



Illinois Valley High School **2nd Trimester Board Report 2009-2010**



As we enter the second half of the second trimester of school year 2009 -2010, we are as busy as ever and amazed at how fast the school year flies by us. We literally feel that we are going to blink and it will be graduation time. Overall, this has been a good year. The trimester is becoming normal, the seniors are surviving the new Future's Forum class, PBS is thriving, and our student advocates are busy helping students.

LATE STARTS

We are so grateful to have the two-hour delayed start time for staff development. We have held those times sacred and spend the entire time working on some aspect of our school improvement plan or district goals that was identified as needing emphasis. It is wonderful to have two-full hours and at the end of each one there is a sense that we had time to actually work on something. The focus of the late start in January was *Motivating Unmotivated Students* or as I titled it, *Just Saying You Need to Pass Math Isn't Enough, Show Me How Knowing PI is Worth Something*. We are able to look at some strategies that teachers can use every day to help motivate students to learn and do their work. In February, Rob Saunders will be out to work on incorporating technology in the classroom. I would certainly hope that we can protect this very valuable time in the calendar next year.

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE?

In an effort to bring some fun to IVHS, we started a *So You Think You Can Dance* competition. As a kick-off, Ms. Dickens-Turk created a video of different staff members dancing and we played it for the students during a CREW meeting. The kids thought it was hilarious...and it was...to see staff being silly in this way. Students signed up to participate and a schedule was created for students to perform during lunch. Three staff members agreed to play "Simon, Paula, and Randy" and give the students feedback and scores after the performances. Students also got to vote on their favorite. The first set of performances was very well received by the students and fun for everyone. We were careful to keep the staff DVD secure so as not to see it on You-Tube!

ART SHARE

We were proud to have student work on display at the Fire House Gallery in Grants Pass during the month of January. The display was of work done by Illinois Valley High School Art Share & Head Start students. This class of high school students works one day a week with their "Doddlebug" pals doing some kind of artwork together. Inspired by a printmaking show at the Grants Pass Museum of Art, IV students used the creation of "texture boards" with pre-schoolers to create their own series of collographs. In addition to this display, the 2010 IVHS River Calendar came off the press the 1st of January. This is a fundraiser for Fishwatch and Art Share.

21st CENTURY CAREER CONNECTIONS

This year's after school Career Connections programs began January 19th with a focus on culinary arts and careers in food. Students in this six-week, Tuesday and Thursday afternoon class, will learn skills used in professional cooking, what qualifications and traits food-service employers wish to see in a hiree, quality customer service, resume writing and interviewing skills, and food handler's safety and certification. Students will also learn about college

programs in the culinary arts. This Career Connections class, started by our 21st Century Coordinator, Jen Marsden, has been wonderful experience for the students who participate.

SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY WRITING CLASS

Mr. Enoch is teaching a Scholarship Essay Writing Class this trimester. This five session RCC class is held on Tuesdays afterschool for two hours for five weeks. This class is available to parents, former students, and current students. The focus of the class is helping students to prepare an outstanding essay for scholarships and college admittance. Students will receive one unit of RCC credit for successful completion of this class. We are excited to be able to offer this opportunity to our students and their parents.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

We are thrilled to have had 182 students who were represented by one or more parents at the 2nd trimester conference. This is almost 51%. At the first trimester conferences we had 38% of the students represented. Most teachers reported being busy most of the day. Our special education teacher reported seeing 21 of her 25 students that have IEPS and are in her skills enhancement classes. That's an 84% turn-out for Special Ed students. The only thing we did different from 1st trimester to 2nd trimester was to personally call every parent. Our advocates each took a grade level and called all parents on the Monday and Tuesday before the conferences. It is certainly a strategy we will try to continue to do.

FABULOUS FEE-LESS FEBRUARY

We are excited to be doing a pilot month for offering all IV students lunch at no cost. To get IVHS to a Provision II school status has been a goal of mine for years. In order to become a Provision II school, we need more free students to eat to cover the costs of the paid students who will no longer be paying. We have been doing a publicity push with the students to encourage them to eat at school. We are currently compiling the results of a survey we did with the students to help us understand why students who are already free lunch are not eating. We hope to take those results and make whatever changes are possible. Michael Morris is working on getting some new food choices available to students. We are very hopeful that the statistics at the end of the month will provide the district with data we need to continue this program fulltime.

TECHNOLOGY

With a few hiccups along the way, we are making progress in getting all classrooms equipped with projectors, document cameras, DVD players, and sound systems. We are thrilled to be able to do this for teachers. The difference this makes in providing engaging instruction is enormous. We were able to install two active-boards in two classrooms and purchase classroom sets of response systems. When Rob comes out in February for the late start, he will demonstrate and give staff the chance to try some new methods of delivering instruction. It is validating to me when students come up and thank me for putting the technology in classrooms. No matter how much folks want to resurrect the 'good old days' of teaching and learning, those methods will no longer work for the largest majority of our face booking, blogging, internet searching, emailing, texting, downloading students!

Sincerely submitted by Jo Ann Bethany