

Administration Reports

February 2017

Sam Boardman Elementary

January was a marvelous month for Sam Boardman Elementary.

While, we missed several days due to inclement weather, staff and students remained positive and enthusiastic about school. In fact, after enough snow days, staff and students were thankful to get back to school and participate in their regular routines. Everybody is now waiting in anticipation for word on the remaining snow days to be made up.

In elementary school, and especially in kindergarten through third grade, January through March is a time when students make tremendous progress. In kinder and first, it often feels like someone flipped a switch from one day to the next. It is so exciting to see the joy on students faces as they succeed after a struggle. Many of our teachers are working hard to do whatever it takes from small group instruction to interactive academic games in order to see their students excel in reading, writing, and math. Teachers are continuously improving their knowledge of best practice, core curriculum, engagement strategies, and how to effectively combine all of it for best results.

We are pleased to report an excellent professional development session. On January 25th teachers participated in building-level training on the Engage NY curriculum and how to effectively use it. Teachers got to talk to a highly qualified trainer, see demonstrations, and brainstorm solutions to implementation concerns. One teacher said, "You know, I wasn't so sure about Engage NY at first, but now that I've been using it, I see that it is really working!" This same teacher is working to incorporate the engagement strategies she is learning through our district and building focus into her Engage NY lessons and is seeing good results.

This month, students who met their Accelerated Reader goals went to the SAGE center for popcorn and a movie. This program helps motivate our students to read books at their level for their own enjoyment. Many of them are very motivated by the incentives.

Finally, Sam Boardman Elementary has recently developed a new mission and vision statement! Throughout the course of this year, the Site Council with the help of one of our parents, Javier DiMauro who has experience working through this process, has obtained feedback from families, staff and community members. The purpose of the exercise was to provide renewed focus and vision for Sam Boardman Elementary as we look to better and better serve our students and families. We are excited to present the SBE Mission and Vision, and we invite you to join us in our efforts.

The SBE Mission:

Together with our families and community, Sam Boardman Elementary inspires our students to become self-confident learners and responsible citizens by providing the opportunity to develop skills, knowledge, and values for a bright future.

The SBE Vision:

Sam Boardman Elementary will be so effective that all students, regardless of background or teacher, will master grade-level skills in reading, writing, and math by the completion of third grade.

Windy River Elementary

The past few months have been a test of students and teachers' abilities to be flexible and adjust as needed. With the multiple snow days, we have had a whirlwind of activity as we worked to keep students on track and progressing. We have recently completed our benchmark testing in reading and math. The highlight of this session showed tremendous improvement in mathematics, with sixth graders averaging 144% growth! But what was most important to me was the dialogue we had in our grade level teams.

An area of our "4 Square Focus" is utilizing the data that we retrieve from student testing. Teachers meet once a week and are given 45 minutes to evaluate as a team, more effective ways to help ALL our students succeed. This year we have emphasized the need to be looking at the data and having this be the starting point of conversation. Our teachers are moving forward each week and becoming more effective within these meetings. Along with student data we have been

focusing on “engagement” as a school. Several months ago we received training on instructional research called, “Visible Learning”. The information presented gives teachers specific tools and strategies to be even more effective instructors, at NO COST. As a school we have worked to incorporate these strategies within our classrooms.

Another major component of our engagement has been in the development of a school vision. A vision committee was created and we worked at developing a vision. Through collaboration with our staff we were able to create the following vision statement:

Windy River Elementary, where we prepare and inspire future leaders.

With the use of this vision, along with the district mission statement, we are developing a roadmap of where Windy River is going and how we are going to get there. This is a huge step in moving our students forward.

Riverside Jr/Sr High School

We are now halfway through the school year and it has flown by!

We are taking time as a building to review our focus areas and identify areas to focus in on with our school improvement plan updates.

- Student Achievement
- Quality instructional opportunities
- Relationships that foster student success and equity
- Opportunities appropriate for all students
- A variety of learning paths and school options, community and family partnerships
- Optimize community partners to enhance opportunities for students, families, and staff
- Communication with families and community

In December we participated in the first of a two-part training on Growth Mindset. In preparation for our second training session several teachers will be shadowing a student for a day. The goal being to gain a better understanding of what a student’s day is like and how we can better support them in individual classrooms and school wide.

Our staff continues to do a great job of looking for new learning opportunities for our students that gives them opportunities at real world application. Our science teachers took a Saturday to be part of a Kidwind training and math teachers have been participating in several training opportunities around engagement and real world application.

This past month our WSU GEAR UP coordinator left her position. To finish out the year Mrs. Rosen will be coordinating with administration to continue the activities that had been put in place to support seniors and their parents through graduation and the start of college in the fall. Betsy Shane continues to lead our Oregon GEAR UP grant and has several college and career visitation opportunities lined up for students this spring.

