



FLEMING MIDDLE SCHOOL

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"Where Excellence is Standard"

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Board Briefing

Dear Members of the Board,

The school year is flying by in the blink of an eye. As we approach the end of our second trimester, I am proud of the hard work from the students, staff and parents of Fleming Middle School, making this school year a success. The students of Fleming are in the swing of things and they are working hard on their academic goals.

PBIS

One of the identified challenges with successful PBIS schools is sustainability over the long term. Prior to the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year, our staff renewed their commitment to uphold consistent expectations school-wide. At the same time each grade level team identified specific concerns and created hallway goals to address that concern. Recently, these hallway goals have been revisited in order to achieve our school-wide commitment to consistency. This is a phenomenal feat in any middle school. We are proud of the teamwork of all of the adults on our campus and below are just some of results of our hard work:

- We have taught 24 school-wide PBIS lessons.
- We have visited PBIS expectations twice with our classified staff.
- We have analyzed discipline data six times to provide a focus for our PBIS lessons. We have also had discussions relating to discipline data during our monthly Late Start meetings.
- We have experienced a reduction in major office referrals by 15% during the first two trimesters from this year over last year.
- We will be recognizing students for all of their success in behavior, attendance, and academics at the conclusion of the Second trimester.

Intentional Relationships

Building relationships is an integrate part of human success whether it is with students or with colleagues. I believe our structure of our grade level teams enhances our ability to form and maintain these relationships. Teachers meet every two weeks to analyze individual students and identify students who are struggling academically or behaviorally. These students are then connected with systems of support in order to enhance success. These team meetings also result in the recognition of student success. The other main focus of these meetings is how grade level teachers can work together in order support each other. PBIS goals and academic goals are all discussed during this time.

Academic Improvement

We are currently in our second round of OAKS testing. The progress from the first round to the second is substantial. All teachers have reviewed their OAKS information and will continue to do so throughout our third attempt. Our seventh graders also have completed their writing assessment. Our seventh graders have worked extremely hard to prepare for this year's assessment and we are excited to celebrate the results.

Our focus of providing 52 minutes of non-interrupted instructional time for each period, seems to be propelling our students into academic success. The hard work of the Fleming Staff should be recognized as a whole. Collectively everyone has worked tirelessly to provide all students with the skills needed to be successful. High expectations throughout all curricular areas are expected for all students. Everyone works together to give the students the support they need in order to meet these expectations.

Active Engagement

Our classrooms are always buzzing with the active engagement of students. Although different forms of active engagement are used, all students are being held accountable. In our classrooms that received the Promethean White Boards, direct instruction has been enriched greatly. We have had two late starts focusing on utilizing the resources of the Active Board, many of which can be used by teachers whose classrooms are only equipped with projection system. Another Late Start focused on the use of active response clickers. Several teachers have integrated clickers into various lessons upon completion of the staff development. Other forms of active engagement can be viewed at any time in every classroom throughout the building. Methods observed have been: Use of Kagan's Cooperative Structures, use of choral reading strategies, use of guided note taking practices, white boards, and the list goes on and on. Active Engagement has and will continue to be a focus of any formal or informal observation. Instruction at Fleming is exciting to see!

Fleming's Extracurricular Activities

Our winter athletics were a success. We had over 60 students participate in our winter sports. We had another undefeated season with our 7th grade boy's basketball team. I really appreciate all of the volunteer coaches that have given endless hours supporting our students. We appreciate the efforts of Tim Mohr, Chris Davidson, Jerry Keeling, Greg McLean, Damian McLean, and Scott Valle.

Fleming Middle School is currently participating in Brain Bowl. To this date, the Fleming Brain Bowl Team remains undefeated in competition. I'd like to thank Yvonne Hughes for her efforts in leading our students to victory.

Fleming students have been given other opportunities as well to showcase their talents. Our students were seen marching up 6th street during the Grants Pass Christmas Parade. They were one of two bands that participated in the event. Mr. Wilder and his students performed outstandingly. We have also had Mrs. Hickey and her students' artwork displayed in various shows both at Fleming and throughout the Grants Pass Community.

Closing

I would like to express my appreciation to the entire school community. With all of the changes throughout this school year, this staff, these students, and our families have certainly been resilient. I appreciate everyone's willingness to adjust to changes as well as keeping the main goal of educating students as the focus of our efforts.

I am looking forward to the continuation of the school year. Please stop by and see Fleming Middle School.

Sincerely,

Heather Yount
Principal
Fleming Middle School