

August 19, 2013

Hello Howard Staff!

I hope you all are still enjoying your last few days summer! I had a lot of fun playing with my little 1-year-old, Josie, and her 4-year-old big sister, Grace. Beside playing with kids, we took some trips and I was able to read a few of the books on my summer reading list (Ready Player One by Ernest Cline was by far my favorite. It's a must read for Gen-X, 80s pop culture geeks like myself!). Since having kids, the amount of books I read during the summer has dramatically declined, but I supposed that's an okay trade off. Alright, on with the show...



We have a number of new staff members joining us this year. Please join me in welcoming Carrie Davis (Learning Center), Jen Kirkwood (Comprehensive Learning Center), Robin Vaughan (newly hired as Title 1 Coordinator), Cyria Wisner (Title 1 EA), James Grubic (TSS III), Rachel Farkas (PE), and David Adee (Music).

Carrie Davis, our new LC teacher, was previously the learning center teacher at Edison. Jen Kirkwood, our new CLC teacher, was the CLC-B teacher at Edison last year and before that was the CLC teacher at Spencer Butte. Before that, I worked with Jen when she was the LC teacher at Corridor and YG. Robin Vaughan isn't new to Howard, but new to her position as our Title 1 Coordinator. I'm very excited to have someone in the position who is both familiar with Howard's workshop model and also has Title 1 Coordinator experience. This year we added two new Title 1 EA positions to provide more intervention groups. Cyria Wisner was at Willagillespie this past year and is returning to Howard for one of the positions. The other position is still yet to be filled. James Grubic will be our new TSS and is also the lead TSS for the North Region. He has previously been the TSS III at Awbrey Park and Madison. And finally, our specialists for the year will be Rachel Farkas for PE and David Adee for Music. Both Rachel and David have a history of teaching at the elementary level and both are also district TOSAs for PE and Music, so we'll have a couple of district leaders for PE and Music in our building! Please welcome all of these folks as they join the Howard family.

We'll be holding interviews this week for our Title 1 EA, Kindergarten and Reading & Math Intervention positions. ESS is also working to finalize Life Skills EA placements, so hopefully we'll know soon who will be working with Rae. ESS has reassured me that they will work with Life Skills teachers and are intending to keep the same staff at each site as much as possible. I'm sure I'll have some staffing updates to share in my announcements next week!

Below are a few other informational updates:

- **In-Service Week Schedule** - This year's schedule is not quite as tight as last year, though it's still different from the traditional 4J back-to-school in-service schedule. See the calendar below for events happening the first two weeks of school. The rest of the year's dates are on the Howard Google Calendar.

- **September 4th, District PD Day** - You should have already received an email regarding this day from downtown, so I won't repeat it here, but I have three pieces of information to add:
 - One, part-time teaching staff are strongly encouraged to attend all day and principals are being allowed to comp people non-student days to exchange for attending the all day training. If you fall into the category, let me know and we can work something out.
 - Two, classified staff should connect with your primary cooperating teacher about what you can help with during this time.
 - Three, I wanted to let teachers know that I have lobbied HR to place our TalentEd training either at the start or the end of the day, so that teachers who were part of the pilot won't have to attend. I'm not sure I'll get my way, but I wanted to let folks know that I tried.
- **Howard Construction Updates** - PiVOT/DOWA was hired this summer as the architects to lead the planning and construction of the new Howard. This is the same firm that built Holt and Chavez. The plan is for a two-story building with a capacity of 600 students. The timeline, as long as there are no delays, is for us to open in fall 2015, meaning we will be breaking ground at the end of this school year and only have two more years in the old building. District Facilities staff are working with PiVOT/DOWA right now to schedule planning and input sessions for the building design. More to come!
- **PE and Music Update** - PE and Music staffing went through a few different iterations this summer, but the final plan is for Howard to have a 0.8 Music teacher the first half of the year and a 0.8 PE teacher for the second half of the year. This will put a specialist in our building full-time, four days a week (M-H), and will allow Rachel and David to complete their TOSA duties on Fridays. This will also give us enough staffing to make sure that all classrooms receive 30 minutes of specialist time twice a week for the entire school year, which is a significant increase from this past year.
- **Copier PINs** - I've decided to do away with the copy machine PIN numbers, so staff don't feel they have to ration their copies. Staff should still be judicious in your copies and should strive to use InstaPrint for bulk orders. And although I'm not a fan of worksheets as an instructional strategy, which one smart principal I know refers to as "shut-up sheets," just remember to just make copies for what you really need and not go too crazy with the copy machine.
- **Allan Off Superintendent's Cabinet** - I've taken myself off Superintendent's Cabinet to minimize the amount of time I'm out of the building. I imagine I'll still be pulled out some with new building meetings, but at least it won't be on top of sup cabinet.
- **Breakfast Burrito Orders Due 8/29** - Lori and I would like to welcome everyone back with a back-to-school breakfast on the first day most staff report back, Tuesday, September 3rd. We'll have breakfast burritos from Burrito Amigo. If you have a preference of burrito, be sure to let Lori know your order before we place the order on Thursday, August 29th. Plan to eat and visit between 8:00 and 8:30 and then the rest of the day will be yours.

- **Schedule of Events for the Next Couple Weeks** - See the [Google Calendar](#) for all future events, but here are the events of note for the first two weeks of the school year:

September 2 (M)

Memorial Day - No School

September 3 (T)

Teachers and Classified Staff Return - Planning Day

8:00-8:30, Welcome Back Breakfast Burrito Gathering (Cafeteria)

September 4 (W)

8:00-4:00, All-day teacher professional development (South Eugene High School)

September 5 (H)

Planning Day

September 6 (F)

8:00-12:00, Howard Back to School Staff Meeting & PD (Breakfast provided)

September 9 (M)

8:00-10:00, Staff Meeting - potential meeting for any needed business (Library)

10:00, Q&A Session for New Staff (Library)

1:00-2:00, Meet your Teacher

September 10 (T)

First Day for Students

PBIS Focus: Safety

2:30-3:30, Grade Level Collaboration Time

September 11 (W)

REGULAR DAY

September 12 (H)

2:30-3:30, TLT Meeting (Room 6)

September 6 (F)

REGULAR DAY

Enjoy your last few days of summer and see you all soon!

Allan

BREAKFAST BURRITO ORDER!

Let Lori know your order by the morning of **Thursday, August 29th**.

Breakfast Burrito – Select your meat choice, with scrambled eggs, bean, potatoes, and cheese in a big flour tortilla. We'll assume you want a regular size unless you specify junior. Choices are:

- CHORIZO (mildly spicy Mexican pork sausage)
- MACHACA (beef, sautéed with onion, tomato and bell pepper with egg),
- HUEVOS RANCHEROS (spicy chilé verde pork),
- BACON
- LINK SAUSAGE
- MEATLESS (Eggs, potatoes and cheese)

