La Center High School
November 15, 2011

Curriculum – One of my goals this year has been to give teachers within each department time to collaborate and align curriculum. After each workshop teachers have been very pleased with having this opportunity to share ideas, lesson plans, projects and activities. As we continue to look at ways to support students within each Pathway, teachers are bringing specific learning targets to their classes, while still meeting state and district standards. This provides students with a variety of learning opportunities while meeting the needs of all learners. For example, three of our social study teachers, Katie Stevens, Kathy Bounds and Rebecca Morris collaborated 'best teaching practices' and pedagogy for their geography and world history classes. The teachers came away from the meeting with a better understanding of each others perception and points of interests that they believed where critical to teach in their curricular area.

Our science teachers also met to discuss a variety of options for students to meet the new state requirement of three years of science for graduation. They expressed a concern that the traditional track does not meet the needs of all students: Inquiry Science, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Anatomy and Physiology will alternate with AP Biology. For those students needing a variety of semester offerings instead of full year classes, the teachers came up with a list of classes taught in the past as options. We are also looking outside the box at classes that we could create in tandem with the vocational and math departments. As we look at providing multiple options for students within many pathways our discussion continued to evolve to non-traditional ideas that are very much a work in progress and meets the Board's Ends policies.

I've enjoyed being part of the discussions as teachers are looking ahead and finding ways to help maximize learning opportunities on a reduced budget. The creativity is quite extraordinary!

Athletics & Activities-

Football:

- JV completed a football sweep against Stevenson and the varsity traveled to Columbia to continue their bid for a share of the league title with a convincing win over the Bruins.

- JV played in a great game versus the Bruins at Columbia. Varsity was to have their hands full on Friday playing against undefeated Kalama. At least that is what the papers said. The Varsity team forced a 3-way tie by beating the Chinooks soundly 49-7. As the #2 seed, we will host Tenino next week in the district playoff game.

- JV finished their season with a win and dousing coach Cooke with water. Congratulations guys!! Varsity won their District Crossover game against Tenino to earn their seat as one on the 16 best 1A teams in the state.
- Traveled to Summer HS to face defending State Champion Cascade Christian. It was a great game that was scoreless through the first half. Cascade Christian's composure proved to be unshakeable. We lost by a final score of 27-6.

Volleyball:

- Varsity played tough against the Rockets but proved to be no match for them. Unfortunately they continued that streak in their match against Stevenson. If they would have won, they would be in a tie for third with the Bulldogs. Playoffs are not out of reach yet! Competed with an evenly matched Stevenson team but lost a heartbreaker in a best of 5 match that took all 5 games. We bounced back with a sweep of White Salmon on Thursday.
- Unfortunately the teams finished their season on a downward slide. We lost our last two matches. The ladies played hard this year and had a lot of positive experiences. Just not enough to make the playoffs.

Soccer:

- JV and Varsity made short work of the Stevenson teams on Tuesday and Varsity played very well against Columbia. At this rate Varsity has a good chance of finishing in the top 2 in our league.
- Varsity stumbled against a rejuvenated King's Way squad but managed to bounce back and save their Senior Night by beating Toledo to further solidify our second place seed in league. The ladies will start District Playoffs on Tuesday against Elma. This game will be played in Kalama at 6:30.
- Varsity won both their District playoff games in dramatic fashion to be considered in the top 16 1A teams in the state of Washington.
- Played University Prep in the first round of State Playoffs at Sammamish HS. UPrep came out very strong scoring 2 goals in the first 10 minutes. Our girls could not recover from the onslaught. The game concluded with a final score of 6-0.

Golf:

- Played very well at the district meet. As they have done all year, the boys finished behind Ridgefield and Ilwaco for a third place finish in our districts. We are sending Derick Rivers and Zach Brown to compete in the State Tournament. Andrew Doiron is an alternate.Continued their streak of finishing second to Ridgefield and beating Hoquiam on Tuesday. On Thursday we proved to be the best on the course beating the other two schools by a minimum of 16 strokes.
- This season is on pause until the state tournament in the spring.

Cross Country:

- The girls team competed very well at the league taking first place and the boys ran well finishing in second.

