

Administration Reports

December 2019

Sam Boardman Elementary

As a district Morrow County has the goal of displaying “academic achievement growth proportionate or above their Oregon peers using a variety of measures. Students are expected to grow academically a minimum of one year at every grade level, in preparation for graduation”.

In order to meet these expectations Sam Boardman began the year with a focus on attendance, supporting teachers through professional development, utilizing student data with a focus on growth, creating a clear scope and sequence instructional plan and establish a positive work environment which enables progress for students and staff.

Our attendance focus, “every day matters” continues to grow and our community is seeing visible signage and having discussions in this regard. A huge push over the past few months has been in the training and implementation of our reading passage program. This system is being implemented K-3 as a whole group approach. The principle behind the instruction is to allow grade level access to all students, regardless of their ability. Students will have grade level discussion about a variety of subjects and vocabulary. A full implementation will begin following the winter break. The final focus areas of data and planning continue to be developed. As a staff we have continual discussions and make modifications and adjustments as needed. Going into this year I knew that the full process was going to take time, but I am very excited for the tools and techniques that will be easily accessible for our students.

One good news that I would like to share is that of our Beyond the Bell Friday School program. The ESD created an article and shared throughout our region. The East Oregonian picked up the press release and requested a meeting with me. My hope is their staff will visit Windy River to see the program in action and report on the happenings of the students. It was very exciting to hear from the paper and the interest they had in this regard.

Windy River Elementary

Strategic goal 1: “Students at all grade levels will show academic achievement growth proportionate or above their peers at all levels using a variety of measures. Students will have the required skills to meet essential skills by grade level in preparation for graduation.”

Since the start of the 2019-2020 school year Windy River’s focus has been on student growth and attendance. In order to achieve our goals in these areas, we have planned professional development for our teachers and classified staff. This support has come in the form of training, collaboration time to prepare for academic implementations, a book study, and school site visits. We have also implemented and continued to use the scope and sequence at each grade level in reading math. Teachers are using iReady in an effort to track student growth and better support students. Our data team meetings in each grade level will produce better conversations about students, their needs, and the supporting data.

Teachers have been busy receiving training, planning, preparing, and implementing the reading passage program. We are seeing teachers continuing to grow in an effort to best support their students. As a staff we have continued to learn about this program. This has included efforts at each grade level in training and working together. Teachers have also started to visit other schools and each other's classrooms in an effort to reflect, learn, and grow. Our instructional coach has been busy working with teachers. She collaborates daily with classroom teachers and participates in data team meetings. She also provides teachers with valuable insight and strategies.

Riverside Jr/Sr High School

The Riverside Jr/Sr High School state report card came out in October and it shows that Riverside is above state average in every category except College Going. One main focus last year was our regular attenders, and we were able to improve 5% in that area and finished with 81% of students being considered a regular attender. We were excited to see that we had 90% of our freshman on track for graduation as well, this means they had 6 or more credits at the end of the year. The largest increase was the 93% On Time Graduation, which went up 7% from the year prior. The continued growth in these numbers comes from wrap around services, school staff and families all working together to support students.

The only area Riverside is below state average in was College Going at 37%. This is for students who enroll in two- or four- year colleges within one year of completing high school. The 37% is an increase from the year prior. It is important to point out that the last two graduating classes from Riverside had 13 students who graduated with their AAOT (Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer) degrees from Blue Mountain Community College the same year they graduated from high school. In addition, the two graduating classes have a combined 2,350 college credits earned during high school.

Positive at RHS:

Our Leadership/Broadcast Journalist class has been interviewing new staff and writing a short bio to introduce them to the community. These have been posted on our website and the school Facebook page. Visit these links to check out the work of these students, and see two of our new staff members:

Mrs. Boor <https://rhs.morrow.k12.or.us/article/new-faces-morrow-county-schools>

Ms. Mittelsdorf <https://rhs.morrow.k12.or.us/article/new-faces-morrow-county-schools-ms-mittelsdorf>

A.C. Houghton Elementary

At ACH we are working continually to succeed in academic achievement growth. At ACH, we are excited to announce our outstanding progress from last year's OSAS testing, our math scores went from 28% to 48% proficient and ELA scores, 42% to 45% proficient. This year, our 3rd grade teachers have visited Echo, and Rocky Heights for PD/observations with a focus on passages and item writing. The third-grade team at ACH, along with our special ed and title teacher have attended PD around passages and item writing at IES since September. We are working hard with these PD opportunities to help our students achieve great success with all their academics.

