

Homedale School District #370

TO: Board of Trustees; Superintendent Rob Sauer
FROM: Amy Winters, HMS Principal
DATE: August 11, 2016
RE: Board of Trustees Report

Registration

Students in 7-8th grade selected classes online again this year on August 3-4 and parents came to the school on Aug. 8 to complete paperwork. Fifth grade students and parents register on Aug. 9 and were able to tour the school and meet their teachers.

We retained two students. One in 5th grade and one in 6th grade. Parents and students were agreeable in both cases.

Back to School BBQ

The teachers and staff met at Brenda Reay's house for a Back to School BBQ on Aug. 17.

Back to School Night

Parents will be invited to meet the teachers and learn about the curriculum and classroom expectations for the year from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. on Aug. 29.

Response to ISAT Data

5th grade teachers met this summer several times and will continue through the year to work on rewriting their curriculum so that all classes (English, Social Studies, and Science) are connected by a common theme. Students work in each class will be focused on that theme and the same standards to support the content they are learning. Social Studies and Science classes will help address English and Math standards at the same time students are learning those English and Math standards in those classes. This ought to help students and teachers hone in on those areas we did not do so well on last year.

6th grade teachers are meeting to begin the same process as 5th grade. We plan to rebuild the curriculum so students are focused on the same standards in whichever content class they are taking. We also incorporated a new study skills class that teachers will take students on a rotating basis to work with them on skills they are struggling with.

7/8th grade teachers are working to rebuild their curriculum to focus on the ISAT standards we did not score well on last year. Students who scored at level 1 (below basic) have been divided into tier classes with Shannon Johnson (math and English), Becky DeMark (math and English), Jake Levinkski (math), Andrea Ratkowski (math), and Margo Phariss (math and English). Margo and I will monitor their progress on a monthly basis using PLATO and Think Through Math. Students can move out of these classes as they gain skills to work at grade level. We will also use the MAP test three times a year to check students' progress.

Students who are struggling to make progress will be required to attend Friday School paid for by the grant we received.

We will be using our Friday professional development time to work with Science, Social Studies, History, and Health so they can incorporate some of the English and math standards into their curriculum to reinforce what the English and math teachers are doing.