

This month has been very busy at the high school. For the students we have been wrapping up fall sports with award nights. Each sport hosted their own night and there was good parent attendance at all of them. Winter sports have started and our gyms area all full every night until late into the evening. The student council has been working on getting the High School Food Pantry going, with Kaitlyn Sharp taking the lead as part of a project that she started last year. The senior toy drive has been collecting donations all month and will go shopping right after school lets out for the winter break. They will then wrap and deliver the toys later that week.

The music programs, both instrumental and vocal, have been preparing for their holiday concert. This will take place on Wednesday December 14 at 6:00pm.

For the staff we have continued working on our school improvement plan. In November we had visits from OPI and our Instructional Consultant. They participated in classroom observations and met with individual teachers to provide support. We have also been doing instructional rounds with groups of teachers each month. The teachers participate in discussions about our instructional framework, which guides how lessons are delivered and incorporates the components of effective instruction. We then do classroom walkthroughs so they can see how other teachers are implementing our plan. They are looking for: implementation of bell ringer activities at the start of class; exit strategies; student engagement; differentiation; use of AVID strategies; literacy strategies; questioning strategies; and classroom routines. The purpose is not to evaluate other teachers, but to analyze what is working for others to discuss how they might implement ideas into their own classrooms and to identify professional development needs. We did the instructional rounds in October, November, and December, and will have one more group participating in January. All teachers will participate in instructional rounds once more during the second semester.

Violet Sinclair has been busy with planning and implementing our student assessments. Browning HS is an ACT testing site and we had a testing day in November. The ACT's are done on Saturdays. The fall testing dates are usually for a senior who missed the test during their JR year, or who wants to retake the test to try and improve their scores. All Jr's will take the ACT in April. Violet has also been working to develop the WIDA test dates for students identified as English Language Learners. The window for WIDA testing runs through January. We are also getting ready to complete our end of semester assessments using the ISIP and STAR math programs. These will be given to all students in grades 9-11 for ISIP and all students in a math class for the STAR assessment. We will then be able to compare the fall ISIP and STAR data with the winter data to identify areas for improvement.