

# Administration Reports

## December 2020

### Sam Boardman Elementary

As we embark on the last month of a very challenging year, I find myself looking for the silver lining and blessings that surround us. One of the greatest, our students and the time we have had face-to-face; especially on Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup> ~ S.T.E.A.M. day. Our average student attendance at SBE during Hybrid instruction is 225 students. On an [optional] student Friday we had 161 students present and enjoying hands on learning! The best way to summarize that day can be found in the words of a young lady from Ms. Mitchell's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classroom when I dropped in to see what they were up to for the day. Her words, "**Best day ever Mrs. Ledbetter!**" The smile that five-word statement gave her, myself, the teacher and her peers, was infectious even behind a mask. S.T.E.A.M. activities included science in kinder, experimenting with colors and predicting what colors create other colors. Also, a student and staff favorite.... safely (and outside) combining Mentos, carbonation and pressure.



Plastic wrapped **Mr. Vopli bravely helped with this experiment!**

First grade students created beautiful art projects with water colors and salt in leave patterns. They were very proud of their creations and were able to express themselves with their artwork...each student was pleased with their end product since all were unique and beautiful. Ms. Rodriguez's class also created balloon artwork to recreate their own version of the famous *Macy's Day Parade* that we shared on our Facebook page.



Third grade classes worked on science and art with a health emphasis. A couple of their projects included the circulatory system and recreating the arteries and veins (yarn) through straws. Students had to work out how to thread the yarn, which in itself became a problem-solving project and ingenious ideas were discovered then shared. Also, students learned facts about healthy bones and how and why X-rays are used in the medical field.



Students and teachers alike, can't wait for our next S.T.E.A.M. day March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021!



### **Windy River Elementary**

The focus for this month's report is based on the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) Day which occurred on November 20<sup>th</sup>. What a fun day! We had a strong turnout of 80 students attending, which is about 50% of what our in-person attendance has been for hybrid instructional days. Our goal with this day was to get kids excited about learning. It was good for students to see that science, technology, engineering, art, and math do not have to be scary, overwhelming, or dull. It can be really fun and something that can be used every day.

Each grade level had been preparing for this day with submitting orders, planning and meeting together, and setting up their schedule. Our 4<sup>th</sup> grade team set up experiments based on engineering, art, and chemical changes. They planned for students to complete projects consisting of tower building, designing lava lamps, and art drawing. For the towers, students incorporated the Scientific Method to question and inquire, hypothesize, design, record results, make adjustments, and come to conclusions. For the lava lamp experiment, students were able to learn about density of oil vs. water; intermolecular polarity with the oil and water unable to bond; and the reaction of the seltzer tablet releasing gas in the form of colored (food coloring) blobs of water rising to the top through the layer of oil. Once again, the Scientific Method was prevalent throughout the experiment.

Our 5<sup>th</sup> grade team based their projects on physical and chemical changes. Students were able to design a painting working with epsom crystal salt. This technique allows students to take a deeper look in science and phases of matter. Students painted the epsom salt solution onto their paper and watched the water evaporate. This then leaves behind crystals. The larger the puddle of water solution, the larger the crystal formation. Students also created oobleck. With this, students put together corn starch and water (a non-Newtonian fluid). Students recorded how the viscosity of the mixture changes with force and a lack of force. As students put pressure on the oobleck, it hardens and creates some resistance. But when there is a lack of force, the oobleck is more of a liquid form without as much resistance.

Our 6<sup>th</sup> grade team planned to have students work with various areas of STEAM. One project was called apple volcano. Students were able to see the chemical reaction that occurs when mixing baking soda and vinegar. This project helped students to incorporate the Scientific Method. This includes questioning; designing a hypothesis; conducting the experiment; recording and graphing data and observations; and drawing a conclusion. Students also learned different forms of artistic styles and patterns while completing bracelets and a sun vs. moon art piece. The final 6<sup>th</sup> grade project gave students an opportunity to build their engineering, physics, and math skills. Students designed a catapult, tested results, made alterations to their catapult, and competed against other catapults. Students also learned about the history of the catapult, Newton's 3<sup>rd</sup> Law of Motion, and the purpose of a fulcrum.

Our students and teachers had so much fun. I heard many positive comments from students, teachers, and also from parents. Some pictures have been posted on the Windy River website.

