

## *7-12 Principal's Report December 2019*

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**Curriculum & Instruction:** We continue to work on instruction in all classrooms using our instructional framework. Teachers are working on engagement in the classroom. Last year time was spent working on strategies for bell-ringers (very short reviews for the previous day's lesson) and exit tickets (review of the current day's lesson). Having high engagement of students during the lesson is our goal this year. Teachers have been improving; however, with the high absenteeism, many teachers are spending time re-teaching and reviewing for those students who are absent. It slows the entire class down.

Staff continue to participate in GTCC curriculum meetings. The curriculum is aligned with state standards. I have the teachers prioritizing the standards for their content and grade level. They are aligning the resources, texts, videos, articles, and outside materials used to the standards. The science classes in grades 6-8 are not in the correct order and will be corrected at the semester (earth science- 6<sup>th</sup> grade, life science 7<sup>th</sup> grade, physical science 8<sup>th</sup> grade).

I am working with Stone Child College to increase the number of dual credit classes offered at Rocky Boy for our upper level grades. I am looking to move a few classes in the schedule in order to accommodate students who desire to take more dual credit classes. Edgenuity continues to be used for credit recovery for students who have failed a course or need a course that does not fit their schedule due to the open vacancies of certified teaching staff.

Tutoring was provided over the holidays on December 26, 27, 30, and 31. However, very few students took advantage of the opportunity to catch up on their work and progress with their Edgenuity classes.

**Supervision & Evaluation:** All evaluations were completed and teacher-principal meetings conducted. Evaluations were forwarded to the superintendent for review and filing. A couple of teachers have expressed interest in retiring at the end of the year. Due to the high tardiness and hallway traffic, I am in the halls a lot more to monitor this traffic and encourage students to be in class. Students need to be in class to learn and earn grades for eligibility. However, if this behavior continues I will eliminate hall passes for the remainder of the school year. Staff continues to allow students to wander, but more control has been exercised.

**Culture & Language:** Our Teepee Mondays continue to be successful. I have worked with students and other staff to increase the importance of our Teepee Monday. Staff are required to sit among the students. We brought in a guest speaker to discuss the creation story and the importance of the month of January and respect. The flag song is being sung on a regular basis. I continue to give students reminders about academics,

tutoring availability, and the importance of attendance in class. Star awards are also awarded at this time.

**Behavior Management:** Since the break, students are irritable, sleepy, and stressed with the upcoming semester exams. Quick tempers usually result in a visit to my office. Profanity towards teachers, disruptive behaviors, and non-compliant attitudes have increased, but have been resolved by teacher-principal-student conference. Students are being somewhat more responsible in attending detention, and suspension time will now be given for failing to attend assigned detention.

Student attendance is a huge issue. The month of December has been the worst attended month. Teachers are frustrated with the lack of attendance and the extra work that comes with catching a student up to speed in a class when they have missed numerous days. The attendance rate for December 2019 compared to December 2018 is as follows: 7<sup>th</sup> grade- 79.56% (decrease: 7.24 %), 8<sup>th</sup> grade- 76.92% (decrease: 6.28%), Freshman- 75.67% (decrease: 6.03%), Sophomores- 71.25% (increase: .05%), Juniors- 69.75% (decrease: 4.05%), Seniors- 72.52% (decrease: 10.38%). The goal is to have classes with a 91% attendance rate or higher. We need parent, community, and student support to turn this issue around.

Students of the month - December: Dion Lodge Pole and Taden Lewis.

**Daily Management:** The SST team has used the data from the OPI Early Warning System to determine which students in grades 9-12 are at highest risk of dropping out of school. The Team has identified specific students from the data and created a “check-in” sheet to support these students. An update to the data will be done once all semester grades have been posted in order to be proactive in supporting students to graduate.

Students are now able to use the Infinite Campus app on their phone or the website to check their own grades. The students are excited to have access to their attendance and grade information. The goal is to have the parent portal open by the end of February.

The Winter Concert and Fine Arts show went well for a first time. 7-8 grade music students sang a number of musical selections, Mr. Bober played the saxophone for two selections, the JH and HS art departments showcased student art, the shop showcased 7-12 wood projects, the FCS classes baked cookies for all who attended, and the Interior Design class decorated all the table to present the art, wood-work, and cookies. The entire student body and parents enjoyed the festivities.

Current enrollment for Jr. High - 85 students, High School - 138 students, Total enrollment 7-12 - 223 students. High School enrollment is 18 students higher than last year; however, Junior High is down 6 students. High School basketball continues to move along and the junior high girls' volleyball season has begun with their first matches to be played in Conrad.