

Principal & Director Reports

May 2012

AC. Houghton Elementary

ACH has several programs to recognize student achievement and good works:

Self-Managers

Our Self-Manager program recognizes consistent and improved behavior. Students apply for Self-Manager status and meet with their teacher to discuss their qualifications. We have monthly Self-Manager activities for the students including a treat and extra recess time. We also have larger special activities several times a year for the students. Because there is such a close tie between self-discipline self-esteem and positive student behavior, and student achievement, our Self- Manager program is promoting behaviors that maintain or improve student achievement.

Attendance

ACH currently has very good average daily attendance. We achieve this through weekly recognition of students who had been present all four days of the week. Each Thursday, we award special perfect attendance pendants and necklaces, one per classroom, in a drawing of those students who have perfect attendance for the week in that particular class. This has been very impacting in improving our attendance from last year at relatively little cost.

Student Achievement

At the third-grade level, we recognize each and every student who passed their benchmarks. Through our Afterschool Program, we have graduation ceremonies for all students once they passed their benchmarks, a process that lasts through the second and third Oaks testing cycle. We also recognize students reading through our Accelerated Reader program. Students said reading quantity reading goals based on their reading level, a point total. This celebrating and rewarding happens every quarter. In addition we have special "Bike" drawings three times a year with bikes donated from the Umatilla Masson club for students who have qualified for the drawing by passing their goals.

Heppner Elementary School

Heppner Elementary provides numerous reward incentives for students of all ages.

There is an awards' assembly at the end of each quarter where students are eligible to receive awards for perfect attendance and Honor Cards. Local businesses have helped contribute to each of these reward programs. A student in grades kindergarten through sixth grade can earn an Honor Card by demonstrating good behavior and receiving good marks on their report cards. They can take their card to local businesses where they may receive a small free item or a discount on another item.

We have an extensive Accelerated Reader program that incorporates all grade levels. Bulletin boards outside every classroom follow the theme of the year. Our theme this year is "Join the Reading Bunch for a Barbeque Lunch!" This event will be held at

Cutsforth Park at the end of the year. At the beginning of the year, each student was given a paper hamburger and a bun on a paper plate. As students meet goals for each quarter they add to their hamburger – cheese, lettuce, pickles, etc. – and their hamburger travels down the hall onto different bulletin boards. There are A.R. parties at the end of each quarter for students that have met their goal for the quarter. In addition to this, there is a larger reward for those that meet their goal for all four quarters. This year we will be traveling to Cutsforth Park to have a picnic during the last week of school. Last year, those students that met all of their goals got to go to the Oregon Zoo. We hope to encourage students to be readers for life!

Heppner Elementary is very active in PBIS. One way we encourage positive behavior is by having a character trait for each month. At the end of the month, each classroom chooses a Student of the Month that demonstrates the character trait exceptionally well for that month. There is an awards' assembly where these students are recognized in front of their parents and the school. Staff members also give students "Colt Cards" for demonstrating good behavior – being responsible, being safe, and being respectful.

Meeting state benchmarks continues to be very important. In the past, we have rewarded students for meeting their benchmark – or for showing significant growth on the state test – by having an ice cream party at the end of the year.

I would like to end this month's report by again thanking each of you for your support of Heppner Elementary School, and for your commitment to all students of the Morrow County School District.

Heppner High School

Nuts and Bolts-

We are approaching our third testing window in math and reading. Currently, after two testing windows, we are ahead of where we were a year ago after three times testing our students. We are seeing amazing growth in all areas. Our junior class has a chance of being 100% meeting or exceeding in both math and reading. This truly is extraordinary when you consider this includes all students. Spring sports are going very well with our golf teams being among the best in the state prior to state qualifications. Also, our ladies softball team is ranked #1 in the state and is undefeated in conference play. Our annual Mustang Mop Up will be held on May 17th. If you would like to join us for either work or lunch, please let me know.

HHS Reward Plans-

Math-

For the past several years, we have held a celebration at the end of the year for students that either meet the standard or growth target in math for their particular grade within a school year. This day is called our PI celebration. We have parents volunteer to make pies for this great event and students pretty much get all you can eat pie during advisory one day. This years PI day will be held on May 16th.

