

Administration Reports September 2024

Sam Boardman Elementary

Sam Boardman began constructing the 2024-25 year last June. The team committed to embracing the k-3 culture and constructed a year focused on making memorable moments for our students and growing their love of school & learning. This was the focus of our June PD day with our staff that allowed us to incorporate a team approach to the 2024-25 school year adventure.

Moving into August, the staff really embraced the team mentality. We took a lot away from the Laughter & Resilience Keynote speaker's message of finding humor in everyday ups and downs. Our amazing school family is in this together and show their support for one another on a daily basis.

One of our goals this year is to strengthen community partnerships. 1st Grade teacher, Amber Savage, has invited community volunteers to read to her class as a regularly scheduled event. Our wonderful Boardman Firefighters were the first guest readers in the 2024-25 school year, and we are looking forward to the many other guests on the invite list.

We would be remiss if we didn't highlight the beautiful artistry of our on-staff artist who also plays the role of second grade teacher in our building. Daire Richards donated her time over the summer and weekends to paint an incredible mural in our front office for all to enjoy!

Windy River Elementary

Fall iReady Diagnostic We are really excited about our approach to the Fall iReady diagnostic this year. THIS year, we are putting an increased emphasis on starting where the students left off last year. In previous years, it appears that students didn't do well on their fall diagnostic, which led to repeated lessons from previous years. We are really looking forward to starting students in 24-25 where they left off in 23-24. We hope that this will lead to increased growth AND performance for our WRE Scholars.

WRE focuses on Staff Culture We are super focused again this year on staff culture at WRE. We have a team of folks (called the sunshine committee) that recognizes birthdays and staff celebrations (like new babies!). We have an employee of the month (that comes with a special parking spot). We also have added staff social activities, led by our staff culture expert (she doesn't know that she has that title, I just gave it to her while writing this Board Report) Tiffany Locey. Mrs. Locey has organized Pedicures (Yes- this principal received his first pedi in August this year, with staff), escape rooms, dinners and lunches, and even staff trips to yard sales! It has been a really good thing for WRE staff!

Our building focus this year is: Collaboration and Explicit Instruction. (We are also going to continue to focus on Science of Reading and Classroom Management, which is important stuff too!). All staff will be trained to go through Acadience Screener and then subsequent students support and lessons to ensure all kids can READ. We are focused on Collaboration in Grade Level Teams. Finally, as part of Dr. Rhonda Fritz's PD training last year, and Dr. Tricia Berg's training THIS year, we will be focused on Explicit instruction.

Essentially (this is a gross oversimplification) explicit instruction is letting students know what they are going to learn, BEFORE they learn it. Additionally, using the gradual Release Model of Direct Instruction, and using formative assessments to drive student engagement will help students LEARN more! All of these focuses are high-yield instructional strategies and supported by TONS of educational research. High-Yield Instructional strategies are considered high-yield if they produce MORE than one year's growth in one year's time.



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!

Pictures for you to enjoy!: (Staff dinner after Pedicures in August)



Pedicure Pictures (don't mind the feet!)



Riverside Jr/Sr High School

We are extremely excited about the start of this school year. We have had a successful start to the school year with some new faces joining our school as well as leading classrooms. We want to focus on strong communication with our parents and community members this school year. To start with, we will be hosting a Senior Parent meeting on September 11th. We have an English version at 6PM and a Spanish version at 6:30PM. At this meeting we go over all the items for parents to know for their student's senior year.

Another item that we will be sending home is the monthly newsletter where we will be sharing important dates coming up and reminders for parents. The goal is to have as much information as possible for adults to be a part of. During conferences this school year we will have some sort of presentation for different student groups like college credit opportunities, safety night, etc...

With the first week already over we are focusing on making an impact on students and building meaningful relationships/expectations for students. Our staff have been creating clear objectives for their classrooms and goals for students to be successful.

One of our favorite times of the year is to see all those back-to-school photos from parents. Here are some from our staff for you all to enjoy!



Irrigon Elementary School

I am pleased to provide an update on the successful start of our school year and outline some key events that will shape our year at IES.

CHAMPS Conference / Training

Just before students came to school on the first day, our Licensed staff participated in the CHAMPS conference held at the Port of Morrow. This training was a tremendous success, allowing teachers to “deep dive” into classroom management strategies. The conference provided valuable insights into effective strategies and protocols that can be implemented immediately to build and encourage a positive and productive learning environment. We are confident that this training and the continued training to come, will contribute significantly to our continued success in managing and supporting student behavior.

First Week Success

Our first week of school was a successful one, thanks to the collective efforts of our dedicated staff, students, and parents. The positive energy and enthusiasm have set a strong tone for the year ahead. Our new students and incoming 4th grade class have seamlessly integrated into our school community, and our returning students have adjusted

smoothly to the new academic year. This year, to start our students out in the morning we are serving breakfast from the cafeteria rather than delivering packaged meals in the hallways as students arrive. Our kitchen coordinator is eager to be able to offer more hot and cold choices and our students are excited for the additional options.

