

Principal's Report
Oxbow High School
Nov. 18, 2020

Good evening.

Roses -

Our **staff** are our roses. Our students and parents are our roses. Our community is our rose. Please do not forget school staff when thanking essential workers. They are on the frontline giving their all to our students. Last meeting you asked about morale. I reported that we were exhausted, but hanging in there. I now realize we are very exhausted and frustrated. I would say because of the patriots they are, our staff is putting on a great face each day for our students and community, but going home and breaking down.

Behavior incidents are down - students eating in small groups in rooms and no locker rooms - have made a huge difference.

Buds -

Thorns -

Student attendance continues to be concerning. We are changing the way students sign in on remote days - holding them more accountable - next week.

Students who did not do well last spring were given extra time and support to complete the learning. Many still have incompletes in those courses. For some, this may mean credit recovery or a flexible pathway plan.

Here are a few updates from Oxbow.

COVID UPDATE - Here is a letter that was sent out via mail, email, Infinite Campus announcements, robocall, facebook and posted on our webpage:

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Our number one goal is to keep our school open in a safe and healthy way for as many students and days as possible. We have made adjustments to our schedule in

response to the new spikes in COVID cases in Vermont. These changes will reduce the number of students in classrooms and the building at any given time, will allow students to safely move around the building more, and will allow for more consistent social distancing. These changes will be in effect until the threat of COVID in our area has subsided. Please read the following document carefully and address questions and concerns to Jean Wheeler (jean.wheeler@oesu.org)

Effective Monday, November 23, 2020, ALL Oxbow students, grades 7-12, will ONLY attend school for in-person learning with their assigned cohort. The process for taking attendance will change on November 23, 2020. Please read the details below.

You will receive a letter in the mail with your child’s cohort assignment. These cohort assignments may not be the same as they were in the fall.

Here are the most important details regarding this change. Please read them carefully and discuss them with your child. **NOTHING CHANGES UNTIL MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD.**

1. Beginning on Monday, November 23rd.

- **MONDAY, November 23, 2020: Purple Cohort Day**
- **TUESDAY, November 24, 2020: White Cohort Day**

2. Beginning on **Monday, November 30, 2020**, students will attend school with their cohorts, **ONLY** on the days they are assigned. Here is a chart that explains:

	Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Friday
Purple	In School	In School	Remote	Remote	Remote
White	Remote	Remote	Remote	In School	In School

- **In School** - The student comes to school for in-person learning. Attendance is taken in homeroom between 7:55 - 8:00 AM.
- **Remote** - The student does not come to school. They log into their homeroom site, with both video and mic, by 7:55 AM. Failure to log in will result in an absence. If you do not have Internet access, you **MUST** call the office by 8:30 AM. They proceed to their grade level Google Site for instructions on learning for the day.
- **In-School and Remote** - A parent must call the office by 8:30 AM to report your child absent.

We understand that changes in our students’ schedules can cause difficulties for some families. We have made this decision carefully and believe it will allow us to stay open for more time during the winter months and will allow our students to safely move around in the building while maintaining social distancing.

ATHLETICS UPDATE -

Fall Season:

Middle School Boys Soccer-

Coach: Barry Emerson

Participants: 14- 12 From Oxbow and 2 from Waits River

Middle School Girls Soccer:

Coach: Mike Aldrich

Participants: 17- 13 from Oxbow and 4 From waits river

Both of the middle school teams had successful seasons. They were able to draw in new participants and pull kids that had traditionally played in the youth football system, to come play soccer. It was great to integrate the Waits River kids into the program, and feel that is a beneficial tool for attracting kids to Oxbow. They all had a great time and felt the season was a success given the challenging times.

Boys Varsity Soccer:

Coach: Andrew Fisher Assistant: Robbie Murdza

Record- 1-8 Loss in first round to BFA Fairfax

Participants- 14

The boys team won their first game in nearly two years this season. They were much more competitive in some of their games as compared to last season. They were a hard working group that never gave up in games even when some scores were lopsided.

Girls Varsity Soccer:

Coach: Dan Thomas Assistant: Brad DeGoosh

Record: 4-5 Loss in First round to Lake Region

Participants: 18

The girls team had an up and down season. After graduating some really strong players, it took the team some time to find their footing in some new roles. The team showed a ton of heart in the playoffs battling back from down 2-0 to nearly tie the game. It was a resilient group and one of our strongest in terms of participation.

