



# New Bridge High School

2001 NE F Street, Grants Pass, OR 97526

Phone 541. 471.2862 Fax 541. 471.2861

Brent Workley, Principal

Holly Meadows, Office Manager

3 February 2016

## Summary of January

NBHS education staff were involved in multiple conversations regarding the upcoming 2<sup>nd</sup> semester schedule and how we could modify our scheduling matrix that would maximize our student learning. We also balanced our moves with OYA need for staffing and viewed all changes through the lens of safety and security. Having now lived with our new schedule for two weeks, we are experiencing the most balanced, easy to place schedule we have worked with in several years. We have yet to resolve the issue of not every student enrolled in the core classes for two basic reasons. Seating is limited in every class and a teacher per subject is only capable of handling so many students per period. The second is that PE is required every day, thus leaving us with only four academic options.

We have continued our focused conversations regarding at-risk students and are now seeking ideas or developing strategies to overcome the shortfalls experienced. Treatment Mgrs. have been involved in this process and over time, have included treatment needs or expected outcomes with the student's behavior, thus allowing insight into interventions or successful strategies to better work with and alter the behaviors that are affecting outcomes. This is a challenging process given the short term stay, the normative addition to drugs or alcohol, the associated mental health issues and the criminal thinking that is overwhelming cognitive thinking. We reach some students, others remain aloof and distant.

January was focused on our Writing across the Curriculum initiative. All teachers provided a variety of writing prompts to their students and all students were asked to write. Although the data is not finalized, tentative results establish more students wrote something that met the writing standards for a work sample than ever before. Prior to launching the initiative, three different conversations were held with all education staff members highlighting the goals and targeted outcomes and specific instruction was provided in how this concept works in all classes with conceptual ideas provided that demonstrated the various ideas that make this an achievable activity in all classes. We are also beginning to see more writing in the treatment plans developed by our students, so the idea of writing is beginning to take hold as a necessary skill and expected outcome of school.

Time will tell.

Respectfully submitted;

Brent Workley

**Mission Statement:** *In partnership with Oregon Youth Authority, NBHS will prepare students to meet graduation requirements and continue their education for transition to the world of work.*