### **Riverside Jr/Sr High School**

Our first STEAM Friday on November 20<sup>th</sup> was a successful fun learning experience for our students. Our students were able to finally put the chromebooks away and do hands-on learning activities such as engineering a device to pick up as much candy as possible, using measurement while learning how to cook a meal, completing math problems to escape a ship, building a kazoo out of wood, learning how to hammer a nail, and many more. At the end of the day our students continually asked when the next STEAM Day was as they were excited to do this again! Riverside Junior Layla Castillo said, "I had an amazing experience to gain more knowledge on what it means to become an engineer!" We are excited to continue to offer these opportunities to students!



### **A.C. Houghton Elementary**

A.C. Houghton Elementary School students celebrated World Kindness Day on November 13th and had an awesome day of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math during our November 20th STEAM/Fun Friday! Students made ice cream, explored the Science of flight, designed and built turkey traps and more. Check out the STEAM Day video on Facebook.



Approximately 70% of our students are attending school each day in-person from 8:15am-1:00pm. Staff meet with online students in a Google Meet from 2:00-3:30pm for synchronous instruction. Each teacher has asynchronous, teacher-directed activities posted in their Google Classroom for online students from 8:30am-12:30pm. This is also where students access their PE and Music lessons.

Teachers at ACH utilized the Common Sense Media Digital Citizenship lessons to show kids how to be safe online, to remember to pause and think before you share information and to remember that our words are powerful and we need to be kind to each other. These lessons include

resources for parents to use as well.

For the month of December ACH will participate in a school-wide book club. Our **One School One Book** program will begin with all students, and staff reading Little Bear's Special Friend by Claire Freedman. Each classroom received a special delivery with a book for each student and a little bear. As we read, students will learn about bears, hibernation and the changing seasons. This book was chosen because of the friendship theme. During these challenging times, we can all use more friendship!





## Irrigon Elementary School



We have SUCCESSFULLY completed our first STEAM Friday!! 4th grade had a great time building race cars, parachutes and cubes. 5th grade was all about planting seeds in different environments to see which one will grow the best. 6th grade was busy farming and planting crops. The hallways were full of laughter and fun being had. This opportunity provided our students an optional day to engage in hands-on learning. The next STEAM/Fun Fridays are March 12th and April 30th. Please have your child join in on the fun!

We wrapped up the month of November with our annual Turkey Trot Reading Day. Students wore comfortable clothes/pajamas to school and participated in activities geared towards Thanksgiving and reading. The day ended with popcorn and a movie.

IES students of the month can be found on our web page. We are proud to have students that try their best and persevere through CDL and Hybrid learning.

<https://ies.morrow.k12.or.us/o/ies/page/ies-scorpions-of-the-month>

Our parent survey went home with our students on 11/30/2020. The survey will also be available on our website. Our hopes are that parents will let us know what we are doing well and what we can improve on.

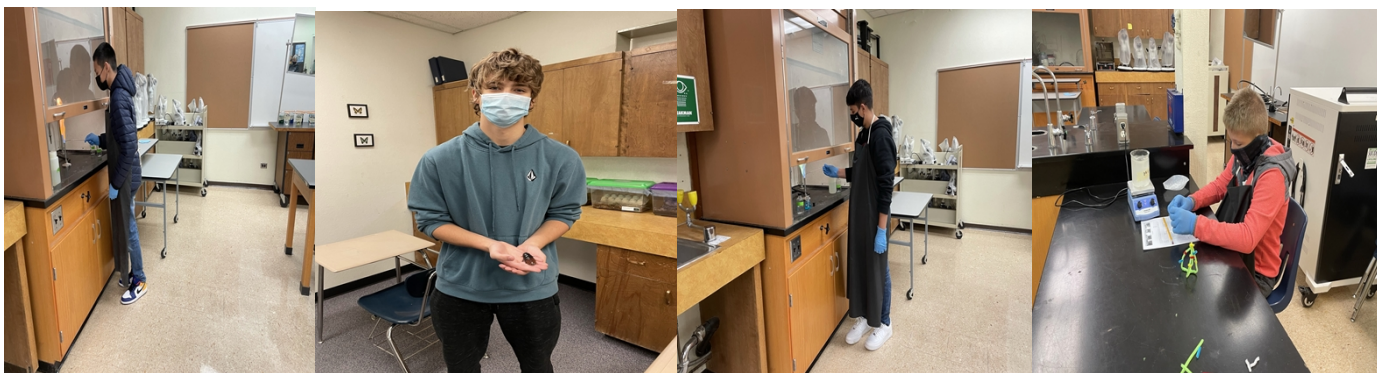
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdWjNWJVqOt3\\_2FEqITaKhefh4iftrb0lhJreJZrHva9QoJ\\_w/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdWjNWJVqOt3_2FEqITaKhefh4iftrb0lhJreJZrHva9QoJ_w/viewform)

