

Lincoln Savage Middle School  
First Trimester Board Report

From Bomb Threat to extensive and explicit graffiti, LSMS has not only endured the challenges of these traumatic events, but has overcome these obstacles with character and pride.

On September 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:59pm, administration was made aware of a written bomb threat in the girl's bathroom. Through diligent resolution, Kirk Baumann collected the evidence, identified the young female, and presented the case that ultimately resulted in the expulsion the student. Although regretful, time consuming and stressful, this incident provided all staff members multiple opportunities to interact with students and discuss student safety, student respect, student responsibility and what those words look like and mean. Our actions were closely monitored by concerned parents and this incident proved too many, that we are committed to student safety. Thank you is again extended to the Directors and Superintendent for their time and investment in our kid's safety.

One of our P.E. teachers is currently fighting Breast Cancer (Maureen Wright). Through her surgery and first two Chemo treatments, Maureen has shown strength, courage and a desire to be with her students. Through the lose of hair, the mask worn to protect herself, and now the "hats", Maureen's willingness to talk about how this experience has affected her, and sharing what she is going through has opened communication with students and staff. Her experience, like Dave Cunningham's tends to reprioritize the "big rocks" of life. Dave Cunningham's wife of 37 years unexpectedly died four weeks ago. Our sixth grade team surrounded Dave in support and the staff rallied as necessary or appropriate. Through it all, we (including students) realized how mortal we really are, emotions were shared and we drew closer together. In many regards, we grew because we shared and supported each other in something that many of us, including several of our students have experienced. We have definitely established many new intentional relationships.

Every teacher is involved in one of four teams. (safety, site council, PBS or curriculum)

Our safety team has begun the process of becoming pro-active to incidents instead of reactive. Slip, trips and falls are prevented due to improved markings or better yet, minimization of the unsafe condition. Several safety audits have been performed by various teachers to ensure a safe working environment. Thanks to Dave Forbuss, Dave Cunningham, Rob Wardle, Kurt Nicholas, Maureen Wright and Bob Hoskins for improving our safety attitude and performance.

The Site Council is regrettably in transition due to two parents resigning due to a relocation or employment changes, therefore we are looking for two new members. Our School report card has been reviewed and our participating teachers were pleased with the parents support in our revised efforts to improve our scores. Site Council teachers are Scott Zurhellen, Rick Draper and Jennifer Parsons.

Our PBS team changed membership by 50% at the beginning of the school year. Although we do not have the availability of Friday Late Starts, the team meets every Thursday for approx. 60 minutes on "their time" to discuss PBS lessons, strategies or review data. Team membership is

Kirk Baumann, Ellen Windus, John Fryer, Robin Lofing, Dave Marks, Vickie Gable, and Maureen Wright.

Our new Curriculum team has spent considerable time discussing Year Long Plans, how State Standards apply to the YLP and how best to instruct to the standards so our students are prepared for the State Assessment. We are focusing on “less is more” and developing intentional efforts to focus all students who are taking the State Assessment to “do their best work!” Our initial results are paying off with significant improvement over last year, yet we recognize we have much room for improvement. This dynamic team has Heather Fuller, Brenda Tall, Lew Constable, Jo Taylor, Greg Patch and Adele King focusing on critical instructional strategies.

Much work remains to get LSMS where it needs to be, but as I survey our here and now, I am beginning to see an attitude emerge of teachers being proud of their vocation and personally engaged in making a positive difference to improve LSMS. What I am starting to hear is: this is our school and you’re not going to..... ; I did not hear that last year.

Finally, thank you to Lloyd Russell, his maintenance crew and LSMS custodians for their prompt attention to our graffiti problem on Sunday, 22 November. Although the specifics were removed, the remnants remained and I was pleased with the number of students who voiced concern as to why some one would tag “their” school. We are still waiting for Josephine County to respond, however, Lt. Larson of Jackson County Sheriff responded and supported us very well.

Respectfully submitted, Brent Workley