

October 2017 Principal's Report- John Cline

National Merit Scholars

Washington High School has three National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists: Chase Ferguson, Anna Kolln and Catherine McCartan. In addition, we have four National Merit Scholarship Commended students: Ethan Cooper, Sydney Dusek, Caleb Engen and Anna Kalan. The National Merit Scholarship Corporation named 16,000 semifinalists and 50,000 Commended students.

Sports and Activities Update

- Gatsby was amazing and the talented team is working hard on Newsies!
- Marching Band scored a 1 at the State Marching Band competition at Kingston over the weekend.
- The golf team finished 9th at State and I believe Connor Neighbors finished as 1st team All-State and Alex Slattery finished as 2nd team All-State.
- The football team is 4-3 with two district games remaining. If they win out, they will finish in 2nd place in the district and qualify for State.
- The volleyball team 2-3 in the division and 12-18 overall on the season, much improved from last season.
- The boys XC team finished 7th at the MVC Supermeet, divisionals is this Thursday and state qualifying is next Thursday.
- The girls XC team finished 10th at the MVC Supermeet, divisionals is this Thursday and state qualifying is next Thursday.
- The girls swimming team is leading the valley division at 6-1 and are 7-1 overall. The conference meet is this weekend and state qualifying in 2 weeks.

New Staff/ Changes

We are thrilled to have a new ELL teacher to help Zach Smith who has done a fantastic job with the program. Tara Brokovich joins us from Polk Alternative. Tara will be coaching 7th grade girls basketball at McKinley as well. She started her teaching career at Jefferson High School and also served as a Gear Up coordinator in CRCSD for five years. Tara grew up in Southern Illinois, has a master's in special education, an ELL endorsement, and a personal trainer certification. She has two beautiful daughters who are now 17 and 13; we all stay busy with sports. She is a Colts, Cardinals, and New Zealand All Blacks fan. She loves to travel, work out, and spend time with her girls. She briefly served in the military, lived in Germany and eight different states. She coached basketball for 25 years and many other sports over those years.

We are thrilled about Will Harte taking over as Head Women's Head Track Coach. He is currently the Head Men's XC Coach and has been an assistant in men's track for many years. Last, Trudy Johansen has agreed to come back as our AP Coordinator where she brings years of success in this position. This is a huge role at Washington and I couldn't be happier that she has agreed to return for this.

Kingston

As a CRCSD High School Athletic Council, we have been working on making football games a more family friendly environment. Ramping up supervision, requiring student IDs and bringing in outside security to assist with CRCSD games have all been a part of this. I have been very pleased with everyone working together to improve the experience for our families.

Social Committee

This was launched by our Tier 1 Committee which is headed up by Julie Cain, SEB Coordinator. We want to continue to build on our positive start and keep staff morale high and maintain Washington as the best high school to work in. Contacts for this Committee are Gina Pins and Julie Cain.

MTSS Update

Students report biggest change is presence, happy to see teachers more welcoming and visible. Students are noticing and appreciating the staff in the hallways. They like having adults say hi and acknowledge them. It makes everything feel more positive. We are working with Randy Sprick's Safe and Civil Schools professional development program which is aligned with our focus. Level 1 is our focus which is centered on a safe and collaborative culture that includes Foundations MTSS Support, Professional Learning Community support, Restorative Practice and Family Engagement.

Homecoming

Homecoming week was action packed and a lot of fun. We are fortunate to have so many fantastic parent and teacher volunteers to help with this. Even after a long week, there was great help at the dance Friday night which was a huge success. We take away a lot of positive feedback from the dance and a change to improve the parade.

Technology Planning Committee

We are developing a five year technology plan for CRCSD that supports Every Student: Future Ready and considers vision, needs, and available resources. CRCSD is engaging many stakeholders in a very thoughtful, intentional process. I have enjoyed being a part of this and am currently looking for a few students to join the student panel.

Assemblies

Students very appreciative of awards from PTA in Iowa Assessment assembly. Getting feedback from students on assemblies via plus/ delta in classes after IA assembly. I also visited with upperclassmen in an English class to have discussion after the IA assembly.

IPI

High levels of student engagement are a priority in our building. We are very excited to now have eight trained IPI data collectors: Mr. Moran, Mr. Westphalen, Ms. Tinkham, Ms. Niffenegger, Mr. Hatcher, Ms. Cain, Mr. Kleman, Ms. Mooney-Shaffer, We have four dates (Oct, Dec, Feb, Apr) for data collection where our team will be visiting classrooms and coding engagement levels according to the following: (1) Student Disengagement, (2) Student Work with Teacher Not Engaged (3) Student Work with Teacher Engaged (4) Teacher-Led Instruction (5) Student Verbal Learning Conversations (6) Student

Active Engaged Learning. This will help give us some snapshots of how our instruction is doing in fostering student learning and higher order thinking skills. We can use this data to help drive our future professional learning.

SIP/ BLT

The SIP is a working document and we are looking at narrowing our focus and providing more specificity to our goals. Doing so will help with ownership, action, progress monitoring and positive student outcomes. More importantly, I hope that it will help our team with decision making and focus with everyone on the same page. Attendance data needed to be cleaned up and great progress has recently been made. This will be immensely helpful in isolating attendance issues and working toward our improving our attendance rates. We have an equity focus and an instructional focus in our goals. Equity Focus: If we utilize and support a strong MTSS system for academics, behavior, and attendance, we will see a decrease in the number of office referrals and students missing instructional time. Instructional Focus: We will meet the needs of 80% of our students in Tier 1 Instruction by using research-based instructional strategies, collaborating as PLC's, and planning for targeted interventions at Tier 1.