

## **Craig High School: August 28 CCSD School Board Report**

**Total Enrollment** as of Wednesday, August 21, is 66. This constitutes an annual CHS student population decline of almost 2% over the past ten years. (9<sup>th</sup>: 12, 10<sup>th</sup>: 15, 11<sup>th</sup>: 17, 12<sup>th</sup>, 21)

**CHS Accreditation** is scheduled to be completed in December. I have attended an orientation webinar with Cognia (the accreditation agency) and feel that I have enough information to continue with the process. I have not spent much effort on accreditation at this point as most of my time has been spent getting ready for the opening of school and first days with staff. This is a re-accreditation process and will not require a site visit.

With the budget being tight, **Staffing and Scheduling** will be challenging this year. Fortunately, CHS has a strong staff with a lot of combined experience. I am looking forward to our collaborations as I work to understand and support our strengths and analyze and address our school's areas of need. Because of the reduction in staff at the high school, our course offerings are more limited this year and the schedule does not provide for the flexibility we have become accustomed to. We are still meeting graduation requirements and are able to offer a variety of electives.

The maintenance crew has been hard at work all summer and as always, the **Facilities** are looking great. Thank you to Daniel and his crew for the hard work and making CHS a comfortable and safe facility.

Enthusiasm from science teacher Stephen DeHart and math teacher Nicole Nelson has resulted in the planned installation of a high-tunnel **Greenhouse** on the north lawn of CHS. Soil and lumber have been received. The Alaska Natural Science class will be responsible for setting up and maintenance of the greenhouse. We are looking forward to this addition to the facility and our programs.

Ongoing construction in the East lot requires some juggling with **Parking**. The lower parking lot will be the primary lot in use this year. Because the doors on the north end of the academic wing remain locked at all times, the north end of the lot will be reserved for staff parking. The approximate 2/3 of the remaining lot will be for student parking.

**CHS Cross Country** season started August 5. We have a full boy's team and an enthusiastic couple of girl athletes. The first meet was scheduled for Petersburg on August 24. I'll let you know how they fared at the meeting. CHS is hosting a meet this year September 7. I'm sure our Activities Director (and cross country coach), Tina Steffen will be able to utilize any of you who would want to volunteer.

**Craig Tribal Association** continues to be a good partner of CHS and various fundraising activities. This year they sponsored water bottles for the student body. We are happy to provide our facilities for the totem pole raising taking place in Craig September 13 and 14. Thank you CTA!

Superintendent Hanson, AD Steffen, and I are keeping close tabs on the CHS **Activities Budgets**, and we are committed to working within budgetary constraints. AD Steffen is working with Region V to keep travel schedules reasonable. She is communicating budgets to coaches. This is a new practice for CHS activities, and it will make our program expenditures more intentional.

I am looking to increase communication between parents and the school. Pursuant to this goal, I will be hosting monthly **Parent Forums**. The first meeting will be more informal – I will use it to introduce myself and gather information from parents about the things CHS does that they love and what things CHS could do better. This will be shared with staff and also used to develop the following month's agenda. I am tentatively scheduling the first meeting for Tuesday, September 17 from 6:30 – 7:30.

Included with this report are the revised **Student Handbook** and **Academic Guide** for the 24-25 school year as well as notes outlining what was updated in each.

It was an honor to have **Ronnie Fairbanks recognized by Sealaska Heritage** as a **Distinguished Educator Awardee**. From sealaskaheritage.org:

“Ronnie Fairbanks of Craig: Fairbanks has inspired Native artists on Prince of Wales Island and beyond for nearly twenty years. He always brings an overwhelmingly positive attitude that reminds his students that every one of them can do amazing things. Fairbanks is Tlingit, Tsimshian and Chippewa and grew up in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He received his bachelor's degree with a focus on fine arts from Fort Lewis College in Colorado. Since then, he has served as a Native art teacher at Craig High School. For over a decade he has uplifted students at summer culture camps and even took the lead for the Prince of Wales camps when COVID made taking students to Juneau impossible. His positivity, kindness and passion inspire educators and students alike, in and out of the classroom.”

We are very proud to have Ronnie part of our CHS staff. Congratulations!