La Center High School
June 19, 2014

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Curriculum -

Linx Pathway - Next year, we are opening the La Center Linx program, next to the Home School Academy. The Linx program is an additional pathway offered as part of our comprehensive high school to better serve students who are most likely to be successful in an alternative learning environment.

- By earning 20 credits students in this pathway will earn a Washington State High School Diploma
- Students will have access to typical amenities offered through La Center High School
    - Athletics
    - Breakfast and lunch program
    - Activities and clubs
    - Music programs
    - Physical Education
- Students are also eligible for Skills Center and other internships and work experience opportunities.

Many of the students that have been attending the Bridges Academy next to the Skills Center will now move to our program. Several will still be attending the Skills Center as they are working on completing their WA State High School Diploma.

Book Study – One of the areas the high school staff will begin working on in the upcoming school year is students who live in poverty. After I attended a workshop on students in poverty, a new awareness of how we relate to students and how our interventions could be more effective became very apparent. We do have a population of students that come from poverty. The presenter at the workshop, Donna Beegle, shared with us that when she came from poverty and she had a hard time understanding 'middle class language.' This was a new world that was confusing to her, but later found that 'middle class' had good intentions and she needed to try to figure out how to connect with teachers and others in middle class. This started in school for Donna Beegle, when staff provided students in poverty with all the same backpack styles and same color for the weekend food program. Donna didn't want to be labeled that way. She would rather go hungry than be targeted as a student from poverty.

When I started looking around at some of our interventions and accommodations I started seeing some of our 'good intentions' as labels. This needed to change and the staff discussions began. Many staff has ideas about students in poverty, but I believe we can go much deeper in addressing the needs for our students. So this summer our staff has been invited to do a book study on See Poverty – Be the Difference by Dr. Donna Beegle. Kristin Krem and Heather Grotte will lead the online discussion.

EOC Testing – This past month we have completed the Math and Biology EOC state testing. Thank you to Timm DiStefano for helping organize and coordinate the testing days. Students will receive their scores in August.

Focus Class – Pilot
As we have been working on the 8/9 transitions this past year, through data and 8/9 vertical staff meetings, we feel that additional support to 20 identified incoming freshmen will be important. Students will get this support from Heather Grotte. She will collaborate with their teachers on a regular basis to help provide that additional support. Many of the students need organizational skills, assignments broken down into smaller parts, lessons on finding research, how to write a paper, etc. The students were identified by the middle school staff and Kristin Krem as students who would struggle their first semester in high school. We will be watching them closely, gathering data to see if we need to create a stronger program either in the middle school or high school for these types of learners.

On-line Health – 'Thank you' to Amy Neiman and Bob Hill for rewriting the Online Health class, which will be implemented this summer. Over the many years this class has been taken by many students and shared by many students. It's time to change it up and align it to the health class offered at the high school. Students will be expected to complete each unit before completing the final which Amy Neiman will administer in August. This class will also be offered next fall for those students that want to take it online or they can choose to take it with Mrs. Morris as a class either 1st or 2nd semester.

Standards Based Math Summer School Workshop – Students who are not prepared to enter Algebra in the fall have the opportunity to take a 2 hour workshop, four days a week during our summer school scheduled time. This workshop will provide individual assistance for students of all ability levels by supporting and advancing their math skills throughout the summer. This new workshop offered will address students in both Special Education and general education.

A **Athletics & Activities** –

Message from Matt Cooke, Director of Extra-Curricular Learning Environments

What a year this has been for La Center Extra-Curricular Activities! It has been a true pleasure to learn how all the pieces try to fit together for our Wildcats and Hawks as they extend their learning opportunities outside the classroom. One thing that I have learned is that the pieces don't always fit together easily. This has been the most challenging year of my professional life as I tried to balance my responsibilities with this position, the course work at WSUV, along with my family time. However, it has also been one of the most rewarding knowing that I am helping so many students and coaches in various ways.
Here is a summary of highlights for the year:

- 5 Trico League Titles: Football, Boys Cross Country, Girls Cross Country, Softball, & Boys Soccer
- 2nd Place in Trico: Volleyball
- 3rd Place in Trico: Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Baseball, & Girls Track
- 3 SWW1A District Titles: Football, Boys Cross Country & Girls Cross Country
- 3rd Place in SWW1A District: Volleyball & Boys Track
- 2nd in State: Boys Cross Country
- Kyle Degraaff is the 2014 State Champion in the 800 meters
- Dance Team finished 3rd in State in Pom 5th in State in Dance, and 7th in State in Kick
- 2 Knowledge Bowl Teams placed 8th and 10th in State
- Equestrian placed 11th, 7th, 7th, and 4th in four events at the state competition
- Band placed 1st in Jazz and 2nd in Concert at the Music Festival in San Francisco
- Choir placed 3rd at the same Music Festival
- FBLA had 2 qualifiers to Nationals from the State Competition: Ian and Sean Williams

This is quite a list of accomplishments. The students and coaches should be proud of their efforts and hard work. I would like to take this time to publically thank all of my coaches and advisors for creating a positive environment for the kids of La Center to show pride in their school and community by participating in all of our wonderful extra-curricular activities. I would also like to thank the school board for their continued support in these activities because without these, some students would not thrive as well in school. It is because of sports and activities that some students try a little more in class or maybe it is the only driving force for them to pass and graduate. We need to continue to help and perhaps find new ways to make these learning opportunities available to all students.
Again, my deepest gratitude,
Matt Cooke - Director of Extra-Curricular Learning Environments

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Teachers - Sharon Bryan has been the Senior Advisor Adviser for the past 32 years. She has worked with seniors all these years, holding senior class meetings, selecting graduation gowns, colors and programs, preparing the Senior Recognition evening and of course writing 32 charming and witty commencement addresses. Sharon is always passionate about the students at LCHS, knowing each student has potential to excel post high school. She has done an exceptional job and I would like to 'thank her' for her dedication and commitment as the Senior Adviser.

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Students – Graduation was a huge success and a 'thank you' goes to the School Board and Dr. Mansell for their help and support in making it so. This year 110 students graduated from La Center High School. The seniors received over $1.9 million dollars in scholarships and the GI bills. There were 13 seniors who were members of National Honors

Society, 11 students joining a military branch including Kristen Nye who is in the top 9% of our nation's eligible recruits, 4 graduating with an A. A. degree from Clark College, and 2 students of the graduating class are graduating a full year early! Amazing!!! I could go on and on of individual student successes including those that struggled up to the last minute but completed the tasks before them and were able to walk in the Graduation ceremony. I thank all the amazing educators that have made such a positive impact on our student's lives. I believe our graduates are well prepared and have plans in place to move into the next journey of their lives. I wish our graduates the very best.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Patton
Principal