

Administration Reports December 2024

Sam Boardman Elementary

As we step into December, our theme this month is all about Joy! This theme resonates deeply as we aim to spread joy among our students, staff, and families, creating a warm and vibrant atmosphere that embodies the spirit of the season.

We concluded November on a high note with a wonderfully attended community feast. The excitement was palpable as students enjoyed a delightful menu featuring drumsticks and creamy mashed potatoes, which turned out to be a favorite among our young diners. Each grade level contributed to the festive ambiance by creating unique, handmade decorations, showcasing their creativity and teamwork.



Looking ahead, we are eagerly anticipating the joyful winter concert, scheduled for December 12th. Our talented students and dedicated staff have been working tirelessly to prepare for this special event. We can't wait to witness the enthusiasm and joy on display as our students share their voices and musical talents with their loved ones, filling the air with delightful melodies and festive cheer.

In the spirit of the season, our school community is embracing the holiday vibes with themed dress-up days the last school week in December. These fun and creative days will encourage everyone to express their festive spirit, fostering a sense of togetherness and joy among students and staff alike.

Even with so many festivities occurring, academics still remain the primary focus at SBE. This month, one of our third-grade classes has the thrilling opportunity to visit the Think Big Space. This visit is a highly anticipated event for our students, allowing them to explore and engage with STEAM concepts that spark their curiosity and creativity. Other classes will have the chance to visit at a later date, ensuring that all 2nd and 3rd grade students can benefit from this enriching experience.



As December unfolds, we are filled with excitement for the upcoming events and activities that will bring joy to our school community. Together, we will create memorable moments that celebrate the joy of the season, reinforcing the bonds between students, staff, and families. Our hope is that we embrace this joyful journey and make this December truly special!

Windy River Elementary

2nd annual Art Show Parent Night:

We had our 2nd annual Art Show Parent night on November 21st put on by our 5th grade team. They did a really good job, with all grades putting up artwork for parents to see. 4th Grade went overboard and did an "Under the Sea" theme, that included black lights, costumes and art for parents and kids to do in their rooms. 5th Grade hosted a parent "art with your kids" activity where they made Christmas Ornaments. 6th Grade put out a TON of the students' art for parents to look through. It was a HIT! I am really proud of the WRE staff. They do a really good job during the student day, and they go the extra mile putting on parent nights for our community to enjoy. There was even a table dedicated to teacher's artwork. TONS of parents attended!! Pictures below!

Employee of the Month

This month's employee of the month is: Josie Fernandez. Josie is our librarian. She is organized, motivated, and pleasant to work with. She is putting together our Battle of the Books this year, and has completed tasks from last year's battle of the books. She has been a really great addition to our WRE team. Congratulations, Josie!

Secret Spirit Week

Mrs. Willcoxon watches tick tock and there is a trend going around. Teachers have a "Secret Spirit Week" that they do not tell the students about. It was fun fooling the kids and listening to them try to figure out what was going on. We finally told them on Thursday, but they had figured it out by then! The dress up days were: Monday: All Black Tuesday:

Dress like a student Wednesday: Holiday Shirts (think ugly sweaters), and Friday: Disney Costumes. It was a super fun week for students and staff alike! FUN!

iReady Rumble (See * below for the rules!)**

We did a school wide iReady Rumble - a No Hold Barred contest, right before the winter diagnostic to see how many lessons we could pass as a school. It was class against class, grade against grade, and student against student. Prizes were: Gift cards, pizza parties, pieing the principal and teachers at an assembly, and the self satisfaction of a job well done. No Surprise, it worked! Students in the 4th grade passed 2001 lessons, 5th grade passed 1,256 lessons, and 6th grade passed: 944 lessons Good work!

Thank You School Board Members! WRE would like to thank our Dedicated School Board Members! We appreciate you and your support for students and staff in Morrow County! THANK YOU!

*****iReady Rumble Rules:**

From November **10th to Nov 26th** (10 days, right before Thanksgiving Break AND right before the diagnostic) <--we would do this again in the SPRING

The Grade Levels would compete against their own grade level.

ONLY PASSED lessons count

The Tie-Breaker is the Accuracy number, if there is a TIE

The TOP TWO teachers would get to PIE the bottom two teachers, for each grade level.

No TRASH BAGS ALLOWED!

ALSO,

The TOP three kids from each grade would get to pie Mr. Sheller OR Mrs. Crowell. (Last day of school before Christmas Break) (no trash Bags Allowed)

The TOP 2 classes from each grade would get a donut party.