- The girls team ran very well at the district meet barely missing first place by a single point! The boy's team ran well too finishing third. Both teams will travel to Pasco on 11/4 to compete in the state meet.
- Our teams placed very well at the state meet in Pasco on Saturday. The boys team placed 8th in state with Kyle DeGraaff leading the way with a 15th place finish. Our girls team took the 12th place position in the state standings with Katie Whitten being our top finisher in 25th place.

Cheer:

- The cheer team performed very well during the cold, wet game on Friday. I am sure if it for them and the pep band our football team would have had a much tougher time against Kalama. The students that attended the dance had nothing but positive things to say. Great Job Cheer Leaders.
- Continues to brave the elements to support our Football team and inspire our fans! Finished the fall season and is preparing for basketball cheer and dance season.

Activities:

- Knowledge Bowl hosted a meet on November 2nd. The varsity team placed 3 overall behind RA Long and Mark Morris, which is first among schools our size. JV #2 followed suit in the JV competition and JV #1 finished 8th. This was a great opportunity to showcase our facilities and culture to surrounding districts.
- FBLA attended its Fall Conference at the Kelso Red Lion on October 27th. 19 future business leaders attended this conference and are excited about competing in the spring.

Winter Sports

This is our first week of winter practices which means the following teams are currently in season: Girls Basketball (18 athletes), Boys Basketball (40 athletes), Wrestling (40 athletes), Equestrian (9 athletes), Dance Team (15 athletes)

Teachers – Congratulations to Lauri Landerholm for being recognized and awarded the 'Trico 1A Assistant Principal of the Year.' I nominated Lauri last year for the outstanding work she does with students, parents and staff. She has been an outstanding resource and strong member of the high school administrative staff for the past seven years. Lauri was instrumental in helping me my first year as building principal and continues to support all stakeholders. I'm very proud of her and grateful to have her on our leadership team.

Jeremy Dell, our first year band/choir director, presented a wonderful concert last week. Jazz Band opened the concert with a variety of familiar tunes. He had the band on the stage and for the first time in many years we enjoyed the use of the grand piano. The Jazz Band sounded great!

The Choir walked in very professional onto the platforms in front of the stage area. As a former choral director, I must say I was impressed. Our students performed three songs, all without the piano, and they sounded so very musical. This is typically something done by larger school groups and/or in the spring . . . rarely in the fall.

The LCHS Concert Band presented a powerful and musical performance. Mr. Dell selected a variety of challenging songs that required skill and precision. They rose to the occasion! This concert was exciting and very enjoyable. I believe our students and parents are very happy with this new hire and we all are looking forward to what he will continue to bring to our school.

Students- Mrs. Krem, the 9th / 10th grade counselor is offering a new lunch time program called 'Study Skills Boot Camp' for students that have a D and/or F in any class. They will meet in the library or conference room bringing their lunch to the workshop. Parents are very supportive that students will get additional support in organizational and study skills. Mrs. Krem and I are continuing to gather data to determine specific skills students need to master the transition from 8th grade into high school.

The student 'Forum' is up and running again this year. This is a group of students that represent different interest groups throughout the school and meet twice a month to discuss the climate and culture of the school. No adult attends the meeting, but they report to me the outcome of the meeting. Many students selected have participated in the Phoenix Program. These students bring important leadership skills to the discussion group and are able to recognize the importance of working together. I'm very proud of these students and support their ideas and energy as they take on important issues that all high schools address. We really have great students at La Center High School and this is a result of empowering our learners.

Lastly, I'm very excited to inform you that for the first time in many years, we have a student selected to sing in the All-State Symphonic Choir. Blake Johnston, freshman, was one of four high school students that auditioned for one of the two All-State choirs. Mr. Dell and Mrs. Slinkard helped each student with the auditions, the CD was sent to Olympia and we have a winner! Students from across the state were selected to perform in the All-State Symphonic Choir, Girls Choir, Orchestra and/or Band. Blake is very excited about this opportunity which will take place at the state music convention in Yakima in February. We are so pleased to have him represent our school!

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Patton
LCHS Principal