

February 15, 2021 - Middle School Board Report

1. Mr. Rude and Mrs. ten Hoeve concluded their PBL unit on Social Injustice. Students received hot and cold feedback as they presented their speeches in the common area as two homerooms. Students did a nice job researching and presenting the facts in a passionate way.
2. We have finished up the winter sports seasons and now are beginning to get ready for the Middle School Musical. Come join our students for the “Rock Around the Block” March 18th and 19th. Students were going to perform this play last spring but were not able to before the school closure so they are excited.
3. Thanks to Mr. Russ and Mr. Pfaffle as they have been working with several middle school students during interventions as they are going to participate in FFA competitions just like high school FFA students in presenting informative speeches on the importance of the agricultural industry.
4. Teachers used some time during today’s professional development to work on information regarding the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress. Teachers worked through the test assurances on how to successfully proctor the test. Students will be testing in content classes this year with a set schedule. I look to continue to learn more about the test and improve! The middle school is set to test April 19-30th.
5. We have finished our second FAST screeners with all students in Reading, Math, and Social Emotion. Our results are showing many of our students are improving. Our staff continues to look at ways to improve interventions and look for other options for students that are not showing the growth we would like to see. I will meet with every student about these tests and how we use this data to make decisions for their learning. Overall, schoolwide reading has improved 4% and math has seen a dip in proficiency rate by 4% from the fall to winter screeners.
6. Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Geerts, and the CLT team of students are working on Kindness week in the middle school. Students are recognizing students who do kind work and rewarding them! Students are coming up with positive phrases and notes that can be hung on student lockers. The students are still coming up with ideas on how we can promote kindness.
7. We are currently working on a condensed version of career week for the 8th grade students which will happen in the month of April. We met as a team last week to see what things can be done and how they can be done to keep everyone safe while still learning about potential career paths here in New Hampton.