

Suzanne M. Smith Elementary School
Principal's Report

Oh my, another year for the record book!

On August 31, 2021, we began the 2021-2022 school year with 207 students enrolled in grades PreK-5. Our current enrollment is 212.

As a school, our professional development focus has been connected to math, use of readers notebook, productive struggle, student agency, and goal setting. Our end of year focus has been around how to inventory and enhance our classroom libraries. We have also continued to focus on grit and growth mindset. Grit and growth mindset is work that we started several years ago and is language we strive to embed into our daily instructional practice. Our professional development work is completed through watching and rewatching videos, completing article/book reviews, discussions, and utilizing in house (and out of district) specialists.

A goal for next year is to work on our website! I realize that I have not done a good or adequate job updating it and the community on what is going on at SES. I will be working to do better in this area.

SES was extremely fortunate to have very little staff turn over this year. We did have some changes in the office (welcome Mrs. Barker), with educational technicians (welcome Mrs. Bowers), and custodial staff (welcome Kayla Perkins) throughout the year but we had no turn over with our classroom teachers. Consistency with teaching staff has a significant positive impact on student achievement.

This summer there will again be many upgrades scheduled to happen at SES. The district received a grant through the Department of Education that will support a much needed re-siding of our building. Once a contractor has been secured (through the bidding process) the goal would be to have work start this summer. The plan is to also have the back parking lot re-paved and work on the landscaping in front of and around the building. A future project is connected to retiling classrooms and hallways on some type of rotation.

I would once again like to remind citizens that there are three types of Suzanne M. Smith scholarships available to RSU 87 residents. For more information, you can contact the school at 884-7444 or the Superintendent's Office at 848-5173. We typically complete one fundraising activity each year but these have been put on hold for the last two years. We are hoping to get back at it next year.

Last year I noted that it had been a privilege to be on this journey with such a great team. I still feel this sense of privilege and pride connected to the SES staff, students, and Levant community.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lorri Day, Principal