At first assembly in November, we had 56 perfect attendance winners. Each student received a pass to Boardman Pool and Rec center. We received these through a grant focusing on attendance!



We are looking forward to our Winter concert on Dec. 12th. The students have been practicing hard and can't wait to perform for their families. Wishing you all Happy Holidays!

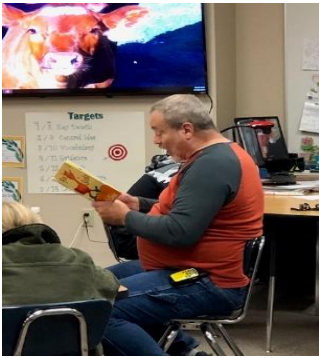
Irrigon Elementary School

During the past month Irrigon Elementary has been hard at work, ensuring all students receive a well-balanced pathway to academic success. Our teachers have been providing three layers of instruction in math and reading in order to capitalize on student success in the individual areas they need. We received our state report card and celebrated student success with students and families during conferences. Finally, we ended the month with our annual reading day with special guests from the community. These are some of the great ways IES supports students in helping them achieve academic growth.

The teachers at Irrigon Elementary School provide three layers of instruction in both math and reading for all of our students. The first layer--core instruction is provided in the classroom; our teachers scaffold the lessons in order to provide comprehensible lessons that all students can access. The second layer--skills instruction is provided by a classroom teacher, special education teacher, or title teacher. This instruction is differentiated to meet the needs of all the students and is aligned to the core targets and skills that the classroom teachers are focusing on. The third layer--individualized instruction takes place on the computer and classroom teachers conference with students to ensure they are receiving adequate support, encouragement, and motivation to succeed. In order to effectively sustain the three layers of instruction, the grade-level teachers work collaboratively with the special education and title teachers as well as the instructional coach and administration. This is one of the great steps Irrigon Elementary School has taken to ensure academic achievement for all students.

We received our State Report Card from the Oregon Department of Education just in time for fall parent/teacher conferences. We celebrated our great success in math and reading, our scores increased by 25% and 19%, respectively over the past two years. We took the time to celebrate the students' success during conferences with their families. Additionally, students shared writing work samples and the great learning in science and social studies. Parent/teacher conferences are always a great opportunity to make intentional connections with students and their families.

Irrigon Elementary School ended the month with our annual reading day. This was a great opportunity for students to take their learning to each classroom and participate in different learning activities with each of the teachers, regardless of their grade. Each classroom circulated around the school and participated in learning activities such as a fun reading passage about Candy Corn, vocabulary word work, and reading with special guests from our community such as Sergeant Siex from Morrow County Sherriff's Office, Mrs. Kathy Street from the Oregon Trail Library, and school board member Richard Cole. This was a fun day for the students as they had a great opportunity to experience their education in a nontraditional manner for the day.



The Irrigon Health Clinic came to our school and presented information about healthy eating and drinking habits to our 6th grade students. During this presentation the students had the opportunity to ask questions about healthy drinks and they were able to see how much sugar was in different beverages.



We strive to ensure our students receive a well-rounded education. We encourage, embrace, and support learning through the lens of our students. Our teachers and staff promote growth mindset and motivation so all of our students know their true potential and keep reaching for their next big learning moment.

Irrigon Jr/Sr High School

December is here and winter has arrived with the first snow fall of the year. This month's focus is on our schools academic growth. In the recent statewide school report card, we maintained a level above state average in Regular Attenders, 9th grade On-Track to Graduate, On-Time Graduation, and Five-Year Completion Rate. Our focus last year was on increasing our students achievement and growth specifically in the area of mathematics. According to the School Accountability Detail sheet provided by ODE, we experienced 5% growth across all student groups in Math Achievement. Where we experienced our largest gains were in the category of Academic Growth, which measures their growth compared to students that performed at the same level the previous year. In this category we saw an average of 15% growth across all levels, with our Hispanic/Latino subgroup showing a growth rate of 20%. In continuing our efforts improve student learning, we have implemented the use of iReady diagnostic tracking of our 7th and 8th grade students. This will allow us

to identify our students strengths and weaknesses in reading and math. This will help our teachers support our students continually throughout the school year. Another exciting opportunity that we have for our teachers is the access to the Interim Assessments and Tools for the SBAC/OSAS assessments. These tools will allow our teachers and students to gain experience and practice assessments that are on the same platform as the state test, as well as provide our teachers with data in regards to student progress towards the assessed standards as well as the ability to review the students answers to identify mistakes and correct misconceptions.

