

Hidden Valley High School
First Trimester Board Report
November 29, 2008

Dear Members of the Board,

I trust that you are enjoying a great Thanksgiving Holiday with your family. I certainly have enjoyed one with mine as well. I appreciate the work you allow me to do for the students and families of Hidden Valley. I am thankful for the encouragement and support that is shown to me and my staff as we attempt to meet the educational needs of our students. I salute each of you for the work you do to make our schools places that welcome and educate all kids. We certainly have a challenge and our staff proves on a daily basis that we bring a very wide range of skill and expertise to the demands of our work. Mike Schaeffer and our counselors, Don Farmer and Amy Ingraham did a lot of individual work with student schedules to make the school function in a balanced manner.

The transition from a semester schedule to a trimester schedule has been challenging and rewarding. I accept full responsibility for any problems that have come with the schedule, the need to adjust at the last minute and beyond, and for any other problems that have created less than enthusiastic support for the decision to move to the trimester schedule. We have done incredible amounts of work to make the schedule work for all students and staff and that has generally been smooth for the majority of kids. The addition of a .67 Math teacher allowed us to spread out some of the overload in math and to alleviate some high numbers in other classes. Remarkably, we had very few student complaints about their personal schedule. For the most part, students are pleased with five classes per day. Our school is a calm, organized place and it works well for most kids. When you consider that we serve the very most difficult to serve special education students in the county, and we serve the diverse needs of a gifted and college bound population, and we maintain a broad elective program that serves most kids in preparation for their post high school life, I am please to report that many of our students are doing very well.

An unexpected negative in the transition to the common preparation period is the loss of camaraderie among our teaching staff. They are used to being more regularly social and supportive of one another and the speed of the transitions make it nigh on to impossible to gather teachers and have them support one another professionally. I would have thought that we would have more time to work together and that is not happening. I fear for the loss of group identity and know that being a part of a faculty is known better by spending professional time together. My hope is that once teachers have mastered the transition from the semester way of delivering curriculum they will not be so overwhelmed with planning and adjusting instruction. Once the classes are in session, we have had many, many very positive comments from teachers about how well the days have been going. Students, too, seem to like being able to focus on fewer classes than they have before. It seems premature to me that we would come to any major decisions about the trimester schedule until at least the end of the second one. We do have much to learn and smooth out but we are making daily progress.

Here a few of the great accomplishments of our kids over the first trimester:

School is a pretty well behaved place. We get along well. Come see our lunches one day and you will see a wide range of kids sharing friendship. We rarely have to intervene with the misbehavior of our students.

We have 853 kids enrolled in our programs. Our attendance is staying strong.

Teachers are starting classes promptly and the halls are empty shortly after the bells have rung.

Our Student Government class is providing a good assortment of activities for our kids.

We have a large group of kids fencing two days a week (about 32).

One of our students got an 800 (perfect score) on one of the parts of the SAT.

Our bands have provided excellent entertainment at games and at their concert. Mr. Lawson gets great sound from them.

All of our fall sports teams qualified for the state playoffs. Three of our teams were in the Oregon Dairy Farmers Top Ten GPA ranking.

Our cross Country team won the State Championship. They capped Stan Goodell's 30 year career with the title. It was a great accomplishment.

Several students were named to first and second team All-Conference Teams. MVP of the Skyline Conference was earned by Volleyball player, Haley Fikso and Football player, Clint Sager. Both of these kids are great role models of strong academics and athletic performance.

I will respond to you about any questions or concerns you may have about our school and its performance. It is my pleasure to serve you and I strive to do that well.

Sincerely,

Dennis Misner, Principal

