



*Medford 7-12 Schools
School Board Report
Oct. 20, 2025*

Key Wins from the Start of School

- **Smooth Opening:** The school year began without major issues. Teachers and students are settling in, working through required paperwork and fees.
 - **Engaged Students:** Staff are actively building relationships and getting to know their students. Early signs of student engagement are positive across classrooms and activities. Homecoming went well- there was a great deal of student participation in both dress up days and activities that was nice to see. The enthusiasm, especially from seniors was refreshing.
 - **Athletics:** Fall sports programs are off to a strong start, with good participation and enthusiasm.
 - **Health & Safety Training:** All staff and students completed seizure awareness training during the first week. Warning signs, types of seizures, what to do, and how to manage them afterward were all presented and discussed. We have several students in the building that have seizures so this was timely and helpful.
 - **We Hired a High School Counselor-** Mrs. Sara Zimmerman started today. She comes with a ton of experience and enthusiasm. We look forward to her addition to the staff
 - [Sept. '25 students of the Month](#)
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Current Challenges and Supports in Place

- **Routine & Expectations:** Students are adjusting to school routines, including a new hall pass system. We've had a few hiccups and unexpected challenges but the staff has done a nice job of working together to overcome the challenges and find new ways to accomplish tasks. Our biggest issue is consistency. Most staff are on the same page, but we need 100% to be successful on things like cell phones, food in classrooms, and using passes. I will continue monitoring and reminding etc.
- **Transitions:** We are experiencing a high number of students coming in and out of the building during the school day. This is a huge challenge in a number of ways- supervision, safety, attendance etc. PSEO is a huge contributor to this issue. We need to find ways of keeping our students here during the day and invested in this school. Additionally this leads to safety

concerns which is a priority for all of us. With the state of affairs in our world we are really trying to monitor who and what is coming in and out of the building- propping doors, students frequently in and out make this increasingly difficult.

- **Paperwork & Fees:** Collection and processing of start-of-year forms and fees remain ongoing. Support staff are assisting families to ensure completion, but it has been a slow process. We may need to review how we handle some of these and/or develop new avenues for families to comply. The current economy isn't helping. We are doing our best to work with families and to supervise and remind students to take care of the building and its contents.
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Next Steps and Priorities for the Coming Month

- **Instructional Focus:** Prepare teachers to begin academic interventions and enrichment activities with students. The formality of this is new to high school staff. The interventions are not new, but thinking of it in this way and the logistics of it are new. The ultimate goal is to reduce missing assignments and lost learning. First few weeks have been promising but more can and will be done.
- **Student Success:** Work with students to reduce the number on the ineligibility list for academics and activities. We are also starting our PBIS activities and working on building camaraderie through our advisory challenges.

OCTOBER 2025						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	1 Change the world w/Brent Aragon Link 2 Lesson	2	3 First Enrichment day	4 Remember you will be requesting students this week for intervention
5 Requested students due in spreadsheet by 9:30 Mon.	6 Seniors complete Final Graduation Form Grade Check	7	8 Seniors to Owatonna For Supreme Court The Dingo Link 2 Lesson	9 Seniors meet Barry in Auditorium	10 Judging Banners Second Enrichment Day	11
12 Requested students due in spreadsheet by 9:30 Mon.	13 Grade Check	14 Pumpkin Deco. contest begins Mankato college visit	15 Conferences NO SCHOOL	16 NO SCHOOL	17 NO SCHOOL	18
19 Requested students due in spreadsheet by 9:30 Mon.	20 Grade Check MSU, Morris College Visit	21 Start Deco. pumpkins	22 Leaving a legacy Link 2 Lesson	23 UW- RF college visit	24 Judging Pumpkins Enrichment Day and Advisory with Admin: NIS Advisories	25
26 Requested students due in spreadsheet by 9:30 Mon.	27 Banner Winners announced Grade Check	28	29 Physical Appearance Link 2 Lesson Banners Due	30	31 Banner Winners Announced! Auditorium	1

- **Student Voice:** Begin structured meetings with students during advisory to hear their input and strengthen school climate. Advisory with Admin. Is a chance for students to meet with me and Mr. Ristau (when available) to discuss Medford Pros and Cons, explain policy if necessary and get student input on decisions and actions. It was a great interaction in Sept. and we look forward to it in the coming months as well.

Thanks!

Jen Ford