District Download

December 2022

Good afternoon, AKFCS families:

During the next two weeks, our students will showcase their talents and demonstrate our mission *to provide students with an excellent academic program grounded in a classical liberal arts education, musical competency, and character formation.* Whether it be taking the stage for a concert performance or taking the court as a team--both are representing Abby Kelley and are opportunities for our students to not only showcase their talents, but to demonstrate the leadership qualities essential for youth to develop. I invite you to join me in supporting our student's talents and their education!

In looking ahead to the New Year, Abby Kelley will be doing work in the areas of Strategic Planning, long term facilities planning, and Health/Wellness. We currently have openings on our District Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee and are seeking interested applicants. I hope you will consider volunteering and sharing your voice the future of AKFCS.

Heidi Paluk
Executive Director

Climate and Culture Survey for Families

In a effort of continuous improvement, as well as to inform initiatives such as strategic planning, we are conducting the '22-'23 AKFCS Climate Survey. This is similar to the survey that was conducted last year at this time and we will be using the data between the two years to look at trends/patterns. The results of this survey focus on school culture, community,

sense of belonging, and inclusion from the perspective of families. Data gathered from the survey will guide the District's future vision and goals.

This survey is designed for families of AKFCS students as we embark on our strategic planning.
The survey will close on **Monday, December 19, 2022 at 5:00 PM**.

A link to the survey can be found at Family Survey Link

Middle School Character Virtue Breakfast

The Character Virtue for the month of November was Citizenship. Across the District students participated in activities and classroom lessons around the recent elections at the state and federal level. Our Middle School held their monthly Character Breakfast to honor these students who demonstrated their strengths with the virtue of Citizenship.

Inching toward Graduation

Each week our Seniors are taking steps to prepare for their graduation in June; college applications, SATs, and getting measured for the the cap & gowns and class rings! Seniors confirmed last week, they were on the list to receive a cap and gown next spring.

AKF at the Festival of Lights

Abby Kelley opened up the City's annual Festival of Lights program on December 2 with a performance from the Bearitones, our High School acapella group. This is the third year Abby Kelley has had the opportunity to participate in the Festival of Lights event on the Worcester Common.

Seeking new members for the DEI Committee

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee (DEI) is seeking new members, especially from families. Since the committee began meeting in January 2020, the DEI Committee has:

- Developed a policy statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusive Excellence
- Provided opportunities for ongoing professional development for the AKFCPS community (staff, students, parents/caregivers/guardians, and community members)
- Serves as a resource/advocate for the AKFCPS community on DEI issues and challenges
- Ongoing work to develop and implement a climate survey

This committee currently has representatives from the following stakeholders within the AKFCPS community;

- Board members
- Administrators
- Faculty/staff
- Parents/caregivers/guardians (representing each school)
- College/University community members
- Current high school students
- Subject matter expert

Committee members must agree to the following;

- 1-year commitment
- Monthly 90-minute meetings
- Attend ongoing learning sessions about DEI
- Serve on sub-committees and complete follow up work (most of the work will be done in sub-committees)
    - examples of sub committee work entails; recruitment, hiring & retention, climate survey/school culture, and curriculum/culturally responsive teaching
- Advocate for DEI across the district

If you are interested in becoming a part of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory committee, please complete this Google Form by **Friday, December 16, 2022**.

If you have any questions or need clarification, please contact either of the DEI Advisory Committee Co-Chairs: Robert Jones or Grace Gallagher or visit the DEI web page.

Winter Weather is Coming….

We anticipate the inevitable situations when weather or other circumstances prevent us from opening school or operating buses safely. In those cases, a delay and/or no school could be deemed necessary.

- **A delay to starting school (could be 1 or 2 hours)** in the morning is usually called when conditions are scheduled to improve quickly or if the road crews need additional time to salt, sand, plow.
- An **unscheduled early release** day if the weather is going to deteriorate in the afternoon before buses are able to drop off students safely.
- **No School** days will be days off due to extreme or unsafe weather conditions and/or other factors that impact the safety of staff and students.

**A delay or an early release will count toward our required 180 school days. Five (5) no school/snow days are built into our '22-23 academic calendar.*

The decision to delay or not open school will be made as early as possible if we have definitive information from forecasters. Decisions that are made early in the morning will be

shared typically between 5:00-5:30 a.m. We will use all available methods of sharing these notifications, including:

- Text messages
- Phone calls
- Emails (will send from mail@notify.onecallnow.com)
- Social Media: Facebook, Twitter and Instagram
- AKF website
- Local media outlets; Channels 4, 5, 7, NECN and Fox25

Upcoming Events - Check our District Calendar

Congratulations to our High School students who performed and exhibited art in the Student Showcase last night at the Winter Concert! Amazing!!

- The Middle School Winter Concert will be held Thursday, December 15, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the High School Auditorium. It is free and all are invited to attend.
- Elementary School Curriculum Night "Camp Abby Kelley", also next Thursday, December 15 from 5:00-6:30 p.m.
- The High School Boys Basketball Teams will host Trivium on tonight to open their season; the girls' teams will travel to Trivium.
- Our newly established Boys and Girls Middle School Basketball Team will open their season on Monday, December 12 with home games against Central Tree Middle School at the High School Gym beginning 4:00 p.m.

Please check our District Calendar for dates/times and additional information.

Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School

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