



Illinois Valley High School

An Expeditionary Learning School

2nd Trimester Report 2008- 2009



The 2nd trimester has literally flown by. It is hard to believe that in less than two weeks, the 3rd and final trimester will be starting. Everyone – students and staff – agrees that the trimester system does make the year seem like it goes by quicker. In CREW this week, we will be allowing students to take one last look at their 3rd trimester schedule and make any changes that are allowed and possible.

There are great things happening at the school. We have many wonderful students who make the most of each day. We also have students who are disengaged and fail to see the value of education. We work every day to encourage and support both of these groups of students – as well as all of those in between those two levels. Working with high school students is both exhilarating and challenging. As a staff, we fully understand the importance of this critical time in their lives. IV has a dedicated staff that is committed to students.

Attendance

We are happy to see our best year (in at least the last seven years) for attendance. We are hovering just above 91% overall. Last year at this time we were just above 88%. We have been trying for years to get to the 92% mark. We have made a push during the month of February with some incentives for students. Several of us donated \$20.00 to use a cash prize drawing. All students with perfect attendance – zero periods absent or tardy for a full week – get their names in a drawing for the \$20.00. Additionally, the class with the highest percentage of students with perfect attendance gets to leave for lunch five minutes early. We are looking forward to seeing if these things made a difference for February.

Athletics

Winter sports have come to a close and spring sports practices have begun. Our boys' and girls' basketball teams gave us many hours of excitement and fun as we watched them compete their hearts out. The boys won many of their games and looked like contenders to go into playoffs but they did not quite make it. Our girls had a rough year and were unable to win a game. Though I know they were demoralized at times, they never gave up and played hard in each game. Our wrestlers had some struggles this year, but still took 4th place at the state tournament, sending ten boys to compete. Seven of the ten placed in the top eight with two boys, Sam Winter and Jesse Orndoff, winning state championship titles.

We had to discipline eight students on the wrestling team and boys' basketball team this season for alcohol. We are very concerned and disheartened about this high number. Mr. Higgins is working with Mr. George and our administration to institute some new policies and protocols for teams and coaches when they travel.

PBS

Four staff members will be traveling to Eugene for the PBS Conference the first week in March. The PBS team at IV meets at least once a month to look at data and to make changes as needed. We continue to work to get and keep everyone on the same page for schoolwide expectations. We continue to see a decrease in the number of referrals for discipline. Disruptive behavior in the class continues to be our greatest issue. We will take some time this 3rd trimester and reteach expectations.

COUGAR PRIDE

Nineteen students were honored with the coveted Cougar Pride award in an all school assembly at the beginning of the trimester. Teachers made a short speech about why their student was chosen. The student came forward and received a certificate. Cougar Pride recipients are those who set a standard for personal success and demonstrate good attendance, respect for others, a positive attitude, patience, organization, initiative, pride in work, and set goals for themselves. These students are a pleasure to

have in class and these awards are presented at the end of each trimester.

BOOSTER CLUB

The IVHS Booster Club recently elected a new president, Todd Kaberline. Todd has really gotten off to a great start and is working with the club to get a long term vision for the athletic fields and facilities in place. It is exciting and encouraging to see this happening. Attendance at the meetings has grown and there is definitely a new infusion of energy and commitment.

SENIOR PROJECTS

Most of the seniors are making good progress on meeting the Career Related Learning Standards (CRLS) and getting their senior project done. We have a few early graduates who have done their oral presentations already. It is great to see how seriously some of these students are taking their work. Several seniors are working on large projects that involve community service. Stephanie McCluer is organizing a mini Relay for Life that will be held at the school on March 20. She had dedicated hundreds of hours to the planning of this event.

SISKIYOU COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

We are very pleased with the work that the Siskiyou Health Center is doing at IVHS. The transfer of management from Josephine County to Siskiyou has been very smooth. Carolyn Litak has been an amazing leader in this process. The hours that our students are served are much greater and the facility that we have was remodeled last summer and it looks and feels very professional. We count our blessings every day that these wonderful health care providers are in our building. We know how fortunate we are and how fortunate our students are to have this level of care.

Parent Teacher Conferences

IVHS teachers love the conferences in the middle of the trimester. It is so much more effective to be able to proactive rather than reactive with parents and students. While we are never able to get as many parents at the conferences as we would like, the attendance this year is improved from last – even though we have gone from two days to one day.

We had 180 students represented at the one day conferences or about 45% of the total enrollment (402 at that time). When adjusted for GED students and students who are cross-enrolled (Bridges, Tract, etc) the percentage rose to about 47%.

We have been talking for a couple of years about doing student led conferences. Phoenix Talent is one local school that does them and the principal reports close to 100% involvement. We will continue to explore that possibility.

STAND

Mrs. Valenzuela has started a group called STAND. This group is made up of students who want to help be a part of the solution to intimidation and bullying on our campus. The students and Mrs. Valenzuela are passionate about helping to create a safe and welcoming climate for all. We look forward to seeing some good ideas from this group.

GRADES

In the report submitted at the end of the 1st trimester, it was noted that we were looking forward to the results of the grades and were hoping to see a decrease in the number of failing grades. We are pleased to report that there was an 8% decrease in the number of students with one or more "F" grades when comparing the 1st semester of 2007- 2008 to the first trimester of this year. There were 81 students (20%) this year had one or more F's and 117 (28%) last year with just 8 more students enrolled last year than this year at the end of the grading periods. We are hopeful that this percentage will continue to improve. There is still much work to be done in this area. It will be interesting to look at data over time to see if we can really credit some of the decrease to trimesters.