

Wamego Site Council *SPRING REPORT* for 2007-2008

The Wamego Site Council Goals for 2007-2008 address the following school improvement goals.

Target Goal #1 All students will improve reading comprehension skills and vocabulary skills.

Target Goal #2 All students will improve math skills.

Target Goal #3 All students will improve writing skills.

Site Council Goal #1

The WHS Site Council will continue to monitor the school improvement plan to meet and exceed AYP test results and to reduce the student dropout rate.

Recommendation to retain this goal for 2008-09, but change “monthly” to “regularly”.

ACTIVITIES:

1. The WHS Site Council will monitor the Virtual Prescriptive Learning Lab on a monthly basis.

Recommendation to retain this activity next year.

SPRING REPORT:

WHS Site Council received several reports from Counselor Jina Kugler and Principal Donna Workman on the effectiveness of Virtual Prescriptive Learning Lab. Information included the following:

VPL courses match WHS curriculum, especially so in science. Students find math difficult because it does not have the last step, so the student has to figure out what the last step needs to be to make it possible to solve the problem. Science takes a long time to complete.

VPL shows how many minutes were spent in review, doing work, etc.

VPL has saved some Seniors who will be able to graduate with their class this May.

34 students completed 24 credits using VPL fall semester; this semester 35 students have completed 9 credits so far. There is still time for more credits to be completed this spring semester.

Most VPL students have as their lab instructor the teacher for whose class they are in VPL.

A student who had transferred in and was struggling with VPL met with better success when a peer tutor was assigned to him during VPL.

It is hoped that VPL can be made available to more students by making it accessible in more classrooms.

ACTIVITIES:

- 2. The WHS Site Council will use data to monitor on a regular basis the number of students who receive privileges and rewards.**

Recommendation to retain this activity next year.

SPRING REPORT:

Incentives were awarded to students who earned “Meets Standard” or above in Kansas Assessments.

Donna Workman, Jina Kugler, and Beth Lang reported on the success of the incentive program. Based on the Kansas Math Assessments given Spring 2007 to 10th graders, 48 students who achieved “Meets Standard” received 1 long lunch, 24 who achieved “Exceeds Standard” received 2 long lunches, and 16 students who achieved “Exemplary” received 3 long lunches.

In the 2008 Kansas Reading Assessments, 46.7% of students earned “Exemplary”, 28.3% earned “Exceeds Standard”, 17.4% earned “Meets Standard” and 7.6% earned “Approaches Standard”. As incentive for the Kansas Reading Assessments, students achieving “Meet Standard” or above can use the Kansas Reading Assessment as their final test grade instead of taking the regular senior English class final.

In the 2008 Kansas Math Assessments, 3/4 of the class met or exceeded standard: 17 students achieved “Exemplary” and earned 5 long lunches as incentive, 38 achieved “Exceeds Standard” and earned 3 long lunches , and 32 students achieved “Meets Standard” and earned 2 long lunches.

ACTIVITIES:

- 3. The WHS Site Council will provide opportunity each month for members of the Professional Learning Communities teams to discuss their activities.**

Recommendation to drop this activity next year.

SPRING REPORT:

The faculty was presented with this opportunity in October. Beth Lang and Jina Kugler responded. The rest of the faculty never did. In April, Beth Lang commented that she felt we had not had more response due to the fact that PLC’s activities are just incorporated by the faculty members almost automatically now so that faculty members probably felt they really didn’t have anything special to report.

Site Council Goal #2

The WHS Site Council will continue to support Mentoring, Career Exploration and Transitioning activities, and the Olweus Bully Prevention Program.

Recommendation to retain this goal for 2008-09.

ACTIVITIES:

1. **Mentoring: Students and mentors will be invited to attend a WHS Site Council meeting to share their mentoring experiences.**

Recommendation to retain this activity next year.

SPRING REPORT:

Becky Wassom (mentoring coordinator) was invited to the May 7 meeting. She was unable to attend, but sent information for us to look at so that we could be aware of what is going on with the mentoring program. Site Council member Joyce Blanka, mentor for the class of 2008, shared comments from her mentoring students via email since she could not be at the May meeting.

ACTIVITIES:

2. **Career Exploration and Transitioning: Faculty members and students will be invited to attend a WHS Site Council meeting to share information.**

Recommendation to retain this activity next year.

SPRING REPORT:

Career Exploration:

Counselor Jina Kugler shared the following information about career exploration. The ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) has been added this year because it is an aptitude test; a student's aptitudes are not as likely to vary over his/her high school years, whereas interests may vary strongly over the 4 years. The ASVAB also shows what aptitudes may be better suited to what kinds of careers. The ASVAB comes with a booklet that has an interest inventory the student can self check then use the ASVAB results to see what area (verbal, math, etc., (s)he might be most successful and satisfied in as a career. There is also a whole booklet of careers so that a student may find a career choice that (s)he did not realize existed. There is also a website linked to O.NET that gives financial aid information. The ASVAB was given to all Juniors but one, and to about 20 Seniors who chose to take it. The military inventory score can also be used to give the student an approximate SAT or ACT score.

All WHS Freshmen took the EXPLORER and all WHS Sophomores took the PLAN. These two are shortened ACT tests and are scored at 8-9th grade level. Jina feels that Sophomore is a good class level for PLAN because, for example, if a student wants to be a veterinarian, but is not doing well in science classes or is not taking any science or math beyond the minimum requirements for graduation, then the student either needs to re-examine his/her career choice or, if the student is determined to follow that career, then the student still has 2 years to pursue higher level math and science courses. Jina mentioned CORE and indicated that it is pretty well what WHS requires for graduation anyway. The "World of Work" map has shaded areas that indicate where a student's skills lie.

