



April 2017 Oregon High School Principal's Report

Student Athletic Code Violations Updates

- One possible violation-still communication with juvenile justice division of State's Attorney's Office

Faculty and Student Recognition/Other Issues

- Mr. Sitze presented at *Celebrating Language Arts*, Wheaton North's Institute Day conference on March 3rd.
- The Northwest Chapter of Illinois Principal's Association recognized Aaron Sitze as Teacher Leader of the Year.

Welfare and Advisory/OEA and OESPA Issues

- No issues from April meeting.

Principal-Parent and Principal Student Advisory Committees

- Last meeting will be May 10th.

Welding Lab Update

- April 14th is bid day. We have been working with contractors and companies to ensure that all of the specs are correct and that we have everyone on the same page. In the next coming weeks, we will be reviewing the bids and figure out the best plan of action. Last week we received a phone call from McHenry Schools who are trying to restart their welding program. They are interested in the dust collector and welding stations. They have a couple of laths and mills that they are trying to upgrade, and could lead to an opportunity to bring them in to improve the machining program at Oregon High School, which only has one lath currently.

New Stuff At OHS

Mission: Educate students to be lifelong learners who are productive, responsible citizens.



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Social Entrepreneurship

- Aaron Sitze's leave started 4-3. He and I will be meeting April 17th for update, with full report by coming May BOE meeting.

School Within A School (aka "SWIS," But We Want A Less Cheese-based Name)

- This idea has been percolating for the last three years, and is the brainchild of Alice Starkey and Mike Boyer.
- Staff who are part of this new program are: John Zuber, Kayla Marquez, Alice Starkey, Mike Boyer, Josh Nelson, Daniele Hopkins (new PE hire), and new science hire (TBD).
- Selection criteria will start with most at risk students at end of sophomore year, followed by juniors and then seniors.
- Seven students selected will go through the day as a group. We chose seven for two reasons: 1) as these are high-needs kids, we need to keep classes small 2) We can take kids places in school vans if we only have seven. This gives much more flexibility.
- New courses will be coming in May/June as teachers need to flesh out what each content area course will cover.

Instructional Coach Pilot

- This another idea that has been percolating for last years with John Zuber.
- Mr. Zuber will have flexibility with two periods during the day (he can swap his plan period and IC periods) to work as instructional coach as OHS.
- Effective instructional coaching programs consistently demonstrate improvements in instructional practices, thereby leading to greater student achievement.
- Focus for the first year will be supporting the three new teachers at OHS.
- We will have to rely on teacher surveys and classroom assessments to measure effectiveness, as OHS does not use MAPs, and SAT is only yearly and does not measure cohort growth.

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- **Vocational Visit:** On April 7th, 2017, Josh Nelson, Warren Knuth took 10 students to the Sauk Valley Manufacturing Day Tour. OHS students toured the Raynor Garage Door Manufacturing Plant and the Ray-O-Vac Battery Distribution facilities, both in Sterling. After the morning tours of these facilities, students then convened at Sauk Valley Community College where they were given additional information about job opportunities in the manufacturing/service/logistics industries in the Northern Illinois area. Students also participated in an engineering design activity where they needed to design and build a racecar from available materials which were then put into a competition with other team's designs. Finally students concluded the day with tours of the SVCC facilities and explanations of their programs.

Thirteen Reasons Why: Oregon High School will be opening up the library each week through the end of the school year to high school students interested in viewing the new Netflix series, *Thirteen Reasons Why*. Based off the book by Jay Asher, *Thirteen Reasons Why* is a series that follows the story of a teenager who commits suicide. She leaves behind recorded tapes explaining why she decided to take her own life and how the way she was treated her caused her to make that decision. This book and series is a highly talked about story addressing real-life issues in a way that is very relatable to adolescents. Our students have been talking about it after spring break. The series does cover several topics that are difficult to watch, and there are some scenes with partial nudity and explicit language. In addition, the final episode does show the act of the main character completing suicide by cutting her the wrists with a razor blade.

Topics that are covered in the series:

- Suicide and student death
- Bullying and harassment, cyber-bullying, other negative peer interaction
- Sexual assault (two specific scenarios of assault are shown)
- Domestic and child abuse
- Teen substance use and substance abuse
- Sexual identity and orientation crisis
- School cliques and peer pressure
- Parent relationships

After each showing, Ms. Cremeens will send an email home to parents of students who attend to share the details and topics covered that evening and also will provide resources and talking points for home based on what your child watched. We believe it is the most honest depiction of what teenagers truly face on a daily basis, and know that our students can find the lessons taught from the story to be meaningful and hopefully life-changing. Though it does show some very graphic scenes, we are confident that providing an honest account will impact our students in a way that will hopefully be significant. This series has an opportunity to prevent teen suicide (and other tough topics intertwined into the story) and help students in our school recognize the

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real impacts of treating others negatively. Treating others with kindness and empathy is a wonderful lesson taught by this series.



2016-2017 SIP Update

Goal I: Oregon High School staff and students will develop a stronger sense of community during the course of the 2016-2017 school year.

Next survey will be at the end of April and will be the final one for the year. Overall effectiveness will be if means shift upward for majority of categories/questions since beginning of the year.

- Plans are in place for 4-13 service day. Kids signed up before spring break. We did bring in a new activity tied to the WWII reenactment at Stronghold coming in May.

Goal I I: 50% of Oregon High School Students will improve their Hawk Profile (based on Academics, Service, Leadership, and Activities) Index before the end of the school year.

- I will be done meeting with all study halls the week of April 6th. Informal feedback from kids so far is that they like it. I will be following up with a parent letter home highlighting what we talked about and how they can access it for discussion purposes with their kids.

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