

Browning High School Board Report

September 7, 2016

Submitted by John E Salois

EVENTS

We have had a busy first few weeks of school. We started the year off with a freshman only orientation day. This is something that was started during my previous term as high school principal. The purpose is to allow the incoming freshman a day to themselves. They have the opportunity to meet the staff, learn about the school and where people/classes are located, and to go through their schedule without all the upper classmen present. This day was instituted as a result of transition meetings I had held with incoming freshman. They expressed that one of their fears about coming to high school was not knowing their way around and the upperclassmen making fun of them.

The student council helped with the freshman orientation also. They conducted ice breaker activities to help the freshmen get to know each other. They also added a little fun with a "Battle of the Groups." The freshmen competed against each other in friendly competition and received rewards of gift cards and some candy. The cheerleaders also taught the freshmen some class cheers so they would be prepared for our first all student assembly. We had 140 freshmen attend the orientation.

On the first full day of school for all students we started the day off with a welcome back assembly. The theme introduced for this year at BHS is "It Is a New Day at BHS." We are going to focus on creating an environment where the school is truly a safe place for all students. Each new day is a new opportunity. At the end of the day we had an ice cream social for students and staff. The student council once again stepped up and they served the ice cream to everyone. On the first full day of school we had 510 students attend classes.

ACADEMICS

With 610 students enrolled at the high school this year we have a lot of class sections with a high enrollment. The counselors have been busy preparing student schedules and trying to even out class load numbers.

Math and ELA teachers have started their STAR Math and ISIP assessments. Overall data from the assessments will be shared with teaching staff, and each teacher will have access to the data for the students in their classes. We will also share overall data with parents during family literacy nights.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Prior to school starting Jolene Vance was able to begin making home visits. Her focus was on students who were enrolled last year but did not complete the year. Families of the students she visited were provided with school supplies for the students and encouraged to have them come back to school. The visits were positive and a number of the students that were visited did re-enroll for school. Jolene Vance, Kari McKay and Mr. Rouse also conducted home visits after school started. The focus was once again on students who had struggled last year and may need support to complete school.

On September 13th BHS will host the Youth Awareness of Mental Health (YAM) group. They will meet with high school staff at 3:30 and then hold a community meeting from 5:00-6:00pm. The purpose of the meeting is to inform staff, parents and community members of the YAM research project and Suicide Awareness/Prevention classes that will be conducted at BHS this year. The group will conduct five 1 class period sessions on suicide awareness and prevention through Health and English classes. Students

in the classes will take a survey in the fall prior to the lessons, and then complete a post survey in the spring after the lessons. Information from the surveys will be shared with the District.

Our first Parent Literacy night will be held on September 20th from 5:00-6:00pm. Information will be posted and put on the local radio station.