

Administration Reports October 2024

Sam Boardman Elementary

Nearly 125 students participated in our STEAM day festivities. The Eastern Oregon Mobile Science joined third graders. The students had a fantastic time constructing their own rockets and launching them. They discovered the importance of fins by comparing the distance of flight with and without tail fins on their rockets. Additionally, we had some special guests from the high school drama department working with 2nd graders to perform a play. This paired nicely with the 1st unit of 2nd grade Amplify ELA Knowledge Unit: Tall Tales and Fairy Tales.

This year, the PTO has been gaining momentum and making great strides for our school community. One of their first initiatives was providing school t-shirts for every student to wear on Thursdays, which has been a huge hit! Additionally, the PTO has kicked off fall with "Popcorn Thursdays". Both students and staff are thoroughly enjoying this tasty treat. The new PTO crew is thrilled to plan multiple engagement opportunities for our families. The first of these is the upcoming Harvest Festival, scheduled for October 24th at 5 PM.

Our students and staff had a wonderful time showing their school spirit and participating in the various dress-up days, which included Kings & Queens, Twin Day, Pink Day, and School Color Day. The participation and enthusiasm were truly impressive. Additionally, our homecoming court visited the school, and they had the opportunity to discuss school spirit and traditions with our students. It was a great learning experience for everyone involved. We even had a team time dance in one of our Kindergarten classes. The icing on the "community spirit cake" was when the Kindergarten prince and princess helped announce the Homecoming King and Queen at the big football game. Overall, it was a fantastic week of celebrating our school spirit and the rich traditions we've built in the community. It was a meaningful experience for our families.

Veterans Day planning is underway! The planning committee has been hard at work, and we're thrilled to announce that the beloved Veterans Day celebration will be returning to our school this year. We're working on formulating ideas that will highlight and bring honor to the brave Veterans who will be our special guests during the assembly on November 7th at 10am. All Veterans are welcome to attend!

The iReady diagnostic assessments in both reading and math have been completed, and we are now using this valuable data to inform our instruction during our daily WIN (What I Need) blocks. These targeted intervention periods allow us to provide each student with the exact skills and support they need at their individual learning level.

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. **UPDATE: MOST OF our students started the FALL with a higher score than they finished last year. FOR EXAMPLE, in the 6th grade, students GAINED 9 percentage points over last year's scores. The typical loss was 6.5% over the last 2 previous years. That is an increase in performance of 15.5%! This means we will NOT be repeating learning for some kids at WRE! WIN!**

STEAM Friday: Steam Friday is a hit for students and staff. We had models of New York, Balloon Cars, Elephant Toothpaste, and homemade LAVA Lamps (with a chemical reaction!) A ton of fun, and a lot of learning! STEAM Friday! **(See pictures below!)**

Science of Reading: Last year, the district supported students and teachers with Science of Reading Training. This idea, which has been popular in the past, and is coming back into popularity, involves teaching students how to read through Phonics (This is a gross oversimplification, but... it is essentially what is happening currently in elementary schools across the country. WRE has been implementing this idea by focusing on the everyday practice of learning to read. We have spent MANY hours as a team designing and implementing a concrete process by which students can learn, teachers can track, and administrators can help students learn to read. Learning to read is important because once a student has learned to read, they can read to learn.

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!: STEAM Friday:



Riverside Jr/Sr High School

We have just finished Homecoming Week! It was a fun week with many activities for students. This year we decided to include our junior high students so they could see what it was like for school spirit at assemblies. In the future we will look at how they can be included more in the festivities.

We have been focusing on communication with parents and the community. We have made sure to send reminders out

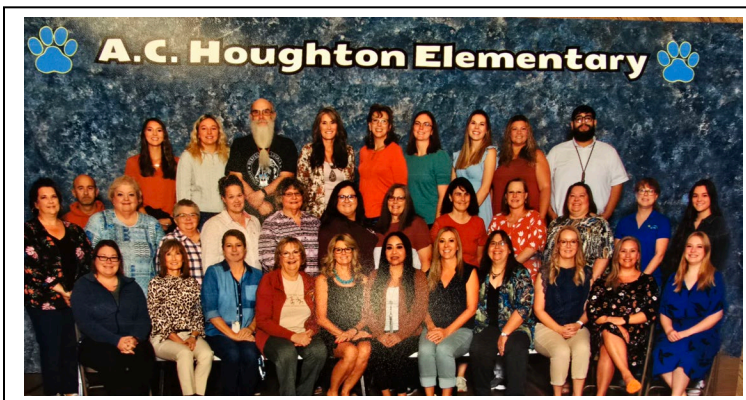


a lot via thrillshare in text messages, emails, and social media of what is going on in our schools. We have been creating a newsletter called the Pirate Nation News that we put out at the beginning of each month and focus on events for the month as well highlights in the school. Look at our awesome newsletter that we put out in English and Spanish.



