

Principal & Director Reports – June 2005

ELL Report to the Morrow County School District Board

6-13-2005

The beginning of May brought the close of in-putting all our LAS (Language Assessment Scales) information on testing our 700 ELL students into School Master and sending it to the Oregon Department of Education. With all the help of our ELL site coordinators, and Mrs. Rose Dirksen, we were able to eventually have our data be received by the State with no errors. This assures that we will receive our ELL funding for every ELL student served in our school district.

The District ELL Plan was under review by the State, as was every ELL plan in the state. Our ELL plan received a Differed Approval status. Thus the ELL director had to undergo to add the adjustments that the State required of the District ELL Plan of Morrow County School District. The plan was adjusted to, then sent back to the State, and it is waiting for its adjusted status to be recognized by the State Department of Education. On State approval, the plan will be submitted to administrative review, and then given to the school board for final approval.

Each school, through their ELL site coordinators, has been getting ready to finish off the school year with pertinent data necessary in following our plan. Coordinators have been developing lists of ELL students who will be exited or monitored out from the district's ELL program. We are aiming to get 10 to 20% to be in this category. We are also collecting school review data about the ELL programs in each building. It is a self-review the State provides. It is also in our plan to conduct such annual reviews about the program's needs and progress.

All in all, I am happy with my first year as ELL director. The results of student progress will be know at the beginning of next year when we get all our report cards for the schools and the district. We have followed, as close as possible, the ELL District Plan. I especially want to thank all of the ELL site coordinators for their long hard work, and their patience with me as their director. It has been a good year. Deep in my heart, I give thanks to whom thanks is due.

Sincerely,

Joel R.Chavez
ELL Director
Morrow County School District

June 7, 2005

Dear Members of the Board:

The first annual Morrow Education Center graduation is officially in the books. We must say there is nothing more rewarding than handing twelve diplomas to twelve deserving graduates. By all accounts this year should be considered a huge success! We were able to provide a unique service to many students within the district, and in many cases were able to rebound educational and behavioral tracks that were headed in the wrong direction. We continue to see an average of well over 40 students a day at the alternative school and consider that an achievement in itself, considering we lost twelve students to graduation and many others to agricultural field work. We continue to praise each student on a daily basis for their continued motivation and desire to better themselves through a distinct educational opportunity, even though most have visions of summer vacation dancing in their heads.

We would like to take a moment to thank and praise you for having the best interests of Morrow County students in mind, when you chose to take control over the daily operations of the Morrow Education Center earlier this year. We've enjoyed the past few months in the classroom and have welcomed and embraced the daily challenges that go along with serving this population of students. Our goal from the beginning has always been to serve the students of Morrow County School District with a safe and effective learning environment that leads to total student engagement. We have already started thinking about next year's challenges, and have been considering some changes and program enhancements. I think you will find that this program will continue to build upon the excellence the board, administrators, and educators of this district have worked so hard to achieve.

Matt Combe, Alt Ed Coordinator
Forrest McKinnis, Alt Ed Instructor

Special Education Report

With the few days left in the year, we are actually gearing up for the start of the next school year. We have hired two new special education teachers for next year. One will be at ACH and one will be at IES. For the last two weeks students with severe needs have been working in the new special education classroom at IES. That transition seems to have gone very well so far. The room offers more space, easier handicapped access and a larger bathroom. Students with less severe learning disabilities will be seen in a regular classroom in the building.

At the last special education directors meeting at the ESD, twelve school districts voted to go with the new Edvantage software that will be used to write Individual Education Programs and track information on special education students for the state handicapped census that is due in December. The new program will be web based, meaning that it can be accessed from any computer that has Internet capabilities. Special education teachers from our district will be participating in all day training in Hermiston on August 8th to learn about the new program.

The final report to the state on our special education program for monitoring, called the Systems Performance Review was sent in. There were two areas in paperwork that we need to improve on, but overall we have done very well, without one complaint to the state department this year on services to special education students.

