

ASTORIA SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

DATE: October 2, 2014

SCHOOL: Astoria High School

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

- **Advanced Woods to Construction:** This Fall, Astoria High School will be able to offer a Construction class through the Applied Arts program and under the instruction of Mr. Dan Foss. While it does not match the home construction projects of decades past, the Construction class will allow for students to engage in projects throughout the community and provide students with a hands on understanding of the basic permit process, project design, and coordination of construction elements.
- **Attendance Committee:** In an effort to increase the effectiveness of systemic interventions on students with attendance issues, Mr. Chad Madsen implemented this September a weekly meeting each Monday morning to discuss students whose education is being impacted by a lack of attendance. This also allows for accurate data collection and analysis for student management purposes but also information to be shared in auxiliary committees such as the Engagement Professional Learning Community.
- **Gray School Campus:** This year the staffing, physical facility, and academic structure of Gray School Campus has been refined. The physical facility now supports new technology in the form of the newest version of Chromebooks and also was furnished with chairs and other items from local hotels and donors. Currently, there are 30 students on the rolls with others beginning to be placed on a wait list for admission. Furthermore, embedded into the academic calendar are 5 non-student contact days, allowing for staff to collaborate, contact parents, hold admissions interviews, and complete preparation activities that are difficult to accomplish in the standard day at Gray School Campus. This model has proven to be an enhancement of resources as Mrs. Knutsen and staff continue to hone the Alternative Education Program.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES

- **Social Sciences** – The Social Science PLC is currently working on CCSS RH9-10/11-12.1 in which they will have students cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary documents. To help them evaluate and assess their analyses and citations, they chose to use the High School Reading Scoring Guide for Informational text that is provided on the Oregon Department of Ed website. They also decided upon the type of formative assessments they will be giving in the coming week. After scoring these assessments (9-25-14 deadline) they plan to use the data as a baseline to come up with our first cycle's SMART goal (10-02-14).

- **English** – The English PLC is currently working on developing online interventions to support struggling learners in writing conventions. The AHS writing website will go live at the end of the 1st Quarter and be developed in more depth as the school year progress.

- **Mathematics** – The Math PLC continues to work on standards aligned to set classes. They are wrapping up one Geometry standard this week (Oct. 3rd) and beginning a new Algebra target. Geometry data and SMART goal is as follows: *The number of students proficient (70%) on “transformations on the coordinate plane” will increase from 74% to 90% by October 3rd as measured by district wide assessments, aka “targets”*. The preliminary data on the formative assessment for Algebra I Standard 6.EE Expression and Equations, Story Problems, Order of Operations/Properties of Algebra, Variable Expressions, and Writing Expressions was at 68% proficiency. The PLC cycle for Algebra will be completed on October 16, 2014.

- **Science:** The Science PLC has selected the following Essential Learning Objectives for the 2014-2015 school year:
 - Based on observations and science principles, formulate a question or hypothesis that can be investigated through the collection and analysis of relevant information.
 - Design and conduct a controlled experiment, field study, or other investigation to make systematic observations about the natural world.
 - Collect sufficient and appropriate data.
 - Analyze data and identify uncertainties.
 - Draw a valid conclusion, explain how it is supported by the evidence, and communicate the findings of a scientific investigation.

Team members have conducted pre-assessments in Biology and Physics and will be analyzing Integrated Science on October 2, 2014.

- **Engagement** – The Engagement Team has used referrals from Astoria Middle School, self-survey results from Spring of 2014, current AHS teacher referrals, and Engagement team member input, to identify 38 Freshmen who may need Engagement Team intervention. The team is currently creating a survey more fully ascertain how to best intervene. While this inquiry is being developed, members of the Engagement team are conducting initial contact with each of the identified students.

- **Greater Good** – This PLC continues to explore the neuroscience of social-emotional learning and how it can impact them as educators and correspondingly, their students. Staff discussed meditations, guided imagery, dialogue, movement, music, arts and how these strategies affect their classrooms, students, and themselves. Some of these strategies (micro-moves) are being implemented in the Health curriculum, yet much of what is being currently discussed is based in teacher skill sets to be practiced during the initial phases of this PLC.

STUDENT AND STAFF SUCCESS

- **September 13, 2014 / Super Homecoming Weekend:** Saturday, September 13, 2014 was an eventful day for AHS and alumni. The day began with a “Drive One For Your School” event to support co-curricular activities and sponsored by the Astoria Ford Dealership. At noon, the Astoria High School Hall of Fame Inducted the 10th Hall of Fame Class, inducting Henry Nielson (’35), Katrinka Jackson Blunt (’94), Jeremy Matlock (’93), Josh Long (’92), the 1958 Football Team, the 1991-92 Cross Country Teams, Coach Jeanne Peterson, and Dena Bondietti Marsch. Following the induction, community members at large were invited to “Touch the Turf” at the new sports complex. The culminating event of the day was the 2nd AHS Super Homecoming. Organized by Darla Rush, Theresa Dursse, Dana Berny, and other volunteers, community members and alumni supported co-curricular activities with a prime-rib dinner and auction. It was a great day to be a Fisherman!
- **September 16, 2014 Open House:** From 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. students were invited to show the ropes to their parents on how to successfully navigate a “C” day schedule at Astoria High School. Parents were able to attend 7 minute classes throughout the evening with the objectives to: place a face to a teacher’s name, become familiar with the building, discuss effective avenues of communication, and acquire a general overview of each course. Approximately 100 parent/student groups attend the Open House. There was a strong and positive energy throughout the night with the only key complaint being the lack of snacks. This is something we will look into next Fall.
- **Homecoming Dresses:** In partnership with the Assistance League, over 40 AHS students attended the Homecoming Dress event on September 26, 2014. These students were able to borrow a Homecoming dress, many of them new, in order to attend this weekend’s dance in elegance. Astoria High School is greatly appreciative of the continued support of the Assistance League.
- **Fisherman Fanatics Renewal:** As stated in the September Board report, one of the primary goals of Astoria High School this year is to establish and maintain “*Reciprocal Relationships of Respect and Community Pride.*” The Fisherman Fanatics, the school spirit group attached to the Leadership class, have proven themselves to have taken this goal seriously. Their debut activity, a WHITE OUT, for the September 18, 2014 AHS vs. Tillamook volleyball was upbeat, engaging, and energetic. We are optimistic this community pride will continue to grow throughout the school year.



SCHOOL CHALLENGES

- Math Curriculum Alignment:** In collaboration with Ms. Linder, Astoria High School is more accurately aligning the Algebra I curriculum sequence. This will continue to be refined as we progress throughout the school year to encompass all high school math offerings as well as 6-12 alignment.

- Staff Evaluation:** There have been a few significant changes to the requirements of the Student Learning Growth (SLG) goals, and staff at AHS are working through establishing relevant and rigorous SMART goals to measure student growth in a skill or content matter. Goal setting conferences will occur between October 6th – October 15th to help certified and administrative staff reflect on needs and priorities of their respective students and content areas.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES (Upcoming)

- (Please see the AHS Sports Schedule for all Athletic Events)
- Statewide In-Service Day: October 10, 2014
- Rishiri, Japan Exchange Students Visit: October 14-17, 2014
- AHS Activity Fair: October 21, 2014
- Assistance League (Girls): October 21, 2014
- AHS Safe Night (Volleyball): October 22, 2014
- Opening Game at CMH Field: October 24, 2014
- Parent Teacher Conferences: October 29-30, 2014