

Norwood Public Schools Board of Education
Principals Report
12-12-19

Respectfully Submitted by Perri Gipner and Sara Rasmussen

Behavior
<p>The PBIS Leadership Team (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) co-leads will present to the new board what PBIS is and how they can support the initiative. An overview of PBIS components as well as the work being done at NPS will be provided, particularly the benefits of a PBIS system, data and exemplars of school-wide acknowledgements, and a discussion on how the board can support staff and students.</p>
Communication
<p>The MTSS Leadership Team (Multi-Tiered Systems of Support) received a grant in the amount of \$12,343 for the 2019-2020 school year. MTSS team members will also present to the board.</p>
Personnel Development
<p>Early Literacy Grant (ELG): Amy will be meeting with the teachers on January 7th to conduct a data dig on the testing results from December. This collaboration will allow teachers to create plans for students who have not met benchmark or who have exceeded benchmark.</p> <p>PBIS Coaches and Administration attended the 2nd round of PBIS coaching in Denver In October.</p> <p>PBIS Technical Assistance is being offered to our staff through Robyn Shank. Sue Williams, Warren Taylor, Ross Willms, Nicole Taylor, and Abbie Mahlin are working with Robyn every month to hone their PBIS skills.</p> <p>Ellen Metrick took a webinar with Jill Jackson, "Jill Tackles Your Most Upvoted Challenges in WRITING". From Ellen, "the biggest takeaway from this course is that I know how to tackle state standards in a new way to lay out the specific skills to teach that will boost writing effectiveness. Since I am focusing on writing growth this year, I'm now taking time to walk back through the state writing standards to list the skills so I can teach them more systematically."</p> <p>Ellen Metrick is enrolled in "Tackling the Text", a six-week, self-paced pilot course through AchieveTheCore.org for 12 hours of professional development.</p> <p>Teri Williams attended the Colorado Association of School Nurses Fall Conference, School Nurses Managing Neurological Conditions, and a webinar regarding the care of children with Diabetes.</p>

2019 NSTA Science Conference Salt Lake City:

Warren Taylor, high school science, Kelly Webb, 5th grade teacher, and Nicole Taylor, 4th grade, attended the 2019 National Science Teachers Association Area Conference in Salt Lake City on October 24-26. As Colorado starts to integrate the 2020 Science standards we thought it was important to learn and gain insights into the Next Generation Science Standards and the way others were using them to guide their teaching as we have adapted our new standards from NGSS..

One of Kelly's takeaways was that the new standards of "cross-cutting" curriculum is already being done in the elementary grades. For example, the fifth grade wrote about hurricanes which coincided with their weather unit. Also, Kelly says there is a great opportunity to work with the community to find Project Based Learning scenarios that could strengthen the community/school relationship. Maybe there could be formalized pathway for community members to bring such problems to the school for consideration. Mr. Webb is also excited that there are several curriculums that we can "demo" for free to see if there is a good fit for K-5 &/or 9-12.

Nicole is excited about the resources: online, paper and personal, that were shared during the conference. She found resources for simulations and authentic data through PBS LearningMedia that will help with the space standards. Also, she learned that NGSS is helping students to connect what they are learning about in science to what is going on in the world. One way of doing that is using phenomena, which is, what is happening in our world that we need our science to explain. By starting with a phenomena we can raise questions so that we build science knowledge in the context of trying to understand or solve the problem.

Warren was introduced to argument-driven inquiry projects that allows the students to defend their findings and ask questions of their classmate's findings in a round-robin approach. This also allows students to see the multiple ways that can be taken in order to achieve the same results. The students also are the designers and engineers of their experiments which allows the students to both succeed and fail, but then learn from their failures to improve their design and make a better finished project.

Warren also found many tools that can be used in the classroom such as digital sensors, online data sets, resources that come vetted by teachers, and many others. These resources can be used to help implement the new science standards as curriculums are being tested and one is found that will work well with the new standards.

Abbie Mahlin, elementary art teacher, the CAEA annual conference provides the highest quality professional development available. She was so grateful for the opportunity to attend. While attending this year she balanced the focus of classes between three themes.

- Practical: Classes that would provide new ideas and techniques and workshops that would fit well with the interests of the kids in Norwood while stretching their art making into universal themes.
- Pedagogy: Workshops geared toward general teaching and curricular development
- Keynote Speeches: Understanding the vision and big picture of Arts Education in Colorado and keeping up with the times.

Time

SSaCC (Safe, Supportive and Collaborative Culture) for November included staff collaborations on graduation requirements, teacher band, primary grade writing curriculum, and more. The December SSaCC day included PBIS training for new teachers and all classified staff, as well as collaborations on behavior matrix revisions, teacher band, high school implementation of lunch detention for 2nd semester, MTSS and PBIS presentations to the board, and Christmas Around the World in elementary.