Jack Johns
Special Education Director

June Board Report for ACH

-AC Houghton staff and students have finished an excellent year of education for the children Morrow County. Our state tests recently completed have third-graders achieving 97% passing in reading and 81% passing in math. Our fourth graders have 93% passing in both math and reading. These are exceptional scores, the highest in these grades ever in our school. We are very proud of our student efforts and of our staff diligence in using research-based, effective curriculum to its fullest. We look forward to continuing hard work in the future and success.

-Bear Day/night-270 students qualified for the Bear activities this year. By reaching their fourth quarter reading goals, kindergarten through second graders participated in the Bear Day activities. Students played games, did crafts, played bingo, and did a reading activity. They concluded with the infamous Running in the Halls. Fourth and fifth grade students did the same activities and in addition got to sleep overnight in the gym. A great time was had by all.

If you trade in any of the following stores please express our appreciation for contributions to our program, Safeway, Cycletown Sports, Wal-Mart, and Ace Hardware.

-You've probably noticed that we have green grass in front of our parking lot on the Irrigon Greenway once again. We are working hard to keep it alive and its good to come out the other side of sewer construction. No joke intended.

-Summer School Planned-ACH will be having migrant and benchmark Summer School again this year. This program, as well as our after-school program has shown to be tremendously effective, increasing student learning at a faster rate for the students participating in comparison with those not participating. From the spring of 04 to the spring testing of 05, third-graders who became this year's fourth graders increased their state benchmark scores by 13 points if they had participated in Summer school and/or after-school programming. Those who did not, increased their scores by 7.5 points, or about a year of progress. More time put in means more progress.

School Board Meeting

June 13, 2005

RHS Principal Report

Teacher Appreciation Week: The first week in May was National Teacher Appreciation Week. Teachers at Riverside were recognized by the Administration and treated to a different international cuisine for lunch each day from the Classified Staff. The Leadership Class also honored teachers by making signs and presenting them with small gifts of appreciation each day.

Cinco de Mayo: Riverside students along with students from Hermiston, under the direction of Pablo Garay, performed traditional dances at an assembly on May 5th. Riverside students and staff also participated in the community celebration at the Boardman Marina on May 7th.

College Visitations: Riverside juniors and seniors had two opportunities in May to visit local community colleges. On May 12th, students attended the BMCC Spring Fling, which consisted of a tour of the campus, an open house and a barbecue. On May 24th students boarded buses once again and traveled North to the campus of Columbia Basin College in the Tri-Cities. As the reality of post secondary schooling for the majority of Morrow County School District students is at the door of either BMCC or CBC, these visitation opportunities are extremely important. Through these visits students are able to see that the security of a small college campus is exactly what he or she needs as a transition between high school and a four-year college.

SOLV “Down By The Riverside” Clean Up Day: Twenty Riverside students participated in the annual SOLV clean up activity on Friday, May 20th. Students cleaned the Boardman Marina as well as property around City Hall and Riverside High School.

Riverside Alumni Addresses Students: College-bound students were invited to attend an assembly on May 19th. The speaker was 2001 Riverside graduate, Irma Torres. Irma recently returned to Boardman after receiving her degree from Smith Women’s College in Massachusetts where she graduated with honors. Irma spoke to students concerning the many opportunities available to students who are serious about getting an education. Her message, in short, was “If I can do it, so can you”. She spoke of the difficulties she faced leaving a small community and familiar surroundings and of the hard work it took to accomplish her goals.

