

BOARD BRIEFING  
NEWBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

December 3, 2008

Number of students- 107 (+6 from same time last year)

Newbridge has worked through several changes and challenges during the first part of the year. Since June, I have been working with a new specialist at ODE who is overseeing the youth corrections program. This means new changes in how we do things with ODE. We finally had our first meeting on October 31 in Salem. My staff has been able to make adjustments in our program due to my additional responsibilities at Wolf Creek Elementary. Marlo Zeller has taken on the role of lead teacher and has worked closely with me and Bonnie Sparlin, office manager, to help maintain the integrity of our program. Bonnie Cameron has returned from North Valley as our special education teacher and has our special education paperwork flowing smoothly. In addition, our new (yet very experienced) shop/manufacturing technology teacher, Warren Helgeson, has stepped into our program seamlessly. I must compliment everyone on the staff for his/her high level flexibility and commitment to the program.

In uncertain times, no one gets more concerned about budget issues than the Newbridge staff. Recently, they have seen OYA put a spending freeze on place and announce reductions in plans for programs and expansion. Our school budget continues to look reasonable for the rest of this year although we will likely have to alter plans for upgrading technology. I am anticipating some change to our contracted dollar amount with ODE. I am concerned about what the funding level will be for the next biennium. Of course, all of you realize we will have no meaningful numbers for quite some time. In fact, I do not get hard numbers for our youth corrections program until well after the district knows what its budget will be. During the last economic downturn we did not have a firm budget until October after the year had started.

Academically we have continued to focus on writing across the curriculum. During the first quarter all teachers focused on the conventions trait. We are also working hard on ways to increase reading fluency and math skills; everyone incorporates reading strategies into her/his classroom and provides at least one real-life math problem solving question each week. Steve Roe of Roe's Motors has volunteered again this fall to lead a Junior Achievement program in Mrs. Zeller's business technology classroom.

We have been working with our counterparts at Rogue Valley Youth Correctional Facility (RVYCF) to improve the quality of information we provide to youth and parents. We now include a school letter to parents in the intake materials they receive from OYA when a youth arrives at RVYCF. The letter provides parents with important contact information, an invitation to attend multi-disciplinary team meetings, a school calendar, and form to request a copy of school grades. We have also provided the living units with updated school information, a mini-handbook, for new youth to review before starting school. This material includes information about class scheduling, graduation requirements, classes offered, general expectations and more.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dave Fuller