## Irrigon Jr/Sr High School

We are nearing the end of semester 1 for the 2020/2021 school year. Our students and staff have continued to work through the multiple changes and challenges that distance learning/hybrid learning/limited in-person instruction have had. One of the bright spots for the first semester was our first "Fun Friday". Our staff collaborated in small groups to provide students with hands on exploratory STEAM lessons. This "Fun Friday" was the first day of the school year where things felt "normal" and the conversations from everyone felt more excited, engaged, and happy. Students were able to choose three different lessons on the day, which included an escape room, a creative writing workshop that included drawing story board panels, 3D paper crafts, natural art (utilizing items from the outside to create sculptures), hands on science experiments, the history and creation of origami, backpacking and what to carry in your pack for different types of outdoor activities. (Backpacking, Day Hiking, Hunting, Winter Camping, Urban Survival, Mountain Climbing, etc.), and 2 food science lessons which had the students learn how to prepare different foods from scratch. Students and Staff have continued to talk about that day and what they would like to do for the upcoming date in March.







Unfortunately, the OSAA has just released an update to their sports seasons, with new changes. They are moving the official start of the next sport season to the end of February, where we will attempt to have Fall sports (Football, Soccer, Volleyball), followed by Spring sports (Baseball, Softball, Track), then finishing with winter sports (Basketball, Wrestling).

As we head into winter break our students and staff are putting the finishing touches on Semester 1, which will end shortly upon returning from break, then we head into Semester 2. We are all continuing to find out what works best for students during this very different learning situation and will do all we can to try and return to “normal” as soon as possible!

### **Heppner Elementary**

HES had a great STEAM Day on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Our attendance was very close to 80 % and the energy was sky high. Students participated in more than one activity in each classroom. Most did an art activity and a Science activity. Please see our website for some pictures of tinfoil creations both for floating pennies and as artistic expression.

Inquiry was stressed with students having a lot of say in how they approached a challenge rather than completing by the recipe lab experiment. Some practical skills were learned also as some students were able to cook pancakes.

