Hawk Report February 2012

February has been a relatively quiet month at La Center Middle School which we all appreciate after an extremely difficult January. I am not sure if I have ever enjoyed normalcy more than this month.

The first semester is over and I have had time to reflect on the students' success. The following number of students made honor roll in each grade level.

- 8th Grade – 64 (51% of the class)
- 7th Grade – 47 (32%)
- 6th Grade – 77 (55%)

The other area I have been focusing on is the number of students who are below a 2.0 which often means that they are below the requirements for the District Accountability Plan. Here is the number of students below a 2.0 in each grade level.

- 8th Grade – 9 (7% of the grade)
- 7th Grade – 18 (12%)
- 6th Grade – 16 (11%)

While we have made strides supporting the struggling students the results show that we need to find more ways to help our students succeed.

This month LCMS held their inaugural Career Fair for all three grade levels. The lists of occupations ranged from the police to bakers to engineers. Each advisory group met with three different presenters. I would like to thank Kristin Krem for all of her hard work putting this together plus the 18 parents who gave up their valuable time to work with our kids. The staff will be following up with the students in the next advisory to review the career choices and the educational pathways required to meet these goals.

Prior to the board meeting I will be having my first meeting with my Parent Advocacy Group. I have been trying to find ways to communicate more effectively and learn from our parents and had been throwing around the idea of a PTO. I didn't want it to be the same as a traditional PTO where I say what I need and the PTO will go and do that. I wanted an opportunity to have the parents be true stakeholders in school improvement. The main thing for me to learn is what our parents think about our school. Our first meeting will be focused on the following topic:

“How do you determine if your child is being successful at La Center Middle School?”

In our quest to create well rounded individuals I want to build an alliance with parents to look at issues other than grades. We will be reviewing the Ends Policy with parents and finding ways to meet the needs of our kids. I have also sent our test emails to my parent group to understand how they would receive it before I send it out to the mass parent group. They have already given me some great ideas on how I can approach parents better.

The boys’ basketball season finished this month and I am very proud of this group of students. They could not have had a more difficult beginning to their season but rallied throughout to not only honor Cody but to support their school. In the face of tragedy, it was these boys and the basketball program that the school leaned on to help us cope with Cody’s passing. They did not win every game but they gave it their all. Cody would be proud.

As we approach the latest budgets woes, the staff and I are working on a new classroom schedule which allows the following:

- Additional learning opportunities to meet the Ends Policies
- Allow students to pursue other passions
- Create additional support for struggling students
- Create cohesive planning time among staff
- Allow staff to be involved with additional activities without being stretched too thin

While we are in the early stages, our staff is united in this goal and it has been tremendous watching the staff take on the challenge to create more opportunities for kids in a time where cutting is the preferred time.