

Oxbow High School
Principal's Report
Dec. 23, 2020

Principal's Report: (JeanWheeler)

Our goal is to keep OHS open for as many days possible - for as many students possible - during the COVID crisis. We found that at least 2 days a week with student contact is much better than 100% remote. When the decision was made to stay open during the holidays, we re-assessed our schedule. Prior to Nov. 23, 2020, we had all students, grade 7-10, 4 days a week; and, students in grades 11 and 12 came 2 days a week. On Nov. 23rd we transitioned into a cohort schedule - all students, grades 7-12, are in-person 2 days a week/Remote 3 days a week.

WHY:

- Reduced our class size to under 10. This will allow us to combine 2 similar grade level classes when a teacher is out and still be able to maintain social distancing.
- Students in 7th and 8th grades can move safely around the building more. We were beginning to see behavior issues with students when kept in one classroom for the entire day (some breaks for PE)
- In general makes our school safer during the holidays - only 125 students a day in the building.

Our data shows that if Oxbow has gone 100% remote for the week after each vacation (Nov. 30 - Dec. 4; and, Jan. 4 - Jan. 8), we still would have been forced to go remote for 4 additional days, based on staff absences. By going to this cohort schedule, we have been able to remain open to our students everyday.

What do students who are remote doing? Teachers are intensifying the instruction on the inperson days with smaller groups, then using the remote days as project-based and enhanced learning days. Some teachers are teaching synchronously, using technology in their classroom to reach students every day. Others are setting activities on Google classroom, using that platform to check in with the students.

Although remote learning in any form is not ideal, we feel that using this cohort model until Jan. 15, 2021 will help us reach our goal - to keep OHS open for as many days possible - for as many students possible.

Purple Pride's and Announcements:

Written by a high school student -

"My family has history regarding the Holocaust. The picture attached is my great, great grandmother, Theresa. She married a Hungarian man of some nobility. For years it was a family secret that she was a French Jew and she eventually died of natural causes. Her sister was captured and brought to Bergen Belsen for a couple years before being released as the guards decided she wasn't Jewish enough. It was especially important that the secret was kept when

my grand aunt, who my dad knew as Tante Erma, married a German bombardier in the Luftwaffe named Adolf.”

NHS is working on online mentoring of some 20 7th and 8th graders. The NHS kids have been reaching out to the younger ones to try and keep them focused with their online learning or just to make a connection.

Facilities Report: (submitted by Terry Cromack)

- The staff has been great! Stepping up to the plate to disinfect, disinfect, disinfect. We couldn't have in person learning without them. The maintenance and custodial staff have done, and continue to do, an amazing job.
- Everyone is pitching in to “do more with less” as we pray for a budget. Among these efforts are recycling old containers as cleaning and paint buckets, zip ties and duct tape use is abundant, and Dave Lingwood donated the use of his personal stump grinder.
- During December we will be performing the bi-annual AHERA 6 month periodic surveillance inspection; the annual lead paint compliance statement and starting the process of renewing our indirect discharge permit (the sewer system).
- We continue to replace failed pneumatic controls with electronics as required.
- Efficiency Vermont has asked for potential HVAC upgrades JUST IN CASE more Covid grant money becomes available. I sent them information for 37 new all in one unit heaters.

- For future planning, we need to begin a discussion about the future of our current sewer system. An upgrade will be due within the next 5 years. Do we want to approach the town about extending the town system and pipe in to it, or do we want to continue with the tank/leach field system?

Respectfully Submitted,
Terry Cromack
Facilities Director

Assistant Principal Report: (Robin Wozny)

Throughout the school year we have been working on targeting struggling learners and providing support and intervention. During the second semester we will offer extended hours. Using Title 1 money we will be offering after hours help sessions to provide students with assistance in completing current homework assignments. This will be open to anyone but we will be targeting those students who struggle with completing assignments.

In conjunction with this program we will also be offering a winter session (during February break) for those students who have credit recovery needs. This program will also be offered in late June to help those students who have fallen behind in credits.

Athletic/Activities Director Report:

We are still waiting for the Governor to lift his pause on school and recreational sports before we can begin a winter season. At this point, it is looking as though this will not take place before the new year at the earliest.

The drama department is putting together a set of short productions that will take place in February. They will begin tryouts shortly after students return from the December break and we will be live streaming the production for all families to see.

We are also working with the student council to try and see what student interests there may be to offer other activities after the new year and beyond.