

memo

To: Blue Ridge Board of Education
Dr. Hillary Stanifer, Superintendent

From: Brian Easter, Blue Ridge High School Principal

Date: November 9, 2023

Re: BRHS Board Report

Upcoming Events:

NOVEMBER

- 16 Home JV/V Girls Basketball (5:30)
- 18 Home Scholastic Bowl Tournament (8:30)
- 20 Home JV/V Girls Basketball (5:30)
- 21 Home V Boys Basketball (5:30), V Girls Basketball at Academy High
- 24-25 Var Boys Basketball at Calvary Turkey Tourney
- 25 Var Girls Basketball at Chrisman (1:00)
- 27 Home JV/V Boys Basketball (5:30), JV/V Girls Basketball at Ridgeview (5:30)
- 28 Home Scholastic Bowl, V Boys Basketball at Deland-Weldon (5:30)
- 29 Var Girls Basketball at Cornerstone
- 30 Home JV/Var Boys Basketball (5:30)

DECEMBER

- 2 JV Boys Basketball at Cerro Gordo Tourney
- 4 Home Var Girls Basketball (5:30)
- 5 JV/V Boys Basketball at Urbana Uni High
- 7 Home Scholastic Bowl (4:30), JV/V Girls Basketball at Cumberland
- 8 Home JV/V Boys & Girls Basketball (5:00)
- 9 JV Scholastic Bowl at Roanoke-Benson
- 11 Home Boys JV/V Basketball (5:30), Girls JV/V Basketball at Argenta-Oreana
- 12 Band Concert (7:00)
- 14 Home Girls JV/V Basketball (6:00)
- 15 Boys JV/V Basketball at Argenta-Oreana
- 16 Girls Basketball at Meridian Tournament

By the numbers -

We have 189 students enrolled at Blue Ridge High School.

Average Daily Attendance Rate for the month of October was 90.0%.

Discipline data as of November 9th (and from 10/13-11/9):

- Detentions - 18 (10)
 - Lunch detentions accounted for 8 instances.
 - Before/After school detentions accounted for 2 instances.
- Saturday Schools - 8 (2)
- In-School Suspensions - 6 (3)
 - 3 students received ISS during this reporting period.
 - Suspensions totaled 6 full days during this reporting period.
- Out of School Suspensions - 4 (0)
 - No students received OSS during this reporting period.
 - Suspensions totaled 0 full days during this reporting period.
- Electronics referrals - 31 (12)
 - 23 students have received a referral for electronics.
 - 5 students have reached level 2.
 - 3 students are currently on a cell phone contract (level 3 and beyond).

Our Alternative Education students (through the Edgenuity program) have collectively completed 26 classes for a total of 20.5 earned credits as of November 8th. Thirteen students are enrolled in at least one hour of alternative education.

Here are some highlights from our daily announcements over the past month:

Our Thespians were back at Schneider this fall for their dinner-theater experience. The play "Murder at the Renaissance Fair" was very entertaining. Thanks to Sarah Yeagle and all her helpers for making this happen!

The drumline and color guard both brought home 1st place finishes at the Oblong Spooktacular band competition.

Our fall sport athletes were recognized at the fall sports awards night on November 8th. All team awards and special accomplishments were highlighted at the event.

The Blue Ridge FFA Chapter had eight members attend the 96th National Convention in Indianapolis Nov 1-4. Our chapter was officially recognized as a 3-star chapter on stage November 2nd. 12 other FFA members made the trip for that day to cheer on their group. A big thanks to Ms. Meisner and all our FFA members for representing Blue Ridge well everywhere you go!

On Friday, November 3rd students from Science of Energy and Advanced Biology classes (lead by Mr. Scurlock and Ms. Small) traveled to Illinois State University to work closely with their department of renewable energy and sustainability. Students participated in a full day of

activities relating to renewable energy and sustainability, including labs and scavenger hunts. After arriving on campus, students were tasked with completing a scavenger hunt to locate examples of sustainability and renewable energy being used firsthand. After lunch, students were then able to participate in an exciting lab led by faculty and students in the department. Our students made their own solar powered cars and even got to pilot a brand new lab that will hopefully be able to be sent out to school across the state. Photos of the students completing the labs can be seen below.



What have we been up to?

