

August 19, 2016

Greetings Excellent Howard Staff!

I hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable summer and are enjoying your final days of vacation! I stayed close to home this summer since I knew I'd get roped back in with new building stuff, which is exactly what happened. Everything from fight battles that "yes, we do need a PA system for outside the building," to getting regular sized US flags for classrooms instead of the tiny ones that were ordered, to the ongoing question of "When's the parking lot going to be finished?" It's been an interesting summer for sure, but I did get to see my favorite band from high school, took some short trips with my family, and also discovered synthwave music rad!



Howard is continuing to grow, which means we have a number of new staff members joining us this year, so please join me in welcoming the following folks. Ashely Pond (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) is returning to Howard. Ashley taught 3<sup>rd</sup> grade for several years at Howard, then at ATA, and most recently at Gilham. Matt Robinson (Counselor) comes to us from New Jersey where he was a middle school counselor. Matt has a with a background in positive behavior support systems and was the Intervention and Referrals Service Coordinator at his old school, which is similar to our IPBS team. Siera Kaup (Music) did her student teaching with our prior music teacher, David Adee, and should provide some nice continuity for our music program. Katie Gates (Learning Center) is moving from her CLC EA position into a part-time LC teacher position. Taking Katie's place in the CLC is Rebecca Hanson, who was an LC 1:1 this past year. ESS (now rebranded SSD, the Student Services Department) is in the process of hiring a replacement for Rebecca's 1:1 position. Patricia Donahue (Kindergarten EA) was a CLC 1:1 at the end of the school year, but she is now joining the KG team. Prior to this year, Patricia has been a CLC EA at Edison and also at Cal Young when I was assistant principal there. Alicia Kristen (CLC 1:1) will be taking Patricia's 1:1 position. Alicia has taught at Adams International Montessori School and at Whole Earth Nature School for the past five years. Janet Rappaport (Learning Center EA) will be filling the LC EA position left vacant by Cheri's retirement. Janet comes to us from Awbrey Park where she has been a Learning Center EA. We also have a new School Psychologist, Becky Beeler, who is new to the district.

At 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade we received additional staffing to create a 4/5 blend, which Stephanie Peterson will likely be filling instead of job sharing with Allison Kreider at 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. I say "likely" because we are posting for a 0.25 FTE 4/5 job share position, though I'm guessing Stephanie will be the only applicant. At 4<sup>th</sup> grade, Amber Frank has taken a part-time leave, so we've posted for a part-time job share position for both Amber and Allison that close this Sunday and Monday.

Positions yet to be filled by ESS/SSD include the above mentioned replacement for Rebecca's 1:1 job, a second LC EA position that was added to our Learning Center, Aden's 1:1 CLC EA position left vacant when he moved to Alabama, and also Jennifer Dills' Life Skills EA position, which she resigned from over the summer. With Kelly Henson taking a job at Lane County, our current plan for her position is to divide her hours among current Title 1 EAs.

Howard is also the new home to the first ever district sponsored preschool program. In the first grade wing, we'll have our very own preschool this year through the ODE Preschool Promise grant. Gretchen Baxter was hired as preschool teacher. She previously taught Head Start at LCC and before that was a kindergarten teacher along with working in special education. Interviews for preschool EAs will happen this Tuesday.

It's crazy to think when I started here five years ago there were only eleven classrooms with forty something staff members and this year we're up to eighteen classrooms with over seventy staff members. I've said this before, but Howard is gaining a great reputation in the community and it's thanks to all of you, our amazing staff! Please welcome all of these fine new folks as they join the rock star Howard Elementary School team!

