

Hawks Report

La Center Middle School

September 2014

Off to a great start: School has begun and we are off and running! Kids are happy to be back (really), and teachers are too. It has been a vibrant beginning, and we are all starting to settle in. Our sixth grade students have even conquered learning how to open their lockers.

Newly Identified Focus School: Last spring, we were notified that we are one of 134 newly identified focus schools in Washington, landing in the lower 13% of schools based on a subgroup performance in state test performance in Reading/Math combined. We didn't meet AYP (adequate yearly progress) in one subgroup of students for two of the last three years. This subgroup for us is our students with disabilities, in particular in the subject of math. In response to this status, our district and middle school have responsibilities of creating and reporting our efforts towards improvement. We also have been assigned a coach to help us with our continuous school improvement plans.

New Classes: In order to better support our struggling students, and in response to our focus school status, we have implemented two new classes: Math Assist and Academic Prep. The math assist class is in addition to a student's regular 7th or 8th grade math class, providing more time for instruction, comprehension and assignment completion. We have a total of 30 students being served in Math Assist this semester.

In Academic Prep, the focus is twofold. It is designed to help students who may struggle at school learn and practice good student behaviors that will help them be more successful. It is also designed for those kids who may already be good students, but who are looking to hone their skills for high school and college success. Some skills covered include time usage, organization, note taking, memorization strategies, test-taking strategies and goal setting. Currently, 29 students are being served in this class.

We are excited to be able to offer a new technology elective class for 7th & 8th grade students this year. Stephanie Holmes is our new teacher and she has great experience in this field from her previous teaching experience. The students are using Chromebooks, and are learning how to use new technologies, apps and programs. They will develop the ability to adapt to technological change and learn to investigate new programs, preparing them for their future needs as technology will change in the future. Students will be taught ethical and responsible digital citizenship as they explore the many uses of technology.

Athletics: We have 28 football players, 20 cross country members and 35 volleyball players participating in our fall sports program.