We have had a busy last few weeks here at IJSHS. Our drama club performed their play “Oliver Twisted” Friday Nov. 22nd and Saturday Nov. 23rd. On Nov. 16th the combined chapters of the Morrow County FFA put on their annual dinner auction. Their goal was to raise over \$175,000 that evening. They succeeded in doing so raising over \$180,000! Our College Possible group lead a joint college tour with Riverside, Umatilla, and Mac Hi, attending schools in the Willamette Valley, and our Migrant Ed Program took students to EOU. The students took part in a full college class period including lecture, video, class discussion, group work and some students spoke to the whole class. All the students earned at least 12 elective Spanish credits (SPAN 101, 102, 103) and most earned the 12 SPAN 201, 202, 203 credits that count as core requirements for many 2 and 4-year degrees. Here is the article from IMESD in regards to the event.

Migrant Students Visit EOU & Earn College Credits



A group of 33 high school students from eastern Oregon school districts had the chance to visit Eastern Oregon University on November 13th, and earn some college credit at the same time! The CLEP Day at EOU was organized by the Migrant Education Program of the InterMountain Education Service District (IMESD). In addition to touring the campus and experiencing an actual college class, the students were able to take the CLEP test for Spanish. CLEP stands for College Level Examination Program, an exam that tests a person for college level knowledge of a particular subject; if a person passes the exam, they earn college credit as if they had actually taken the courses.

Kris Mulvihill and Brenda Flores, IMESD’s two Migrant Education Graduation Specialists, organized the event, along with Cristian Anguiano, Outreach Coordinator at EOU. Participating students were from McLoughlin High School (Milton-Freewater Unified School District), Riverside Jr/Sr High and Irrigon Jr/Sr High (Morrow County School District), Umatilla High School (Umatilla School District) and Hermiston High School (Hermiston School District).

According to Mulvihill, all the students who participated earned at least 12 college credits by taking the CLEP test that day and most earned 24 college credits. "This was a wonderful opportunity for our students to not only experience a college campus, but to get a step ahead on college credits before they even go to college," Mulvihill said. She said although the day was academically focused, there were a lot of smiles and laughs, too.

The high school winter sports season kicks off this week with both basketball and wrestling heading into competition. We are very excited that both boys and girls basketball for Riverside and Irrigon will now have a true district basketball tournament hosted at EOU Feb. 21st and 22nd for the top 4 teams in the league. A big thank you to the AD's for making that happen! Also, wanted to congratulate Makenna Collins on being selected to the 1st team All Eastern Oregon Volleyball by the East Oregonian!

Heppner Elementary

Some of the good news for this month is that our fall conferences were held. Almost every student had a parent in attendance. Through the Parent Teacher Club sponsored book fair students were given the opportunity to purchase many current and exciting books. The PTC also sponsored books for the teachers with each teacher receiving \$100.00 credit to purchase books for their classrooms. Chess has started and the Lego robotics group is preparing to travel to Hood River this Saturday for their annual competition.

Here we are approaching the winter break already. At HES we have been busy with many learning opportunities. Student all completed their Fall assessments, those that were here, and we are preparing for the winter iReady tests to see how much we have accomplished so far. We look forward to those assessments to let us know how we are doing on our goal to have all students grow academically.

As we incorporate strong strategies for teaching and learning in classrooms we monitor the growth of our students in weekly data team meetings. One strategy that is a focus for HES is the item writing approach to Reading Passages. This Friday, December 6th, the HES teaching staff is engaged in training for this here in our building. Jessica Campbell, a teacher from Echo with really good test results, is coming to guide that process. Two staff members have been able to observe Jessica in her classroom and both brought back good reports from their experiences. Though we have not been fully introduced to these methods the staff has begun incorporating pieces into our classroom instruction.

