and a Gaga ball pit will all be ready for next year.
- FAQ posted on front page of Merrill website. Lots of families have already been referred and have found it very helpful.
- Staffing: Teacher shortage. At Merrill we are almost full staffed. Science and a SPED position are the only two left to fill. The district is having weekly meetings to figure out how to staff these remaining spots for the 23-24 school year. Other positions were added because of increased enrollment.
- This summer, offering math jumpstart program for incoming 6th graders to prepare for transition.

Upcoming School events:

- Rising sixth graders night, May 4th.
 - Open House style.
 - Welcome in gym for 5-10 minutes, then a scavenger hunt for parents and students to see the school.
 - PTA can help with snacks. 400 needed. Granola bars, fruit snacks, crackers, etc.
 - Yard signs will be for sale and t-shirts will be able to be ordered online.
 - PTA staffing for the evening is not needed.
- Eighth grade celebration idea (something just for them):
 - Themed skating party at Skate North.
 - Merrill staff can identify, and make sure students have transportation who need it.
 - Need to find out admission and skate rental costs, along with the date. Two-hour rental? Possibly 6:00 to 8:00.

- 10-12 Merrill staff members present.
- Possible ask for parent donations to sponsor an 8th grader to cover costs.

- Clap-out for 8th graders. Surprise at the end of the school day.
- Merrill Night at the Ballpark. More info to come out Tuesday or Wednesday.
- Working on JA Biz Town as well for students who did not get to have the experience.
- Teacher Appreciation Week Schedule: Monday – Breakfast; Tuesday – Swag Bags; Wednesday – Snack Carts; Thursday – Fridge Fairy; Friday – Food Truck.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43pm.