La Center High School October board report 2009

Curriculum-We had approximately 75 students take the PSAT test last week, mostly sophomores with a few juniors and freshman joining in. Taking the PSAT is not only great preparation for the SAT but it gives students access to many career planning opportunities via the College Board website. We have six teachers involved in what we call the "Lab Classroom Project". Teachers have been meeting regularly to design lessons, observe each other teach the lessons and then work cooperatively to improve and expand the lessons. In addition we have 15 teachers that are part of the second year of a "Professional Learning Community (PLC)" co-hort. This group is divided into three different cooperative groups working on student "written assessment", "self-assessment" and "peer-assessment".

The first meeting of the group being assembled to evaluate and adopt new health curriculum (with an eye on sex education) will be on November 3rd. As I'm sure with the other buildings, our staff at the high school is excited to be getting started on the Social Studies and Music instructional materials adoptions as well. Those first meetings are both coming up this next week.

We are in the process of updating our PC's in the business lab from Office 03' to Office 07'.

Athletics-The fall sports season is just about to enter the championship window. Football won their homecoming game last week and play for the league title this Friday against Castle Rock. The winner will likely make the state playoffs. Girls' soccer has lost only one league match and should make the district playoffs. Volleyball has only lost two league matches and will make the district playoffs. Both boys and girls cross country are undefeated in 1A competition state wide. Both teams are ranked in the top ten state wide with the girls holding down the #2 spot. Both are favored to repeat as district champions. Boys' golf had their district tournament and Garrett Davis qualified for the state tournament to be held in the spring. Knowledge bowl (athletics for the mind!) has started practice and the Equestrian team has had their organizational meetings and are ready to go.

Teachers-Don Landes-McCullough has put together another hallway display, this one entitled "Artists Alley". It is located in the lower hallway east of the library and

it warrants a look if you have time before the board meeting. The artists whom are featured will be rotated every 4-6 weeks. In addition there is a new lounge area just outside the metals shop painted in rather "bright" colors and designed to be "signed" by our students (having ownership).

We have been working hard this year to get ALL teachers plan books (websites) up and current and we are closing in on that goal. This has been a struggle for many since last years "crash" that caused us to lose all of our staff's work.

If you haven't already got the following two links from Mark, these are worth your time to watch. The first is a video tour of our school and its art work. The second is a short video entitled "I'm a wildcat". The latter is a compilation of students during spirit week showing, well, spirit! Nice job Don.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TD-qWk8yy2c (you can also link to this from the HS home page)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2mW4Afqjmck (you can also find this by searching youtube under, "I Am a Wildcat at La Center High")

Students-We have just had our first winners of the student recognition program called CATS pride for this year. This stands for Citizenship, Academics, Teamwork and Service. Staff, students and community members, (even board members!) can nominate students in any of these categories and a boy and girl will be chosen each month, in each category, based on a predetermined rubric. The nominations and rubric are available in the office and from all teachers. This month's winners are Lucas Socia, Megan Dunn, Dayna Lynch, Ali Chord, Josh McNeal, Riley Paul, Maria Acevedo and Anna Doty.

Congratulations to everyone involved in homecoming week. By consensus of the staff this year was the most positive, competitive and well participated in homecoming we can recall. The senior class of 2010 won the week long competition and concluded a never before recorded 4th straight win having won every year since they were freshman. This year's freshman came in a close second. Great school spirit was on display all week and it was truly fun for the entire student body.

Our "Student Forum" has had their first two meetings of the new year and they have decided to take on reducing hateful or discriminatory language in the hallways and reducing litter. We have 4 eighth grade members that come up to the high school for these meetings to provide a transitions link to next years freshman class.