

# Principal & Director Reports

## September 2009

### AC. Houghton Elementary

The 09-10 school year will bring in several significant changes for our school. We will be downsizing slightly by moving our fourth grade to Irrigon Elementary School. This is being done to balance the student numbers between the two schools which will give both schools the chance to focus on optimal size teaching programs and better utilize the specialists. Both schools will continue to maintain strong programs in reading writing and math. Through very good district budgeting, class sizes will still be very reasonable in relation to surrounding district class size.

### **Climbing Wall**

Through the contribution of our Parent Group and our Student Body, we purchased and installed a lateral climbing wall or bouldering wall in our gymnasium. This wall is 8 feet high and 50 feet long. The shape will allow us to have almost an entire class climbing on the wall laterally at the same time. This will allow great participation and a great physical fitness conditioner during our PE classes. Our PE teacher, Mr. Bingham will be having a special climbing time each week for each grade level during a recess time.

### **New Math Program**

We are initiating a school-wide Saxon Math program this year. This is a program that we have piloted for the last three years with some initial, successful improvement results in the second and third grade on our Oaks state assessments. The program is very hands-on and real world use of math based. Teachers will be giving some explanation of program content and use during our open house times. We will be working very hard to continue to improve our math achievement levels to a success level of our reading programming. One facet of the program is that there are exercises that students practice in their classrooms that have some examples that students will be bringing home to practice with parents and family.

### Heppner Elementary School

It is our second week back to school and we are off and running here at Heppner Elementary. Our current enrollment appears to be about 196 students which is up nine from the end of last year. As always we will continue to promote the importance of regular attendance to the students and parents of Heppner Elementary School.

The HES Staff enjoyed preparing and gearing up for the start of the 2009-2010 school year. We had a very focused and productive in-service week planning and preparing for another rigorous and fruitful year at HES with school wide achievement at the top of our priority list.

Here are some September dates of interest:

- September 1, 2009 - HES PTC Mtg. 5:30pm.
- September 8, 2009 - HES Site Council Mtg. 4:30pm.
- September 10, 2009 - Picture day at HES.
- September 11, 2009 - Friday School Day / PBS Parade.

- September 14, MCSD Board Meeting @ HHS 7pm.
- September 22, 2009 - HES Open House.

I would like to end by again thanking each of you for your support of Heppner Elementary School, and your commitment to all students of the Morrow County School District. Have a great month!

### **Heppner High School**

- I want to say thank you to our custodians and the job they did over the summer! The building looks great and our staff and students appreciate the job they do.
- Our in-service time was used wisely and effectively. Our staff is off and running with the proficiency model and we are finding very few hang-ups with communication with parents and patrons. Teachers are excited about the structure it has helped with in the classroom and you wouldn't believe the comments that I am gotten from kids. They actually know what it is they are shooting for in a class- as it is defined for them.
- Fall sports are up and running- with both volleyball and football having already played- it looks as if this fall is going to be another positive experience for our kids and our community. Our numbers are high in both programs with 50 out for football and 34 out for volleyball.
- We will be having class elections this week. One change we made this year was to combine our JH ASB with our HS ASB so they are more connected to happenings.
- Our enrollment is about the same as last year. We have 23 exchange students from all over the world attending our school. This will be the third year in a row we have used ICES as our main service agency in placing students. All of our students are year round placements and have homes in our community. For more information concerning ICES you can look at their website at <http://www.ices-services.org> or visit with me concerning the direction we are going at HHS with exchange student organization.
- The Oregonian had a large article on Aug 31<sup>st</sup> about test scores around the state. HHS was listed #2 in the state for 10<sup>th</sup> grade math scores last year. This is attributed to our math teachers and their efforts in getting the most out of our kids! Riverdale, which is a private magnet school was the only school the beat us out with kids meeting or exceeding the standard at the 10<sup>th</sup> grade level! Needless to say we are extremely proud of our school and our students for working on being their best!
- We have two long term substitutes in the building to start the year. Mrs. Nelson is on maternity leave for the first 9 weeks and Joselyn Piper is covering all of her JH English and Social Studies classes, and Marissa Turner is covering our JH Math and HS Business classes until we get someone hired. We are looking to get Math/Business position filled in the next couple of weeks.
- We are looking ahead to a great school year. Please drop by for a cup of coffee and say hello☺.

## **Irrigon Elementary School**

### **SIOP Best Practices**

This is our fifth year of implementing SIOP in Irrigon Elementary school. Teachers have a good hold of what it is and you see teachers using SIOP methods of teaching in every classroom. Our scores have been moving upward little by little and we are serious about using Best Practices in our instructional methods.

