La Center High School
November 19, 2012

C Curriculum

Social Studies Department - The Social Studies teachers are busy planning the new state Civics requirement course that is currently planned for this year's freshman, graduating class of 2016. As I've stated before, the teachers felt at the end of last year that we needed to reduce the Global Studies to half a year since it was not required by the state. That opened the other half of the year for the Civics class, meeting both the state and district requirements.

What the teachers are discovering is that they feel the topics and depth of understanding would be better served if we move the Global Studies/Civics to the sophomore year, which gives the students another year of maturity to handle and discuss the subject area at a deeper level. That being said we are then aligning the curriculum requirements for next year to look like: sophomores take Global Studies/Civics, junior take US History and seniors take a CWP class. Incoming freshman will have met the state requirement of WA State History in 8th grade. This allows the freshman to have a period open in their schedule their freshman year to explore options that help support decisions that align with their Pathway.

Parent Preview - On November 8th, at 7:00 PM, Sheila Holter, Michelle Heckroth and I offered a parent preview for the upcoming HIV lessons required by the state to be taught each year to all students. We also made available the Sex Education curriculum that Ms. Holter teaches in her Health class. Notices were sent home through the mail and on Skyward. We only had one parent that was interested in the preview but her schedule conflicted with ours, so we provided a copy of the material for her. On Nov. 8th we did not have a single parent, which tells me we are doing a good job communicating each year the curriculum and parents feel comfortable with our decisions of what we include in the presentations to students.

Science Department - The science teachers are working on aligning the curriculum and the course units to the upcoming Next Generation Science Standards. These science standards will be required to begin implementation next year and are similar to the English and Math Common Core Standards used nationally.

A Athletics & Activities

Football: Football finished their season with: 11 wins, a TRICO League Championship, a South West Washington District 4 Championship, and one of the top 8 teams in the state.

Volleyball: Volleyball capped their season with a league tournament appearance and a 2nd place finish in the TRICO Southern Division.
Soccer: Girls Soccer accomplishments this season include: 17 wins, a TRICO League Championship, a South West Washington District 4 Championship, and one of the top 16 teams in the state.
Cross Country: Cross Country continued their winning ways with: both teams winning TRICO and South West Washington District 4 Championships. The boys finished 6th in state while the girls finished 10th.
Cheer: Cheer wrapped up the fall season and is now preparing for the winter seasons and Dance.
Knowledge Bowl: Knowledge Bowl has had only one competition and finished 1st in our classification and 3rd overall.
Basketball: Both programs have new head coaches and have a large numbers turning out. First games for both programs will be November 27th.
Wrestling: Wrestling is starting their campaign with 2 new coaches. Their first competition is December 1st.

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Teachers- Congratulations goes to Kathy Bounds, Denelle Eisland, and Karla Karukas for their work on completing and receiving the National Board Certificate for Teachers. The process took each candidate one year of research, four papers that totaled approximately 100 pages of work submitted and a six section test composed of four entries and six assessments. The formal test was taken in Portland, OR at the Pearsons Testing Center. Also, a big 'thank you' goes to Lynn Cooke, MS English teacher, for her work in coaching the teachers through the entire National Board process. All teachers report they couldn't have done it without her!

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Students

Student Service Center – The Student Service Center team, Timm DiStefano, Kristin Kremm and Mindy Payne, have instituted some new ideas that help students ease the process of continuing the students' education beyond graduation. Scholarships, student information and field trips are available for students throughout the year.

At present we have 160 scholarship opportunities and counting available to our students. In order to utilize these opportunities the SSC has created a link on the high school webpage, handouts and also posted a board located in the SSC that is updated with current scholarship opportunities.

One of the latest inspirations is that of the class survey, which was inspired by the pathway mode. Currently the team has surveyed all of the senior, junior and sophomore classes about their future plans. This survey has not only motivated our students to think about their future plans but has allowed Student Services to work more efficiently at getting relevant information on colleges, programs and scholarship opportunities to the students on an individual basis.

In October, 45 LCHS students attended the National College Fair at the Oregon Convention Center which hosted over 250 colleges and universities. Interested sophomores, juniors, and seniors were encouraged to attend by filling out a packet that contained a short survey. This survey asked students to identify the top five colleges or universities that they were interested in and three questions that they wanted to ask each of these schools. After arriving back at the school we had a check-in with the students that had attended. We asked them to share one thing that they learned on this trip. Every single student relayed to us an important piece of information that they had learned and we could not be more pleased with the results of this experience.

Fall Concert – The Music Department put together a fantastic evening concert in the HS Commons, November 7th. Jazz Band, Concert Band and the Choir performed to a full house. The Jazz Band featured several student soloists within their selections, showing talented young artists that are growing in their understanding of jazz music. The Concert Band took on some difficult pieces for the fall performance. They did a wonderful job, considering the first part of the year is preparing for all the pep band music for the fall games. The choir continues to surprise me performing ACappella many of their songs. This really trains the singer to learn to sing in tune and hold their own part. A special 'thank you' goes to Rhonda Slinkard for accompanying the choir on one song.

All-State Choir - Congratulations goes to Jacob Mendez for being selected to this year's All State Choir. He was the only student selected from our school for the state performing groups. This is a huge honor for any program to have a student selected. Each student that wants to audition for the state groups prepares the required materials sent from the state and tryout in front of their teacher. The audition CD is sent to the state office. From there students are given a number and their CD is sent to a teacher in the state who is known for their skill in each particular area of expertise. The teacher listens to all the CDs sent and ranks the CDs. They submit the appropriate number of spots for each group back to the state music office, who then notifies each school. Jacob will represent LCHS in the All State Choir this coming February.

Veteran's Day Assembly - The freshman class officers presented this year's Veteran's Day assembly on November 9th. It was a very nice show that honored our Veterans. The Prairie Air Force Junior ROTC Color Guard (four of our LCHS students made up the Color Guard) presented the colors. Jessi and Cori Weaver sang the National Anthem and Ashley Denney led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. They had invited Mayor Jim Irish and Mr. Al Luiz as guest speakers. Each of the gentlemen shared their stories and inspired our young people of the importance of this day. Other veterans attending the assembly were recognized with yellow

roses and introduced to the student body. It was a heartfelt assembly and was well prepared by our freshman class officers.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Patton
Principal