Norwood Public Schools continues to collaborate with Carla Reams with Skillful Westend and the West End Public Schools along with the support of the Telluride Foundation

Four-Day School Week

Friday Intervention: Elementary students are continuing to come in on Fridays from 8-noon. We have on average 16 kids attending. This is an increase from last year.

Other Important Information & Celebrations

Thank you to all of our staff that helped with coverage the last couple of weeks. With the sub shortage your help was greatly appreciated.

Literacy Night was held December 5th. Parents came and enjoyed a movie where the students performed various literacy based skits and passages. A special thanks goes out to **Ken Lawrence** for making this movie happen!

Congratulations to **Robbie Bunker** for passing the K-12 Physical Education PRAXIS test.

Sammi Reed and Jacob Gordon attended the National FFA Convention the last week of October.

Miss Kolbet's 7th and 8th grade science classes did a fish ecology field trip on November 6th which was made possible by the Forest Service and Watershed Education Program. We are lucky to have partnerships with these organizations to provide our students these hands on learning opportunities.

Recently, the State FFA Officers presented to all middle school students and FFA members. The workshops for middle school students were based on John C. Maxwell's book *Sometimes You Win--Sometimes You Learn: Life's Greatest Lessons Are Gained from Our Losses*. Students discussed what can be learned from failure. The workshop for the 7th grade focused a bit more on being kind and positive. Students brainstormed ways to be kinder and shared their ideas with an accountability buddy. The workshop for the FFA members was about mentorship. The high school students were very insightful about what they want in a mentor (see attached photo of their message to our students).

Teri Williams collaborated with the Uncompahgre Medical Clinic to bring flu vaccines to our students and staff. Teri continues to work with our teachers, students, and custodial staff to reduce exposure to contagious illnesses.

Counselor Update from Rick Williams

- To date, 8 seniors have been offered admission to 18 colleges and postsecondary programs throughout the United States and have earned \$212,750.00 in scholarships thus far.
- All Fall PSAT testing for grades 8-10 are complete and I have gone over results with each class.
- The junior class took the ASVAB test in October and we received their scores. The ASVAB is part of the state menu of acceptable tests for meeting the state graduation requirements.
- The juniors will take their first record SAT on 7 December. We have completed two full practice SAT tests this semester in preparation for the record examination. We will receive results before Christmas Break.
- We currently have students (juniors and seniors) enrolled in college concurrent courses through Colorado Mountain College, and have students enrolled for Spring term. Of special note, we have some freshman who qualified to take college coursework next semester.
- We have a 65% completion rate on the FAFSA.
- We continue to focus on behavioral and mental health support programs in our school with much help from the Center for Mental Health, the San Miguel Resource Center (SMRC) and the One to One/Peer Mentorship Program.

Jessica Johnson's two Robotics team did very well this year. Anti-Pollution received an award for their Innovation project for the Judge's Choice Award. If you see green boxes around the school, stop and read their posters! Each person successfully programmed a mission, even if it didn't run smoothly at the qualifier. Over all, this team was amazing and scored high across the board. For most of them, this was their third year.

MasterMinds was our second team and they can boast to scoring 190 in the Robot games! This put them at 4th out of 12! This newbie team also scored higher than expected across all 4 areas. They have room to grow but were the strongest in their robot performance.

The four areas they are judged on are as follows:

Robot games

Innovation Project
Robot Design
Core Values (This holds the most weight)

The robotics team, Anti-pollution, was invited to compete at the state competition in Denver. Our group will be traveling with the West End students. Thank you Jessica Johnson for making this happen for our students. Good Luck, team!

<http://www.firstlegoleague.org/challenge#challenge>

***Don't forget to check the school calendar at www.norwoodk12.org for the concerts and activities that are happening before winter break.

Norwood Students,

We can't begin to thank you enough for letting us come and hang out with you for a day! We were so impressed by your engagement, respect, and enthusiasm to learn. We had so much fun getting to know each of you and saw so much potential in all of you! Keep being awesome, you all are so, so incredible! And remember, be RELENTLESS! Y'all rock!

- Lauren & Ashlyn

(If you need it, Miss Holbet knows how to get ahead of us!)



Perri and Sara attended an awards presentation at the state capitol for districts who earned awards for their academic success and accepted the awards on behalf of our staff and students from the State Board of Education and Governor Jared Polis.

Norwood Public Schools was recognized for being a district **Accredited with Distinction**. This is given to school districts that earn 80% or more of the points on the District Performance Framework. The District Performance Frameworks measure student performance in academic achievement, academic growth, academic growth gaps and post-secondary and workforce readiness.

Norwood High School was awarded **The High School Academic Growth Awards** recognizing high schools that demonstrate the highest levels of students' academic growth in reading writing and math, within each classification used by the statewide association for high school activities for the sport of football. Only seven high schools in the state earned this award.

