

# La Center High School

## March 16, 2015



### Curriculum -

**Linx** - For the March board report I would like to share with you an update on the successes of the Linx Pathway. Currently, we are at capacity with 25 students. During this first year of the program's infancy, we are finding many situations, in which we had to take a hard look to determine the best way to inspire, challenge and provide leverage to a different type of learner. This type of learner has not done well in the "brick and mortar" and is looking for another way to be successful in our educational system. What we have learned from first semester to second semester is that students need the flexibility in their daily schedule to work at their own pace on the computer throughout the day. Students are monitored through the Apex program on how many assignments they need to complete per class each week. Students have reading passages, worksheets, quizzes, and finally tests on the end of each unit. Mrs. Poffenroth, Mr. Hill and Mrs. Soske are able to see the amount of time they spend on each component. In addition, Mr. Rosenkranz and I are checking in with the students each week to discuss their growth and assignment completions. From the weekly check-ins, we are seeing a significant improvement rate among most of the students.

Several Linx students are now taking 1-3 classes in the main building to help break up the daily computer usage and to have the traditional classroom experience with elective classes. This combination of course work is proving to be beneficial. Some students are working on one class at a time while others are attempting to complete multiple classes at any given time. Students are working on completing the 20 credit Washington State Diploma.

We just had our first Linx graduate! Last week Travis Heidegger met all of his requirements for the Washington State Diploma. We are very proud of him and wish him the best with his future plans.

Congratulations are also extended to Christopher Birkholz for receiving a Washington State Diploma through the Bridges program. A small celebration took place in my office. Presenting the diploma was School Board member, Wendy Chord. Also attending was Superintendent Mansell, Mrs. Birkholz, Mr. DiStefano, and myself. We all wish him the very best.

**Home School Academy** – This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year for the Home School Academy. Currently, we have 38 students enrolled with a variety of participation percentages. Students enrolled range from kindergarten to seniors in the high school and enrollment varies from one class to a full academic load. Mrs. Poffenroth checks in with each student once a week to review their progress, address questions, and discuss the upcoming week's lesson plans. Mrs. Poffenroth also updates Student Progress Review monthly, providing an intervention plan as needed. Students and parents meet with Mrs. Poffenroth during the first attempt to help find ways for the family to meet the goals set by the program. If the lack of progress continues, I step in and meet with the family to discuss the expectations, to problem solve, and to find ways to help them understand the seriousness of the issue. If the student is unable to show progress over a 2 month period, we will drop the student from the program.

These past couple of weeks I have had the joy of helping a family with their 3<sup>rd</sup> grader work on creating a successful schedule at home, brainstorming ideas to motivate the student, and establishing ways to help the parents stay accountable to daily lesson plans. The parent and child returned the following week to show evidence of the work the student had completed and the reward chart they put in place. This was the first week of success they had had in a very long time. The student felt positive about her accomplishments and is looking forward to increasing the workload for the upcoming week.

Bonnie Poffenroth and I attended the Washington Alternative Learning Association (WALA) Conference. It was my first official insight into what is mandated and required by the state. I am very aware of the laws in place for our HSA, but I have to say it was like trying to take a drink of water out of a fire hose. I enjoyed meeting with other administrators to discuss many of the issues and concerns related to an alternative learning program. We discussed TPEP evaluations, audits, student learning plans, and special education needs for students attending the HSA. I also attended 3 audit workshops which included the various demands for upcoming audits, the audit notebook, and audit results. This was eye opening, filled with requirements beyond what we currently had in place. Pending board approval of putting a policy in place (and we are starting that at this meeting), we will then be in-compliance of the necessary documents found in one “audit notebook” located in the HSA classroom. The material was there, but needed to be collected and housed in one location.

Thank you to the outstanding work of Bonnie Poffenroth for helping design and create this successful program over the past two years. By offering the HSA program and the Linx Pathway in tandem with LCHS, our students in the La Center community have multiple ways to complete their K-12 education.

