

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 319

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1-26-24

Dear NK Families,

Last year the READ Act was passed through legislation. One expectation from the READ Act is providing Science of Reading training for teachers. Fortunately, through an offering from the Minnesota Department of Education, six of our staff, including me, participated in LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) training. LETRS stems from the Science of Reading. This year, the school board approved providing LETRS training for teachers in K-3 and Aspire (also Science of Reading) training for teachers in grades 4-8. Part of the professional development day this week was devoted to improving reading instruction.

Another piece of legislation that we are implementing involves support for students with their mental, emotional, and behavioral health. We have Ben Black working as a behavioral interventionist at the high school and Brandi Lautigar, School Social worker, working at both the elementary and the high school. Ms. Lautigar has partnered with another organizations to bring Terrence Talley to our school. His mission for every school assembly is to give every student hope and empower them to give hope to others. He says, "I believe what happens to a student today will affect your community tomorrow. My mission for every school assembly is to give every student hope and empower them to give hope to others. That's why it's important to not only educate their minds but their hearts as well. My family and I have committed our lives to making a lasting and positive impact in the lives of students everywhere. It is an honor to partner with you and your school's goal of educating the whole student to make a positive impact tomorrow."

Terrence Talley's website is <https://terrencetalley.com>. Take a few minutes and check him out. All students K-12 will be attending the assembly at the high school on Monday, January 29th. We will have three different sessions for K-3, 4-6, and 7-12. The elementary students will be taking buses to the assembly from Keewatin to Nashwauk. This is going to be a great experience for all of the students based on the reviews we have heard from students and staff from other schools.

Despite a couple of delays due to the severe cold earlier this month, construction continues to progress smoothly on our new school and community wellness center. Structural steel is still being installed for several sections of the building and masons have been hard at work building many of the concrete walls. This steel and masonry work will go on for much of the winter.

We're so grateful to everyone working hard in the cold to keep the project on track! You can see more updates on construction at NKSpartanStrong.org/next-steps.

Sincerely,
Dr. Villebrun