### **Starting School**

We have been getting ready all this month to start school. We had a wonderful good first week of school. Yes, there were surprises and bumps, but everything was worked out and we are adjusting to having 205 students at IES! This is almost 20 more than what we expected. I'm pumped with excitement. The first week of school this year went smooth and well paced.

### **Training, Training, Training**

The first week with teachers back we held much training to get our staff legal and ready for the new school year. The district re-trained us on Harassments, Blood-borne Pathogens, Civil Rights, Work Safety, and Mandatory Child Abuse Reporting. Here at IES we continued on Catheterization training, Glucagon training, new Math books training, SIOP training, ESL ADEPT training, Study Island training, and Restraint training. We're ready.

### **The First Day of School**

Our first day of school on the 31<sup>st</sup> went well. We started with an all school assembly, and then we broke off into classes to do the round-robin of finger scanning, front office protocol, outside play ground rules, library and computer lab etiquette, gym rules, cafeteria rules, and the Music room. It took less than two hours to review school rules and show kids how to get around and be a part of all our school programs and school building.

## **Irrigon High School**

Our school got off to a great start this year. The custodians did a great job preparing the building over the summer and our staff worked hard preparing for the arrival of students. This year we are happy to welcome two new staff members. Jessica Lehmann will be teaching Spanish and Jason Dunten will take over our physical education department.

Our theme for the school year is Be Responsible, Be Respectful, and Be Safe. This is going to be a point of emphasis for everyone and there have already been a lot of discussions amongst students and staff as to what this looks like at our school. We will continue to work with the student body through advisory classes and ASB class to put forth a viable plan to help implement our plan.

Improving parent and community communications continues to be a focus this year. We have increased our required weekly parent contacts to twice a week. With the aid of our Gear-Up grant, we have been able to install two flat screen televisions in our hallways to display announcements, scholarship information, etc. It is our hope that parents and community members will take the time to watch the information while they attend the various activities at school.

By the nature of our schedule, our AP course offerings have changes slightly from last year. We will be offering AP Writing and Composition and AP World History. (Our AP Literature and Composition and AP US History will be offered every other year.) As far as scores from last year, we have received most of the scores with the exception of some of the Spanish who have yet to have their oral scores evaluated. Students who score a three or higher on the test will receive college credit. Our seven students who took the US History averaged 1.43 while our twelve English Literature and Composition students averaged 1.92 with three of those students scoring a three. Finally, of the three scores so far on the Spanish language test we have one three and one five! This will give us a good baseline for the upcoming year as we continue to find ways to increase student success.

On behalf of students and staff, I would like to thank the Knights Pride Booster Club for their continued generosity and support they have shown for our school. They recently purchased and installed two picnic tables outside the high school hallway for students to enjoy during lunch. Everyone I have talked to at lunch has really enjoyed this new addition. They have also recently finished building additional soccer goals for us so that we know longer have to transport them back and forth to IES. Finally, they distributed welcome back gifts to both students and staff on the first day of school. Thank you!

### **Riverside High School**

**Opening Day Plan-**Students will first attend a welcoming assembly, and then divide into their homerooms. In homerooms, the students will be going over the student management book, having class meetings and reviewing their advisor folders. Student will go through an abbreviated schedule, touching base with all their teachers on the first day with class periods of about twenty-five minutes each.

**Perfect Attendance Policy/Swine Flu-**We are changing our perfect attendance policy due to the national swine flu epidemic, we will grant a student who has flulike symptoms and goes to a doctor for these symptoms an exemption from finals if that is their only absence. It will be an excused absence so they will not have perfect attendance. We will need the following information: doctor's name, phone number, doctor's signature and verification that the student came in for flulike symptoms.

**Junior High Accountability Report 2008-2009-**This past year sixty-five junior high students failed a core class. Forty-six of them attempted remediation and completed it. Everyone who attempted remediation, remediated. Eleven moved, six are repeating their grade without remediating and two will be attending MEC.

**RHS Open House-**Riverside Open House will occur on Tuesday, October 6th combined with 1<sup>st</sup> quarter conferences. Parents will be able to visit with teachers in their classrooms as well as see what students have accomplished so far this year. There will be a BBQ available from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm for students, parents and staff. National Honor Society will provide translation services, tours and assist with the BBQ. We will also have the Morrow County Health Department on campus dispersing information.

