



9-12

What an exciting few weeks it has been for our high school students, teachers, staff and myself as we started a new school year together for the first time. Staff week started with the reshuffling, redistributing, and reforming of storage spaces into classrooms as we tried to reset from the construction over the summer. From Catalyst training to leadership/PBIS meetings, we were reprogramming what we had settled on in the Spring to fit the form of what the Fall was now offering us. Open House and 9th Grade Orientation were a success as students came to claim their chromebooks, set up their lockers and meet their new teachers for the upcoming semester. As the week ended, staff were set up with desks, computers, curriculum in place and internet that was hit or miss depending on the wind. Overall, we were ready and able to see the students for the first day!

From the green carpet greeting to our PBIS presentation, staff were welcoming students on the first day by name and offering a plethora of wisdom and advice as the new school year started. Mr. Winter and myself, along with one new choir teacher Mr. Benz, were introduced to the students and expectations were given at a high level. Classrooms were then a buzz over first day/week introduction projects and a hint of excitement as we were learning what this new year would look/act like. By the end of the week, students were memorizing schedules, understanding the new Advisor time, and meeting for lunch in their prospective spots. The week ended with a football victory on Friday that had the cheers of students in camouflage, parents standing next to their sons, and a community ready for the fall to truly begin. With the pronouncement of Jon Bakken Field, it seemed like a great time to celebrate the community as a whole.

As the second week started, we met the kids at the door every morning to greet them with a hello or check-in with the answer to their questions. We now wind into class projects, assignments and expectations to keep grades up and promising. We are supporting each other at events and getting ready for Homecoming in the next few weeks. Hallways are clear, students are learning and staff are settling into another great school year. I look forward to getting to know the students each and every day a little bit more, supporting staff in whatever they may need and hoping that each day we make the choice to have a great one!

Brandon Tagg
WEM High School Principal