

MORROW EDUCATION CENTER

240 Columbia Ln. ♦ Irrigon, OR 97844

(541) 922-4004 Phone

September 6, 2005

Greetings Board Members,

Once again, it is a privilege to report the recent happenings of the Morrow Education Center. Forrest and I are working hard recruiting students who haven't yet re-enrolled at the Morrow Education Center. Our first week enrollment was 25 students, most of which are Morrow County School District students. We expect to see many more students this week as Umatilla School District begins school today. We continue to promote the importance of regular attendance to the students at the Morrow Education Center, and the students are responding well to the new school year.

The MEC Staff and I have enjoyed the past week in the classroom here at Morrow Education Center and have welcomed the daily challenges that go along with serving this population of students. Our goal continues to be, serving the students of Morrow Education Center and providing a safe and effective learning environment for all to thrive in. We appreciate your support of this program, and your commitment to all students of the Morrow County School District.

Sincerely,

Matt Combe
Alternative Education Coordinator

September Board Report-2005

AC vote in Elementary

Good Start

AC Houghton Elementary is off to a good start this school year. We were fortunate during the late spring, early summer and first of August to bring on board excellent new staff. They are as follows:

New Teachers

Amber Jamison-Title I Reading
Michelle Kinley-Second Grade
Brenda Kittelson-First Grade
Sherrie Lennox-Counselor
Tonya Pomeroy-Third Grade
Tara Thomas-Special Education

New Classified Staff

Michelle Gale-Title I Reading
April Linnell-Special Education One-on-one Assistant
Della McGinley-Special Education One on One Assistant
Robin Mulder-Educational Assistant
Dawn Mills-Educational Assistant

Writing Improvement

This year ACH will be continuing its effort to improve student success in writing on the Oregon State writing sample. So far, we have initiated common curriculum in writing throughout the grades. We have also begun to use the Four Square graphic organizational method to help students organize their thoughts into a good writing sample. This year, we will be instructing all staff in the best practices which will provide special support to students who are learning English as a second language or have limited English knowledge in general when they enter school. This incorporates many strategies which use all the senses, reading, charts, listening, manipulatives, and direct instruction and assessment. Students will have multiple opportunities to write and to have teacher feedback of both written and oral efforts during the year. Our goal is it to increase the percentage of students passing the Oregon benchmark writing test by 10% this year and an additional 10% next year.

New Slide

A new piece of playground equipment has been installed on her primary playground to replace an aging splintery set of climbing tires. It has been installed by our custodial staff and should be ready to go in the next several days. There is monstrous interest in starting to use this new piece of equipment.

Open House

Grades 3-4 will be September 13 at 7 pm. Grades K-2 will be Sept. 19 at 7 pm. All will be held in the gymnasium.

Tuesday, September 06, 2005

IRRIGON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Irrigon Elementary School opened its doors with 133 students enrolled. The smallest class has 22 students with the largest at 25. We also welcomed several new staff members to the team by adding a Special Education, special needs classroom. Staff is currently working on developing an after school program to provide additional time for students to work on their reading, writing, and math skills. Our Open House will be held on Thursday, September 8th @ 6:30 pm.

Sam Boardman Elementary

We have had a great start to the school year!! Kids are excited to be back in the swing of things and teachers are picking up where they left off.

We have several new staff members this year. The new members are:

Elisabet Flores- Kindergarten

Brandi Lalande- Kindergarten

Danica Harjo- 1st grade

Michelle Nead- 4th grade

Nicole Fox- ESL

Maribel Torres- Counselor

As you can see we had a few changes but these new staff members are great additions to an already great staff!!

SBE is making an effort to help the relief effort in the Gulf Coast. Hurricane Katrina was a devastating event that I can't even imagine. People have been without the essentials of survival for weeks and will not see the comforts of home we enjoy for months or even years. SBE is collecting pennies in hope of generating a significant amount of money for the Red Cross. I have encouraged everyone to see what they can give to help ease the pain of devastation. Mrs. Gigi Lemmon and Mrs. Mary Gressley-Grow are the front runners in making this penny drive a success.

Hope you all had a great Labor day!

