

# Astro Blast

February 8, 2017



## Next Week at Carr (2/14-2/17)

2/14-24		Individual MAP Data Chats	
2/13	Monday	No School	
2/14	Tuesday	Vision Testing	Gym
2/15	Wednesday	Professional Development	
2/16	Thursday	Parent Meetings	8:30/6
2/16	Thursday	PBIS Meeting	2:45/301

Like many of you, my family and I watched Super Bowl 51 together last weekend. I think this was the most exciting Super Bowl I have watched in several years. I couldn't believe that the Patriots were down 28-9 going into the last quarter of the game. Many people felt that the game was over— they were done. It reminded me of the types of odds that many of our students face in life. The chances don't look good and time seems to be running out. I was glued to the television as we watched the Patriots come back and overcome what seemed like insurmountable odds. How was this possible? I felt that the Patriots had the right mindset and Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Timely (SMART) Goals. Which leads me back to us. As you know, I believe that a proficiency-based system will work for our students, and the proficiency-based system helps our students to have the mindset and focus on SMART goals. Even though for the Patriots winning the game was the intended outcome, I believe they were laser focused on the play at hand and what they needed to accomplish in that moment in time. Each time they accomplished a goal, they knew exactly what they needed to do next. The challenge for us at the moment is that students aren't yet fully clear where they are on the learning continuum in each subject matter class. The good news is that we are beginning to make progress! As a school we have really highlighted the importance of reading and our students now know what their reading level is. Students know that if they need support, we will give it to them, and we won't give up on them. We are giving them the opportunity to improve their reading ability, opportunities to practice (myOn) and celebrating their successes (Homeroom myOn competition). We are giving students a way to measure their progress (MAP test scores and Lexile levels) and giving them goals that are attainable to them (MAP goals). The Rewards classes are up and running and System 44 for our lowest 8<sup>th</sup> grade readers will be starting up soon as well. If students aren't succeeding, let's give them SMART goals leading to their success.

I feel that in implementing SMART goals and looking at MAP scores, though we have looked at bar graphs and MAP data, we haven't really explored what the numbers mean to you as a teacher. In the coming weeks, my admin team and I are really looking forward to looking at your data with you one on one. I think this will give us the opportunity to understand what stands out to you, what you understand about

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the data, how we can support you in providing instruction appropriate for your students and where they stand on their reading and math levels.

I would like to give another note of appreciation for our Social Studies teachers in taking on the task of giving our students skills they need. We want our students to have the right mindset to continue to try and persevere regardless of what the score currently is. However, our staff, our admin team and I included, we are also taking a step at a time and achieving one SMART goal at a time. Our odds seem overwhelming, but as a team we can make it.