

Board Report for September, 2014- North Valley High School

After a hectic set up involving schedule changes all the way to the last moment, we opened school to all freshmen and new students on Tuesday and to all students on Wednesday. In most of our classes every desk is occupied every period and we will complete the balancing of classes by the Friday of this week. In all of the classes I observed in the first two days of school, teachers were working bell to bell and I saw many kids taking the first steps toward getting into the groove of work needed for them to pass all classes. I appreciate the businesslike and friendly manner in which our teachers opened their classes.

Our new employees, an assistant principal/athletic director, three new teachers, a couple of new hires in the counseling office, our ERC classes, and the front office have taken their roles and are making our team stronger. Overall, we have had a few small bumps in the enrollment of students but our counseling office is rapidly working through the registration of late arriving students so we are moving forward in our mission to educate kids. I expect by Monday, September 8 we will be fully operational in all classes and we will have settled into the new teaching schedule.

Professional development got off to a good start in the in service week sessions and I feel that we have a solid bond of commitment to strong teaching from our faculty. We will complete the planning for the goal setting and observation schedule for our teachers so that we will know how well our teachers are performing in the opening weeks of school. We have multiple plans for the Friday late start time beginning with a presentation from Kate Dwyer to our faculty that shows the full array of resources available to students and staff through OSLIS.

We have multiple athletic events at the varsity and JV level in Football, Cross Country, Boys and Girls Soccer and Cheerleading. We encourage all kids to be involved in some team or activity in addition to their classes so that we can have a "Knight Way" connection among our student body. Kids seem pretty happy here and we want to serve them well. Our coaches go many extra miles to make our sports engaging and competitive.

I have attached the letter I sent to all staff outlining our goals and ambitions for the 2014-15 school year. My job is to create a sense of accomplishment that results in most of our kids graduating on schedule. Everything we do is designed to further that goal.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Misner, Principal



Dear Faculty and Staff,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you back to North Valley for another year of excellent interactions with kids. We have the best job a person can have and I am thrilled to be able to work with our strong group of educators who have the responsibility to grow our kids so that they have many positive choices when they graduate. This year we have a new assistant principal/athletic director, Justin Parker. We added three new teachers to our faculty and a number of classified employees to our support staff. Debbie Acosta will be our business teacher. She comes from Riverdale, CA with several years of business, leadership and journalism teaching experience. Pete Lentz will become our third science teacher. Pete is a trained engineer and he will be a great addition to our science department. Jacob Schaufler has transferred from Hidden Valley and he will be teaching social studies and PE/Health. Our classified staff has added Heather Saeman, our librarian from Fleming, Kevin Schafer, ERC aide and head baseball coach, and Jewel Shane, office clerk, who transferred from Manzanita. All of these new hires bring good things to our kids and I believe we are stronger in every case.

Our new superintendent, David Holmes, has a genuine heart for the academic growth of kids and he is fully supportive of the wide range of ways that we meet their educational needs. He has articulated three goals that are useful and focused:

- Increase our cognitive demand in the curriculum we offer kids
- Increase the flow of student to student information
- Increase the "learning trust" in each of our classrooms

As we go through the in-service week and open the school year, we will spend time clarifying these goals and discussing ways that we can shape our services to address each of these goals. The primary evidence we will use to measure our progress on these goals is the increase in the number of kids who graduate after they enter as freshmen and in the satisfaction of the families we serve.

My personal hopes for all students remain the same as they have for the past two years:

- Earn Bs or better in all classes
- Attend at least 92% of all classes on time
- Behave so that no referrals are given
- Gain positive character references from multiple adults who work at North Valley

As we work with our students in classrooms, activities, sports and across the spectrum of student activity I would like us to help our kids to develop in all of the following traits:

- Character- Develop into a person worthy of trust and respect
- Courage- Stand up to do the right thing when the situation calls
- Compassion-Care for other people and appreciate their life situations
- Commitment- Follow through when you give your word
- Competitiveness- Be your best in all that you do

As the person responsible for the development and education of all North Valley students, I will support you in every possible way to build our strength, insight and capacity to evoke learning from our kids. Our mission is to make North Valley a school of distinction so that when kids graduate from here, they will have accomplished a challenging and satisfying educational experience. I have great faith in our ability to achieve that mission. I am looking forward to collaborating with you as we meet our goals.

With the above in mind, our work day this year is 7:45 to 3:45. We will have a finalized student bell schedule when you meet us on Monday, August 25. The in service week schedule will look like this:

Monday- All teachers at North Valley at 7:45- we will have a full schedule of preparation

Tuesday- District In-Service at Fruitdale- 7:45

Wednesday- Lots of room time for preparation

Thursday- Short organizational meeting- Room preparations

Friday- Final touches on getting ready and potluck lunch

Much, much more information will follow. Please start thinking about how you can improve the quality of your teacher webpage and how we can improve the level of communication with the significant adults in the lives of our kids.

Best wishes for a year of growth and achievement,



Dennis Misner, Principal

August 14, 2014