

Dear Faculty and Staff,

As you may have heard, the Colonie community has had some very exciting news regarding our physical education program. The district was recently awarded a \$1.7 million federal Carol M. White PEP Grant to be used over the next three years for the sole purpose of expanding our P.E. curriculum. The grant cannot be used to increase the footprint of the school or even offset the district's current financial shortfalls; however it can go into stronger programs and new equipment for our P.E. program.

In order to be awarded the funds, we must report student health data three times on an annual basis during the course of the grant period. Because this is considered the first year of the award, we have to measure student data three times between now and June 2014.

We are currently setting our testing dates for the year but are hopeful we can administer our first (baseline) during the month of January.

What does this mean for you? As a classroom teacher I understand the increased demands put on your time with students. The only responsibility you will have is to be understanding and cooperative while we pull the students from your classroom. Your cooperation will play a significant role in our effort to improve the health and activity level of our students. We may need you to dismiss a handful of students from your class for each sample date. The testing will take 45-60 minutes. Please note that the list of students will change with every new round of sampling and the students are chosen at random by a computer. We are randomly sampling about 450 students each round (about 35 per grade level) so as we spread this number over the entire district it should have little impact on the number of students from your class at the time.

Each student will complete a brief online survey and a fitness test. They will also receive a pedometer, which will clip onto their shoe. They will be asked to wear the pedometer for 4 or 7 days (depending on grade level), meaning the pedometers will be going home with them for 3 or 6 nights. As the classroom teacher, the only responsibility you will have is to be understanding and cooperative while we pull the students from your classroom.

Prior to each round of testing a letter will go home to the parents of those students who have been chosen for the testing, outlining in detail the tests the students will be participating in. We also plan on holding an informational meeting for any parent whose child is participating in the grant.

I do understand this is a lot of information in such a short amount of time; however, we will do the best we can to keep you informed without adding any extra burden to your schedule. Thank you very much for your understanding and cooperation. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the grant at anytime please do not hesitate to contact me at matthew.stein@southcolonie.k12.ny.us

Yours,
Matt Stein
PEP Grant Manager
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