

KeizerCommunity

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Sixth graders get jump start on middle school

Sixth graders at Whiteaker Middle School spent Tuesday, Sept. 6 getting acclimated to their new school through a jump start camp. In the gym, students learned how to open a combination lock during a relay. In the library, kids got to know the other students in their grade through a mixer. Throughout the morning, students also spent time in the computer lab, participated in a scavenger hunt and practiced school safety. The first day of school was Wednesday, Sept. 7.

KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley



Claggett Creek Middle continues AVID work

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

With a new school year underway, Claggett Creek Middle principal Rob Schoepfer wants to see a stronger implementation of AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination).

One way to do that will be a focus on binders.

Each student is now required to have a three-inch notebook stocked with pencils, ball-point pens, highlighters, an eraser, planner, page protectors, dividers for each class and paper.

“We expect our kids to be organized but we haven’t

necessarily taught them the skill of organization itself,” Schoepfer said. “What we do is if we expect them to be organized, we need to be intentional on providing support, providing materials and allocating structured time.”

CCMS has doubled the amount of AVID elective classes it offers over the last three years to seven throughout the day—two in sixth grade, three in seventh and two in eighth.

“We identify students who are middle of the road kids who are probably on track to graduate high school but not attend college,” Schoepfer said. “This AVID elective system,

we expect college and the results of AVID have proven that.”

While nearly 20 percent of CCMS students are enrolled in an AVID elective, Schoepfer noted the strategies used in these classes are being utilized by all of the staff to impact all kids.

“Every school has AVID but we’re taking AVID school-wide to impact all students and I really believe that’s what’s separating our kids achievement versus what we’re seeing at other title schools,” he said.

Claggett uses WICOR (Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, Reading) instruction.

“We believe when kids are critically reading about a topic, they’re working in groups and they’re discussing it using academic language and they’re writing about it, they are understanding it at a deeper level than they would if I were standing in front of a group of kids and lecture to them for an hour,” Schoepfer said. “That’s the model in which we approach learning and instruction.”

Please see AVID, Page A7

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