

ASTORIA SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

DATE: September 4, 2014

SCHOOL: Astoria High School

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

- **Ken Williams Training:** On Wednesday, August 27, 2014, AHS and District Staff participated in a training focused on developing the culture of productive Professional Learning Communities. Staff were engaged, collaborative, and insightful throughout the presentation. It was an energizing way to begin the school year. The only negative feedback provided by staff directly to building administration was that they already agreed upon the value of the PLC process and had wanted to hear a bit more about the particulars of refining their respective PLCs. This critique, in and of itself, is a strong indicator of the progress we as a District have made in the PLC practice.
- **Statistics / Financial Algebra** – In an effort to offer more opportunities to fulfill their graduation requirement of 3 years of mathematics at Algebra I or above, Astoria High School this year will be offering Financial Algebra as well as Statistics for course offerings. This will allow students to enroll in courses with rich curriculum that will meet the academic needs for many college bound students and present applicable career readiness skills for those entering directly into the workforce. The Algebra – Geometry – Algebra II – Trigonometry/PreCalculus series, as well as the college credit Calculus course, are still offered also.
- **Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM) Hub:** As one of forty other districts throughout the state, Astoria High School has received a \$650,000 grant to provide STEM mentors to other local school and districts. Astoria High School will have two instructors, Mr. Lee Cain and Mr. Mike Baker, who will fulfill the role as STEM ambassadors to provide support to other educators seeking to implement more STEM based practices into their classrooms.



Press Notice 9-03-14. Introducing the new **Oregon Coast STEM Hub**, which promotes integrated Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education on the Oregon Coast! Centered at Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport, the Oregon Coast STEM Hub serves all coastal K-14 teachers, students and communities in Oregon, from Astoria to Brookings.

Explore the website to learn more about the Oregon Coast STEM Hub and its partners, upcoming activities and events, STEM education resources and community mentoring opportunities. Please link the website to your webpages to help spread the word about this resource.

<http://oregoncoaststem.oregonstate.edu/>

- **2014-2105 Goals:** The following statement was sent home to the faculty of Astoria High School in their introductory letter to provide a foundation of the goals and direction of AHS for the school year.

*While the fundamental questions of student engagement still apply (**How do I feel? Is this interesting? Is this important? Can I do it?**), we will address these questions through the following focus points:*

- **Bell to Bell Engagement:**
 - *Improvement of Instructional Strategies through Professional Learning Communities and Staff Collaboration.*
 - *Holding ourselves and our students accountable for a high standard of academic excellence.*
- **Reciprocal Relationships of Respect and Community Pride:**
 - *Provide overt instruction in expectation of behavior and respect.*
 - *Model caring and engaging behaviors to students.*
 - *Participate in activities that promote community pride and engagement.*
 - *Hold each other accountable when we slip.*
 - *Celebrate!*

As explained above, we will be supporting staff through mutual collaboration with colleagues to improve instructional practices and ensure Bell to Bell Engagement. This will also be a key element of the evaluation process throughout the year during observations.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES

- **PLC Refinement:** As part of the process of improving the Professional Learning Community process at Astoria High School, AHS Collaborative Team Leaders and Administration have begun the process of adapting the “tight” and “loose” approach to PLC Goals, Structure, and Practices. This in part due to the variability of course content and teacher responsibilities found within a PLC. PLC members will be asked to focus on 4-5 priority skills, strategies, learning outcomes, standards, etc. throughout the course of the year that will have the greatest impact on student learning. This flexibility will allow for an increased level of ownership among PLC members. However, “tight” or agreed upon expectations still will focus on measurable outcomes, the impact on student learning, reporting protocols, and collaboration. AHS will have six PLCs for the 2014-2015 school year:
 - **English**
 - **Science**
 - **Mathematics**
 - **Social Science**
 - **Engagement**
 - **Great Good** (Focus on Neuroscience and Social/Emotional Learning)

STUDENT AND STAFF SUCCESS

- **Relay For Life:** As part of her Senior Project, Lillian Teadtke helped organize and implement many of the fundraising and logistical elements of the 2014 Relay for Life. This consisted of Silent Auction activities. In addition to these managerial and volunteer elements, Ms. Teadtke also walked 30.25 miles herself over the course of the 24-hour event.
- **ACT Data:** The ACT exam is a college readiness assessment administered to more than 1.6 million students in the United States each year. It evaluates a student's understanding of English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science. The state of Oregon generally outperforms the nation. For example, 30% of all Oregonian students meet the benchmark in all four categories, whereas the nation settled at 26%. Astoria High School reached 37% of its students meeting all four benchmarks. The table below outlines other data associated with our students in comparison with the state and benchmarks.

English		Mathematics		Reading		Science	
AHS	OR	AHS	OR	AHS	OR	AHS	OR
89	67	52	47	56	49	41	40

- **September 2, 2014 / Day 1:** Breaking from past practice, Astoria High School asked for all students, grades 9-12 to attend the first day of school rather than hosting a Freshmen Orientation Day. Throughout the Spring of 2014, AHS/AMS Administration, Counselors, and Teachers provided four separate orientation activities, one each week, to the class of 2018 to help them become familiar with the school as a whole. The morning of September 2nd was dedicated to a focus on class unity, goal setting, tradition, and expectations. In addition, the afternoon provided teachers and students to meet for 20 minutes, to allow for navigation of a 7 period day and to make introductions as well as cover key points in the syllabus. While certain elements will be modified for 2015, as a whole, it was generally quite successful.

SCHOOL CHALLENGES

- **Refinement and Awareness:** While not necessarily challenges in nature, the administration and staff continue to work on refining the quality of our **Professional Learning Communities**, our understanding of the **Common Core and the Smarter Balance Exam**, and how to powerfully apply our **Evaluation Protocols** to increase teacher effectiveness and student learning.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES (Upcoming)

- (Please see the AHS Sports Schedule for all Athletic Events)
- Super Homecoming: September 13, 2014
- Hall of Fame: September 13, 2014
- Open House: September 15, 2015