Reading-

Not as glamorous as PI day, we do root beer floats for the students that meet either the standard or growth target in their particular grade within the school year in reading. Again, we have donated root beer and ice cream that students get to have during advisory. This years root beer party will be held on May 23rd.

Academic Awards-

We host a day time awards assembly for students of the year from each class. Teachers choose a student from each period that reflects not only academic standards, but career related standards as well.

Organizing this in such a manner where students get recognition in front of their peers has proved powerful for many students.

The same day as the daytime awards, we host the Night of Excellence that includes recognizing both outstanding academic and athletic efforts. In the past, nearly 300 community members and parents attend this night. It is a great time to award the best of the best as a community and school. Our Booster Club prepares dessert for all who are in attendance. This years event is on May 21st at 6:30pm in the elementary gym.

Attendance-

We recognize great attenders and perfect attendance with certificates during our daytime awards assembly. Murrays \$20.00 gift cards are attached to perfect attendance recipients.

Irrigon Elementary School

Throughout the year, Irrigon Elementary School has quarterly School Awards Assemblies to promote scholarship, behavior, attendance, and other programs in the district. We always save the best for last. Here are some things you are invited to attend to see what we do to award children at IES for a job well done.

1. **Writing Olympics Closing Ceremonies-** On May 24th at 2 p.m. we are passing out Meet and Exceed medals for students who pass the District Writing Assessment scored by the ESD. These students passed the writing assessment. They will be honored and their parents will be invited to attend this event. Before we started our Writing Assessment, we had an opening ceremony about writing and made a bid deal about doing your best and following the writing strands which the state tells us to follow.
2. **IES EVENING of the Stars-** On June 5th at 6p.m. Irrigon Elementary will be giving out almost \$2000 of prizes and awards to student for reading in our school AR Reading program. Each student who met their AR goal each quarter will be getting a prize award. Our librarian asks local businesses in the area for donations to award kids for reading. Here the gym gets packed with family and friends to see kids receive wonderfully nice prizes for their reading efforts. Board members are welcome to come too.
3. **4th Quarter Awards assembly-** Each quarter we have a student awards assembly. Our last Quarter Awards Assembly is in line with these traditions. Here we will give out classroom teacher awards for the behavioral traits we teach in school: Respectful, Reliable, and Responsible. Also the P.E. teacher gives out the Gatorade P.E. awards for athletic excellence. Art awards will be giving out awards for the Art Board which students submit drawing and student themselves vote on. Other specialty teachers in Title I, ESL, and Music/Technology give awards to their students as well. The school office gives out award medals for students with Perfect Attendance all year, and district competition awards to students. Lastly, students get awards and recognition for passing their OAKS Reading and Math tests.

Irrigon High School

At times it's been a challenge to find a reward that most students look forward to but after a lot of feedback it seems they greatly appreciate receiving a pass that allows them to leave four minutes early to lunch. A student receives a one-time pass every quarter along with a certificate when they are recognized for being on honor roll. Additionally, the three 'Student of the Month' winners are also recognized. These individuals receive a month long pass for themselves and a friend to an early

In prior years for those students who have benchmarked or who have met the growth model requirement we have awarded them with ice cream sundaes. They receive one scoop for each of the three possible areas in which they could meet the standards. This year however, we are trying something new. We will be awarding students wristbands in school colors based on the OAKS tests they have passed. For example, they will receive a silver wristband if they meet the mathematics benchmark or black if they meet the reading benchmark. We feel that our students will wear these bracelets with pride and a sense of accomplishment that has been shown by other students in schools that offer this kind of reward.

Twice a year, each staff member is allowed to recognize a champion of their choosing. The champion and their parents are treated to a breakfast where they have the opportunity to hear why the staff member has chosen that student as their champion. During this Breakfast of Champions, we have also invited in a variety of speakers such as the mayor, sheriff, and the assistant superintendent to provide a brief keynote to everyone emphasizing the importance of academics, leadership, making good choices, etc. This small informal event has proven to be very popular with students and parents.

