La Center High School
September 20, 2012

Curriculum- At the start of the school year, our science classes were busting at the seams. Due to the increase number of students in the freshman and sophomore classes, we added one Inquiry Science class and one Biology class to our schedule. We have 'welcomed' Michelle Heckroth to our staff for the .4 science position. She is a wealth of knowledge and is a great addition to the science department. By adding these classes, we were able to keep the upper level science classes such as Physics and Anatomy / Physiology. This helps support all students in their various Pathways.

This year a new state requirement of a .5 Civics class has been added to the freshman social studies curriculum. Students are taking Global Studies the first semester and Civics the second semester. We have purchased the new paperback edition of "We the People.' Teachers are excited to collaboratively design lessons for this new course, including implementing the additional supplemental materials connected to this program.

Athletics & Activities-

Football: Almost 70 students have turned out for football this year. The varsity team is undefeated in the first 3 games of the season and highly favored to win the TRICO league title. Homecoming is scheduled for October 5th.

Volleyball: Winning 3 of their first 4 games, the volleyball team has started their season on the right track. League Playoffs are on October 27th in Woodland.

Soccer: The varsity program is starting their 2012 campaign with a 5-0 record with a good chance of finishing the season undefeated. District playoff will be held in Kalama and start on October 30th.

Golf: led by 2 returning state competitors, the golf team is also touting an undefeated record. Golf districts will be held at 3 rivers golf course on October 15th and 16th.

Cross Country: Both boys and girls teams have strong returning players. The boys have continually been ranked at the state level all season. The girls team possess some very promising young athletes. The league championships are October 16th in White Salmon.

Teachers- Timm DiStefano is the new high school counselor, replacing Paula Tell's position. He is bringing new energy and ideas into the building about college and scholarship

opportunities, skills in conflict resolution, and ideas for pursuing careers to name a few. Timm has jumped into our school environment by quickly learning teacher's names and course offerings. He has helped many students with their schedules and has been very supportive to all students. I also applaud both Mr. "D" (as the student's call him) and Mrs. Krem as they helped facilitate in our "Welcome Back" workshop at the start of the school year. Both counselors presented an interactive lesson with the staff which was part of our "Creating a Safe and Caring School" workshop.

The counselors have also decided on changing the name of the Career Center to the "Student Services Center." The new name clearly speaks of the many services offered. In addition, we are interviewing next week for the Career Specialist classified position in the SSC.

Students- Several teachers met over the summer to start the process of figuring out how to go from 'good' to 'great' within the school climate and culture. One idea of helping all of our freshman and new students morphed into the "Peer Partners" activity. Letters were sent to students that had participated in the Phoenix program and we asked that they bring a friend to a BBQ which was scheduled before school. We were so pleased that over 70 students showed up to help in the planning and volunteering of supporting our freshman. The day was filled with activities, as they planned and organized the first day of school.

We started the first day with a school wide assembly, introducing the staff, singing the school fight song and paring up the freshman and new students with our older students. The goal was to help students learn the routines of the high school, while getting to know an older student they each could go to for support. After the two weeks the teachers met with the Peer Partners to determine what was successful and what can we learn from this experience. We believe that getting students to take ownership in our school culture will continue to create a positive climate.

Last week Josh McNeal approached me in the hallway and said "Ms. Patton, in my four years at LCHS I've never felt this school so positive and full of energy coming from the staff and students as I have this year. It's great!" Josh has also been involved in the Peer Partners planning and implementation. Another outcome from this energy has been a dramatic increase of school spirit and support at many of our fall games like football and volleyball. Join us for the Homecoming game on October 5th. Make sure to wear your blue and white! Go Wildcats!

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Patton
Principal