AC Houghton Elementary

Our staff at ACH is working hard gearing up for third grade Smarter Balanced and ELPA 21 testing. ACH is continuing with the after school program on Tuesday- Thursdays. This program is serving struggling 3rd grade students in math. We are gearing up to start a Lego club which will be ran by our third grade teacher Lori Frank. This will be a new endeavor at ACH. We are hoping it will tie into the Lego program at IES. Char Ratkie our Title one teacher was awarded a scholarship to the tune of \$1300 to bring OMSI to ACH for classroom presentations and a parent/evening night. We are so excited to have this opportunity for our students and community. Our students are also getting the opportunity to experience piano music in the cafeteria. We have a wonderful volunteer who serenades the students and staff every day! Here at ACH we continually work on our 3 A’s “Academics, Attitude, and Attendance.”

Irrigon Elementary

Between snow days, academics, and wrapping up the second quarter...Irrigon Elementary has had the opportunity to have some fun. This month our students have started the Battle of the Books reading competition, our teachers have participated in a professional development training from our Engage NY Math coach and everyone is working to finish up

the Winter Benchmarks for math and reading. And, possibly the most noteworthy, with all the ice and snow that we have had we would like to give a big shout out to our maintenance crew and custodial staff. They have been keeping our school's walkways, playground, and parking lots safe for walking.

The Battle of the Books reading competition has started up this month and we have teams battling every day in the library at lunch time. These students work together as a team and read, read, read! There are 13 teams in grades 3-5 and 11 teams in grades 6-8. During the months on January and February they will battle each other until the final team is standing. At that point we will send one team from each grade span to Pendleton in March to Battle against other team from different schools in the region.

During the month of January our teachers had the opportunity to meet with the Engage NY math coach who supports Morrow County School District. Fourth and Fifth grade teachers sat down together with Laura (our district math coach) for a 2-hour professional development on the next steps for Engage NY. Laura answered questions pertaining to math and gave our teachers online resources they could use in their classrooms to help support the districts goals for student engagement. Some of these strategies are for whole group instruction and others for small group instruction. It was very nice to hear our teachers boast about the training and the opportunity to have 2 hours with Laura.

Our students have been working very hard on their District Winter Benchmark assessments for math and reading. We met as a school, looked at the data from the assessments to see where our students are on the 3 tiers of the risk analysis. We created plans as a team and walked away from the meeting with an instructional focus plan for our 110 minute Journeys block. These meetings are great for our teachers to be able to look at data and see cohort improvements with their students.

Lastly, we have had weather that our region has not seen in years, but our maintenance staff and custodial staff have worked diligently to make sure our school is safe for our students and staff each and every day. All of us at Irrigon Elementary appreciate what they have done to our parking lots, walkways, and playground.

As we wrap up the month of January and our accomplishments; Battle of the Books, math Professional Development for our teachers, and winter benchmark assessments, we look forward to the last two quarters of the 2016-17 school year. We have some exciting things on our calendar for Irrigon Elementary and we can't wait to share!

Irrigon Jr/Sr High School

What a crazy winter it has been. The weather has been less than cooperative with us, causing us to miss a few days. Due to this we moved the end of the semester by one week. This allowed our students and teachers adequate time to finish up the items they had planned for the end of 1st semester. With the end of the semester, it marks the mid-way point for our seniors final year. Our counselor Mike Royer has already been in contact with each senior and their family that still has missing graduation requirements, developing a plan for those students to complete each of the missing items. In looking at our 9th grade on track data (earning 6 credits by the end of the year) 96% of our 9th graders are still capable of meeting that mark without summer school or credit recovery, only 2 students at this time would require summer school/credit recovery to meet the on-track status. During the past month our JH Science teacher Joe Cobb attended a one-day workshop KidWind where he was able to add some curriculum to his Science and Robotics classes. He will also be teaming up with Jeff Searles to take 20+ students to the Step Tech Expo at EOU in March. One of our math teachers CJ Johnson attended a Math PD hosted at Riverside to develop engaging activities in math at both the junior high and high school levels. She was able to come back with a variety of ideas that she plans on implementing in her classroom and sharing with her math PLC. We will also be implementing building professional development on Friday Feb. 10th. The focus will be on engagement strategies. We will have 3 of our own teachers present strategies that they use in their classrooms. Erin Meyers (HS SAS) will be presenting on the use of technology in her classroom (Kahoot), Devin Bailey (HS Science) will be demonstrating his use of the Gradual Release lesson delivery model, and Tim Zacharias (HS LA) will be demonstrating a group critical thinking activity that requires students to be up and out of their desks. We have also begun our Battle of the Books competitions and have some impressive battles between our JH teams and the teams from IES.

The Winter Sports Season is already approaching the end with all of our teams are preparing for post season play. Both boys and girls basketball are looking for a strong finish to propel them into the playoffs. Our wrestlers are preparing for the district tournament and looking forward to a strong team showing. Band is finalizing their plan for their trip to Hawaii which will occur over spring break, and is quickly approaching. Hopefully all this snow and ice will finally go away for good and we can prepare for spring and all that it brings!