At the end of the year, we host a Knight of Excellence. During the Knight of Excellence, we recognize the best of the best both academically and athletically. Each staff member is given the opportunity to recognize two of their most outstanding students in their classes while coaches are given the opportunity to recognize those who have lettered in their particular sport. At this semi-formal event we provide a nice meal while the band performs in the background.

For students who need more intensive behavioral interventions, we have occasionally used "carry cards." A student who has a carry card takes a sheet to each of their classes and at the end of the period, their teacher rates their behavior on a 1 to 4 scale. If the student receives all 3's and 4's at the end of the week, they receive an incentive/reward for their positive behavior. We are also able to track the data from the carry cards and use it to monitor improvement and report to parents.

Riverside High School

Riverside has multiple rewards offered to students throughout the year based on good academic standings and attendance incentives.

Things are going well at Riverside for 4th quarter. We have been extremely busy with senior deadlines and making sure all t's are crossed and I's are dotted. This is an exciting time in our schools. However, student relationships and recognitions are at the top of our priority list. Below please find a list of incentives and rewards that students have been exposed to at Riverside.

Riverside Academic rewards and incentives:

1. Movie field Trip – Based on classroom performance, attendance and good behavior (Jr high)
2. Assemblies to recognize academic success (Jr high)
3. Provide our students with bracelets when they pass OAKS test (Jr high)
4. At the end of quarter – Field trip for students meeting pre-determined academic criteria (Jr high)
5. Students passing OAKS are given a pass to meet with administrators for an individualized reward (Jr high)
6. Night of Excellence – H.S. Culmination of academic achievement coupled with attendance
7. Athletic achievement – Seniors have earned a 3.5 GPA and lettered as an athlete during H.S.
8. Perfect attendance – (H.S.) students meeting this criteria may opt out of taking finals
9. Celebrate student’s success for students passing their OAKs test. If students pass they are eligible to get out of lab (remediation) classes

In addition, teachers have built in incentives in their classrooms:

1. Student of the week
2. Student of the Month
3. Student of the quarter
4. Several teachers are working with under achieving “boys”. If they are passing and working in class, students are allowed to come in to class during lunch and play games.
5. One teacher has all students that pass OAKS receive 1 test grade as 100%. Students that improve points receive either C or B according to how many points they improved and how close to passing.
6. One teacher has a game day in classes to celebrate improved test scores in each class.

Sam Boardman Elementary School

Attendance

Individually: Each student with 100% attendance for the month is awarded an attendance certificate and coupon for one free bag of popcorn. Their name is put into a drawing for a chance to win a school T-shirt at our Student of the Month Assembly. Their names are also proudly displayed on our foyer bulletin board. We frequently see parents and students trying to locate their name on the display.

Classrooms: Each month one class from each team with the highest class percentage for attendance is presented a trophy at our Student of the Month assembly. This attendance trophy is proudly displayed on the teacher’s desk for the entire month.

Year-End: Students with perfect attendance for the entire year are presented with a framed perfect attendance certificate and specially designed school T-shirt at our End-Of-The Year Assembly. The slogan “All day, every day” is printed on this highly coveted S.B.E. T-shirt. Third grade students with perfect attendance are also presented with a W.R.E. book bag.

Student achievement

On the spot rewards: Students are presented with “Buccaneers” for a variety of reasons, i.e., stellar performance, skill mastery in reading groups, 100% on math assignment or completed homework. Five “Buccaneers” can be redeemed in the office for prizes such as bookmarks, pencils or a bag of popcorn.

Individually: Classes present certificates or awards for benchmark achievement, i.e., kindergarten students who demonstrate they can count to 100 are given the privilege of leading the group in the morning counting routine. Students who write their numbers to 100 for the first

time are given a certificate to take home, and third grade students who demonstrate math fact fluency are presented with a small trophy.

Classrooms: One student from each class is awarded the “Academic” award each month at our Student of the Month Assembly. Their picture is presented in power-point format to the entire assembly, and as they come forward to claim their certificate a narrative is read as to why they won the academic award.