Another focus at HES to help students grow academically has been the attendance campaign. At the beginning of the year many local businesses agreed to post "Every Day Matters" signs. Mr. Waite uses daily and cumulative reports to monitor the attendance of all students. In coordination with the CARE coordinator and counselor, parents and students are contacted regularly when attendance is at or below 90%. Monthly each student whose attendance is at this level or below gets a personal letter with the number of days missed and the current percentage. Those that are willing are given a postcard sized form for tracking the days missed by their student. There has been some positive response to this approach.

Heppner Jr/Sr High School

It is a once again a privilege to report the recent happenings of Heppner Jr/Sr High School. It is hard to believe that the month of December is already upon us. Our current enrollment is 142 students and our overall attendance percentage so far is 94.8%. We will continue to promote the importance of regular attendance to the students and parents of HJSHS.

Congratulations to the 2019 - 2A State Champion Heppner Mustangs Football Team for their 12-7 win against Kennedy in the State Championship game which capped off a perfect 13-0 record for the season!

Here are a couple of important upcoming events for your calendars. The winter concert is scheduled for the 10th of December and will be held in the HES gymnasium. Winter break begins on December 19th with school resuming on January 6th of 2020.

For this month's report I will be once again highlighting MCSD Strategic Goal #1: *During the 2019-20 school year, all Morrow County School District students will demonstrate academic achievement growth proportionate to or above their Oregon peers using a variety of measures. Students are expected to grow academically a minimum of one year at every grade level, in preparation for graduation.*

At HJSHS we continually work to reach the goal that all students are not only successful from one grade level to the next, but that they also graduate on time with their class cohort. In pursuit of this goal we continue to utilize a lot of different supports to help our students succeed. Through our advisory and senior transitions classes, we are able to help students track and monitor their progress as they work through their high school careers at HJSHS. With this strategy we have maintained high "freshmen on track" to graduate percentages and high graduation rates during the past several years at HJSHS. Additionally, we hold "grade level" conferences with parents and students that focus on where students are as incoming seventh grades (or new students) and where they need to be by the end of their senior year in order to graduate. During the conferences we discuss supports that are offered at HJSHS such as; academic Friday opportunities, study skills/tutorial class options, parent/teacher meetings and credit recovery options to name a few. This conference format has allowed more meaningful conversations with students, parents and teachers as our students' progress from one grade level to the next. Focusing the conferences on the end result of graduation from high school has really made the conference process a more worthwhile use of our conference time.

For seniors at HJSHS, our senior transitions teacher (Mrs. Payne) meets daily with students and also helps monitor their grades and attendance. Seniors that are still needing to meet essential skills in reading, writing and math are provided opportunities to complete work samples or take the Work Keys test in addition to being assigned reading, writing and math lab class opportunities to help better prepare them. As always, we will continue to communicate with our HJSHS students and parents regarding student progress to help ensure they are successful from one grade level to the next and on track to graduate.

Management's Discussion and Analysis

MCSD – Maintenance & Facilities Update – December 2019

All District vehicles have been equipped with snow tires in preparation for inclement weather. During Winter Break, McKinstry will be installing vents inside eleven classroom units at Irrigon Jr Sr High. This will prolong the life of each unit and reduce the dust that they collect on the coils. Windy River will have vents installed in one of the office spaces as this room doesn't receive direct cooling or heating.

The MCSD Bond Advisory Committee will meet on January 8 at AC Houghton Elementary for their third meeting. There are six workshops over the next year and we have 53 members from all communities including parents, business owners, government, landowners, staff and board members. Our committee will focus on a plan to improve our buildings and learning environments for our students.

Staff Incident/Accidents Report:

Date	School	Incident
11/8/19	SBE	Sub slipped on a puddle of water in the bathroom. No medical attention required.
12/3/19	SBE	Ed Assistant slipped on the snow and fell on the playground. No medical attention required.

Financial Report Talking Points:

We will wait to do the supplemental budget until February or March, in order to have a more complete picture of what needs to be modified.

Last month the counties released the expected property tax collections for this year. Morrow County School District property taxes are projected to be \$8,804,460. This is \$1,129,460 greater than we budgeted. I will be contacting ODE to have them adjust the Basic School Fund for the increase in taxes, so that we won't have a large adjustment in May, 2021. The cash flow summary reflects the increase to Current Taxes and the decrease in future State School Fund receipts.