

Browning Public Schools

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Dear School Board Members:

The Attendance Committee has been working on getting dropped students back into school and monitoring attendance. Attendance in December wasn't stellar, but attendance has been improving in January. In December we gave gift cards from local businesses to 37 students and their parents for improving their attendance. Each student received a \$10 gift card and their parents received a \$10 gift card. This was for students on our monitor list who missed less than 3 days in first quarter.

We've made plans for incentives for the end of second quarter, end of first semester, end of third quarter, end of fourth quarter, and end of the year. We are hoping to take students who have had less than 6 absences (from our monitor list- students who missed >20 days last year or for two years in a row) to the movies in Cut Bank. We are going to give students who from our list who missed less than three days in second quarter a gift card and give their parents a gift card. There will be some kind of trip planned for the end of the year incentive for our students whose attendance we are monitoring. We are also adding students to our lists who miss more than 10 days of school, and they will get incentives for improving their attendance.

The Attendance Committee is still working on our Action Plan and will be reviewing district attendance policies in February.

There are also students who are homeschooled. Our Superintendent, Corrina- Guardipee-Hall, requested that I reach out to students who are being homeschooled- to check on them and to see if they will share what programs they're using, why they decided to do homeschooling, if they would return to BPS, and if there is any way we can help them. Most parents/guardians were positive about me calling them and some thanked me for checking on them and their child. I haven't been able to reach all of the parents yet, but the majority of parents have told me that bullying is the main reason they withdrew their children from BPS.

Out of the 56 students who were homeschooled as of Jan. 16 there are two that have returned to BPS and five more are going to re-enroll in BPS for second semester. Twelve of our former students are attending Straight Arrow School in Browning. There are students who are attending school online and are successful with it. I'll keep calling and doing home visits to try to help get students back into school with BPS.

Josephine Hall, Amanda Flammond, Harold Sure Chief, Ladean Racine, Jolene Vance, Nikki Hannon are all always willing to help with finding students/parents or putting resources together for our students

and families. Without their help I wouldn't get as much accomplished and they're all excellent in working to help others in our community.

Attendance has been fluctuating. Here are the student enrollment numbers for each month (first day):

Aug. 27: 1,927

Sep. 4: 2,079

Oct. 1: 2,108

Nov. 1: 2066

Dec. 3: 2,047

Jan. 7: 2,041

I hope we can continue to get students to return to school and connect them to resources.

Thanks,
Natasha Siliezar, Attendance Coordinator