

La Center High School Board Report

April 17, 2016

It's that time of the year again when students are busy selecting classes for the upcoming school year and meeting their personalized pathway plan. Many students are excited for some of the new classes being offered next year. One, in particular, is Mr. Dave Williams' drumming class. Another is Mrs. Sara Rideout's Theatre Arts class where they will learn about set design, set construction, various types of theaters and what types of plays perform in those areas. Unfortunately, due to a large number of students requesting these classes, some students will be assigned to their alternate choices. On the positive side, we will have a very enthusiastic drumming section in the stands next football season. Be ready for an increase in student participation and excitement as they cheer on the Wildcats!

9th-grade Orientation brought in a large group of future Wildcats and parents. The event was held to assist students in the selection of next year's classes and guide them to select a Pathway. The LCHS Jazz Band performed as families entered the Commons. All future 9th-grade students will receive their schedules for next year's classes at the upcoming 9th grade BBQ on May 23rd at 5:30 pm.

Also, a big 'thank you' to Brian Clegg, Minna Thayer and Joyce Verick as this year's Fellows. The Fellows are selected by each department as our representatives to attend meetings at ESD 112 throughout the year in their respected subject areas. Teachers brought back to the teams updates of changes in education within the state, including discussion groups on state standards, implementation of these standards and valuable resources provided within the state. Each of the Fellows develops a plan that impacts the work we are doing within the School Improvement Plan. The Fellows' reports are due back to ESD 112 by the end of May.

This year LCHS is completing the three-year Accreditation Renewal required by OSPI. As we have been working through the process, collecting and gathering data, our findings have been very positive, showing success for many students in several areas throughout the building. The data has also shown us some areas that we will continue to focus on as an area of need. One specific area is our continued efforts to find ways in which we can support freshman in earning 6 credits by the end of their freshman year. Another area is the level of support we see coming from the Freshman Focus class and the need to add a Sophomore Focus class for next year. Many students need that additional support each day to be successful. The Accreditation Renewal with OSPI will take place in May.

There is another program which we have had in place over the past three years called Youth First. The program is sponsored by the Partners in Careers organization and has found funding through the La Center Casino Charitable Trust Fund through the Community Foundation of Southwest Washington to help support the Youth First program. The grants have helped launch the program with the hope that the district would be able to help with costs of the program moving forward. The program provides students with many opportunities including assistance with organizational skills, grade checks, basic soft skills for preparing for jobs, resume and interview practices, and connecting with employers throughout the community and SW WA.

Here are some of the highlights of this program and our LCHS students from over the past three years.

2013-2014:

- 10 students
- 9/10 have graduated, one is still enrolled
- 4 went on to post-secondary education
- 2 went into the military
- 2 are currently working

2014-2015:

- 12 students
- 4/12 have graduated, 6 are on track to graduate, 1 is working on enrolling into WIOA to complete his GED, 1 is still enrolled but plans to graduate in the summer
- Of those that have graduated: 2 went on to post-secondary education, 1 went into the military, 1 is working full-time as a veterinary assistant at Banfield Pet Hospital
- Of those who are seniors this year: 5 are currently working while attending high school

2015-2016:

- 13 students currently enrolled and actively participating
- At a recent worksite tour, one of the La Center students shared that she loved the program and knows that if she participates again next year she will certainly graduate high school on time

Internships have included:

- Humane Society
- Pioneer Street Café
- Caring Corner Daycare
- It's All About You Salon
- Ridgefield Senior Living Center
- The Trellis
- Victor Fitness
- Parr Lumber
- Paradise Point
- Gorilla Grill
- Harper's Bait and Tackle

One of our youth who attended for 2 consecutive years started out in YouthFirst last year with a negative attitude about being required to be there. He often skipped class, wasn't passing his day classes, and would not agree to participate in a worksite or in any YouthFirst events. He was hanging out with the wrong group of peers and making a lot of negative choices which were impacting his ability to graduate high school. This year he has *chosen* to be involved in

YouthFirst and has made up all of the credits he was behind in. In addition, he has become a leader in the classroom encouraging others to have good attendance and to work hard on passing their classes. He will graduate on time now and has held a job since the end of last year. He has done so well at his job that he has been given a raise as well. He has plans to attend college in the fall.

There are many stories of accomplishment that our LCHS students are experiencing from this program. We are currently working on finding ways to support funding to continue this program for our students through grants and district and building support.

This year's Career Fair was a huge success with 30 presenters sharing their skills and trades with our LCHS students. Students attended three sessions of the workshops which they registered for and that aligned with their Pathway. Nicole Johnson did an outstanding job organizing and communicating with the presenters the information needed to make this event run smoothly and effectively. Joseph Valenzuela was the guest speaker who started the Fair with a presentation at the opening assembly. His powerful speech impacted the students. Many walked away clearly understanding from his personal story how they can do anything they put their mind to. Many students shared with me the workshops they enjoyed and how some had changed their minds about their original plans for pursuing a career. Students had the opportunity to explore ideas of careers and learn more about the avenues in which to move towards their goal following high school. This event is always a wonderful learning opportunity for our students! Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this day a huge success in the lives of our students.

Also, we are just completing the Junior Mock Interviews. Students have an opportunity to go through a mock interview with volunteers from the community and local businesses. Again, Nicole Johnson has organized this event for our students. This is always a wonderful opportunity for students to practice and learn what it takes to prepare for an interview.

