

La Center High School

September 16, 2014

C

Curriculum - This year we have a new class that Heather Grotte is piloting call

Focus. As part of the work the HS staff did last year, we found evidence for additional support to those incoming freshman that have struggled in 8th grade and need guidance in organizational skills, accountability for homework, additional support in completing daily work, and grasping new concepts that might need a review of fundamental skills to build from. The building goal or LSI continues to state that all 9th graders that complete 6 credits at the end of their freshman year have a higher rate of graduating on time. By giving these students the additional support at the beginning of their high school experience, our hope is the data will show that students will complete 6 credits by the end of their freshman year. This will provide a huge feeling of success many of these students have not felt before.

Heather has designed this class so that each week students are required to review and check their grades on Skyward. Students set grade goals of what they believe they can accomplish, strategize how to meet these goals and assess their work seeing how they can successfully accomplish their goals. Students also discuss weekly successes with Mrs. Grotte and find ways to continue to meet their goals and/or improve their way of accomplishing the goals. To date, all students are seeing successes and being held accountable. Mrs. Grotte has also met with all parents of each of her Focus students. Parents have a clear understanding of the expectation their student has in order to be successful in the Focus class.

A

Athletics & Activities Athletics/Activities:

The year started off with a coaches meeting on August 19. The primary focus of this meeting was to remind coaches that their responsibilities go beyond coaching the sport and caring for the safety of our student-athletes. They are offering an extension to the learning day and giving La Center kids another opportunity to become self-reliant, life-long learners.

It was an amazing celebration on September 12, 2014. This is a day that will be remembered for quite some time...the opening of the HS athletic field. The pre-game festivities were very well attended. The last number I heard was that LCEF fed over 800 people at the tailgate party. There were many booths that included the senior parents, LCEF, boosters, HS ASB students, MS ASB students, and K-5 PTO. It was a very fun-filled atmosphere where the music was great along with the food. The evening went off without a hitch thanks to the many volunteers and staff that contributed. I personally want to thank Carol Patton, Peter Rosenkranz, Lauri Landerholm, Amy

Neiman, Laurie Kansanback, Scott Lincoln, Jennifer & Brett Blechschmidt, Dan Bentson, and Jon Schroeder for handling the security and supervision. It was a big help to not have to worry about this aspect of the evening given that we had over 3000 people in attendance for the game. I also want to publically thank Walter Hansen, Staci Firl, Win Muffett, and Madi Deotsch, who are board members for the La Center Education Foundation. Their work to get this stadium opened for this first game was incredible. They all played different roles, but were paramount in the process. Josh Soske is another individual that must be thanked. He spent tireless hours upon hours on this project. Without him, this project would not have been completed. I also want to thank Mark Mansell, Cris Yaw, Todd Jones, Bob Taylor, John Parsons, and Wendy Chord for the assistance in some of the funding. I am thankful that the school had the means to help, but am in awe of the amount of community support we were given with volunteer hours and donations. Lastly, my gratitude must be extended to the Colf Family. Their generosity and compassion for La Center was incredible throughout this process. There are many more that could also be publically thanked for this project and getting as far as we did. I look forward to the next phases being completed in the coming years.

The Southwest Washington Trico 1A League has changed this year. We used to have 10 schools in our league, but this year, 3 schools have changed classifications. Woodland went up to 2A, and Toledo and Ilwaco moved down to 2B. This means we only have 7 schools in our league which opened up the availability to schedule more non-league games. Coaches love non-league games because it gives them the chance to evaluate the team and individuals prior to competing in league.

Our football program has had much success in the past during the regular season. Now that we are able to schedule more non-league games, Coach Lambert wanted to make those games challenging since we predict that the Wildcats will once again be Trico Champs. Our first 2 games have been against a difficult Hockinson team and a strong Woodland team. That, in conjunction with some key player injuries, the team is currently 0 – 2. This week's opponent will be challenging and strong. Tumwater has been in the semi-finals the last 2 years for the 2A classification.

Boys Golf has had a great start, under the new direction of Michael Parker. The team is currently 1 – 0, with the win coming against Kalama last Thursday, Sept 11. The team competed in the Jeff Hudson Invitational last Tuesday, September 9. They were matched up against some of the best golfers in Southwest Washington. It was a great experience for them in looking forward to the post-season.

