



Illinois Valley High School

First Trimester Board Report 2011

Submitted by Jo Ann Bethany



If kids come to us from strong, healthy functioning families, it makes our job easier. If they do not come to us from strong, healthy, functioning families, it makes our job more important.” Barbara Colorose

I believe that this quote very clearly helps the staff at IVHS to focus on the work that we do each day. Every day we deal with young people who are living in incredible dysfunction. We do believe at IVHS that we have many kids who will not make it without the intervention of the teachers and staff. We believe that it is within our power and possibility to change lives every day. That belief gives us strength to keep moving forward in this challenging and gratifying work that we do.

The reduction of teaching staff and classified staff and its impact on other staff and students had been felt this school year. The work that needs to be done is still there but there are fewer people to do it. Classes are larger and the discipline issues have increased. We also have new people in some critical roles and learning curves have been high. However, things are settling into the normal, hectic, and busy place that is known as high school.

ATHLETICS

It has been a good fall season at IVHS. The soccer teams have won some games and in fact the boys' team will be going to playoffs for the first time in at least the last 10 years. Football had some exciting games and missed by one place going to playoffs. Volleyball is a young team and got stronger as the season progressed. Athletics is such an important part of the culture of a school. The athletes, the coaches, the students who attend games, and certainly the parents and community are all both contributors and participants in this experience. The value of athletics in a high school goes far beyond the games themselves.

NEW STAFF

We have two new teachers this year. John Hampton is teaching algebra, geometry, and math applications. John taught for part of the year at North Valley last year. When he showed up to the interview with a Trebuchet made out of Popsicle sticks and a plastic spoon, we knew we had found a teacher who could make math relevant and engage students. Aaron Skinner, a Hidden Valley graduate, is teaching English and social studies. Aaron's classes are full to overflowing but he is doing a great job. He is also a part of the football coaching staff. Both Aaron and John are working with their mentor, Ms. Valenzuela, on a regular basis and are eager about implementing her suggestions.

We also have two new classified employees. Mike Murphy has come to us from the multi-handicapped program at LBMS. His biggest responsibility is working as the 9th grade advocate. This trimester he is spending time in the Freshmen Transition class and the next two trimesters he will help in the freshmen classes that have the highest number of at-risk students. Linda Bitto has joined us our new Aspire coordinator. She also works part time at Evergreen and is really working hard to restore the program to what it was in previous years.

DUCK DERBY

We feel truly blessed to be the recipients of a \$20,500 check from the Rotary from Duck Derby 2011. Thanks to the work of Casey Alderson with the Derby and the Rotary over the last two years and the work of Mark Higgins before him, the Rotary committed 25% of the derby profits to IVHS for our all-weather track for three years. Next year will be the final year but we are incredibly grateful for their support. Casey will get on an upcoming board agenda to share with the board our progress toward the ultimate goal.

PRIDE CLASS

We are fortunate that Jaime Szijarto stepped into teach the PRIDE class when Kirsten Valenzuela became a TRSD academic coach. This class, *Positive Communication and Intervention with PRIDE*, has students preparing videos to teach expectations for behavior. They also do the school news that gets presented to the student body via video. They are working to build a more positive school climate through fun competitions and events. Our PBIS Student of the Week program continues to be very successful. Students love seeing the cards on the bulletin board.

SERVICE LEARNING

Erica Butler is teaching a Service Learning class this trimester. It has proven to be a huge success among the students. We are excited that IVHS has been accepted as a Sparrow School and is adopting a little Sparrow from this area. The students are thrilled to be a part of this new program.

OREGON VARSITY VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

IVHS was accepted as one of the pilot schools into the OVVP – Oregon Varsity Volunteering Program – an offshoot of Oregon Volunteers. We are one of a several schools in Oregon that were accepted. The program is aimed at schools in rural areas where volunteering is more challenging.

The program will help students serve their community through volunteering, learn how to create volunteer projects, commit to doing a large number of volunteer hours, be recognized for their efforts (akin to athletic, academic, and other "varsity lettering"), and translate their volunteer service into resume experience and college application strengths for after high school. Students can join the program, do volunteering on their own, in their community, with their school, in support of national service days, and through special opportunities to complete a set number of hours during the year and "letter" in volunteer within the state program and through the school.

Ms. Butler is serving as the advisor and will be attending a workshop in Salem in early November with five of the students to learn more about the program. We are excited to be able to honor the service of young people with a "letter" the same as a varsity athlete.

COUGAR ALL-STARS

We are also excited to launch the Cougar All-star program this year. The purpose of this program is to provide an avenue for high school students to be role models for success in high school to Evergreen students. High school students must qualify and submit a complete application in order to be considered.

Cougar All-stars will have baseball type "player cards" made up with their picture on the front and their "stats" (things they are involved in, grades, attendance, etc.) on the back. Evergreen students will collect these cards which will be given out as prizes and rewards. Once an Evergreen student collects an entire "team" the high school students on that team will go down to Evergreen, spend

some time with the students, have lunch, sign cards, etc. We are also planning on making team posters and t-shirts that the Evergreen kids can earn.

To be eligible for the Cougar All Stars program for 2011- 2012, the following requirements must be met:

- ❖ Be an IVHS student
- ❖ Be willing to be an example to elementary school students
- ❖ Have "C" average or above – 2.0+ GPA
- ❖ Have 92% or better overall attendance
- ❖ Have limited referrals. *Referrals will be looked at on an individual basis.*
- ❖ Be involved in at least one sport or activity
- ❖ Be involved in some kind of community service
- ❖ Have 3 recommendations – one staff, one community, and one student.
- ❖ **Be willing to take a pledge to stay drug/alcohol free for high school.**
- ❖ Submit a complete application by November 16, 2011

Applications are being passed out to interested students. We will keep the board informed of the progress of this new program.

PARENT CONNECTIONS

We have had three opportunities to connect with parents so far this year: Freshmen Orientation, Open House, and Parent Teacher Conferences. While we are seldom able to get over the 50% turn-out rate with parents, each opportunity to make those connections is valuable. We did about 46% of the students' parents at conferences. It is not what we would like to see, but despite our best efforts through phone calls, a Synervoice message, and a mailing to all parents, that was what we got. We will continue to research additional ways to encourage parent attendance at these events.