



BE KIND.
WORK HARD.
KEEP IMPROVING.

WEEK AHEAD NOTES: DEC. 3 - DEC. 7

Monday (12/3)

Piotrowski and Sinclair at Student Leadership Conference with Students
10:00 5th Grade MAP
3:15 JJ IEP (Cuda, Meyer, Sittler, Sinclair)

Tuesday (12/4)

Tune-Up: Recess
7:45 - 8:25 Kindergarten PLC (Wiley's office) & 5th PLC (Spanish room)
8:30 2nd Grade MAP
9-12 Sinclair out at Admin. Meeting

Wednesday (12/5)

7:45 - 8:25 2nd PLC (Wiley's office) & 3rd PLC (Spanish room)
Flat Sinclairs due back to the office
10:00 5th Grade MAP

Thursday (12/6)

7:45 - 8:25 1st PLC (Wiley's office) & 4th PLC (Spanish room)
Flat Sinclairs go home -names called on morning announcements
November Ticket Lunch
Last day to return Mitten Tree gifts
8:30 2nd Grade MAP
3:20 One School, One Book Meeting in Library

Friday (12/7)

4th Grade Field Trip to the Nutcracker
10:00 5th MAP

PLC AGENDA This Week: Review Manchester SIP action steps, review/reflection on grade level SMART goal and give update on form.

Upcoming Dates

Dec. 20 - Winter Service Project with PALs group
Dec. 21 - End of 2nd Quarter
Jan. 4 - Staff In-Service
Jan. 5 - 3rd Quarter Begins

Jan. 7 - PTO Meeting
Jan. 9 - Report Cards Home
Jan. 18 - Manchester Art Show
Jan. 21 - In-Service Day
Jan. 22 - Kindness is Contagious Week

The Holiday Season at Manchester

It seems that I have stumbled upon a “big rock” that I hadn’t anticipated. I know that you all are very kind and conscientious people. I know all of the things that you’d like to do, have done, want to do are coming from such a good place. I come from a place that Christmas and the like are not allowed in schools, as over the years in my educational career, this has evolved into the expectation for all educators. I have unknowingly awoken a “sleeping giant” with many of you. I apologize for the stress that “Christmas/holiday/Grinch/Santa/tree” emails and conversations have caused you. I will do my best to communicate the expectation from here on out, which aligns with my interpretation of our expectations as a public school who seeks to be inclusive and culturally sensitive to all of our students.

I’ll start with what was communicated to the sent to the Manchester staff last year. It remains the expectation.

Hi Team,

Today, I was asked some questions on this topic, so I'm sharing this information with the entire team. Below is from last December's Inside Scoop, but I'm assuming something similar with show up in this year's addition. I've also included the link to the policy mentioned (604.05). If you have questions please come visit with me after having read the District's policy and Administrative Rules and Procedures to Implement Policy 604.05.

Thanks, Amy

<http://www.elkhornweb.org/blog/policy/series-600-instruction/604-instructional-curriculum/policy-604-05-public-performances-and-exhibits/administrative-rules-and-procedures-to-implement-policy-604-05/>

INSTRUCTIONAL HOLIDAY REMINDERS

The holiday season is here and we are all reminded to be sensitive to various religions, cultures, and beliefs. All students need to feel included and accepted at school every day. Our job, as public school educators, is to keep activities focused on clear instructional purposes while neither promoting nor inhibiting the free exercise of religion and speech. Teachers, support staff members, and administrators with questions about events or activities during the holiday season should visit with their building principal and are reminded to read and follow EPS Policy and Rule 604.05. District policies can be accessed via the webpage under “Board of Education.”

I feel uncomfortable that I have to get this specific, but for everyone's comfort, I will.

Acceptable practices:

Gifts to students

Students making gift for a loved one

Snowmen, snow women, snow people, snowflakes

Gingerbread people

Holidays Around the World - purposeful presentation of information to teach about different cultures

Sledding

Hot chocolate

Polar Bears

Penguins

Scarves, boots, earmuffs, and hats

Yetis

Olaf - Frozen

Not acceptable:

Santas or Christmas items (clipart) on worksheets

Christmas trees in classrooms

Elf on the Shelf - that's Christmas-related

Singing Christmas Carols

Playing Christmas music

Sending a Scholastic book that is a Christmas book - that's Christmas-related

Making a Christmas ornament as a gift - This assumes that the family has a Christmas tree which assumes they celebrate Christmas. I challenge the thought of, "Well they can just hang it somewhere else."

Candy Cane - that's Christmas-related. Historically, the shape is a "J" for Jesus. The red is for the blood of Christ, and the white is a symbol of his resurrection. This would also include different colored candy canes.

Red/Green items - traditional Christmas colors

Reindeer

Christmas videos/movies and/or characters from Christmas movies

When in doubt, ask yourself:

What is the clear instructional purpose of this?

Does this item or activity promote a certain belief or religious?

Again, I know that you all are very kind and conscientious people. I know all of the things that you'd like to do, have done, and want to do are coming from such a good place. This I have no doubt of. Please reflect on what you've already copied, prepped, and posted. I'm hopeful we can avoid the discomfort of me directly questioning something you've copied, posted, and had your kids do. That makes me uncomfortable, and I know it doesn't feel good.

Signed, The (Unintentional) Grinch who stole Christmas (from Manchester)