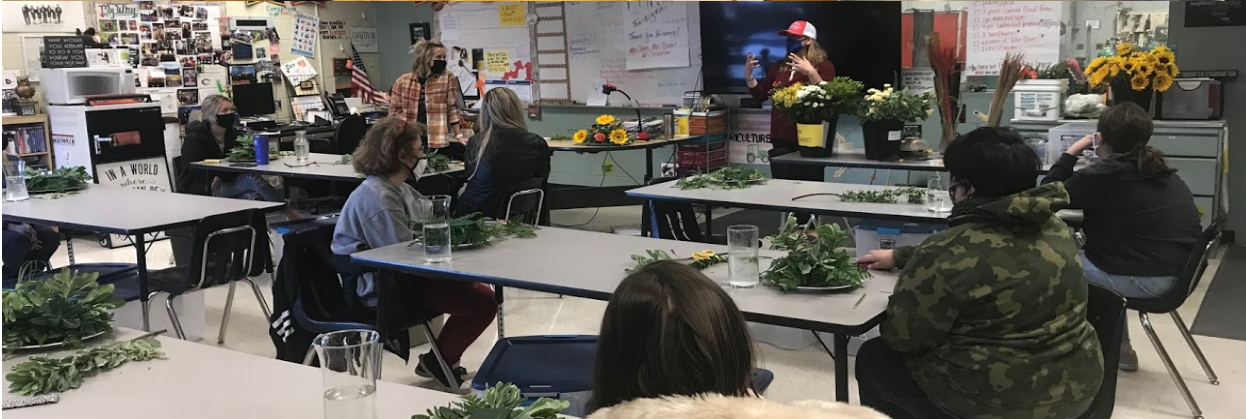
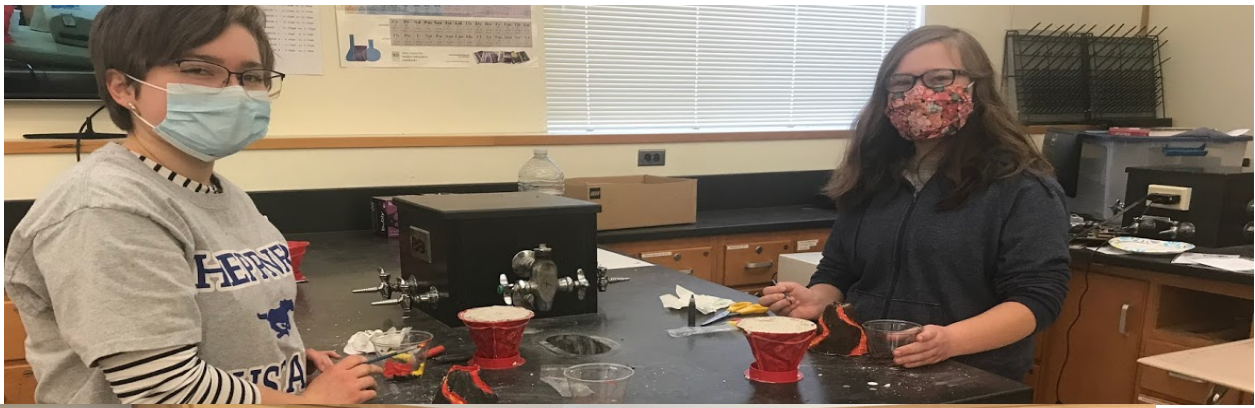
Teachers and staff worked very hard to provide safe activities. Teachers planned, gathered materials, communicated with families and provided lessons in advance to connect the STEAM activities to the core curriculum. In all classrooms some of the activities were the subject of regular writing assignments or had some other connection beyond just that day.

In all the first STEAM Friday was a welcome change of pace for the students during a challenging time. We feel fortunate to have had the chance to do this in person. Thank you for your support of our kids being in school.

### **Heppner Jr/Sr High School**

**STEAM Friday** was held on Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup> and was a worthwhile and FUN “hands-on” learning opportunity for the 52 HJSHS students that attended. Students were able to participate in hands-on learning experiences that were both fun and practical. The activities were created and designed by our staff to inspire learning and give students an opportunity to explore what S.T.E.A.M is all about! Workshop options included; Creating a Holiday Floral Centerpiece, Outdoor Cooking, Fishing 101, Building a Volcano, Constructing your own kite, Build your own golf club, Pie Baking and Ornament Making. **I’ve also attached a video link and pictures from our HJSHS website for your viewing pleasure.**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7uhqhO\\_LhiU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7uhqhO_LhiU)







I would like to end this report by once again thanking each of you for your on-going support and commitment to all students of the Morrow County School District.

Happy Holidays!

### **Management's Discussion and Analysis**

#### **MCSD – Maintenance & Facilities Update – December 2020**

All District vehicles have been equipped with winter snow/traction tires in preparation for inclement weather along with other safety related items that are stored in all vehicles including; emergency triangles, fire extinguishers and first aid kits.

AC Houghton's section of their breezeway roof repair has been completed. Sam Boardman Elementary schools new drive loop has been excavated and is ready for gravel. This drive loop will help during drop off and pick up to help keep traffic off of the main roadway in front of SBE.

Technical Waterproofing will begin façade work at Heppner Elementary and Irrigon Jr/Sr High School in December. At HES, they will be repairing the brick masonry and applying sealant to protect it. At IJSH, they will remove and replace the failed urethane and backing rod with new backing and sealant. These recommendations were made by Tremco Roofing as part of our overall preventative maintenance plan.

The District has continued to place a hold on many of our maintenance projects that had been approved in early March. This is to help protect the overall district budget if funding becomes tight later this fiscal year. As the fiscal year progresses, we will re-evaluate the projects and budget again in February with the hope to get all the projects completed by the end of this school year.

### **Staff Incident/Accidents Report:**



Date	School	Incident
None		

**Financial Report Talking Points:**

1. The District received \$1,400,004.74 in November from the State School Fund for basic school support.
2. The District received \$8,084,579.17 in Morrow County Property Tax collections during the month of November.