We are excited about what is happening here at RHS. We extend a warm welcome to all to come and check it out!

A.C. Houghton Elementary



We are now in our seventh week of school for the 2024-2025 school year. The start of the year has been challenging, but we are always working on establishing routines and structures for students to start the new year. I am excited to share a few things about our first months of school at A.C. Houghton.

This school year we have had some changes in our cafeteria for student lunches. All of our students qualify for free breakfast and lunch. All meals have always been counted in schools, but now accounting is more delicate as we are reimbursed for those "free-to-

students” meals. The only time we charge students for eating, is if a student wants a second entrée. So, not only do we have a new system for accounting for the total number of meals served, previously just tally marks, now we have a computer system that specifically scans student i.d. to know exactly who ate breakfast or lunch. In addition to this change, our cooks are now offering three choices for students instead of just two. This new accounting system and adding a third choice has gone well, thanks to some brainstorming and hard work of staff. To the credit of our head cook, Lisa Day, and the support system we have in the cafeteria, these changes were made quickly and effectively. We have also learned with this new system that it can be of benefit for parent inquiries, so if parents call to see if their kiddo ate breakfast, we can tell if their i.d. number was scanned during meal time. Although the changes have been a challenge, these meal counts are not only important for financial purposes, but can be helpful with parent and school communication.

Last year you may recall our Professional Development focused on the *Science of Reading*. This past month we had PD specifically focused on supporting teachers now with our math curriculum, Ready Math. This was a request from teachers in the past few years since our current curriculum was adopted during Covid, and we were unable to receive any *official* training. Teachers walked away from this recent Math PD with a new perspective on teaching math. They also learned more information with online resources, and thanks to our MCSD instructional coaches, received lots of specific effective instructional math strategies appropriate for their grade level. Our classified staff also received an impactful Professional Development Day to help all Educational and Behavioral Assistants to better support our teachers with students in classrooms, and with supervision. On September 20th teachers were in Heppner and the following Friday, September 27th our classified staff was in Boardman. It was great to separate these days so Principals could be with each group learning alongside our staff. It is also always refreshing for staff to get to connect with other MCSD district staff with the same, or similar, job assignment(s).

Lastly, we recently had our first of two STEAM days for the school year. These late start days are a favorite for staff and students. For staff we here at ACH start the day with potluck, and actually have time to sit down and enjoy a meal together. The students enjoy a later start, then all the hands-on projects that are designed to focus on science, technology, engineering, arts or music. We had nearly 50% of our student body come on a ‘volunteer’ school Friday, and as always enjoyed learning and participating in fun hands-on learning activities! The picture below is kinder students painting apples during STEAM Day.



Irrigon Elementary School

I’m excited to share some key updates and priorities from IES.

First, we are anticipating a successful week at Outdoor School for our 6th-grade students this week (Oct 8-10). The planning has been a true team effort among our teachers and staff, ensuring a safe and enriching experience for our students. We have 14 adults (staff and parents) planning to attend. Students will spend 2 nights at Camp Elkanah where we will have 6 outdoor specialists from Camp Elkanah that will be taking us through activities using the outdoors as our focus. As an art activity, our students have prepped shirts to take with them, where they will be making tie dye shirts. We will also have other evening crafts, skits, and singalongs.

In another important initiative, each grade level of students have selected its student leadership team through a thoughtful campaigning and voting process, led by our school counselor and supported by staff. The students are

enthusiastic about their roles in shaping decisions that affect students throughout the year. They will be tasked with projects that build community within our school and incorporate a spirit of kindness and pride for all IES students.

