



OLD TOWN HIGH SCHOOL

School Board Report - January 2021

Scott Gordon, Principal

Ain't No Stoppin Us Now...

Our hybrid learning model at OTHS is still functioning relatively well, considering the challenges that it does present. We are keeping a watchful eye on students who are struggling and the consistent theme through this first half of the year seems to be that the remote part of the puzzle is the sticking point. Our administration meets with school counselors two times per week to go over our list of students who are struggling and make a plan to find a resolution. It is sometimes frustrating work, as those students who need the most help are most often the most difficult to simply get in touch with in order to develop a plan.

Friday marks the end of the first semester of the school year, and we have planned an all-virtual day for our building in order for both students and teachers to bring closure to one set of classes and then be ready to start Monday with a whole new slate of classes. This is sort of like doing the last day of June and the first day of September on back-to-back days. It is also another example of something that doesn't show up in long-term planning on paper. You don't realize the issue is there until you live it for a while.

Don't Stop Believin...

Earlier this fall, we developed a plan to bring struggling students into our building four days per week, in order to eliminate the amount of time that they needed to spend at home working in a remote and perhaps unsupported set-up. In working with teachers and meeting with school counselors, we developed a list based on grades and attendance. Our biggest issue has been finding the right person, with the right set of skills to manage the room. We have now found that person and we will begin to bring a small group of students back four days per week. Our new hire will work on organizational skills and do all that she can to help our students set themselves up for success in the spring semester. I am very hopeful that we can help some of our students get back on track and make better progress toward graduation.

Name of the Game

Our winter sports season has gone relatively well so far. While it has not been without a couple of bumps in the road, those bumps have not yet completely caused the car to leave the road. Mr. Bousquet will be available on Wednesday evening to give an update on the state of sports at OTHS.

The Sound of Music

MacKenzie Gymnasium will soon be alive with the sound of music. With the start of the 2nd semester on Monday, band returns to the schedule of offerings for our students. Due to the restrictions that are still in place, we need to be pretty creative with our set up. First, as I stated previously, our largest class, general band, will be in the gymnasium, which allows the spacing needed for students to play in the same room. Some creative scheduling allowed us to free up this area at the right time. Mr. Priest ordered all of the sleeves needed to cover the instruments which expel saliva upon playing. We have pads for students to drain spit valves in their instruments. The gym will be set up with folding chairs, which naturally have rubber feet so as not to damage the floor. Music stands will be fitted with felt pads on the bottom legs, again to protect our floor. We are going to use our Pixellot camera system, which was installed in the late fall for athletics and other events in the gymnasium, to allow students who are remote to access the class. We have also created a couple of spaces near the gym to store instruments and music stands, as class will meet daily. We do anticipate that the set up and take down will take a considerable amount of time in the early going, but we are very excited to get this very important offering back up and running.

Feel Like a Number

<u>Total Enrollment</u>	538
Grade 9	134
Grade 10	135
Grade 11	129
Grade 12	140
Monday/Tuesday Cohort	193
Thursday/Friday Cohort	164
All Remote	136 [Stable - - (+1) from last month]
Always In (Self-Contained)	16
UTC Students (Monday/Friday)	31

As always, if you have any questions or concerns - please feel free to drop me an email.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Principal, OTHS