

Alternative Education Board Report

September 2017

A great start to the 2017 school year at the Buffalo Hide Academy and the Alternative Education Department.

We currently have 117 students enrolled with 34 more students on the waiting list.

Our staff includes:

- Matthew Johnson - Principal
- Brenda Bird - Secretary
- Charlie Speicher - Counselor
- Greg Klauk - Teacher
- Nick Rink - Teacher
- Karen Salisbury - Teacher
- Troy Atchison - Teacher
- Jason Krane - .5 Teacher
- Larry Fish - Teacher Assistant
- Julianna Salois - Teacher Assistant
- Annie Hall - .5 Homeschool Coordinator

The first week consists of developing our “Culture of the Academy” and our main goal is welcoming our students to the Buffalo Hide Academy while at the same time sharing our expectations and structure. Relationship building is key at this time as is developing the social skills that will help make the students successful. I have enclosed a few sample lesson outlines for your information.



We also had our first fire drill of the year on Friday September 1 at 10:30 am. Thanks to Dixie and Glenn Hall for coordinating this effort.

This year we are happy to welcome Nikki Hannon to the Parent Community Outreach Program with Carrie Hirst. Nikki will use her skills and knowledge of the community, its resources and most importantly our students to help provide resources to the families and students who most need it.

The Parent Community Outreach Program's (PCOP) central office is located in the annex, along with the Families in Transition program, HiSet program and district childcare facility. PCOP serves multiple functions within the district to meet the needs of students and the community. Under PCOP, the FIT program operates to primarily serve students identified as homeless as defined by the McKinney Vento Act. There are numerous services available including access to the various Clothing Closets and School Pantries throughout the district. The district Back Pack program through Montana Foodbank Network is also coordinated through the FIT program. Our goals for the 2017-2018 school year include accurately identifying all eligible FIT students, coordinating services for these students at each building/grade level and pursuing additional financial and in-kind donations to provide needed resources. The ultimate goal is to meet the needs of our students to ensure they are able to attend school regularly and graduate on-time. Our primary staff person for this program is JoRae Rattler, who will be out on maternity leave until October. In the meantime, Nikki Hannon, who serves as the Student Support Coordinator for PCOP, will ensure services continue as needed.

The Hi-Set program is also located at the annex. The Hi-Set program serves community members who wish to pursue their Hi-Set education. The Hi-Set classroom is monitored by Jerelyn Gobert who provides a safe, welcoming environment and tutoring services to students. Our primary goals for the Hi-Set program during the 2017-2018 academic year are to increase enrollment from last year (#17 total served) and to increase the number of Hi-Set completions from last year (#4). We will increase enrollment by reaching out to partners such as Blackfeet Community College, ManPower, Montana Youth Challenge Academy and the Buffalo Hide Academy for referrals with a focus on 17-18 year old students with too little credits to earn a high school diploma, as well as adults with school-aged children. We will increase the number of Hi-Set completions by encouraging consistent attendance and engagement with the program with all Hi-Set enrolled students.