

High School Principal's Report to the School Board

9/18/17

Submitted by Sarah Updegraff

1. School off to a great start! Staff has been collaborating with a protocol given to us by High Tech High every other week. This collaboration has lead to extending our thinking about project based learning and our J-term courses. Staff is excited to have work time on PD days to continue to improve their courses. The course book will be available in mid-October.
2. Iowa Big North has more than double in size at the New Hampton site. We currently have 32 students enrolled. A group of students has taken on the initiative of remodeling the transportation site offices as we have outgrown our current space and are bursting at the seams in the afternoon when kids are on site.
3. We have added more leadership opportunities to our student by adding 3 senior leadership groups chosen by the PBIS team. We had more than 45 students attend our first meeting of LEAD with Ryan Rausch and have ordered books for them to work through this year. The three senior leader groups consist of 12-15 student each and are working with PBIS staff member on their impact during their last year of high school. We also still have an active student PBIS team which will participate in the NEIC student leadership meetings 3 times this year.
4. We had 4 significant additions to our courses this year: computer science, MOC, WEC, and immersion Spanish. MOC and WEC are helping to fill some of the employment needs of our community and also more deeply addressing those 21st century skills that you identified in the ideal graduate last month. Computer science is full and I expect it to continue to grow as more students see the benefit of the course. Immersion Spanish has been offered to both native speakers and students who are looking for a more intense experience with the Spanish language. I invite you to come into these classes, or any at the high school, at any time.