**Environmental Studies** – Congratulations to our environmental studies class for finishing their work on the rain garden. Attached is a PowerPoint the students made to share the story of their work. According to Rebecca Morris, the classroom teacher, ‘it was a meaningful learning experience.’ This completes the requirements of the grant which they received from the Department of Ecology.

[LCHS's ESC Rain Garden 2015 \(1\).pdf](#)



## **Athletics & Activities**

### **Chess Team**

The Chess Team finished their season with the State Championships in Issaquah on February 28th. Last year, they placed 26<sup>th</sup> out of 26 teams. This year, the team finished in a 6-way tie for 13<sup>th</sup> place out of 32 teams. There were three 1A teams at the competition with a majority of the teams coming from 3A and 4A schools. These students represented La Center, along with their personal records, at the competition: Chase Jamieson: 4 wins 1 loss (his only loss was against a top 20 ranked WA player) (4 pts), Allen Smith: 3 wins 2 losses (3 pts), Aidan Hancuff: 1 win 1 draw 3 losses (1.5 pts), Cody Maitland: 2 wins 1 draw 2 losses (2.5 pts), Scott Brightbill: 2 wins 3 losses (2 pts). Total points: 13 (last year our total was 6.5 - so they doubled their total!). Congratulations to the students and to Timm DiStefano, their advisor.

### **Dance Team**

The Dance Team had a successful District Competition on March 14th. They competed in 3 categories: Show, Kick, and Pom. Each routine has different elements that are required to be included in the dance. The girls were awarded District Championships in Show and Kick routines with state qualifying scores. The Pom routine also earned a state qualifying score, but they placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at Districts in this routine. This means that the team will compete at the State Championships on March 27th-28th in ALL THREE ROUTINES! They are the only 1A school to qualify in three routines.

### **Knowledge Bowl**

The team competed in the State Championships at Arlington HS on March 14th. They had a great season, but missed making it to the semi-final round by a single point. The students that represented La Center at the State Knowledge

Bowl Championships were: Sean Nolan, Dustin Dennis, Drake Petersen, Michael Skaling, Colton Tetzlaff, Lexi Darienzo, and Cameren Kuhnhausen. Congratulations to them and their advisor Rhea Heaton on a great season.

### **Wrestling**

We have another state champion in wrestling. Derick Tollen won the 126 lb weight class for the 1A classification at state. Jeffery Mayolo placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the 135 lb weight class. Hazen Kapp wrestled a couple of tough matches, but was unable to place at state. Congratulations to these three wrestlers for qualifying for the Mat Classic Tournament.

### **Boys Basketball**

Unfortunately, the Boys Basketball Team did not make it out of the Regional round of the State Tournament on Feb 28th. They lost to Lynden Christian who ended up placing 2<sup>nd</sup> in state. They did have a successful season by finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Trico League during the regular season and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the SWW1A District Tournament.

### **Girls Basketball**

The Girls Basketball Team, like the Boys Team, did not make it out of the Regional round of the State Tournament on Feb 27th. They lost to Cascade Christian, 37-43. It was an exciting game as we were only down by 2 points with 45 seconds to go. We had to start fouling to stop the clock. They made their free throws and we were unable to make some 3-point attempts. The girls also had a successful season by finishing as co-champions of the Trico League and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the SWW1A District Tournament.

### **Spring Sports**

March 16th, marks the first day of competition for our spring sports season. The previous two weeks have been filled with lots of preparation and plenty of sunshine for our athletes and coaches. As with our fall and winter sports teams, the spring sports teams should all make a run for the state championship tournaments. The Boys Soccer Team has added a few outstanding freshmen to the varsity lineup. And if you will recall, this team finished last season undefeated in league and were Trico Champions for the first time in school history. They look to repeat as favorites in the Trico League this year. Softball and Baseball also look to be in contention for a Trico League Championship. Baseball had a few more holes to fill from graduating seniors from last year's team where Softball only had two graduating seniors on last year's team. The Track Team has had some obstacles with their practice regimen as some of the events were not ready by the first day of practice. But, luckily we have a good relationship with the Woodland athletic director and track coach so that we were able to use their facility on a few days for some of the events. It is also very exciting to learn that we have 13 girls out for the Golf Team this spring. Last year, the program was close to being cut as there were only 3 freshman girls on the team. Those girls did a great job in recruiting and spreading the word to join the team. With the team being so young and inexperienced, it will be a year of learning and growing for our student-athletes.