Last week, our licensed staff gathered to analyze our iReady diagnostic results as a building. We focused on our instructional strategies, setting targets for where we want to be by the end of the year. Our current diagnostic results will drive specific conversations in our Professional Learning Communities, allowing us to tailor our instruction to best support student growth. We're on the right path to making sure our building and team agreements are followed and working together to build our success. This means we're using our scope and sequence of curriculum, and keeping a pace that moves the majority of students and we spiral back to review and continually strive for mastery in concepts and skills in both ELA and Math. The use of Acadience in our building (targeted progress monitoring) will help us track those students who are below grade level in reading. This is new for IES and our teachers are looking forward to having this data to know if students are on an upward trajectory.

Our building has implemented three new committees, and one existing committee this year in an effort to have shared leadership within the building. Each committee is tasked with a specific goal: The **Student Committee** (lead by our counselor) will plan and orchestrate all assemblies, parent engagement and activities that are extracurricular. As a Title I school we have set our dates for evening activities to bring parents and families together. The focus and outcomes will be deliberated by the Student Committee and I'll be guiding that process. We have also implemented a **Leadership Team**. This team is lead by the principal, and made up of 4 consistent staff members (one from each grade level team and a specialist), where we will discuss instruction and instructional agreements, curriculum, student success, and other initiatives that bring value to our work. This team will be the "activators" of new information, fidelity and infrastructure to our systems. Ideally, I'd like for a parent and classified staff member to also join this committee. We also have our **Safety Committee** who will be charged with analyzing the current status of our safety protocols and systems. Lastly, we have our **Fun-Havers Committee**. This committee will organize the activities and events that recognize the importance of our building culture and morale for staff. Each team is made up of volunteers. As we move forward, I anticipate that some teams may gain members as they see the camaraderie that evolves.

Lastly, we just celebrated our first STEAM day, which was a resounding success! The building was alive with activities ranging from painting to plant and animal identification, food chains, and engineering projects. The partnering and creative collaboration among students and the inspiring outcomes were truly remarkable. Moving forward, we aim to encourage even more students to participate in our next STEAM day.



Thank you for your continued support as we work together to create a thriving educational environment for our students.

Irrigon Jr/Sr High School

Homecoming week was a success thanks to a lot of community and parent support. Donations of food to the bonfire allowed students who attended to eat for free. A large firewood donation made for a glorious bonfire that was manned by the Irrigon Fire Department and Living Faith Church provided paint and chalk for a very fun and intense color war.

At the game, the Pasco Corvette Club drove down to drive the princesses around the track and FFA ran very tasty concessions.

Inside the building, the math and language arts teachers are finishing up with the IXL Diagnostic. These results will help all teachers in our building better differentiate material during their lessons and as result increase student success.

Recently, IJSHS became an ASPIRE school. This program is designed to help students be more college and career ready by offering training opportunities, scholarship support and outreach.

Keep up on all the awesome at IJSHS by following us on Facebook and Instagram.

Facebook search Irrigon Jr/Sr High School

Instagram search irrigonknights

Heppner Elementary School

With the school year off in full swing, classrooms are settling into their normal daily routines. iReady testing for the fall is complete, and we are excited about seeing the growth in our students throughout the 24/25 school year.

As a new principal, my main goal for the year is to get to know the staff, students, and families at HES and allow the community that I have lived in to get to know me as an educator. One way that I am bringing the school and community together is through a monthly principal newsletter. This newsletter includes what is going on in the classroom, professional development teachers are receiving to better serve students, upcoming events, safety updates as needed, and a link to an educational article (benefits on sleep, effects of screen time, etc). The September newsletter had 136 views- with only 185 students in the school and many siblings from the same household, the majority of parents were able to access information and be included in their student's education. In the future, we are planning to post the link to the newsletter on the school website so the whole community can read what is happening at HES!

STEAM Friday occurred on October 4th, and students participated in many fun activities. 6th graders walked to Flood Town Books and worked in the pottery studio started by Andrea Nelson. 5th grade students harvested pumpkins from the school garden, completing the cycle they started last spring when they helped to put together and plant the raised beds. Kindergarten students made homemade applesauce and ate the fruits of their labor in the end. Mrs. Gerry offered a speed stacking opportunity to all of the students that attended, and I enjoyed watching students challenge themselves as they attempted to beat their own time and add more cups.

Here at HES we are looking forward to our first Head of the Herd awards assembly at the end of the quarter, recognizing students that are demonstrating leadership qualities throughout the school. Our newly elected Student council will be presenting the awards as part of their duty to serve and recognize the good in our school. Our student council will also be presenting at the Heppner Chamber Luncheon and producing Monday morning video announcements to start off the school year.

