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Dear Three Rivers School Board Members,

As the school year winds down, there are a lot of things to celebrate at Lorna Byrne Middle School! Three major items that I would like to highlight are: our attendance rates, our student growth on high stakes testing, and our recent Career Day.

For starters, our attendance rates have sky rocketed this year. We ended last year with a 92% attendance rate. Our preliminary data for this current year shows that we will be between 93.5% and 94%! For some, this may appear like a minor increase but in the big scheme of things, this is huge! In order to improve our year-long average, it takes a lot of hard work and consistency. In other words, this average can't be changed by just having one good day of attendance; it takes day after day of students showing up to school to influence this number. While it is important to celebrate our increase in student attendance, it is imperative to understand why. The more students are in school, the more likely they will succeed academically. One of our main goals here at Lorna Byrne is to help set students up for academic success. By focusing on student attendance, we hope this will start to influence student performance, motivation, and overall well-being for our students. In addition, this means that more students were in class and participating in academics than last year. A special shout out to our Attendance Officer, Sandy Madden, for her diligence and efforts on making sure students are coming to school. Nice work!

With students in class more, our student performance on OAKS did increase. For some grade levels, the success students experienced doubled from what was documented last year for these same kids. Below is a chart that shows the growth each grade level achieved this year. While science is not listed, I would like to note that student performance on this assessment was excellent as we were nearly 10 percentage points above the state average!

Mathematics - Students that Met/Exceeded on the OAKS test

Cohort Model-Same kid	2011-2012 (Last year)	2012-2013 (This year)	Change
6 <sup>th</sup>	30%	69%	39% points
7 <sup>th</sup>	63%	66%	3% points
8th	67%	66%	-1% points

English Language Arts - Students that Met/Exceeded on the OAKS test

Cohort Model-Same kid	2011-2012 (Last year)	2012-2013 (This year)	Change
6 <sup>th</sup>	47%	63%	16% points
7 <sup>th</sup>	64%	76%	12% points
8th	78%	67%	-11% points

These numbers are a direct reflection of the hard work teachers, classified, students, families, and the entire community put forth in developing and cultivating the academic success of our students. I am very proud of our staff at Lorna Byrne Middle School as they truly care about the children and their future.

While academics are important, it is also critical to have an idea about what you would like to do later in life. For many of our students, this is not something they have yet to think about as it can be daunting or too far in the future to comprehend. One way that Lorna Byrne has worked to address this is through the implementation of Career Day. This used to be an annual tradition at Lorna Byrne but it fell by the wayside some years ago. This year, our Site Council in coordination with many of our staff members, picked this event back up again. Throughout the year, the Site Council worked on the planning and preparation of the event as well as how important these experiences are for our kids. This project came to fruition during the last week of school. A variety of community members from all over Josephine County and the local Illinois Valley presented to students and demonstrated various aspects of their occupations. Some of the various jobs that were featured were: meteorologist, hydrologist, paramedic, park ranger, journeyman plumber, massage therapist, game warden, barista, fire department, public works, accountant, auto body, ophthalmologist, catering, house mover, musician, pottery, radio DJ, glassblower, college options, and Fire Mountain Gems. The smiles of the faces of students and the level of engagement during these sessions were inspiring. The afternoon culminated with students completing a Career Information Survey and researching possible career paths while others learned how to fill out job applications. One student mentioned to the instructor how thankful he was to have this instruction as it was something he thought he would never learn in school. Without a doubt, this day made a difference in each of our students' lives. Thank you to everyone that made this day a success. We are looking forward to continuing this project in the future.

While attendance rates, student growth on high stakes testing, and our recent Career Day are particularly important, I would like to update you on a few items:

- IVHS and LBMS were recently granted \$6,400 for new band instruments through the Four Way Foundation
- The athletic department completed fund-raising for a \$9,000 wrestling mat, thanks to many volunteers and donors, including the Illinois Valley Mat Club and Illinois Valley News.
- LBMS has one of the highest library circulation rates within the district. This year alone, we have had 9,563 books checked out! Boy, do we have some readers!
- Our student garden is up and running. We have plants producing and lettuce growing out our ears. The collaboration of the woodshop, multi-handicap classroom, leadership class, and many staff members have made this project a success and one to remember for students.
- We had over 50 students that received dental services through the Siskiyou Community Health Center Dental and the Rogue Valley Dental Society! LBMS is the only middle school in Three Rivers that has been served through this program. This was the first year of our partnership and we look forward to it continuing in future years. In addition, we did bring in outside dental hygienists to help provide students with free toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss and education about dental health in order to support the work the dental van provided.

- The Illinois River Valley Arts Council put on an amazing Family Night at Lorna Byrne Middle School in May. The student and parent turn-out was staggering. The entire cafeteria was full and everyone was having a great time.

In closing, there are a lot of amazing things that occurred over the past trimester and year here at Lorna Byrne Middle School. I am extremely proud of the staff, students, families, and community for their support and energy in making our students successful.

Thank you everyone for your support as it takes a village to raise our children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "rachael huish". The signature is written in a cursive, lowercase style.

Rachael Huish  
Principal  
Lorna Byrne Middle School