Mrs. Diener is typically here on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday each week. During those days, she has been:

- Running 504 meetings
- Helping Nancy Hoffman with attendance issues
- Developing SEL lessons that are age appropriate
- Planning, running and following through on Tier 3 meetings

One of my personal/professional goals for this year is to make a visit to every teacher every week. I'm pleased to say that I have been able to meet this goal completely during 10 of the first 11 full weeks of school. In addition to that, I have also been:

- Working on another goal of mine that relates to a Principal Advisory Group made up of students. The group has been compiled and our first meeting will be on 11/13.
- Organizing/running our ILT and Tier 1 and 2 meetings, then communicating with staff about the contents
- Attending IEP meetings

We BOTH continue to be busy:

- Working with students and staff when there are behavior concerns
- Conducting pre-conferences, formal observations and post-conferences with teachers
- Supervising evening and weekend activities
- Assisting with morning, lunchtime and after school supervision (as well as hallways during passing periods)
- Working with staff on curriculum related discussions
- Supporting students by looking over college essays and talking through other concerns

Congratulations and Kudos:

***Staff and Student of the Month (Exemplary Knights) -**

Our staff winner for Exemplary Knight for the month of October is **Mike Smith**. Mike is a full-time custodian who has been with Blue Ridge for many years. Here are some insights about Mr. Smith.

Mike Smith is an exemplary custodian! Every day that I am in attendance at Blue Ridge High School, Mike greets me first thing in the morning with happiness with a dust broom in his hand. He makes sure to stop what he is doing and asks me how things are going and makes sure to tell me to have a great day. This is typical of Mike. Not only does he have this attitude with adults, it also extends to students. Mike has also worked very diligently to catch up on some undone tasks at the high school. He worked extra hours and on weekends. His efforts do not go unnoticed.

I believe that Mike Smith should be an exemplary knight. Mike has gone above and beyond filling in while we were short handed. If you ask Mike to help you set up for an event he always gets it done before the last minute. He cleans up after all of us and many times gets surprised by after hour events and by the morning you would have never known something had gone on in the commons. He always does more than the minimum and does things outside of his job title. He is our fix-it guy. Anything we ask he gets done. He doesn't shy away from a challenge.

I really appreciate the way that Mike takes pride in his work. The personal ownership he shows helps our building look fantastic to all those who enter. In the recent months, we have had some transition in our maintenance/custodial staff... and Mike has been a steady, solid force in helping to ensure Blue Ridge High School continues to be a safe and welcoming place for our students, staff and guests.

We have 2 students that we are recognizing this month - **Lori Weiss** (Jr.) and **Haylee Dean** (Fr.). These students were nominated for this recognition by staff members. Staff then voted for their top choices based on all nominees.

Here are some things that teachers say about these awesome students:

Lori Weiss (Jr)

- Lori does excellent work academically and is also very kind and always willing to help others. She is a kind, hardworking and compassionate student who always tries her best in class no matter the challenge!
- Lori is a dedicated student who is always working hard to do well. She excels in FFA and does an awesome job arranging FFA events.
- Lori is truly exemplary--she is always kind, always on top of her school work, and shows up with a positive attitude and growth mindset every single day.
- Lori is very kind, respectful, and considerate of others. She works hard and is always determined to do her best and to be a role model for others.
- Lori has proven time and again that she is a trustworthy student and a leader. She always participates and will lead class discussions.
- Lori is a sweet, intelligent young lady that works extremely hard in band, FFA, and her schoolwork. She is always willing to lend a helping hand when someone needs it.
- Lori is active in multiple different activities and does not shy away from helping anyone who needs the assistance. She has played a huge role in color guard helping out those who needed it and providing positivity and encouragement. She has been working hard as an FFA Officer providing a wide range of activities for FFA Members at different meetings. Lori is a strong student who works to stay on top of her classes when she is missing items and helps others with accomplishing goals.

Haylee Dean (Fr)

- Haylee Dean is such a joyful student who works hard. She did an awesome job in the recent drama club production, filling in late for a student who dropped.
- Haylee meets deadlines and takes initiative. She is very motivated.
- Haylee is a wonderful student and kind, empathetic person. She's always on top of her assignments and displays great work ethic and keen critical thinking skills. She's a joy to have in class!
- Does a great job challenging herself to keep working and learning everyday. She brings others along side her and helps them grow understanding each day.
- During this school year, Haylee has proven herself to be a leader among her peers. She consistently leads class discussions and holds herself to a high standard.

Our Athletes of the Month for October are:

Football - Apollo Gannaway - Asked to learn and perform at different positions and performed very well. Excellent teammate and student. Protects and puts others above himself. Excellent attitude and effort.

Volleyball - Lexi Phelps - Much improved player over the season. Lexi was asked to switch from Middle Hitter to Outside Hitter after an injury. Was 2nd in Team Kills and led in Aces over October.

Cheerleading - Alissa Edwards - Alissa always brings a positive attitude to practice and games. She steps into whatever role she is needed in and is always encouraging her teammates. Alissa stepped up as a leader during the last few weeks and has done a great job in the role!

Soccer - Brody Soliday - He is full of energy and happiness. He joined the team this year and always seemed to bring smiles to everyone, every opportunity he got. He gave his all at every practice and game as the same time as trying to always be the cheerleader to his teammates.