All Seniors (except the 20 who took ASVAB) took WORK KEYS, which assesses job skills. More work places are using WORK KEYS to determine if a student would be a good fit for a particular job. Lots of the WHS Seniors include their WORK KEYS results in their Senior Interview Day materials.

One goal for WHS is to have more registered apprenticeships available to students. Currently the childcare program at WHS is articulated to 9 credit hours for college and it is hoped to eventually have an apprenticeship connection to Brilliant Beginnings at Manhattan or the NEKCAP Head Start in Wamego.

Transitioning:

Wamego High School and Wamego Middle School Site Councils met April 9 to discuss transitioning from 8th grade to Freshman level. We reviewed what is now in place: WHS representatives—core teachers, activity leaders, athletes, coaches, Link Crew—go to WMS to meet with 8th graders 5 times. In former years, 8th graders have come to WHS for a tour during the school year. This year the tour was a part of their August Orientation Day. August 14, 2008, will be Freshmen Orientation Day at WHS. It was suggested that the tour of WHS be put back into the 8th grade school year so that 8th graders are actually learning where rooms are, etc. prior to the Orientation Day which is just one day before the rest of the student body arrives.

It was suggested to invite the 8th grade to come to a high school game.

Marc Stratton suggested a “50 Questions Incoming Freshman Have” page be made available on the district’s website so that students can access it at any time to help alleviate fears and tensions that seem to grow over the summer. Mrs. Jennings was going to talk to Elaine Werner about meeting with students to generate questions.

Having 2 or 3 high school students come to WMS maybe twice monthly to meet with 8th graders to field questions and concerns throughout the year was suggested. WHS’s Principal Donna Workman and Counselor Shelley Rickstrew and WMS’s Principal Vici Jennings and Counselor Elaine Werner will work on this to arrange timing.

To a concern voiced by Mrs. Jennings that WMS sees a dip in 8th grade assessment scores, Mrs. Workman suggested that having Sophomore and/or Junior students come to WMS to talk in a mentoring fashion with students 8th graders who are not applying themselves to help them to see that school is more fun if you work at it---more freedoms, more privileges, more diversity available.

Freshmen students and their parents were invited to attend the May 7 WHS Site Council meeting to discuss their transitioning issues. SIX students and two parents were present. They discussed the Transition Program, mentoring, SIP, instructional classes, grading, finals, school organized “cram” sessions, meeting schedules and transportation issues with sports, lunch issues, announcements, the seeming lack of support of wrestlers and culinary arts team members, and mentoring.

Recommendation to invite independent study students to present their projects next year.

Recommendation to invite Freshmen students to talk about their transitioning issues next year.

3. Olweus Bully Prevention Program: The guidance counselor, students (if available), and committee members will be invited to share information and experiences.

Recommendation to retain this activity next year.

SPRING REPORT:

Committee member Brenda Straub shared that students had designed anti-bullying t-shirts. They are available for \$5 till Fri., April 4. Students who submitted the 2 winning designs will each receive a free t-shirt of their design with their name on the t-shirt.

Brenda also reported that Peer Counselors have been leading these sessions and are better accepted than teachers/adults with authority. The Wamego Middle School committee came to Wamego High School to help with Freshman transitioning. A monthly bully prevention report is submitted.

Site Council Goal #3

The WHS Site Council will encourage increased participation of parents and/or community members with students and school.

Recommendation to retain this goal for 2008-09.

ACTIVITIES:

- 1. The WHS Site Council will create a survey in a Frequently Asked Questions(FAQ) format to be put on the USD 320 website.**

SPRING REPORT:

Questions were submitted to be put on the USD 320 website. A brief survey was also filled out by parents at the third quarter Parent-Teacher conferences.

After they were approved, minutes of the WHS Site Council meetings were submitted and posted on the USD 320 website.

- 2. The WHS Site Council will explore a variety of ways to meet or exceed eighty-two percent of parents participating in Parent-Teacher Conferences. Activities will be selected from the following ideas:**

Recommendation to retain this activity for 2008-09, changing “meet or exceed 82%” to “increase”.

- a. a showcase of student art work, projects, etc.**

SPRING REPORT:

Student work was on display in classrooms and hallways during third quarter Parent-Teacher conferences.

Recommendation to retain this activity, but move to one central location, since surveys showed parents prefer to have conferences in the gym.

- b. having the computer labs open for students and parents to access the BRIDGES program.

SPRING REPORT:

Computer labs were open, but not attended during third quarter Parent-Teacher conferences. The BRIDGES program was not available.

- c. 15-minute mini-sessions (what parents & students need to know to enter the work force, need a budget?, job markets, medical expenses after high school, etc.) representatives from SRS, Three Rivers, or various other organizations to explain the services they offer.

SPRING REPORT:

This was provided, but parental attendance was very poor.

- d. Role playing

SPRING REPORT:

This was not provided.

- e. mini-sessions with principal Donna Workman, librarian Dr. Nancy McFarlin, and/or counselors Shelley Rickstrew and Jina Kugler.

Recommendation to retain this activity next year, but look at having a separate night for these.

SPRING REPORT:

This was provided along with Highland Community College and Manhattan Area Technical College representatives, but parental attendance was very poor.