The Junior Mock Interviews are part of the Navigation experience students in high school meet as part of their culminating project. This year the Navigation Captains are busy restructuring and designing a new Navigation program for next year. The new model will be more student-directed with several assignments entered only online to complete the tasks designed for each grade level. The freshman will focus on entering high school and ways to be successful. Sophomores will focus on what areas of interest they explore for careers and juniors will focus on college and careers including preparing for the workforce. Seniors will focus on college scholarships, FASFA, and preparation for post high school. The Navigation Captains will complete the courses and assignments over the summer in time to present to the staff next fall.

This past month Mrs. Link's CWP students prepared a presentation to interested K-12 staff based on the documentary film Paper Tigers. Paper Tigers is an intimate look into the lives of selected students at Lincoln High School, an alternative school which specializes in educating traumatized youth. Set amidst the rural community of Walla Walla, Washington, the film examines the inspiring promise of Trauma Informed Communities – a movement that is showing great promise in healing youth struggling with the dark legacy of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). About 150 district staff members attended the event. Following the

movie, the students hosted small groups in round-table discussions about the movie and ACEs. Some insightful and meaningful discussions took place.

The Association of Washington School Principals, AWSP, provided the movie to many schools throughout the state, and we were one of the lucky recipients. There will be another showing for K-12 teachers offered at the workshop on April 22nd. A showing followed by discussions will be held on May 4th in the high school library for the public. This event will take place from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. I hope you will consider attending.

Athletics and Activities

Girls Golf

The Girls Golf Team currently has 3 wins and 2 losses. This is the first time they have had a winning record in several years. Our only 2 losses come from the Hoquiam Grizzlies and the Montesano Bulldogs. We have defeated King's Way, Elma, and Rochester. This is the half way point of the regular season as we will face each of these teams one more time prior to the District Meet on May 16th and 17th.

Track and Field

The track team is again showing dominance in the Trico League. We have a little over 50 athletes competing this year. The girls team has won all 3 league meets thus far, and the boys have placed 2nd in all 3 of those meets. The athletes and coaches are enjoying the new equipment such as the long jump pits, the discus cage, and the pole vault pit. The pole vault pit was a big expense, but it was necessary as we now have a legal and safe landing zone for the athletes. One more bonus about the facility is that there are no more little red rocks!

Baseball

The baseball team is currently sitting in 3rd place in the Trico League behind Kalama and King's Way. We will face White Salmon, Kalama, and Castle Rock for 3 games each in the next 3 weeks. As long as we play our game, we should get wins against White Salmon and Castle Rock. Kalama will be a difficult opponent. Sawyer Bierscheid signed with Bellevue University in Nebraska to play baseball for them. He has been a dominant force again on the mound for our team.

Softball

The softball team showed some incredible resilience this past weekend. We were facing Battle Ground, who is ranked 2nd in the state in the 4A classification and we needed at least 5 outs to get out of an inning. There was a play which resulted in controversial rulings by the umpires, but I am proud to say that our Wildcats battled through that adversity and got the 3 outs to end the inning. They went on to defeat the Tigers of Battle Ground, 1 to 0. The team is undefeated thus far, having 7 wins and 0 losses. We have had big wins against Union (4A), Heritage (4A), Woodland (2A), Ridgefield (2A), and top-ranked Toutle Lake and Napavine in the 2B classification. League play starts this week against White Salmon.

Soccer

The soccer team is currently tied with Toledo/Winlock for 2nd place in the Trico League behind White Salmon. Our only loss of the season thus far came from a forfeit against White Salmon, which was due to a disciplinary action. Since that forfeit, the team has come together as a team and responded well. They had a big test this past weekend against highly ranked Prairie High School in the 3A classification. They lost the game 3-1, but they gained some great experience playing against a high-caliber team.

Choir/Band Concert

The Choir/Band Concert on March 15th was well attended. In addition to the choir and concert band, Mr. Williams featured all the seniors and ensembles who competed in the District Solo/Ensemble Festival. There were many amazing students sharing their talents with the audience. The Jazz Band performed, presenting an outstanding variety of swing and jazz tunes. This group also competed in the Clark College Jazz Festival and was selected for the evening finals. They came in 3rd place in our division. Excellent work!

Quarantine

The ASB and Leadership students had their yearly fundraiser on March 26th with two games of Quarantine that evening. Groups of 5 students signed up to compete in the school-wide event. During Quarantine, the school has been infected by a virus, and their goal is to stay away from the infected zombies and FBI men, collect all five colored sugar packets and trade them in for the formula which will ultimately save the world. It is a popular event which the students look forward to each year. The leadership class earned \$720 which will be used towards future events and assemblies. Congratulations to the students who won each of the games!

Upcoming Events

Earth Day Extravaganza – April 20th during both lunches

Phoenix 11 Graduation – April 21st at 6:00 pm in the HS Commons

National Honor Society Inductions – April 25th at 7:00 pm in the HS Commons

SLCs – April 27th from 4-7pm and April 28th from 12 – 4 pm

Prom at Lewis River Golf Course – April 30th from 8 – 11 pm

Home School Open House – May 3rd from 5 – 7 pm

Paper Tigers documentary and table talks – May 4th from 6-9pm in the HS Library

“Odd Couple” drama production – May 5th-7th and 12th – 14th at 7:00 pm in the HS Commons

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Patton
LCHS Principal