

To: Dr. Mahoney  
Board of Education  
From: Heidi Deininger  
Re: January Board Report  
Date: January 12, 2021



### **Student Happenings**

- As you know all student activities are currently at a standstill; we have started to discuss some events for spring such as the Music Extravaganza, Prom, Graduation, etc.
- IHSA should be making a decision regarding winter sports on Thursday, Jan 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Spring Musical try outs were held Jan 6-8; Spring musical is “Schoolhouse Rock”; we will hold the musical just as we did the fall play, following IDPH guidelines.

### **Academics**

- **End of semester data:**
  - **337 students passed ALL of their classes!!! (81.6%)**
  - 76 Students failed 152 classes; 18.4% of students with at least one failing grade
    - 58% of failures were freshmen/sophomores
    - 11 students accounted for 39.4% of the failures
    - Of students with failing grades, 33% are fully remote; another 30% are students who were quarantined for two weeks (normally in person) or started out remote and returned to school
    - 20 upperclassmen have been placed in immediate credit recovery, using the APEX learning system. Four teachers and two paraprofessionals are working to tutor and support these students.

### **Wednesday Intervention/Support**

Considering the high number of failures AND the need for time to support our students academically/social emotionally, we decided to do a Wednesday intervention/support day. Students who do not need help or who are not failing any classes can stay at home for asynchronous learning. Students who are in need of support/intervention are required to attend school. Teachers provide these students with time and additional instruction in the areas of need. Also, teachers, counselors and other support staff are available to provide social emotional support as well. ALL students are welcome to come to school that day for assistance. The library is open to students who need the quiet space to work on their college courses and/or study. Lunch and transportation is provided.

We view this day as an opportunity for students to have extra time with our team. An example of extra time is in our music department. Mr. Hall and Mr. Eckardt are using this time to provide individual lessons and additional instruction as the music program prepares for competition. We are working to intervene with failing grades, but we are also here to support students in any way they need us. We plan to invite students to do SAT prep as we get closer to the test date. We are also hoping to offer opportunities for SEL/leadership activities.

We will be monitoring our data closely. Our first two intervention/support days had an average attendance of 66%. As you can tell by our first semester data, they significantly reduced the number of



failures. We are hopeful this trend continues, as well as providing our students time to gain other support that they might need.

### **Family Communication**

- Parents notified of need for their child to attend Wednesday Intervention support on Sundays via text message and email. Another text is sent to remind parents the night before.
- OHS Equity team will meet again, virtually, in January; this team includes parents
- Parent Principal Advisory will resume meeting in person, Tuesday Jan 26. Option for virtual inclusion as well.

### **School Improvement Plan Highlights**

- The SIP has been updated to indicate first semester academic growth  
[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/19yTbKYrpV4cfoJNKkk2jx0lScGCwUtnKsyA\\_W1h7lyE/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/19yTbKYrpV4cfoJNKkk2jx0lScGCwUtnKsyA_W1h7lyE/edit?usp=sharing)
- Culture & Climate –
  - Leader in Me activities are highlighted below
  - Student involvement/activities – Gaming club, spring musical, one on one basketball coaching sessions, student council, class meetings, meetings for football & track
  - Hawks Take Flight is forming for second semester. Miss Radostits and the freshmen team have identified a group of freshmen with challenges that will begin meeting on Wednesday mornings. Students in this group will be assigned a mentor who will tutor them and help them to stay on track.
- Professional Growth – Professional Learning Communities (PLC) meet once/month to monitor student growth on SMART goals; grade level teams meeting twice/month to monitor student overall academic and social emotional growth; these teams will be trained in 4 Disciplines of Execution (in January) and set Wildly Important Goals for the remainder of the year.

### **The Leader in Me**

- Lighthouse team meetings every other Weds @ 8:00 AM
- 7 Habits Discussions every other Friday morning @ 7:30 AM in the library (join us, if you'd like)
- SIP and Lighthouse team trained in 4 Disciplines of Execution; applying to our goal setting work
- Planning to give the Measurable Results Assessment in March to determine focus for 2021-2022
- Planning to incorporate LIM activities for students on Wednesdays for students who are interested (pilot group to help plan for next year)



### **Professional Development**

- At the start of 2<sup>nd</sup> semester, the staff at OHS started teaching all students synchronously. All students, whether remote or at school, now attend school at the time their class occurs. This is an adjustment in what we were doing to start the year. I continue to be impressed by our teachers' resiliency and ability to pivot and change their practice to best meet the needs of the students. It is amazing to join their class from my desk and watch them do such awesome work with all students.

### **Athletic Action Plan**

- Coaches are working on skills manuals
- Mr. Lawton is working with coaches to set up a virtual "Community of Practice" that will allow all coaches to collaborate on specific topics (i.e. building team culture, communication with families, fundraising, etc). He is hoping to do one/month with all coaches at all levels.

### **Equity Work**

- First equity training session is Tuesday, Jan 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Equity work will focus on the five characteristics of belonging
- A communication plan for students and families will be developed with Dr. Phil Hunsberger (our consultant)
- Trainings will include all OHS staff, Mrs. Virgil, Mr. Huels, Dr. Mahoney, Mr. Crandall and one teacher leader from OES/DLR
- If you are interested, here is their website for more information <http://eec4justice.com/>