Pictures this month

Art show:





Parent and student Ornament Art Activity:



4th Grade Team for the Art show:

Black Light decorations from 4th grade (The picture doesn't do it justice. It was COOL!!!):



Secret Spirit Week: (All Black Monday)



Holiday Sweater day:

Riverside Jr/Sr High School

A highlight that I want to discuss is our new business teacher Mr. Hull. He is taking our business classes in general to new heights. Recreating our FBLA club at both the HS and MS levels. This is a very exciting adventure, and he wants to push students to experience the FBLA contests to network and gain new experiences. Mr. Hull has been instrumental in creating our student store. Students in essence have a student business where they sell items, track purchases, and order needed items. The goal is to establish this so students can have first-hand experience of building their own business. He is looking to continue partnering to sell their products in his store in the future.

A.C. Houghton Elementary

As we near the end of a calendar year, and the halfway mark of our school year, it's a great time to reflect upon student progress. For my report this month I requested grade level teachers to share highlights of their student's growth and our school year thus far.

KINDERGARTEN: We are excited by our students' reading progress. They are reading words with nice fluency. Math is going great! Our students are loving doing addition. Subtraction will be next. Writing is coming along with varying degrees of success, with some students writing words on their own!

FIRST GRADE: Some positives between reading and writing for first grade include the transfer of knowledge-students are applying newly learned sounds into their written work. Their sentence structure is also really growing and students are remembering the "Fab 5" when responding to questions. In Math, students are using a variety of strategies to solve addition/subtraction problems and are more deeply discussing math topics.

SECOND GRADE: Students are growing more confident in their ability to add and subtract. The students are eager and excited to learn. They seem to be using more strategies to add and subtract, and are better at working with partners. The classes seem to be enjoying the stories in our Reading curriculum 'Amplify'. Many students have improved in writing and are writing in complete sentences.

THIRD GRADE: We are excited to see the third-grade classes growth in fact fluency, multiplication and division using a multitude of manipulatives. As a grade level, the students are showing excitement about learning these new skills and have been throughout this entire school year. We are striving for great fact fluency scores and filling any holes the students have with math automaticity. In Reading, students just finished a unit and truly enjoyed learning about Greek Gods & Goddesses, along with a new culture they are not familiar with. Students are working on their writing in response to their reading, gearing up for OSAS testing this spring.

As the weather gets colder, we encourage and require students to dress for the colder weather. We have great community support and the Irrigon Moose Lodge delivered hats today for our entire kindergarten classes. This is an annual event and one we look forward to each year; the students are always very excited to receive their new hats. The picture to the right is one of our students with *The Moose* after she picked out her hat!

Lastly, our students are gearing up for closing out the year here at ACH with a winter concert on Thursday, December 5th. We have the PreK/Kinder/1st grade performing at 6:00pm and the 2nd/3rd grade to follow at 7:00pm.

There will be a bake sale during the intermission to help raise money for supporting classrooms by our wonderful ACH Parent Club.

Sending you all wishes to have a wonderful holiday season, and blessings for the New 2025 Year!



Irrigon Elementary School

I am pleased to provide you with an update on the events happening at our school this December.

One of the most anticipated events is the upcoming visit from Dr. Ronda Fritz, who will be observing our classrooms as part of her ongoing support of our implementation of the Amplify reading curriculum. Dr. Fritz's visit aims to assess our instructional practices and the intended outcomes of the curriculum in action. Following her classroom visits, she will provide personalized feedback to the teachers that she visited, and will also address the entire staff to reinforce and refresh our approach to using this dynamic curriculum.

In addition to our academic initiatives, we are actively engaged in a canned food drive to support families in our community. Our goal is to collect 800 cans, and in just the first day, we've already surpassed 100 cans! The Irrigon Fire Department has generously offered to assist us by sorting and distributing the donations to families in need. If we meet our goal, we will celebrate our success with a school-wide hot chocolate party during the last week before Christmas break.

Our school counselor, Kelsie Riley, and behavior technician, Loren Cole, have been participating in virtual "Collaborative Problem Solving: Coaches Training." One of the program's motto is, "People do well if they can," and it aims to foster a growth mindset in students. Through this program, we are teaching students to identify their behaviors that interrupt their social or academic progress, explore underlying causes, and work towards overcoming challenges. The ultimate goal is to build awareness and support students in their social-emotional development. We will slowly role this model of information gathering and collaborative problem solving with students who are at risk, and use the information to inform how we can best serve our students.

As we approach the close of 2024, our staff and students are enjoying the festive spirit of the season. Classrooms are being decorated for the holidays, and the annual tradition of wearing ugly Christmas sweaters is well underway. We are also looking forward to our Christmas concert next week! Our talented music teacher, Michelle Evanoff, has worked tirelessly with our students at both ACH and IES to prepare them for this community tradition. These small yet meaningful activities help make the holiday season a joyful time for our school community, while we continue to make the most of our instructional time and cultivate a culture of warmth, acceptance, and joy.

Thank you for your continued support and for helping make our school a place where both students and staff thrive.

Irrigon Jr/Sr High School

So far this school year, the academic counselor has taken students to visit EOU and CBC. A visit to WWCC is planned for January or February with other visits to colleges to come.