BJ Wilson

**Director of Special Ed
September 2005**

We have two new special education teachers in our district this year. Laura Rowe will be working half-time special education at Irrigon Elementary School and Tara Thomas will be a full time special education teacher at A.C. Houghton Elementary School. Last fall the Oregon Department of Education awarded our school a grant for \$7,500. The grant is to be used for training teachers on the new Individuals with Disability Act laws and guidelines. Our special education teachers will receive three days of training in Eugene on September 19th through the 21st. The grant, which needs to be spent by this September 30th, will cover the entire cost of travel, lodging, materials and substitute teachers.

On October 4th and 5th I will be attending another state workshop in Redmond. This workshop will outline the guidelines that the Oregon Department of Education will use this year when they monitor our special education program. In past years an 80% accuracy rate was used to pass file reviews made by ODE. This year, they have raised the bar to an accuracy rate of 100%. We will need to work harder to meet the new guidelines. The workshop in Eugene should help train our special education teachers on file reviews.

We have received more additional students in our district this year that are considered severe needs students. We are working to obtain restraint training and autism training to help our teachers meet the increasing demand on our district. The year has started out fast and our special education staff has risen to meet those needs.

Jack Johns
SpEd Director

Principals Report
Windy River Elementary School

Sept. 6, 2005

We have gotten off to a very smooth start at WRE this year. All of our teachers and students arrived ready to go to work and have taken off.

We have three new staff members joining us this school year:

Brian Frazier joins our 6th grade team.

Brian Jones joins our 5th grade team and he is also a brand new dad. Last Thursday he and his wife welcomed Owen to their family. What a way to start your first year of teaching.

Beau Phillips will serve as our Title 1 teacher this year.

Kay Thomas will transfer from SBE and serve as our head cook this year.

We are excited about the potential of the 05-06 school year. One of the things that we are most excited about is the introduction of student agenda planners. We believe that using these will provide an effective communication tool for parents as well as an organizational tool for our students. (These are back to back English and Spanish.) This blends well with the best practices staff development project we are introducing this year.

We now have everyone placed in their reading and math groups and have scheduled students in ERC, ELL, and Special Education classes. As of today students are starting all of their programming after spending last week with their homeroom teachers learning the expectations that we have for them here at Windy River. We used testing data from last springs TESA testing to place students at the correct level. This will give each student the chance to achieve the growth outlined in the 1st Board Goal.

Two other items of interest:

We will be teaming with SBE selling bottled water with a souvenir label at the Cycle Oregon event in Boardman on the 10th of September.

We will also be electing Student Council representatives and Officers in the next two weeks and then our Council will be off and running.

Respectively Submitted,
Thad Killingbeck
Principal
Windy River Elementary School

September 12, 2005

RHS Principal Report

Riverside Junior/Senior High School

Thanks to the hard work of dedicated staff members, this first day of the 2005-2006 school year began smoothly with students feeling welcome and anxious to begin a new year.

Riverside Student Population as of 9/6/05	470
7 th Graders	67
8 th Graders	77
Freshmen	70
Sophomores	70
Juniors	65
Seniors	95

RHS Open House

Riverside will host its Open House on Monday, October 3 from 3:30 – 7:30 p.m. Open House will be combined with First Quarter Progress Conferences to be held on the 3rd.

New Staff

Riverside welcomes new staff members.

Ben Bonser—Ben graduated with a degree in Spanish and a minor in TESOL from BYU. He received his Masters of Arts in Teaching from WOU. He and his wife, Samantha have been married for three years and have a 15 month old baby named Thomas. He recently purchased a home in Boardman.

Wayne Whitley—Wayne grew up on a small ranch in Medical Springs. He received his master's degree from Eastern Oregon University in LaGrande. He enjoys rock climbing, windsurfing, snow sports and mountain biking. His wife, April, works as a nurse at Grande Ronde Hospital in LaGrande for the time being. They are hoping to purchase a house in Boardman and are looking forward to living in the community.

Martha Rivera—Martha is the new ESL Educational Assistant at Riverside. She grew up in Hermiston and graduated from Hermiston High School and attended Blue Mountain Community College. Martha now lives in Boardman with her two young children.

Rogena Loving—Rogena joins our custodial staff. She worked as a long-term sub at Windy River Elementary during the 04-05 school year. Rogena is a pleasant addition to the Riverside staff.

