

ASTORIA SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

DATE: December 4, 2014

SCHOOL: Astoria High School

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

- **Smarter Balance (SBAC) Student Awareness:** Throughout the month of November, AHS Counselor Beth Cornell conducted a brief survey assessing students' level of understanding and anxiety regarding the new SBAC exam. The results of the survey indicate a need for more instruction on the elements of the exam as well as test taking and anxiety management strategies in an examination environment. District staff will receive more training regarding the components of the exam after the Winter Break. More detailed information from the survey is available if desired.
- **Work Sample and Smarter Balance (SBAC) Training:** On Wednesday, December 3, 2014, members of the Math Department traveled to Hillsboro to received training from Bryan Toller, the mathematics specialist for the Oregon Department of Education. The training focused on understanding assessment practices for the SBAC and how to score class work samples as demonstrations of Essential Skill graduation requirements. The training is key in providing an increased level of calibration in the math department scoring of work samples.
- **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT):** Beginning with an informational meeting on Thursday, December 11, 2014 at 1:35 pm, Astoria High School students, in partnership and collaboration with **AmeriCorps' RARE** (Resource Assistance for Rural Environments), will begin to explore skills, practices, and protocols in responding to emergency / disaster situations. The training will consist of 9 modules that will last from January – March. Student who successfully complete the training will be certified as teen CERT responders. This will be an enrichment program offered through Tutorial.
- **Applied Mathematics:** As a result of discussions between the Social Science and Math Departments, Mr. Scott Perkins is adapting math elective curriculum options to include an Applied Mathematics course for students who need to demonstrate the Essential Skill in Mathematics and/or complete their 3rd year of mathematics at Algebra I or higher. These students may not be going directly into a university setting upon graduation. This course will focus on mathematic principles found in finance, economics, construction, and other general topics. The class will be offered during the 2nd semester.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES

- **Math:** The math PLC was not seeing the desired improvements in Target scores by focusing on content. Therefore, a shift in focus to effective teaching strategies will round up the PLC cycle through the month of December. Using Robert Marzano's list of research based teaching strategies, the Math PLC decided to explore summarizing and

how it impacts student learning. For the next two weeks, they will place specific emphasis on summarizing and collecting numerical and anecdotal data to evaluate the results.

- **Engagement:** The Engagement team continues to focus on improving the holistic school culture and climate as well as providing individual interventions for specific students. Peer mentors will be interviewing the partnering 9th grade student prior to Winter Break to assess current progress and needs. There are also a number of specific plans outlined for the next three weeks to continue to provide a caring environment during a challenging time of year for many AHS students.
- **Science:** The Science PLC continues to work on analyzing data and identifying similarities. Due to the lapsed time in completion of the Integrated Science Project, some members of the team have been unable to collect all data from the post-PLC cycle assessment. This will occur prior to the Winter Break.
- **English:** The English PLC is taking its final steps for the December 18, 2014 launch of the astoriawrites.org website that has been developed throughout the course of the first semester. This website will offer rubrics, student examples, graphic organizers, and original videos similar to the Khan Academy. The website was previewed on December 4, 2014 by Collaborative Team Leaders. All ASD Board Members are invited to attend on December 18, 2014 at 2:15 pm for the Launch Party.
- **Greater Good:** Specific attention is being paid to health and wellness, stress, teaching strategies, teacher burnout, and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) awareness/knowledge. This will be completed by the end of the semester while Greater Good PLC members will continue to develop an awareness/knowledge of SEL. They will also use micro-moves to apply strategies in their professional practice. They continue to follow the principles presented through the Greater Good Science Center at University of California - Berkeley.
- **Social Science:** The Social Science PLC wrapped up their data cycle focusing on 11th grade students' ability to cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources as measured by the AHS Social Studies PLC adopted reading rubric. Their goal was for 80% of students to demonstrate proficiency and 81% of the students achieved this mark. The Honors U.S. History course was not included and the PLC feels that percentages would be higher had they been included in this data cycle.

STUDENT AND STAFF SUCCESS

- **Blood Drive** - On Tuesday, November 18, 2014, Leah Telen helped facilitate the Blood Drive in the library at Astoria High School. After 67 sign-ins, a total of 53 people were eligible to donate. Of those 53 individuals, Red Cross volunteers collected 48 pints of whole blood and 10 pints of double red cells, making a total of 58 pints of blood. These numbers exceeded the expectations and goals of the Red Cross in collecting 52 total pints. Both main campus and GSC students participated in the event. The Blood Drive provides a clear example of AHS students' initiative

and drive, creating positive results for our local community. Ms. Telen is to be commended on her efforts.

- **“A Christmas Carol”** – Astoria High School students and Director Scott Perkins performed Charles Dickens’ classic, “A Christmas Carol,” on the weekends of November 14th and 21st. This was Mr. Perkins’, a math instructor at AHS, first play as director. It was a wonderful way of introducing the holiday season to our school community.
- **Senior Mentor** – As of December 1, 2014, seven AHS seniors have been paired with community mentors to help them navigate the individual challenges each of them are striving to overcome. These one-to-one partnerships provide additional structure and support to students who could benefit from the guidance, connections, and encouragement that these talented and experienced mentors provide.
- **Free School:** As a point of enrichment, Astoria High School has implemented “Free School” sessions to offer an opportunity for students to expand their understanding or skill sets. This point was discussed in last month’s report. Thus far, topics have included Oregon Ballot Measures, the Ferguson, Missouri conflicts, and knitting.

SCHOOL CHALLENGES

- **Work Samples:** As a key element of Essential Skill documentation, the Math Department set a goal of securing one Work Sample per student, per semester. In order to effectively carry out this goal, the training on December 3, 2014 took place. This training proved to be clear and concise.
- **English Curriculum and Online Courses:** The online format of English course work through Odysseyware has proven to be cumbersome and logistically difficult to navigate. As such, we are exploring means by which we can provide standards-based curriculum without our students feeling unduly burdened with nonessential tasks.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES (Upcoming)

- December 13th – Nygaard Swimming Invitational
- December 16th – AHS Choral Concert
- December 29th -31st – Vince Dulcich Tournament