

CRAIG HIGH SCHOOL

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Home of the Panthers!

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September CCSD School Board Report

Craig High School - Submitted by Josh Andrews

Enrollment: The opening of school brought a pleasant surprise. We ended last school year predicting that we would open with 65-67 CHS students. The first week brought more and more new students and we now have a student body of 79! There are a couple of students whose enrollment status might change, but we are still scheduling way more students than expected. The obvious question is, “what accounts for all of these new students?” I have thought about this and spoken with several people. There are a variety of reasons people attend CHS - ultimately, I think we have a fantastic school with fantastic supportive staff. Our offerings, both academic and athletic, remain robust, varied, and comprehensive. We had a very successful year last year, not only at CHS, but as a district. People talk and positive word of mouth cannot be underestimated. We will continue to build on our past success as we look for additional ways to improve our school and engage more students in their academic, athletic, and post secondary pursuits.

CHS enrollment is larger than it has been in many years. With our reduced staff size, I have been very cognizant of class sizes. Our large school gives a sense of space, but the reality is different. We have several classes of 17-20+ students which make for very full rooms. We have arranged classes in workable ways of the time being, but, especially given our freshman class, future scheduling may prove to be extremely challenging without additional staff.

Scheduling Classes: With the increase in student body, we have seen an increase in the need for scheduling flexibility. Several students are taking advantage of the district subscription to the Courseware library from Edmentum and are signed up for a variety of classes including AP Psychology and Engineering and Technology.

Adventure Day: Each Fall for the past several years, CHS staff sponsor an “Adventure Day.” Each staff member hosts an activity, both outdoor and indoor, half-day and full-day, and students sign up

for something that interests them. This day provides an opportunity for staff and students to connect outside the classroom. It helps everyone to build relationships it strengthens our school community.

Educators Rising: We had an in-person presentation by Florence Scott with Educators Rising Alaska (UAF), last week. She had reached out to me this summer looking for new partners with the organization. Educators Rising is a program that works to connect young people who are interested in education as a career with mentors, activities, and opportunities to learn more about the field of education. We have had many conversations about “grow your own” during board meetings and strategic planning sessions over the years so I was pleased to have information about an existing program

Community Partnerships: I received an inquiry from Alicia Roberts Medical Center about the emergency protocols CCSD uses. I shared information about CCSD’s SRP (iloveyouguys.org), which was received well. An important aspect of the SRP is that it represents a shared lexicon. It is encouraging that we have other providers on the island who are interested in sharing and adopting our safety protocols.

Updates on Handbook Changes: The no-cellphone policy has been accepted well, generally speaking. While we do not have 100% compliance, the vast majority of our students are stowing their phones. I feel that this policy has had an immediate, positive impact! Students are talking and playing frisbee and catch during snack and lunch, I don’t see people on their phones during class, and students have reported that it “actually isn’t that bad.” I’ll take the win.

Ms. Peavey and I have also started the first nicotine cessation meetings. I am pleased that we have established enough trust in our students to have interest in the program.

New Standards for Social Studies: The State adopted new standards for social studies last December. Ms. Beck has been very intentional in reviewing and addressing the changes in our current social studies course offerings.

Thanks: Thank you to Troy Thain for stepping out of retirement temporarily, helping us to provide K-12 PE/Health instruction. While he assures me that this is his last sub stand, we know that remains to be seen.