I look forward to finding new ways to bring HES and the community together.



Heppner Jr/Sr High School

1. The start of the academic year at HJSHS has been very positive. Student engagement levels have been strong, with attendance numbers starting at 92% ADM (Average Daily Membership) through the first 6 weeks of school. Overall enrollment in the building has increased by approximately 12 students compared to last year, bringing the total enrollment up to 172. The 7th-grade students have successfully settled into their new routines and have adapted well to the middle school model. Participation numbers are as follows for our Fall extracurricular activities:

HS Football: 31

JH Football: 25

HS Volleyball: 24

JH Volleyball: 15

HS X- Country: 10

JH X-Country: 14

Cheer: 12

Total: 132 students

2. This school year, my primary focus is to foster connection and culture within the school community through intentional actions. These actions will center around student engagement, student recognition, appreciating staff, and prioritizing clear communication both within the school and the broader community. These intentional efforts aim to build a strong sense of connection, culture, and community within the Heppner Jr/Sr High School community. Some of the key initiatives being implemented at Heppner Jr/Sr High School include:

Student Recognition:

- Monthly recognition of the class with the best attendance
- Quarterly individual attendance recognition for students with 100% and 95% attendance

Student Engagement:

- Implementation of Mustang PRIDE cards for students
- Mustangs of the Quarter Awards

Staff Appreciation:

- Staff Shout Outs to recognize the work of faculty members in the school and community
- Monthly gatherings with staff
- Recognizing and celebrating staff and student birthdays

Communication:

- Weekly Robo calls to parents with "Pulse of Heppner High" updates
- Active engagement and recognition of staff and students on the school's social media and website

3. This year, our building has implemented the IXL assessment platform across both the Math and English Language Arts curriculum. IXL provides real-time insights into student performance, knowledge gaps, and personalized learning plans. Through the data collected from this platform, we aim to better identify and close learning gaps within our student population.
4. The Heppner High School community is in the initial stages of planning a trip from Heppner to Boston for its students. Mrs. Spivey and Mrs. Adams have taken the lead on this project and will be hosting an introductory meeting at the high school to gauge the interest of families in the community. An initial email was sent to families using the Thrillshare communication app to make them aware of this upcoming meeting. After the initial meeting, further communication regarding the trip will be handled directly by the trip leaders through their personal email accounts. Any additional meetings related to the trip will take place at locations outside of

the school. It's important to note that this trip is not a school-sponsored event and will be organized independently of the school district. This distinction is made to keep the planning and execution of the trip separate from the school's official operations.

MCS D Maintenance & Facilities Report – October 2024

Fall is here and we have already begun the prep for winter! Our grounds crew will be shutting down the irrigation system, our HVAC company will be firing up the boilers for heat in our buildings and our custodial crew will keep our staff and students safe and healthy.

Our insurance group, PACE, visited AC Houghton Elementary and Riverside Jr Sr High last month to check on our buildings. They visit areas such as metal shops, science labs, kitchens, classrooms and playgrounds and recognize areas to improve upon to help us maintain a safe, healthy environment for our staff and students.

The Morrow County Unified Recreation District has generously contributed funds toward three projects; basketball court at Riverside Jr Sr High, tennis court at Irrigon Jr Sr High and baseball fence and backstop extension at Heppner Jr Sr High. The goal is to have the projects finished within this school year. Without our partnerships with organizations like MCURD, we would not be able to complete projects such as these.

The Community Bond Advisor Committee (CBAC) will meet on October 16 at Morrow Education Center to finish the draft plan for the bond. Since February, the committee has worked very hard to understand how the facilities impact learning, how bonds effect the tax base and to prioritize projects that consider all the students, staff and buildings within our unique school district. We are very proud of the work they have done and look forward to presenting the draft to the school board on October 28 and receiving feedback from the communities in November and December.

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

October 16: Finalize the draft plan to present to the board and communities.

October 28: Present the draft plan to the school board

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
9/17/2024	HES	Employee was stung by a bee and had an allergic reaction. Medical attention sought.
9/25/2024	WRE	Employee slipped coming out of the walk-in freezer. No medical attention sought.
10/7/2024	ACH	Employee was stung by a bee and had an allergic reaction. Epi Pen was used and the employee was transported to the ER.