New Staff and Teaching Assignments

This year, we welcomed two new teachers and adjusted some teaching assignments to meet our students' needs. Our new staff members bring a wealth of experience to our team, and we are excited about the contributions they will make. Rebecca Lauer is our new ELD teacher and Bonnie Olney is our new 6th grade teacher. Both have prior teaching experience within the school setting. Rebecca was teaching on the west side of the state, in a multi-lingual classroom. She is a perfect fit for students learning a new language and assimilating to a new culture.

This is Bonnie's first year as a licensed teacher. She was formerly an education assistant at IES. She is already a great fit for our students and has our staff fully supporting her in her first year. Both Bonnie and Rebecca will participate in the district's New Teacher Mentorship program and have access to the needed support to be part of our MCSD family.

Jackie Bulow has filled our Special Education classroom teacher position and is working diligently to continue the work that has been done. Jackie was formerly a 5th grade teacher here at IES.

To that, I will add that this is my first year at Irrigon Elementary and Morrow County School District. District staff as well as my building staff have been incredibly supportive and I am so appreciative of the opportunity to serve our staff, students, and families in this role.

Academic and Instructional Goals

We are on our way with the iReady diagnostic assessment to gain insights into student abilities and identify areas of need. This data will play a crucial role in guiding our instructional strategies and tailoring our teaching methods to better support each student's learning.

In addition, we have begun implementing Acadience this fall as a critical tool for assessing student phonics and fluency ability. This assessment will provide the necessary data for students below grade level, as to how well our students are performing in reading accuracy and fluency, and how we can best support those who are working towards grade-level expectations. By integrating Acadience into our assessment practices, it will provide us with direction in our reading instruction and provide targeted support where it is needed most.

Upcoming Events

One of the exciting events on the horizon is our 6th grade students' trip to Outdoor School during the first week of October. This experience promises to be both educational and enjoyable, offering our students unique opportunities to learn outside the traditional classroom setting. Our 6th grade team is diligently planning and organizing logistics to ensure that this trip is a success and that it provides meaningful educational benefits for all participating students.

I am confident that the CHAMPS, Acadience, and ongoing targeted support initiatives that are in place, along with the ongoing dedication of our staff, will drive our success and positively impact our students' educational experiences. I look forward to sharing further updates and celebrating our achievements in the months ahead.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our school community.



A.C. Houghton Elementary

Welcome to the 2024-2025 new school year--we are excited for the new school year here at AC Houghton Elementary! With a new year comes staffing changes. This year we have a few new faces in our building (coming from MEC), or at least in new positions. We welcomed Mrs. Charly Sturgeon from the online program from MEC, she spent two years there and also has 5 years of prior classroom experience from West Linn School District. Mrs. Sturgeon has joined our 1st grade team and is fitting in nicely! The reason for that 1st grade position being open was that Mrs. Brenda Kittelson, veteran 1st grade teacher here at ACH, is now our district Instructional Coach for K-3. We share her weekly with Sam Boardman Elementary, and value the experience and energy that she is putting into that position. Rounding out staff changes this year is Ms. Brenda Burright, former ABC Program teacher. She has joined our 3rd grade team, and we appreciate her expertise with our oldest students in the building. These additions and changes are already having a positive impact on teams here at ACH.



Our teaching staff hosted students and families for Open House on Thursday the 22nd of August. This included Pre-K through 3rd grade. All three schools (ACH, IES and IHS) host this as a community so families can visit any of the three schools that they have students attending. We had a great turnout and am happy to report this was a successful kick-off to the school year. Students dropped off their school supplies and enjoyed a 'meet and greet' with their new teachers. Teachers had rooms ready and created clever new bulletin boards to welcome our students (see picture left).

Students started their iReady fall diagnostics this week. Teachers took time to conference with each student, making sure students are prepared to do their best and showcase what they know. The fall test always presents challenges with technology, but our teachers persevere and make sure students are on and testing this week so we can measure their academic growth over the school year.

(See picture right.)



Other beginning of the year activities include our *Think Big Space* teacher, Mr. Bailey, coming Thursday this week to show students some STEAM activities that they will get to do when they have their field trips later this school year. All A.C. Houghton students have the opportunity to get their teeth checked next week with Advantage Dental. Our CARE Coordinator will assist with any follow-up needed from those dental screenings. Lastly, we welcome our school pictures takers, Quality School Portraits. We always look forward to seeing those big smiles on picture day!