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## **Teachers-**

Congratulations to Terri Newman, for receiving a \$7,000 grant from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust. The Trustees recently met and approved the *Partners in Science Supplemental Program* grant for the implementation of her project titled *Investigations of Water Quality and Invertebrate Communities of the East Fork of the Lewis River*. Mrs. Newman's is one of 20 grants awarded to support the efforts of outstanding high school science teachers in the Pacific Northwest. The high school will also contribute \$2,000 towards her project to strengthen laboratory instruction through the use of new lab equipment. The award also includes funds to attend two national *Partners in Science* conferences where teachers share these implementation ideas with their peers and listen to and discuss current research being conducted across the country. All grant requirements and funding will be completed by May 1, 2017.

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## Students –

**State Testing** is underway for the high school students still needing to pass the HSPE Reading, and Writing tests as a requirement for this year's and next year's graduation class. Testing is March 17th – 19th. See below the updated LCHS Assessment Testing Schedule for 2014-2015.

I'd like to include in this portion of my report, that the HSA students in grades 3-5 will test March 23rd, 24th, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 31st. Middle school HSA students will test from April 20th to April 27th. All HSA testing will take place at the high school. Thank you to our maintenance crew for transporting the appropriate number of elementary student tables and chairs to the conference room for testing.

[LCHS Assessment Testing Schedule 2014-2015.docx](#)

**Registration for next year's classes** – On March 25<sup>th</sup>, students will be registering for next year's classes. I am anticipating a record number of students registering for next year. New to the course offerings is an AP Physics class. Mr. John Johnson is completing his certification to qualify as an AP Physics teacher. Students have requested this class for next year, so we are moving forward to meet their needs. AP Biology will return on the rotation, providing LCHS students with the opportunity to take 6 AP classes.

Also, LCHS is in partnership with Lower Columbia College on an articulation agreement. Introduction to Business and Small Engines will grant college credit to those students successfully completing the class. I anticipate that as our students learn of this great opportunity the numbers for these classes will increase. Thank you to Amy Neiman and the CTE Board for their work in making this opportunity available for our students.

**Focus** – I had the joy of observing Heather Grotte's Focus class. It was so enjoyable to watch how the senior TA's took three student groups into the student lounge and to the end of the hallway to conduct an ice breaker activity. The goal was to discuss what classes were going well for each student and to identify what the key components were that made their experience successful. Students also discussed what they wanted out of Focus for the remainder of the school year. Our seniors were amazing, demonstrating their knowledge of the abilities and successes of each student in their group. They reminded the freshman students of something positive observed during their time working with each of them, giving encouragement and recognition of their accomplishments.

Upon returning to the classroom, students naturally moved into working groups with each other to discuss classroom assignments. Students were holding each other accountable to stay on task and complete the homework. I asked several students if they felt confident to move into 10<sup>th</sup> grade with the support they have received from Focus this year. Many of them felt they could be successful next year, but really advocated that they would benefit from continued additional support and asked if we could have a 10<sup>th</sup> grade Focus class. This is being considered. The daily support has kept students on track, with many of them passing the majority of their classes. Our data is showing that the Focus class is proving to meet student needs and our School Improvement Goal.

**Quarantine** – The LCHS hallways were very active this past Saturday evening, when the Leadership students conducted a fundraiser game called Quarantine. Leadership students held two full games that involved zombies and secret agents, while students maneuvered through the dark hallways trying to find the sugar packets that helped provide the antidote to cure the epidemic. The game involves students running throughout the school in teams, having a wonderful time trying to escape being tagged by the zombies. The Leadership class raised \$800.00. The

money from this event and from the Tolo dance will go toward supplying food and games at the Luau in June. Students will only have to pay \$1.00 at this rate, as the Leadership class gives back to the student body.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Patton  
LCHS Principal