



Superintendent's Update

Shared with the Corvallis School Board during the August 15, 2016 meeting

July and the beginning of August provide time for reflection, planning and preparation for the beginning of school. District staff have been hard at work over the summer learning new teaching practices, updating buildings and supporting students in their transition into school, as well as earning credits toward graduation. Work throughout the district happens on a continual basis.

Professional Development

There have been several professional development opportunities to highlight. The first is our Guided Language Acquisition Design and Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol training. Referred to as GLAD and SIOP, this training teaches instructional strategies to support our emerging multilingual students' access to rich academic content. We had 34 staff participate in six days of professional development through a partnership with the Boys and Girls Club. Students at the Boys and Girls Club spent their morning involved in learning, modeled by GLAD specialists, so that our teachers could experience the instructional strategies in a more authentic way.

Also, the district continued our commitment to AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination). Forty-nine teachers from Corvallis High School, Crescent Valley High School, Linus Pauling and Cheldelin attended the AVID training. Each teacher had the opportunity to engage in content level learning and work with their building team to plan their next steps for implementation.

Our principals and district leaders have also been participating in professional development. We started this year with a district retreat, which centered on four key areas and had a focus on continuing the momentum from 2015-16. We maintained our attention to equity and eliminating barriers for our students, continued to identify ways of incorporating key learnings from our innovation team into our schools, focused on supporting the work of our principals as instructional leaders, and further developed camaraderie as a team.

Summer Educational Opportunities

We have had several opportunities for students over the summer. With support of the Corvallis Public Schools Foundation, high school students participated in a summer school focused on math, writing and credit recovery. Students also participated in an AVID summer program. The program was designed to provide a "jump start" to the new school year.

Also, the district held a "kinder academy" for the second year in a row. This year the program grew to six locations, but supported students from all of our schools. This half day program allowed students to begin to learn the routines of school, become more comfortable in the school environment, meet staff and make new friends.

Facilities and Water

Maintenance and custodial crews were hard at work this summer preparing for the school year. They had a robust list of projects and preventative maintenance to accomplish in addition to sampling drinking water at all district buildings to identify lead levels.

Access to district buildings was shortened drastically due to changes in work calendars for office staff, the expansion of our Kinder Academy program, and the fact that the last day of school wasn't until mid-June. To support the quantity of work that was planned for the summer, the Facilities Department hired eleven seasonal workers and endeavored to start projects as soon as school was dismissed in June.

As you know, we are also in the process of responding to water testing for each school in the district. We have taken four key steps in addressing test results.

1. Turn off water and post signage at affected fixtures.
2. Identify and eliminate the source of the lead.
3. Retest the water to ensure it is safe for students and staff.
4. Notify parents, students, staff, and community of actions completed.

At this point we do not have any official recommendations for ongoing water testing. However, we will be developing a testing cycle to ensure that ongoing testing occurs.

Transportation

Because of the expected continuation of bus driver shortages, we asked First Student to focus on recruitment and route planning during the summer. The minimum number of drivers needed to start the school year is 50, but we would prefer to have 55-60 drivers to account for absences and trips that might affect home to school route times; as of August 12th, First Student had 39 confirmed drivers and nine in training or testing.

We are also working on improved services for athletic transportation and will closely monitor athletic transportation to ensure that athletes are missing as little academic time as possible.

We anticipate a challenging year ahead but believe the changes that have been made for the upcoming year will support students, families, and school staff to ensure a successful year.

Superintendent Conversations

Throughout July and August I have been engaged in one-on-one conversations with community members, staff and parents. These conversations have been both enjoyable and provided important context. We have a great deal to be proud of. The community is supportive of ongoing collaboration, many parents feel that the educational opportunities we provide prepare their students for college and career, and staff are committed to supporting our students. In the future, I will share key themes from these conversations with the board.

Back to School Rally

This has been a productive summer leading up to an exciting school year. We have a number of professional development activities still to come prior to the return of students, and a back-to-school rally scheduled for Crescent Valley on August 31. This day will include a whole staff gathering and photo, a wellness fair, and professional development sessions led by staff members. I hope board members will be available to join us for a portion of the day.

Presented by Ryan Noss, Superintendent