LA and Math staff have been working hard to make IXL fit into their curriculum. Every student has completed the diagnostic. Data will be pulled this week to discuss with LA and Math teachers on the December 6 workday. We will be reviewing strengths and weaknesses, where additional supports are needed and how we want to set up one-on-one meetings with students to discuss their growth.

Due to being awarded an ASPIRE Grant we will be able to employ a tutor/grad specialist for approximately 10 hours/ wk starting in January. This person will assist students who are struggling in classes or with the Senior portfolio, offer a quiet testing environment, help with college visits, a college fair and the Senior portfolio presentations as well as help organize graduation.

The Winter Band Concert will be December 18 at 6 pm. The band and choir showcased their skills at the recent Irrigon tree lighting event.

For up-to-date information about events follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/19Hu9YRw3U/?mibextid=kFxxJD>

https://www.instagram.com/irrigonknights?igsh=enYxY2hqbTk1eXcx&utm_source=qr

Heppner Elementary School

MCSD Board Goal #1 focuses on the academic growth of all students. Heppner Elementary School is focused on data informed instruction, and giving teachers the support and time they need to dig deep into their data and discuss areas of growth for their students. Weekly data team meetings and grade band PLC collaboration times allow for in depth conversations that lead to meaningful instruction for all students at HES.

Amplify has been our core reading for the past 3 years, and teachers are in the rhythm and practice of teaching based on the science of reading and using explicit instruction to maximize learning. With the addition of Acadience as a progress monitoring tool, teachers are digging into the data students are giving every two weeks, and adjusting their small group instruction and interventions after productive discussions at data meetings. Our reading interventionist, Samantha Gerry, is a fantastic resource and guides our teachers through what is needed to best support students with their reading needs.

For math, teachers are focused on building strategies and vocabulary vertically, showing students what is ahead and building the background knowledge they will need in future lessons. This vertical alignment is helping students transfer their learning into long term memory, a bank they can draw on and solidify as concepts become more complex.

Every minute of instruction counts, and at HES we are maximizing our instruction through data, explicit instruction, and dedication to ensuring that each student grows one full year in reading and math. We look forward to seeing the fruits of that labor on the winter iReady diagnostic.



Heppner Jr/Sr High School

1. The attendance rate for the current school year at Heppner Jr/Sr High School remains steady at 92% average daily attendance. Our commitment as a school is to actively communicate with and support families in promoting consistent student attendance. Research shows that students who attend school regularly benefit from increased direct instruction, heightened engagement in their learning, and improved academic performance. We continue to prioritize these efforts to enhance student success.
2. In education, I believe it is vital to recognize and celebrate the strengths of individuals who significantly contribute to our success as an educational institution. I would like to take this opportunity to commend our Academic Counselor, Mrs. Jill Miller, for her outstanding efforts in supporting not only our students with their academic plans but also in fostering strong relationships and communication with families. Mrs. Miller consistently seeks innovative ways to enhance our programs and expand opportunities for Heppner students, which reflects her unwavering commitment to their success at Heppner Jr/Sr High School. In the last couple of years, she has implemented the Aspire program at both MS and HS levels and has integrated Dream Catcher, a career readiness program designed to accelerate our student's ability to discover their life and career purpose. Her dedication and hard work are instrumental in creating a supportive and enriching environment for our students here at HJSHS.
3. I would like to provide an update on our Academic Advisement Program, serving students in grades 7 through 12 at HJSHS. This initiative is dedicated to offering personalized, one-on-one support for students who are facing academic challenges and striving to improve their grades. As we enter the second year of this program, we are pleased to report significant progress among the students who participate. The program takes place daily, from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM, in the library, providing a dedicated time and space for students to receive the assistance they need. We remain committed to fostering academic success and are excited about the continued positive impact of this program on our students.

MCSO Maintenance & Facilities Report – December 2024

In December, we will submit the annual building data collections report to Oregon Department of Education. This report provides an inventory of the school facilities and data is entered for year to year energy usage, internet connectivity, maintenance expenses and major or minor renovations.

The Community Bond Advisor Committee (CBAC) has completed the draft bond plan and the community feedback form is open until December 30. The District has provided both online and paper form options. The community has been notified through social media, press releases and a postcard mailer will be sent soon. The District has spoken with community leadership groups such as the local Chambers, the Facebook live talk has received over 6,800 views and numerous shares through our District, school pages and the CBAC members as well. The InterMountain ESD has provided promotional material, updated our bond page on the website and pushed out multiple social media posts. The CBAC will meet on January 6 to review the feedback and make changes if needed. They will present their recommendation to the School Board on January 13. The board will decide to make changes and decide if it will go on the ballot for the voters.

Respectfully Submitted By,
Matt Combe, Gabe Hansen and Brandi Sweeney

Staff Incident/Accidents Report: None

Date	School	Incident
12/4/2024	RJSHS	Employee slipped while mopping floor and rolled right ankle, medical attention was sought.