

April 19, 2010

### **Estacada High School News**

Wow! Three-quarters of the year has gone, and we are heading into the home stretch toward the 100<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony for Estacada High School. I hope that everyone will take part in the great festivities planned for this historic event. (For more information go to [ecf1.org](http://ecf1.org))

Estacada High School's "Positive Behavior Support Team" (PBS), made up of students, classroom teachers, instructional assistants, classified staff, and counselors have worked hard at identifying "school climate" areas in need of improvement in our building. Most recently they helped initiate a new focus on student tardiness and the recent results of these new steps have been very effective. In addition to studying data and working to find solutions to behavioral issues in our school, our PBS team is working hard to strengthen our culture of recognizing the great things our students already do. If any parent would like to become part of this team, please contact Beverly Krystosek at 503-630-8515 for more information.

This year we made a major structural change in our school year by adopting the seven period day and quarter system. The benefits we hoped to see, and have seen, are improved student/teacher relations, more instructional time in core subjects, and fewer schedule changes during the school year.

In addition to continuing the above structural changes at EHS, we will also be incorporating two new major changes for next school year in the areas of curriculum and instruction. The first major change is a result of our desire to get EVERY student to meet the standards set forth by the State of Oregon in Math and Language Arts. In order to accomplish this, all students not meeting standards will be provided an additional math and/or language arts class that will focus directly on their individual areas "in need of improvement."

Once students meet the State-adopted standards, they will be able to move into a new elective at the earliest and most convenient time. Many schools are using this model including Molalla HS, Oregon City HS, and Forest Grove HS to name a few and are experiencing great student success. Now that the State is requiring students to meet these standards as a condition to graduate from high school, it is more important than ever to help our students achieve these targets.

The second major change will affect approximately 100 freshmen students who will be placed in a new “Freshman Cohort” program. This program will have four highly effective teachers instructing all 100 students in the areas of Algebra I, English 9, Physical Science, and Future Focus. The Future Focus class will be designed to assist students in time management skills, study skills, career exploration, & student success skills, as well as additional opportunities for students to get instruction in areas of need. These four teachers, with the assistance of one counselor, will work closely together to identify each student’s strengths and weaknesses and to provide instruction that targets those areas. In addition, this team of teachers will be able to work closely with one another to identify the needs of their shared students.

As the school year comes to a close, our next “School News” articles will focus on our extra-curricular programs, and share some of the many successes that our students have experienced this year.

Go Rangers!!!

Scott Sullivan  
Principal