

December Board Report

Safety

VAPE 101

Karen Kong, ICSOS Prevention Education, gave a presentation at our December staff meeting about vapes. HSMS has had an uptick in vape usage this school year and with the changes in vapes, namely size to allow them to be more discreet, it was necessary to get caught up with the latest and greatest. Karen brought in a Juul vape and showed the staff how small and inconspicuous they can be. We also provided a sample of vapes that have been confiscated at school to show the staff the different shapes and sizes. Some vapes look very similar to thumb drives and others like pens, both are items that are not foreign to classrooms.

In addition to the staff we also educate the students on the harmful effects of vapes (The known effects, at least). Students receive lessons in their health classes, science classes, YEP (Youth Education Program) and TUPE (Tobacco Use Prevention Education).

The rate at which we are confiscating vapes had begun to drop since earlier in the Fall. This can be attributed to catching and punishing the culprits and education.

LOCKDOWN DRILL

This coming Thursday (December 13th) we will be holding another lockdown drill. This drill will focus on a passing period - when students are going from class to class. We have historically practiced lockdown drills during class time and have that process down. Adding the variable of a passing period will add chaos and a level of unpredictability not yet practiced. Students and staff will know of the drill in advance and they will be instructed on what to do.

Staff will open their doors and shepherd students into classrooms, quiet the students and get them to a safe location in the rooms away from sight lines, lock doors, and close windows. We may end up with many students in any one room and few in others. I am looking forward to the debrief afterwards to see how it went and to learn what we can from the drill.

Attendance

CHRONICALLY ABSENT STUDENTS

The District has a goal to reduce the number of chronically absent students to 250 students by June 2019. Chronically absent students are students that miss over 10 % of the school year. HSMS has been doing its part in order to meet that goal. Namely, parent meetings of students

with excessive absences or a history of absences and sharing data with the staff monthly at our staff meetings have been the approaches that we used. These have shown some positive results: Last year at this time we had 8.7% (38 students) of our student body classified as chronically absent and this year that percentage is reduced to 6.5% (29 students).

TARDY SWEEPS

HSMS continues to use tardy sweeps randomly throughout the weeks to ensure students get to class on time. The amount of students caught up in the sweeps fluctuates, but an overall improvement on the number of late students to class has taken place.

Student Connectedness

MENTORING GROUPS

We have challenged all our staff to connect with their mentoring groups again before the Christmas break. Ideas that we shared to connect around were checking on grade progress, having lunch as a group, sharing holiday cards with the students, and checking in on the goals that the students wrote on the first day of school and how they were progressing. Tim Maloney, Athletic Director, shared the list of ineligible students to the mentors so we could talk with the students about raising their grades in order to continue playing basketball.

WINTER SPORTS

Basketball

Home Street Middle School basketball is back in full effect. We have Ms. Rachel Cokeley heading a strong girls outfit for her second year in a row. She is being assisted by Ms. Lindy Butler, and together they bring tons amounts of energy, enthusiasm, and athleticism to share with a tight knit group of a dozen of our dedicated girl ballers. BUHS alum and former coach Russell Grevenkamp, with help from Shane Greer, heads our boys squad, bringing a solid background in skills fundamentals and positive character development. As always, HSMS believes that each player is a student first and an athlete second, and we maintain a strict athletic eligibility policy to ensure that our players are taking care of business in the classroom before being able to represent HSMS on the courts.

Skiing

HSMS is looking forward to another season of ski PE and race team. 21 students are participating on the race team and roughly 40 from each grade level in the ski PE program. Both programs start on January 8th. Students need to keep a 3.0 GPA in order to be on the race team and a 2.0 GPA for the ski PE program. The difference is due to the amount of school time missed between the 2 programs.

After School Grant Opportunity

At our last staff meeting we brainstormed offerings for the After School Education and Safety Program if we happened to get the grant. The grant will allow for roughly \$164,000 for HSMS alone, each year for 3 years. The other sites in the District would be granted similar amounts as well. The grant calls for an after school program that supports academics with intervention and enrichment opportunities plus physical activity, recreation and activities to support positive youth development. Teachers brainstormed offerings that could be part of the program and those can be viewed [here](#).

Band Concert

The HSMS band concert was held December 5th in the high school auditorium. The Jazz, Symphonic, and Concert bands all did a great job under the direction of Dan Daugherty. 120 students are in our Band Programs.

Parade

As always the best part of the yearly Christmas Parade are the entries from HSMS. The Color Guard / Drill Team and Band represented HSMS well as they danced and played down Main Street.

AVID

LAPTOP BREAKAGE UPDATE

The Chromebooks have historically been broken at a rate more than 1 a day. Two years ago we had 238 repaired and last year it was 268 that were repaired. Amazingly this year, we have had 10 in for repair. At first I did not believe this number as it is wildly off pace. When we discussed this at the staff meetings teachers definitely said they are seeing less broken screens and other damage. We will perform a mid year check to see if some students do indeed have broken devices and are just not turning them in.

The new Chromebooks are slightly smaller and they do fit nicely in the protective cases and also in the student's backpacks easier.

ADMIN AVID TRAINING

On December 13th and 14th the principals will be involved in a training to look at the steps to continue to push AVID district wide. Denise Wren from the AVID Center will be facilitating the training as we look at BUSD's current reality, our goals, school alignment, and work towards a strategic plan.

Student Health

The note below is from Chantal Linnastruth, District Nurse regarding a great opportunity for our students.

It is with extreme pleasure for me to notify you on behalf of the California Health and Wellness program that we will be offering free eye examinations and free eye glasses if needed to the students in Inyo county through the Vision To Learn program. If you would like your child to receive a vision examination, please complete a consent form that will be sent home from school beginning January 7, 2019 until the end of January 31, 2019. Please return the consent form to the school attendance office or the classroom teacher. The vision screenings will be offered during the regular school day beginning the week of April 29 through May 3, 2019. You do not need to be present for the examination. If you have any further questions please email me at clinnastruth@bishopschools.org. I can also be contacted in my office at 760-872-1278 and ask to be transferred to the school nurse.