Student Recognition:

April Students Of The Month—

- 7th Grade—Jessica Navarro
- 8th Grade—Maricela Sanchez
- Frosh—Jordan Mittlesdorf
- Soph—Aaron Rouska
- Jr—Florian Wisbeck
- Sr—Jake Johnson

Teacher Of The Month—Dean Peck

Classified Employee Of The Month—Melanie Hall

- Morrow County School District Division III Spelling Contest—Sonny Phipps placed 3rd
- Oregon Humane Society Essay Contest—Ciera Lucas received Honorable Mention
- All-League Selections—
 - Baseball—
 - 1st Team—Shawn Dirksen, Lee Pritchard, AJ Phipps
 - 2nd Team—Cody Nailor
 - Honorable Mention—Dustin Swindler
 - Softball
 - 1st Team—Tess Haertling, Jordan Mittlesdorf, Jessica Burns, Cyrstal Weseman
 - 2nd Team—Nikki Kroske, Aubree Padilla, Samantha Pedro
 - Honorable Mention—Anita Garcilazo, Heather Hancock
- State Tennis –Erica Moore & Marla Wisner placed 4th in doubles
- State Track—Kisha Lomen placed 6th in 100 hurdles; Matt Filarski placed 6th in high jump
- All State Honors—Shawn Dirksen selected to play in the East/West game and Honorable Mention

Daye A. Stone

June, 2005

Heppner Elementary School Assistant Principal’s Report

Heppner Elementary School

- HES Field Day and BBQ was a hit and well attended.
- We are experiencing low numbers of discipline referrals this spring.
- 6th grade orientation went well, and we are working on individual scheduling.
- Facilities are looking good and our new Facilities Coordinator is working hard on the grounds.
- We held our annual awards ceremony and it was well attended by the community.
- Accelerated Reader is continuing to go well and our kids have continued to their success right until the end of the year.
- We are having meetings with 4-H on how we can implement more after school opportunities for our students next year.

- Outdoor school was a huge success and our students enjoyed it.
- We are looking at our master schedule and trying to schedule based on our staffing.
- We are working extremely hard in putting together some training to ease the transition of implementing Reading Mastery for next year- K-2.
- Overall, our school is doing very well and working on meeting the needs of our kids. Our teachers and support staff are working hard, and our students are responding positively.

June 2005

This is the time of year the kids have been waiting for! The testing is over, grades are in and it is time to play. SBE has done plenty of that! We have had 2 trips to the aquatic center, and AR party to the skating rink in Hermiston, tons of ice cream and a 4th grade trip down the slip and slide.

These spoils are not unearned. The students in 3rd and 4th grade, again, excelled on the Reading and Math TESA tests. We performed our spring concert under the excellent direction of Mrs. Wendy Appleton. Plus the students passed over 20,000 accelerated reader tests with an average score of 85%. These numbers include kindergarten!

This was another successful year at Sam Boardman. I want to wish all of our staff that is leaving good luck and welcome all of our new members. I'm looking forward to having a little break and getting my "batteries charged". Thanks for a great year and I'll see all of you in August.

BJ Wilson
Principal

IHS/IES

Principal Report for the June 2005 board meeting.

Activities at IHS and IES:

- May 26th we had the first IHS sports awards
- June 2nd we had the first IHS Knight of Excellent
- The ACH 4th grade had its visitation on June 1
- MCE had its graduation on June 3
- IES had a talent show on June 7

School is out. Irrigon Jr/Sr High completed the first and very successful year. I believe that Irrigon will continue to build traditions for the community and school.

Wade A. Smith

June 2005

Heppner High School Principal's Report

For this board report I thought it would be valuable to highlight our testing results for this year, as well as our 4-year trend at Heppner Jr/Sr High School. The graph below represents the average of our 8th and 10th grade scores (these are the numbers that ODE uses for report card ratings). The teachers and I have worked extremely hard aligning our curriculum and instruction with the State Standards, as well as modifying our instructional techniques to meet the needs of ALL of our students. You'll note that we have made substantial growth in our reading, writing, and math scores. Although our science dipped slightly when averaging the 8th and 10th grade results, we maintained an 88% passing rate for our 10th grade scores!

8th/10th HHS Testing Trends