Cross Country:

Coach: Cassie Saikin

Participants: 9 HS and 2 MS

5 competed in the VT state championships

The XC team is still a young one, without any seniors on the roster. They were a group that improved greatly throughout the season, with many of them setting personal records late in the year. They were a super helpful group in running our home meet, which included close to 150 runners. The XC team is a very motivated group that loves to get out and run.

Football:

Coach: Chad Wescott

Participants: 17- 12 from Oxbow-3 From Blue Mountain-2 from Rivendell

Record 0-7 Loss to Spaulding in first round of regional tournament

The football team adapted to the new 7v7 format. The regional schedule was a challenge, playing many D1 and D2 schools. They competed hard and had games where they lost to U32 in overtime and only lost to St. Johnsbury by a touchdown.

Winter:

Right now the only thing set in stone is Basketball. The state is not allowing indoor track to take place. Basketball will begin on Nov. 30th for the high school and Dec. 7 for MS. After the new year, we will be looking to get outdoor activities in place like snowshoeing and XC skiing. We also hope to start the drama program back up in January, and will be looking at other options that we can provide, although social distancing will make it a challenge to provide anything else indoors.

I am planning on hosting a Basketball info/Q&A meeting on Monday Nov. 23 that will have a coaches meeting completed prior to that. There are still many unknowns that we are working through on how to provide a safe and successful basketball environment.

Coaches:

Boys Varsity Basketball: Justin Smith

Boys JV Basketball: Chuck Simmons

Boys Varsity Assistant: Vacant

Girls Varsity Basketball: Barry Emerson

Girls JV Basketball: Leslie Lamoureux

Girls Varsity Assistant: Shawn French

Middle School Basketball: I will be helping coach the MS program. I will be starting the program with help of HS coaches, and once we know how many teams we will be able to offer, we will look at adding extra help if needed.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES - In spite of not being able to have in person parent/teacher conferences we still had a good turn out. All parents that requested a conference were more than willing to use zoom or at least willing to try it out if they hadn't before, some with the help of their own children. There were a couple of glitches but there is bound to be with anything new.

SHARE THE BOUNTY - Share the Bounty at Oxbow is a very long standing tradition. Faculty and staff collectively bring in food for Thanksgiving or donate money towards baskets that are given to those in need. This year we weren't sure if we would /should continue this tradition but after some discussion we all agreed especially this year we need to help those less fortunate. We usually put together meals for 8-12 families but this year we decided upon eight so as not to ask too much from the staff. Well we have collected more food and have had more donations of money than in many years past, we will definitely be surpassing 12 meals.

SCIENCE - Science Inquiry class is studying/testing memory of our gerbil. They each created part of a large maze. Day 1: 1st time trial was 14 minutes. 2nd time trial (video) was 2 minutes 34 seconds. Here is a link to a video: [Day 1 Test 2 Gerbil Maze](#)

10th Grade Biology visits our neighborhood resource, Wright's Mountain, each year to explore our ecosystem. Here are a few photos: [Wright's Mountain \(a few pictures from the 3 trips\)](#) They then did research about a Vermont Animal. Here is the link to websites the honor class made. [Vermont animals](#)

FLU CLINIC - Oxbow High School offered a free flu shot clinic to staff and students on Tuesday, November 17th. We had a great turn out.

ENGLISH AND LANGUAGE ARTS INTERVENTION - Oxbow is now receiving Title 1 funds, which were used to hire an ELA Interventionist. I'm happy to report on Oxbow's implementation of a new program designed to serve all students, increase their capabilities and improve overall literacy among our entire student population. Through our Academic Interventionist and her new course, Layered Literacy. This new program serves students from 7th-12th grade. It's not a "pull out" class so to speak in that students aren't missing any of their core classes. Instead, I receive my students 2-5x a week during their allotted study hall times or other predetermined times as designated through collaboration with all Core teams and departments. The curriculum echoes what

is being done in their regular English classes as well as supporting additional opportunities to access the fundamentals of education, particularly as they pertain to navigating the rigorous expectations of academics at the middle/high school level. A sort of extra layer of literacy exposure instead of students simply sitting in a study hall or not receiving the assistance they need and deserve.

NOTES FOR THE SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELORS -

- We had a successful turnout for the PSAT and SAT tests on October 23:
 - PSAT - 16 tenth graders took the test, 35 eleventh graders took the test
 - SAT School Day - only OHS students allowed to test - out of 49 seniors, 23 took the test.
- We have 17 out of 24 eligible students in grades 11/12 who have signed up for dual enrollment Statistics or PreCalculus
- All 20 students in AP Language and Composition have signed up to take the AP test in May.
- 8 seniors applied Early Action to UVM and other colleges.