

Principal Update

Date: 5/13/2025 HS Principal Update, Prepared by Mary Yakibchuk, for NCS School Board

- Another exciting year is coming to a close, congratulations to another round of seniors. Some of this year's seniors have truly shown a remarkable effort in making up lost ground to cross the finish line along side their peers. Special recognition to Willow, who had the guts to stick around and finish it out. I am so proud of every single one of these students. They have all worked hard to get where they are, and they all deserve to be recognized and celebrated for their accomplishments!
- This year started out, almost too good to be true. I felt like I was holding my breath, for when the other shoe would drop. It never did. Its been a really great year. Great staff, great students. Collaboration, problem solving, helping one another, a year of personal and professional and academic growth. I feel like we have a really good team this year. Great experiences. And staff who care deeply about the students they serve and the coworkers they share the building with. Its always been really important to me, that the time we spend at school, either as a student or a staff member, is a part of our day, our lives that we feel can feel good about and enjoy, to feel welcomed, valued, and appreciated. I feel like we have that here, and I could not be more proud of the students, staff, community I serve.
- HS is currently piloting an electronic pass system, one that will make it easier for our students to request permission for a pass (for lockers, hallway, office, etc) one that will automatically track usage (so we can tell how many times per day, per hour or per class a student has left the classroom) and we can put limitations on who can be out with whom. This has already proven to be user friendly for both students and staff. Students sign out at a kiosk in the classroom, and the program times their absence and tracks their use. Several teachers were willing to pilot a free trial, and so far it is receiving positive reviews.
- HS is planning to pilot the Opt-OUT permissions for Direct Admissions for 2026-27 school year
 - What we have learned from students who have previously opted in, the students receive a letter saying which colleges they meet qualifications for. Then students can select to receive more information from any colleges on the list but will only receive information from the colleges they select.
 - They are not bombarded with information, so we think the benefits of the OPT OUT program outweigh any negatives.
- Flex Day, planning to pilot this, seeing how it goes, maybe repeat once a quarter. Next steps is to send out an interest survey to students AND staff in the fall, create a master "course list" assign teachers, set it up as "classes" in campus, have students "register" for two. Teachers would take attendance....consider fund raising options. The value in providing learning that cannot happen anywhere else is invaluable to supporting our students interests and providing them an incentive to come, every day, and return every year. I look forward to the create options we come up with.
- A student has completed the HealthCare Pathway! They have taken several courses and will be testing to get their CNA certificate at the end of the school year. This student plans to go into Health Care after graduation.
- The social studies curriculum search committee proposes the following recommendation for HS [SS Curriculum](#) purchases. It amounts to ~ 62K for grades

6-12 + LSLC.

- Curriculum Committee composed of several stakeholders including science teachers, admin and board members reviewed curriculums and standards, and considered factors such as usability, comprehension, organization and more. We feel like these curricula are the best fit for our purposes.
- HS is also requesting formal approval for purchase of Open SciEd Science Curriculum purchase (middle school and Bio only, chem next year, earth/physics the following year. ~ 32K
 - Science curriculum committee met last year and determined this was the best curriculum for our school. Elementary Science Curriculum was purchased, but JH and HS curriculum purchase was delayed due to
 - [Grades 6-8](#)
 - [9-12 Biology](#)