Year-End: Math contest winners and/or spelling bee winners are presented with a framed certificate and small prize, i.e. gift card or school T-shirt. Third grade students are honored after their third round of OAKS for their average RIT point increase. These RIT points are turned into additional recess minutes where we celebrate by blowing bubbles and eating fudge cycles.

Other areas to celebrate

To promote positive behaviors we also celebrate students in the categories of Responsibility, Respect, Bystander Hero, and Safety at our Student of the Month Assemblies.

Year-End: Students who complete the Governor’s Health Challenge are presented with a certificate signed by the Governor at our Year-End-Assembly.

Last week S.B.E. staff completed a “School Audit of Reward Systems”. The results will be reviewed by our PBIS Committee to make recommendations for next year.

Windy River Elementary

WRE Students receive several types of awards and rewards. Below you will see the different types and occasions:

Benchmarks – When a student meets a benchmark they receive a Badge of Honor. Their name is placed on a wall. Each year the wall has a new theme, this year the theme is “Illuminate the Future”.

Growth- When a student makes a year or more growth they will receive a certificate at the end of the school year.

AR – When a student reaches their AR goal 3 out of 4 times they will receive a certificate, a school related field trip and a movie at a local theater.

Attendance- Kiwanis gives out awards for perfect attendance for the month, quarter and one for the entire school year.

Student of the Month Assemblies- Each month we give out certificates based on academics & behavior.

PAW POWERS- These awards are Catch-all rewards. These are used by the entire staff. They are given out immediately after a student has done well on an assignment, test, reports, helping other students. Students turn the Paw Powers in for monthly drawings at Student of the Month Assemblies. The Paw Powers are also kept for end of the year drawings.

Wolf Pride Letters – These are letters for special occasions. A teacher will write up what the student did and mail it home without the student knowing.

Management's Discussion and Analysis

Financial Highlights

The district is continuing to see changes on the financial front specifically from the 2010-11 state reforecast of state school fund grant. The areas below highlight the issues we have knowledge of since the last meeting:

1. The latest update of the State School Fund (SSF) is a reduction of approximately \$51,000 from the 2010-11 school year (due to reduced number of actual students attending MCSD).
2. The forecast for the 2012-13 school year has been reduced from the March estimate by approximately \$50,000.
3. The district is still expecting approximately \$12,084,023 for the 2012-13 school year.

Future Financial Planning

The district is budgeting as if the local option levy is going to pass and in the event that the levy does not pass we will simply not spend the money budgeted (this was recommended process by Oregon Department of Revenue).

The proposed budget was approved by the Budget Committee during the meeting on May 7. The budget will be presented to the School Board during the June meeting.

Current Financial Issues and Concerns

Currently, the district is still evaluating the classified employee reductions and continuing to evaluate the reduction plan for licensed staff in the 2012-13 fiscal year.

Based on initial projections the district has met the goal of reducing our overall budget by \$1.35M.

Maintenance

The district has 4 major concerns to address over the next 18-24 months:

1. Heppner High School Boiler
2. AC Houghton Boiler
3. Pavement crack sealing at all schools
4. Irrigon Elementary School ground water issues.

The district recently had a follow-up review from Oregon Department of Energy to review the efficiency of our boilers and which one should be addressed first. The Maintenance Department has a new hot water system planned for the gym shows budgeted which should greatly reduce our fuel costs (currently, the boiler needs to be fired up starting in August to have hot water in the gym. We are expecting to have the results of the review in the next few months and will base our plans for replace or upgrades on the results.

We have an estimate of the crack sealing for HHS and HES which we are expecting to be completed prior to school being out or the first part of July. We are also working with the County Road Department to get an estimate for all the schools in Boardman and Irrigon, which we plan to complete this year. The district will commit individuals in each of the communities to reduce the overall cost of the project.

Irrigon Elementary School has had ongoing high water issues and we need to address the issue in the near future to help mitigate significant structural damage to the building. The district is currently evaluating options.