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As the school year winds down, there are a lot of things to celebrate at Lorna Byrne Middle School! Two major items that I would like to highlight are our attendance rates and our recent Career Day.

For starters, our attendance rates have sky rocketed this year. We ended last year with a 93% attendance rate. Our preliminary data for this current year shows that we will be between 93.5% and 94%! For some, this may appear like a minor increase but in the big scheme of things, this is huge! In order to improve our year-long average, it takes a lot of hard work and consistency. In other words, this average can't be changed by just having one good day of attendance; it takes day after day of students showing up to school to influence this number. While it is important to celebrate our increase in student attendance, it is imperative to understand why. The more students are in school, the more likely they will succeed academically. One of our main goals here at Lorna Byrne is to help set students up for academic success. By focusing on student attendance, we hope this will start to influence student performance, motivation, and overall well-being for our students. In addition, this means that more students were in class and participating in academics than last year. A special shout out to our Attendance Officer, Sandy Madden, for her diligence and efforts on making sure students are coming to school. Nice work!

While academics are important, it is also critical to have an idea about what you would like to do later in life. For many of our students, this is not something they have yet to think about as it can be daunting or too far in the future to comprehend. One way that Lorna Byrne has worked to address this is through the implementation of Career Day. This used to be an annual tradition at Lorna Byrne but it fell by the wayside some years ago. For the second year in a row, our Site Council in coordination with many of our staff members, picked this event back up again. Throughout the year, the Site Council worked on the planning and preparation of the event as well as how important these experiences are for our kids. A special thank you needs to go out to Stephanie Hennings for doing a large portion of the heavy lifting on this project over the course of the past month. Thank you. This project came to fruition during the last weeks of school. A variety of community members from all over Josephine County and the local Illinois Valley presented to students and demonstrated various aspects of their occupations. Some of the various jobs that were featured were: paramedic, park ranger, journeyman plumber, massage therapist, barista, fire department, auto body, veterinarian, and a radio DJ. The smiles on the faces of students and the level of engagement during these sessions were inspiring. The afternoon culminated with students completing a Career Information Survey and researching possible career paths while others learned how to fill out job applications. One student mentioned to the instructor how thankful he was to have this instruction as it was something he thought he would never learn in school. Without a doubt, this day made a difference in each of our students' lives. Thank you to everyone that made this day a success. We are looking forward to continuing this project in the future.

While attendance rates and our recent Career Day are particularly important, I would like to update you on a few items.

- LBMS and community partners were recently awarded a Studio to School grant to bring arts education into the general education classes.
- LBMS has one of the highest library circulation rates within the district. This year alone, we have had 10,000 books checked out! Boy, do we have some readers!
- We had over 10 students that received dental services through the Siskiyou Community Health Center Dental and the Rogue Valley Dental Society! LBMS is the only middle school in Three Rivers that has been served through this program. This was the second year of our partnership and we look forward to it continuing in future years. In addition, we did bring in outside dental hygienists to help provide students with free toothbrushes, toothpaste and education about dental health in order to support the work the dental van provided.
- The Illinois River Valley Arts Council put on an amazing Family Night at Lorna Byrne Middle School in May. The student and parent turn-out was staggering. The entire cafeteria was full and everyone was having a great time.

In closing, there are a lot of amazing things that occurred over the past trimester and year here at Lorna Byrne Middle School. I am extremely proud of the staff, students, families, and community for their support and energy in making our students successful.

Thank you everyone for your support as it takes a village to raise our children.

Sincerely,



Rachael George
Principal
Lorna Byrne Middle School