Irrigon Jr/Sr High School

IJSHS kicked off the school year with our first ever parent/guardian invited BBQ/7th grade orientation. Representatives from the 9th grade shared information at stations that 7th grade parents and students visited throughout the school in a rotation formation. The rotation groups were led by staff of IJSHS. After the rotations all were invited to a meal of hotdogs, chips, and soda in the cafeteria. Approximately, 2/3's of the 7th grade students attended.

Our Fall coaching staff consists of all new individuals with the exception of Head Girls Soccer and Head and Asst MS Football. Come out and support our athletics programs.



Irrigon Jr/Sr High School (continued)

New classes offered at IJSHS this year are:

Personal Finance taught by Mikayla Bredfield

Advanced Business taught by Mikayla Bredfield

Senior Seminar (returning after a hiatus) taught by Kylie Wyant

Adv Band (Mariachi) taught by John Harding

STEM (MS Elective) taught by Dan Locey

World Geography taught by Adam Adams

Heppner Elementary School

For Heppner Elementary School, the year is off to a fantastic start! The Friday before students arrived, MCSD elementary teachers worked with Tricia Berg to focus on the importance of routines and procedures. Teachers took this work into their classrooms on Monday, and spent intentional time teaching students the routines and expectations for each part of their day. When expectations are present, students live up to them and thrive.

As I walked around during the 1st week of school, I saw a variety of ways these concepts were presented to students. As a unique k-6 school, the developmentally appropriate way to introduce expectations varies. In 6th grade, Mr. Rosen worked with the class to identify what was meaningful for them, creating a list of what they want their classroom to look like and sound like under the general rules of Be Respectful, Solve Problems, and Make Good Decisions. Students collaborated and signed their work, holding them accountable to each other.

Mrs. Chelsea Matheny in 2nd grade listed every routine she was going to teach students on a paper, and checked them off as they went through. Students would clap and cheer that they were a step closer to being successful in the classroom.

Mrs. Piper in the resource room has a CHAMPS centered display of what small group and independent learning looks like in her classroom, including noise levels, how to ask for help, what movement is okay, how they can participate, and what success looks like.

The professional development offered by the district was taken to heart by the teachers of HES that want their students and their classrooms to be calm, safe spaces where students can thrive!



Heppner Jr/Sr High School

1. Here at Heppner Jr/Sr High School our core values represent the essential beliefs and principles that guide our school and influence the actions of its students and staff. We believe these values can greatly affect a student's mental well-being, academic success, and social interactions. Additionally, our core values can aid our students in cultivating ethical decision-making abilities and foster a sense of social responsibility. When we refer to "Standing for the Brand" we are referencing our core values of:
 - Respect
 - Integrity
 - Discipline
 - Excellence
2. As we start the 2024-25 school year, as a staff we are focused on our building mission to create an enriching learning experience that fosters meaningful connections, promotes collaboration and dialogue, and fosters an environment that not only encourages academic achievement but also nurtures personal growth and social awareness. As such, our building initiatives for the 2024-25 school year are as follows:
 - Utilize community support and expertise to foster relationships and create opportunities for both students and the school.
 - Enhance the pathways available for students to explore various career options and gain exposure to different professional fields.
 - Build upon our core values to support our students in developing ethical decision-making skills, enhancing their educational growth, and fostering a sense of social responsibility.
 - Enhance avenues for teacher leadership within the building and professional development that focuses on enhancing instructional methods, maximizing time on-task, fostering a positive school culture, and strengthening connections with students.
3. HJSHS hosted its annual 7th Grade Orientation/Open House event on August 21st. The event was well attended, and it was great to have students and families back in the building. This is the third year to hold this event and we continue to see a positive turn-out from our families.

MCSD Maintenance & Facilities Report – September 2024

The school year is off to a great start! We accomplished many projects this summer and will continue to prioritize requests throughout the year.

The Community Bond Advisor Committee (CBAC) continues to meet monthly and are making great progress. The July and August meetings were spent evaluating the elementary and high schools. Overall, the committee members were on the same page on the priorities for those buildings. We added an additional meeting in October to give the CBAC more time with the draft plan that will be presented to the Board and the Communities for feedback. The CBAC has a link on our website under facilities with information for the public.

Here is a quick timeline and description for the next meetings:

September: Create draft plan based on priorities and financial cost.

October: Finalize the draft plan to present to the board and communities.

November & December: Present the draft plan to the communities, receive feedback and answer questions.

January: Create final plan to present to the school board for consideration.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Matt Combe, Gabe Hansen and Brandi Sweeney

Staff Incident/Accidents Report:

Date	School	Incident
7/17/24	SBE	Employee working summer school kitchen slipped and twisted foot. Medical attention was sought, no time loss
7/22/24	SBE	Custodian slipped on floor while waxing. Medical attention was sought, no time loss
8/20/24	WRE	Employee tripped while walking down the hall, scraped elbow. No medical attention, no time loss.