Heppner Elementary

January was a busy month at HES with many great activities for our students. Mrs. Rosenbalm with some help from staff and volunteers arranged our annual Geography Bee in January. Fourteen students participated and 4th grader, Jackson Coiner was declared the winner. He will take a test to see if he advances to state competition. Another favorite activity for our 5th & 6th graders is the Time Out for Reading Program. During the months of January and February, students track how many minutes they read to earn prizes both individually and as a team. That is just wrapping up.

Our classroom teachers were provided a hands on, in class training covering their Engage New York curriculum which they found beneficial and informative. January 20th was the end of the semester for this school year. Our students continued to perform well both academically and behaviorally which is reported on their report cards. HES gave awards to 48 students for Perfect Attendance for the Second Quarter and 27 students with Perfect Attendance for the First Semester at our assembly at the end of the month. The perfect attendance awards are sponsored by Les Schwab and the kids get a very nice certificate as well as the opportunity to be drawn to receive other prizes. Current enrollment at HES is 173 and attendance is 93.9%. Teachers are continuing to monitor student progress through EasyCBM and iReady to help prepare students for the SBAC test later this year.

Heppner Jr/Sr High School

It is hard to believe that we have already started the second semester and are three weeks into the third quarter at both Heppner Elementary and Heppner Junior/Senior High School. Our current enrollment is 173 students at HES and 164 students at HJSHS. Our year to date attendance percentage is 93.9% at HES and 93% at HJSHS.

The Heppner Schools Safety Committees continue to revise/update our school safety plans on a regular basis. During the month of January, we conducted "Lock Out" drills at both schools. A "Lock Out" drill is when there is a threat or hazard outside of the school building and there is a need to secure the perimeter. During this drill we practiced returning any and all staff/students from any outside area to back inside the buildings. We continued doing business as usual with a focus on increased situational awareness while remaining on guard during the length of drill. Students were released back to regular routines and schedules after the "all clear" signal had been given.

At Heppner High School the HHS safety plan was last updated and reviewed during our November safety meeting. The HHS safety committee is responsible for the revision process and it is communicated to and reviewed by our staff and site council. At HES the safety plans have been in a continuous revision and updating process for the past couple of school years. The HES safety committee reviews and discusses the planned revisions/updates at our monthly meetings and they are also shared and discussed with both the site council and parent-teacher clubs. We also communicate safety related information through our monthly newsletter at HES.

We are currently planning a situational scenario training with our School Resource Officer (Todd Siex) for this Friday, February 10th, to give our staff a better understanding of what to do in a number of different scenario's and circumstances. We will continue to seek opportunities to increase school safety awareness with all stakeholders as we look to improve our school safety plans to best meet the needs of our students at both Heppner Elementary and Heppner Junior/Senior High School.

We would like to end this month's report by once again thanking each of you for your commitment to the Morrow County School District.

Management's Discussion and Analysis

MCSD – Maintenance & Facilities Update – February 2017

McKinstry continues to work on the Facility Improvement Measure repair allotment. They are currently working on the control measures in conjunction with Clima-Tech.

We are in the preliminary stages of installing a modular building at Irrigon Elementary. This building will have two extra classrooms due to overcrowding which will also help better accommodate the Robotics and Music programs. We have hired an Engineer company to do the site survey and permit fees.

We are also meeting with an additional engineer per the City of Irrigon's recommendation to go over current design plans of the Irrigon Jr/Sr High School press box. City of Irrigon has donated \$5,000 towards the new Engineer's fee, as there were concerns with the original plans. Due to bad weather, we have had to reschedule this meeting a couple of times, but hope to get this project underway in the coming weeks and have the press box back on the list of projects to complete.

Matt and Jan will be meeting with Administrator's and Head Custodians at each school during the week of February 13th through the 16th, to go over projects and needs for the upcoming 2017-18 budget year. The Administrator's will prioritize their lists to include three criteria:

- 1) Safety
- 2) Extending Useful Life
- 3) Efficiencies and cost savings

A couple of additional noteworthy items include:

- Sarah Kimmell is in the preliminary stages of working on a playground grant to install new playground equipment at Sam Boardman Elementary School.
- The district has received an additional \$20,000 from the City of Irrigon for community enhancement projects for pickle ball and basketball court development and renovations at ACH.

Financial Report Talking Points:

Highlights:

- The District received the first of two payments from Common School funds in January in the amount of \$110,864, the second payment will come in June.
- Building expenditures are all on track, with no Building over budget, and needs all being met.
- Cutting building spending off Friday, March 24th, no large expenditures will be approved after this date.
- Special Revenue funds are being spent out in line with George's special revenue budget and I will be ordering money from the State in February.

Incident/Accident Report – December/January

- RJSHS - Employee jumped off scaffolding in shop area. Tore pants and scraped leg on a 1x3. Did not seek medical attention.
- SBE - Employee fell on icy sidewalk. Did not seek medical attention.
- HES – Employee backed into a counter corner hitting their tail bone. Did not seek medical attention.