Below are a few other informational updates:

- **In-service Week Meeting Schedule** – The calendar for the first two weeks of school is below. See the building [Google Calendar](#) for future dates. I wanted to highlight that we'll do our Back-to-School Staff Meeting on Wednesday due to the science training for classroom teachers on Friday. Our staff meeting will largely be a nuts-and-bolts training of how all the new things in our building work and a review of our teaching plan for students and the first days of school.
- **Interview Committee** – If anyone would like to volunteer to help with interviews, we'll be holding our Preschool EA interviews Tuesday morning, Amber's job-share interviews will be Wednesday morning, and Allison's job-share partner interviews will be Wednesday afternoon. Just let me know if you're interested.
- **New Building Updates** – I have many more items to share in my first weekly staff announcements next week and at our back-to-school staff meeting, but here are the essential items for now:
  - **New Building Access** – If you are coming in early, Facilities is asking staff to use the gate in the back by the skate park, but starting Tuesday, the bus loop will be available for staff to park.
  - **Unpacking Extra Paid Days** – For classified staff who are receiving extra time to help with unpacking, let me know if any of you are NOT planning to use your 16 hours, as there are staff willing to take this extra time.
  - **Furniture Needs ASAP** - If you want to get rid of any furniture in your classroom or need any additional furniture (desks, chairs, tables, file cabinets, storage, etc.), let me know as soon as possible so we have time to shift around furniture locations.
  - **Recycling and Boxes** - Our moving boxes are going to be reused and sent over to River Road, so please break them down and leave them outside your room and Crystal will collect them. Also, if staff are recycling any old papers or materials, please do not put any boxes (broken down or not) inside the large recycle containers. Since the parking lot isn't finished yet, we don't know how soon our recycling can be picked up and want to be able to maximize space in the recycle bins. Just leave any non-moving boxes to the side of the recycle containers. Also, please make sure that whatever is going into the containers is recyclable (i.e. the same paper and plastics you'd put in your mixed recycling at home).
- **Breakfast Burrito Orders Due 8/26** – I'd like to continue our traditional welcome back-to-school breakfast burrito on the first day most folks are here, Tuesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. We'll have breakfast burritos from Burrito Amigos. If you'd like a burrito, please complete linked [Google Form](#). Plan to eat and visit between 8:00 and 8:30 and then the rest of the day will be yours. We'll have our BIG staff breakfast on our Wednesday at our Back-to-School Staff Meeting.  
<https://goo.gl/forms/5JgPr0j25olB5Jqo1>



- **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:

**August 26 (F)**

Additional Paid Day #1 for Licensed Staff  
Breakfast Burrito Orders Due in AM

**August 29 (M)**

Additional Paid Day #1 for Designated Classified Staff  
Additional Paid Day #2 for Licensed Staff

**August 30 (T)**

Teachers Return - Planning Day  
Additional Paid Day #2 for Designated Classified Staff  
8:00-8:30, Welcome Back Breakfast Burrito Gathering (Cafeteria)

**August 31 (W)**

Classified Staff Return  
7:30-8:00, Welcome Back Breakfast (Library)  
8:00-12:30, Howard Back-to-School Staff Meeting (Cafeteria)

**September 1 (H)**

7:30-8:30, District Staff Back-to-School Event - Breakfast & Social (SEHS)  
8:30-11:00, District Staff Back-to-School Event - Speeches (SEHS Auditorium)  
11:00-12:30, Kindergarten Assessment Training (SEHS)

**September 2 (F)**

8:00-4:00, Science Adoption Training for Elementary Teachers (K-2 @Chavez, 3-5 @Holt)  
1:00, Class Lists Posted

**September 5 (M)**

Labor Day - No School

**September 6 (T)**

8:00-10:00, Staff Meeting - potential meeting for any needed business (Library)  
10:00, Q&A Session for New Staff - Optional (Office)  
1:00-2:00, Meet your Teacher

**September 7 (W)**

First Day for Students  
easyCBM Fall Benchmarking Begins  
PBIS Focus: Safety

**September 8 (H)**

REGULAR DAY

**September 9 (F)**

8:30-5:00, School Board Retreat (Howard Community Room)

Enjoy your final days of summer and see you all soon!

Allan