

# **Faulconer Chapman School**

## **Board Report**

### **August 2016**

#### **How are we doing?**

##### **AVID**

FCS took part in another summer institute in San Diego this August. From our building we were able to bring Robin Van Buren, Sydney Ziehl, Jeremy Brown and Leah Gottheiner. We are excited to continue implementing school wide AVID strategies in the middle school next year and building our AVID elective. The AVID site team set three goals for next year to build stronger systems for our AVID program and to collect data to analyze how AVID strategies are impacting students in the classroom. Some middle school teachers will also be piloting interactive notebooks in their classrooms, which has shown great results at other AVID schools.

##### **ODE Summer Reading Academy**

During the first week of August, a team of FCS teachers attended a reading conference in Eugene. The Department of Education gave FCS an invitation to this presentation. Our goal was to add knowledge to our existing staff and build capacity of reading skills for our new staff. The design of effective reading programs was the emphasis of our training. It is the intention of FCS staff to focus our attention to raising achievement in reading for our upcoming year.

Our K-3 teacher team training was learning how to examine the best methods to support the development of early reading through teaching the foundational reading skills (phonemic awareness, phonics, sight words, spelling & fluency) in an engaging way for all students in the primary classroom. Additionally, the team was able to discuss how and where the foundational skills fit into a comprehensive literacy-block, with opportunities to practice these skills. The teachers were able to learn strategies and receive tools to diagnose what our students deficient skills are in order to intervene to support growth.

The upper grades had training in how our program needs to look with the Common Core shift in standards. The shift requires teachers to emphasize close reading of text to cite contextual evidence. This emphasizes accountable talk when writing to support a view with evidence-based text. When students create and defend an opinion, now students need to cite evidence. Our teams were able to view appropriate types of evidence-based sentence stems to describe

pieces of evidence. In addition, they were able to work on some sample lessons with the reading trainer to build their skills.

### **Updates on ELA, RTI and Reading Training**

This summer the staff has done a lot of work to improve our ELA instruction and we are excited to get back to work to apply our skills. After a year of teaching with our new curriculum we have identified strengths and weaknesses and have done a ton of work to deepen our own understanding of great ELA teaching. Many teachers spent August 1st-3rd at ODE's Summer Academy for Reading. We took away key strategies and background knowledge to help us create an improved, well balanced, and more effective delivery of ELA instruction. The primary teachers focused on solid foundational instruction while the intermediate teachers looked at key strategies to utilize in their teaching to really improve student outcomes.

This upcoming school year we plan on clarifying, solidifying, and expanding our RTI process. We are working closely with ODE, ORTI, and Ed Northwest to ensure our program is well built and does an excellent job of helping kids. We will be utilizing our new resources and our new knowledge base to improve core instruction for all students.

### **New Staff highlights**

Johnna Suihkonen, 5th grade

Hi all! My name is Johnna Suihkonen (pronounced John-na Soy-ki-nin) and I was hired as the new 5th grade teacher, hailing from Minnesota. My teaching experience includes one year of preK, one year of kindergarten, and three years of 6th and 7th grade English Language Arts, with additional experience teaching a creative writing elective and co-teaching a musical theater elective. My specialty is in English Language Arts, with a minor in English. Outside of teaching, I enjoy hiking, rock-hounding, volunteering, and writing. Recently, I received news about publication of two of my pieces, a poem and a short story. I am excited about working with the splendid team at FCS, and hope to integrate my previous experiences with PBIS, reading strategies, and arts-integrated, cross curricular unit planning. My first experience with FCS staff was attending the three-day ELA summit for grades 4-8, a truly rejuvenating and reenergizing opportunity for growth. I am grateful to be here in Oregon, with such a passionate, dedicated and welcoming staff, pursuing a career and calling that I feel so strongly about. On the horizon, I can see a year of growth, progress and success. Thank you all for your own dedication and commitment to our school, our staff, and most importantly, our students.

Eric Palacios , SPED grades 4-8th

My name is Eric Palacios and I am very excited to be joining the staff at FCS this year as the grades 5-8 Special Education Teacher. I have 8 years of experience working in Special Education as an assistant in several different roles, including working with a wide range of disabilities. 4 of those years I spent working in a behavior program. My vision for the 5-8 classroom is to build a positive safe-haven environment where students can come to build and practice skills that will not only help them in the classroom, but in life as well. I will work hard to assist students in meeting clear expectations and achieving their academic goals.

### **Fall Athletics at FCS**

We are excited to begin this fall with strong athletic teams. Grade 7 and grade 8 football had a great season last year. FCS middle school teachers Jeremy Brown and Ben Kennedy will be coaching our strong football athletes this fall. Wendy Giddings will be leading our Grade 8 volleyball team, grade 7 coach TBA. Wendy and her team had a terrific season last year and are looking to continue being competitive in our league. Currently we're in the midst of setting up a short Cross Country season for middle school students interested in racing 3.2 miles! We're projecting solid interests in students getting involved in these extracurricular activities.

### **Dates to remember:**

- FCS Kindergarten Camp, Aug 15-18
- FCS Student Registration, Aug 15, 17
- FCS new teachers inservice, Aug 26
- FCS teacher inservice, Aug 29-Sept 2
- First day of school, Sept 6