**Friday Plan-**This year we will have the school open every Friday for students to work on homework in the Library or in the PLATO/Study Island Labs. Riverside teachers are going to be in the building one Friday every 9-weeks for extra support of students academic needs. The teachers will work two additional Fridays in October to identify power standards, create lessons and assessment that will allow the teacher to adjust lesson plans bases on proficiency.

**Site Council**-The RJSHS Site council is currently holding elections. The council will be working on School Goals and the 2009-2010 School Improvement plan. They will use the district goals established by the School Board and Administrators as a guide.

**Key Club**-Key Club members put on a Children's Carnival at the Boardman July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration that included a bouncy house, water slides, face painting and many games. A good time was had by all children attending.

**National Honor Society**-Beginning in October, National Honor Society will be conducting their annual fundraiser to benefit Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

## **AP**

It's a great time to be a student at Riverside High School! Our Advanced Placement Program has over 65 students enrolled. This year we have 31 students in AP English Literature, 15 in AP Calculus and 20 in AP World History. We are thrilled to share that Jaqueline Diaz, a class of 2009 RHS Alumni, exceeded in Spanish Literature, Spanish Language, and English Language Composition. Melanie Mejia, a junior this year, excelled in Spanish Literature. Jason Hendricks, a senior this year, excelled in English Language Composition and he is currently enrolled in AP English Literature Composition. As always, we continue to provide Advanced Placement opportunities for our students.

## **SAT PREP**

It is our goal this year to have more students taking SAT and PSAT tests in order to help prep them for college admission. One of our AP teachers, Mr. Pullen, will be providing SAT preparation through practice tests and other materials in order to familiarize and guide students to a successful test score. Our plan is to have SAT prep before school and two weeks prior to each test date. This way students may feel more prepared and less stressed when it comes to test day.

## **Windy River Elementary**

### **New Staff Members**

I would like to welcome two new people to my staff this year. First, I would welcome Stacey Wainwright to WRE. She comes to us from ACH and will be teaching 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Second, I would like to welcome Amanda Brent. Amanda is a student teacher from EOU and she will be student teaching in Rhonda Boor's fifth grade classroom.

### **Common Formative Assessment**

WRE and SBE hosted a common formative assessment inservice for our teachers. The teachers worked together in grade level PLC's learning how to "unwrap standards" to develop common assessments. The next inservice is schedule for October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The topic is Data teams. This inservice is designed to help teacher analyze the results from the common assessments.

### **Open House**

WRE held an Open House breakfast for parents. Parents could eat breakfast with their child and visit classrooms.

### **AYP Meeting**

WRE held a Parent/Guardian meeting explaining that WRE is in Title One improvement status. I explain what corrective actions WRE and the MCS D are taking to so WRE will make AYP next year.

### **Sam Boardman Elementary**

SBE began the new school year with a “**Welcome Back**” breakfast, where staff shared highlights of their summer and their hopes for the coming year. Mrs. Bankston treated us to a memorable and hilarious retelling of her life-long dream-come-true this summer in horseback riding.

Kindergarten teachers opened their classrooms for parents and students for “**Meet the Teacher Night**” on Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. Questions and concerns were addressed personally.

Sam Boardman Elementary School is ready to **set sail with PLC/Data Teams!** We have time built into our schedule for grade level teams and professional development events scheduled throughout the year. We are using “Four Guiding Questions” to chart our path. These “Four Guiding Questions” are:

- 1) What do we expect students to learn and be able to do? (Power Standards),
- 2) How do we teach so that all students will learn? (SIOP),
- 3) How will we know if they have learned it? (Common assessments, OAKs, MAPs, etc),  
and
- 4) What will we do if students don't learn it or if they come to us already knowing?  
(Differentiated Instruction, extension activities, Friday School, Summer School, Study Island, etc.)

Our first professional development, “Common Formative Assessments”, was presented to both SBE and WRE teachers by Liz Wicklander and Brian Schimel from Instructional Services, UMESD. Teachers worked through the process of creating Common Formative Assessments for grade level Power Standards.

Parents and teachers who participated in SBE's **Healthy Hearts** and competed in The Boardman Fitness Challenge this past spring averaged 4070 minutes per team member and earned **3<sup>rd</sup> Place!** Each participant received a certificate and small incentive encouraging them to stick-with-it!

We would like to invite you to Sam Boardman's **Open House on Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Opening introductions and welcome start promptly at 6:00 p.m. in the gymnasium, followed by classroom visits, and concluding with an ice cream social in the cafeteria.