

Student Achievement

We are currently analyzing our semester one results. Areas of improvement identified are Grade 10 credit accumulation, achievement of aboriginal students in Grade 10 and a 2.2 % improvement in students achieving at level 4. Our failure rate during semester 1 decreased 1.1% to 5.0%. Our grade 9 data is essentially unchanged from 2007-8 at this time. Bill Hovi, student success teacher continues to work with students and teachers to identify opportunities for students to recover credits to remain on-track for graduation. We are participating in a pilot that follows grade 11 students, documents both in and out of school interventions, and tracks success. This pilot will be completed at the end of June. Our guidance office continues to track our potential graduates to ensure completion of graduation requirements.

Anecdotal reports for semester 2 will be available on March 9th, with interviews on March 11th. Parents, as always, are encouraged to attend.

Student Voice

Our student voice group is up and running. This is a group of selected students that advise the school administration on student views and needs. We have met 3 times to date and have completed the following:

- We will be funding an intramural program for students at the school. This will provide lunchtime activities for students and provide part time employment opportunities for 4 senior students. It is anticipated that this will begin immediately after the March break.
- We will begin a process to setup a student advocacy office at Dryden High School. Beginning in September 2009, students will have access to 2 trained senior students to assist and advise them. These will be paid positions for a male and female senior student for each school year.
- Modifying our course selection process so that students have some additional time and opportunities to obtain information prior to selecting courses
- Current selected grade 9 students will accompany school administration during upcoming visits to feeder schools
- We received funding from MOE to host a ½ day whole school student engagement project. “Snow Eagles Day” will be held on March 4th in the afternoon, with a variety of activities available for students

Planning for 2009-10 School Year

We have begun our planning process for the 2009-10 school year. There will be additional programming changes as we continue to respond to the needs of students at Dryden High School.

- Continuous entry literacy and numeracy programming (75 minutes per day) for struggling students
- Continuous entry cooperative education, night school and summer coop opportunities for students who require assistance to remain on track with their credits
- Planning for a 2010 Digital Media SHSM program.
- Technical mathematics pilot for grade 9 applied math students who have also selected TTI 100.
- Return to all year Math and English programming for identified at risk students
- Planned expansion of the AP program to further challenge academic students
- PASS (Parents at Secondary Schools) program

Semester 2 Items of note

- Night school coop is running for 22 students who are graduating in June of 2009
- Elder mentoring for at-risk aboriginal students has been
- RFP process for Dryden High School cafeteria is upcoming shortly

Professional Development for Staff

We continue to provide opportunities for staff at Dryden High School to attend and participate in professional development to further improve practice.

- Continued participation in Board PD around effective instruction. Four sessions have been completed to date, with staff from DHS attending, learning with other KPDSB teachers and then delivering to staff. Last weeks session was excellent, focusing on effective instructional practice around differentiated instruction, gradual release of responsibility model for teachers and students
- Science teachers attended 2 days of curriculum review for the new science curriculum in Thunder Bay
- Bill Hovi will be travelling to Toronto to participate in continuing Provincial development of the New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP)
- Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) meet approximately once every 6 weeks to focus on aspects of student instruction and achievement. These groups are program based and focus on items in the school success plan to improve achievement of all students.

District Review Team Visit

The DRT will spend 2 days at Dryden High School, Feb 25th and 26th, to visit classrooms, observe instruction, talk to teachers and students and meet with staff. The purpose of the visit is to monitor and validate progress on the school success plan. Recommendations and next steps are shared with staff to further achieve our goals.

Dryden Youth Center

The new Dryden Youth Center will be located in Dryden High School. The center will begin operating shortly on Thursday and Friday evenings and on the weekends. This is a partnership project with various stakeholders and we are happy to host the program at DHS. The center will provide supervised activities for youth and further strengthen our commitment to our youth.