Girls Soccer is competing well and our 2nd year coach, Cecilia Hagemier, is much more confident this year compared to last year. The team has faced some difficult non-league games with Washougal, Battle Ground, Fort Vancouver, and Mark Morris. They did get their first win against Fort Vancouver last Thursday and are currently 1 – 3 overall.

Volleyball looks to be a solid program once again under the direction of new head coach, Cymany O'Brien. Last spring, all 3 Middle School coaches resigned and 2 coaches resigned from the High School. So there were some major changes on the coaching staff, and Cymany did a great job making this a smooth transition. The team is currently 1 – 1 with a loss against

Woodland and the win coming against Fort Vancouver. The team traveled to Bellingham this past weekend to compete in a tournament. They lost in pool play, but won their bracket later in the afternoon on Saturday, September 13.

Cross Country has a new head coach after Dave Holmes resigned last season. Andrew Helm is the new coach and is picking right up with the team from where Dave left them. They will be a dominating force in the Trico League once again. Both the girls team and the boys team should make the berth to state this season.

T

Teachers- Congratulations to Katie Stevens, Social Studies teacher, who was

recognized by the GE Foundation Program for writing an outstanding letter of recommendation for Ian Williams! Ian received a substantial scholarship and Katie was selected to receive the 2014 GE Star Award including a check for \$500.00 to purchase materials for her classroom. This is a great example of the many additional responsibilities our teachers do for the students at LCHS. Great job Katie!

I would like to introduce a new member to the LCHS staff, Joyce Verick, Science teacher. She comes to us from the Evergreen District where she has taught many years at Mt. View H.S. Joyce is teaching Biology and Anatomy/Physiology this year. She brings a wealth of experience, knowledge and skill to the classroom. It's been exciting to watch her in action, getting students engaged in learning and thinking skills. We are very pleased to have her join our team.

Another wonderful addition to the staff is Kristy Podelnyk, science teacher. Kristy comes to us from the Woodland School District. This is her first time teaching at the high school and she loves it. Kristy is teaching Biology and Chemistry, including one section of Health online. Next semester she will also teach the Biology COE for those students that are in need to still pass the state Biology test. Kristy has lots of energy and is enjoying challenging our students to be thinkers. Kristy has also accepted the position as the Junior Class Advisor.

S

Students – The start to a new year is always exciting, especially with a record

number of students attending LCHS. We had 51 **new** students walk through the doors, excited to be a Wildcat! Our classes are getting full, especially in the freshman and sophomore classes. The break down is: Freshman – 157, Sophomores – 126, Juniors – 139 (16 attending Running Start), and Seniors – 127 (23 attending Running Start). We have a total of 549 students today.

This is the second year for the Home School Academy and we have 11 full time and 16 part time in the program. Students that are part time are also attending classes in the high school, such as welding, choir and Women's Study.

The Linx pathway, new this year, currently has 21 full time students. Students are working hard to complete their online classes through the APEX program and working to meet the state requirements for graduation. Many of the Linx students are finding success with the Linx pathway, considering many of these students had countless attempts to be successful at the brick and mortar but were unsuccessful. It is exciting to see them work hard with a goal and purpose in mind. They will complete each class online at their own pace, yet they are monitored and have continual guidance each day. Bonnie Poffenroth and Bob Hill are the two teachers assigned to the Linx pathway. They have done a great job setting up the school and finding ways to meet our student's needs. Also, Kris Soske is the support person for both the Home School Academy and the Linx pathway. She is there part-time, getting to know our students, is very knowledgeable of the APEX program, and does a fantastic job working with all students. It's a great team working with our students.

Phoenix 8! – We are pleased to announce we are able to offer Phoenix 8 to 26 students and 4 staff members. It begins September 26 – 28 at the YMCA Camp Collins with the support of the YMCA and Synergo. Thank you to the La Center School District for their support in making this possible. Students and staff will have four follow-ups when they return over the following two months. The Phoenix Graduation is scheduled for November 5 at 6:00 p.m. in the high school commons.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Patton
Principal