Dear Shepard Families,

Enrollment for Shepard Elementary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Sections</th>
<th>Class Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>21/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Grade</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>21/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Grade</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>21/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Grade</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>21/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth Grade</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>25/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifth Grade</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>19/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>552</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>21/1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This past summer I was asked by Dr. Brown, the Asst. Superintendent of Elementary Education if Shepard would be willing to pilot a program for the district. The program is called Second Steps. The Shepard data parallels the district data that many of our students are struggling with how to manage their emotions and don’t have appropriate social skills.

The Second Step Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Program gives students the tools to excel in and out of the classroom. The easy-to-teach program garners outstanding reviews from educators who’ve noticed schoolwide improvement and see even the most challenging students make progress in emotion management, situational awareness, and academic achievement.

In classrooms from early learning through grade 5, students learn invaluable skills that help them navigate their way through school as well as their community. The Second Step Program’s age-appropriate games, activities, and media engage students and set children on a path to lifelong success.

The Second Step Program has been successfully implemented by over 26,000 schools worldwide. The curriculum is designed to align with district standards.

The Second Step Program has been endorsed by numerous organizations, including the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) and the Department of Education, for the quality of our research, training, and teacher and family support.

Beginning October 16, 2017 all K-5 classrooms will begin Second Steps. We will teach it every Monday for 30 minutes for the remainder of the year.
Grades K through 2 are teaching Fundations.

Fundations makes learning to read fun while laying the groundwork for life-long literacy. Students in grades K-3 receive a systematic program in critical foundational skills, emphasizing:

- Phonemic awareness
- Phonics/ word study
- High frequency word study
- Reading fluency
- Vocabulary
- Comprehension strategies
- Handwriting
- Spelling

Fundations serves as a prevention program to help reduce reading and spelling failure. It is integral to a Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS) or Response to Intervention (RTI) framework, providing research-based instruction in Tier 1 as well as early intervention (Tier 2) for students at risk for reading difficulties.

K – 2 students participate in Fundations 4-5 days a week for 30 minutes.

Shepard Elementary has received a grant from 3M. The first grant is in the amount of $4000. It comes from 3M. The focus of the grant is for Shepard to continue to work on increasing the integrated use of maker space and the involvement of families and community members in providing engaging, authentic learning opportunities for our students. A big thanks to Sharon Salmons for putting this together.

We are also pleased to announce that Shepard has received a grant from the Columbia STEM Alliance to fund startup costs for new LEGO Robotics program for students at Shepard. The Shepard FLL Team will be comprised of 4th and 5th grade students who will work together to accomplish goals in the following 3 areas:

1. Core Values – The team will learn and apply the FLL Core Values, and practice team work through different team building activities.
2. Project – The team will research the “human water Cycle.
3. Robot Game – the team will build and program a robot that can autonomously perform challenging tasks.

October 17, 2017 – Early Release – 12:50
October 30, 2017 – Teacher work day – no students
October 31, 2017 will be our Fall Celebration. 1:45-2:30.

The first quarter of the school has gone very well. On behalf of the entire staff and administration, thank you for positive support of Shepard.

John Elliston
Dave Stallo