Gloria Cornwall—Gloria is our new 2-hour assistant cook. She replaces Connie Rodriguez who transferred to the Food Clerical Service position.

Mark Jones—Mark Jones moves to his new position as Riverside's Assistant Principal. Mark has worked for Morrow County School District for 22 years and at Riverside for 15.

Donna Barton—Donna Barton also takes on a new role this year. In addition to her role as Athletic Director, Donna will be the Junior High Programs' Director. Donna has been a district employee for 22 years as well, spending all of her years at Riverside.

Site Council

The RHS Site Council is currently holding elections. The council will begin working on School Goals and the 2005-2006 School Improvement Plan. They will use the district goals established by the School Board and Administrators as a guide.

Cycle Oregon

Boardman will be the starting point for Cycle Oregon this year. The event will begin in Boardman on Saturday, September 10th and end in Astoria on September 17th. Riverside students and staff are very involved with the community effort to make the Cycle Oregon event a success. For more information please go to www.cycleoregon.com .

Daye A. Stone

September, 2005

Heppner High School Principal's Report

Heppner High School

- HHS is off and running- our enrollment is up.
- Our ASB officers are working on Homecoming Activities.
- Class Elections have been completed and officers are in place.
- Facilities are looking good and our Facilities Coordinator and Custodians are working hard on the grounds.
- Fall Sports have had their first games and we look forward to a great year.
- Staff In-Service went well and we are working on implementing Best Practices Staff Development.
- We are having meetings with 4-H and Adopt-A-Teacher on how we can implement more opportunities for our students this year.
- All of our staff hiring is done and in place.
- We are looking at our master schedule and trying to schedule based on our staffing.
- We are working on changing our Library network to better suit our district and students needs.
- Overall, our school has started very well and working on meeting the needs of our kids. Our teachers and support staff are working hard, and our students are responding positively.

Heppner Elementary School

Jack Thompson, Principal, Ext 2611
Elaine Miller, Secretary

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Principal's Report

- Primary grade teachers have the new Reading Mastery program up and running. Preliminary thoughts have been positive. I am encouraged by the great work my staff is doing.
- Replacing the water meter to the lower playground is still in the works. I am hopeful the water will be on by the next board meeting.
- We have great turn out for Colt Volleyball and Football. The kids are excited and so are the parents.
- HES Parents Club is planning a carnival again this year. Oct. 20th is the scheduled date.
- Open house is scheduled for Oct. 11th. This will coincide with the Parent Club book fair.
- If any board members have not seen our new murals in the gym, please stop by and take a look. They are very nice.

IHS

Principal Report for the September 2005 board meeting.

We had a great start this year. The booster club presented each student with a welcome back goody bag. The students then proceeded to do a round robin schedule of school activities and goal setting sessions. Classes ran as normal after lunch. We have approx. 300 students enrolled at IHS.

Activities at IHS:

- Football, Volleyball, Boys and Girls soccer is in full swing.
- Open house on September 13. Booster club will be having a BBQ dinner before, 5:30-6:30. Open house 6:30-8:00.
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Report to the Morrow County School Board
September 7, 2005

From the ELL District Director

This month has started with an administrative training using the (SIOP) Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol. That is just a big title for using good teaching methods for all our students. We set up a key note speaker from the Southern Oregon ESD. His name was Andreas Horites who spoke to all the district teachers about SIOP teaching methods.

Preparations have been made to incorporate a staff development program that will keep training school administration and key teachers in each building through out the year in SIOP instruction and the observation. The district ELL director also attended administrative seminars at our local ESD in Pendleton, and the OACE conference in Bend to discuss our District ELL Plan with state officials in order to get final approval of our plan.

Newly, hired teachers who speak Spanish have been evaluated in their Spanish fluency, so that they can receive the extra one-time stipend offered by the district. Five new teachers will have qualified for that stipend.

ELL site coordinators received an all-day training on using Rosetta Stone. It is an ESL computer supportive educational piece that teaches English to our students. It encompasses all four domains of learning English in reading, writing, speaking, and understanding.

The director is going to be in the Irrigon schools at least one day a week. He will have his offices at WRE and IES. He is also involved in getting Boardman area students involved in co-curricular activities, so that we see fair representation of all students in district programs.

Joel R. Chavez
ELL District Director
Morrow County Public Schools