



LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBER REPORT

Administrator: Susan Hanson and Dr. Stephanie Spencer

Building/Program/Department: Vashon Island High School

Board Meeting Date: 9-27-07

Focus: Back to School!

HIGHLIGHTS and ACHIEVEMENTS

- Students filled the gymnasium for the opening day Welcome Assembly. They were greeted with a slide show focusing on VHS activities, sports, and pictures of new student orientation. The focus of the welcome was creating an atmosphere of respect and pride. The assembly closed with the victorious football team leading the student body in the school fight song.
- New student orientation was the Wednesday before the opening day of classes. Freshmen and students new to the district met for an inspirational talk, then received schedules and lockers, had a guided tour of the campus, and finally were treated to a barbeque by the ASB.
- Students are taking the “4 R’s” (Respect for self, respect for others, respect for learning, and respect for the environment) seriously this year. The Interact/ Amnesty International clubs are spearheading a recycling movement at lunch and in the classrooms. Litter is down, and students are encouraging one another to be respectful of “Mother Earth.”
- The first after game dance is scheduled for 9-21, and the first Open Mic is scheduled for 9-28.
- Journalism and year book students and their advisors, Greg McElroy and Kara Sears attended Journalism Day at the University of Washington on 9-20-07. Over 50 students participated.
- Staff attended a two and one half hour in-service provided by the Safe Schools Coalition on 9-18-07. The focus of the training was how to create a safe and respectful climate for all students, especially the gay, lesbian, bisexual, or questioning youth. The first lunch meeting of the Gay/Straight Alliance club had over 20 attendees.

WORK IN PROGRESS

- We continue to work on building a respectful, inclusive climate.
- Work on creating professional learning community has begun.
- The admin/leadership team has begun the work on PSIP's.
- WASL scores and letters went home to parents. Learning Improvement Plans for students who did not meet standards are being formulated.



LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBER REPORT

Administrator: Susan Hanson, Stephanie Spencer

Building/Program/Department: Vashon Island High School

Board Meeting Date: October 25, 2007

Focus: Nine Characteristics of High Performing Schools

HIGHLIGHTS and ACHIEVEMENTS

Vashon Island High School is using the Nine Characteristics of High Performing Schools as a guide in our school improvement planning. Our goal is “from good to great, from great to excellent.”

- **Clear and Shared focus:** VHS staff is clear on our focus on student learning and academic excellence for all students at all performance levels. We are spending our staff meeting time discussing mission and vision and how we achieve excellence both in and outside the classroom.
- **High Standards and Expectations:** We have aligned course expectations with Washington State Grade Level Expectations. Further, we expect to not only meet, but to exceed these standards for the majority of our students. Teachers collaborate within departmental teams to insure that, while delivery methods may vary, the core curriculum is taught by every teacher in every grade.
- **Effective School Leadership:** Both the principal and assistant principal are committed to being in classrooms multiple times each week. Visits vary from 5 minute “walk throughs” to formal, hour long observations. Administrators, together, are averaging between 30 and 60 class room visits per week, depending on the length of the visit. Staff have indicated (during goal setting conferences) behaviors and bench marks they would like the administrators to

look for when they visit the classrooms. Both administrators are taking part in the University of Washington Leadership Academy lecture series.

- **High Levels of Collaboration and Communication:** VHS uses the departmental organizational structure for planning and curriculum development. Department chairs are also members of the Learning Improvement Team that meets monthly. The team discusses and plans building wide instructional improvement initiatives. Staff, students and parents participate in the VHS Site Council that discusses school wide climate issues.
- **Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Aligned with Standards:** VSH again uses the departmental organization to insure that curriculum is aligned with state standards and grade level expectations. We utilize a building generated math assessment to place incoming freshmen in appropriately challenging math courses, and the Stanford reading assessment to identify students needing support in English instruction. Classroom based assessment are being developed in the Arts and Social Studies as directed by the state.
- **Frequent Monitoring of Learning and Teaching:** Staff use data from a variety of classroom assessments (tests, presentations, projects, performances, etc), state assessments (WASL) to monitor student learning. Administrators consult with teachers, visit classrooms, and provide authentic feedback about instruction.
- **Focused Professional Development:** VHS staff are participating in the Professional Learning Communities training. Additionally, math and science teachers will utilize state monies for professional development focused on academic rigor in those disciplines. Staff have participated in or are participating in, literacy training, health and fitness, professional book club and leadership training.
- **Supportive Learning Environment:** The school year began with a discussion of the Four “R’s”: Respect for Self, Respect for Others, Respect for Learning, and Respect for the Environment. Students review building wide expectations and standards during the first week of school. Success team composed of counselors, administration, career specialist, psychologist and family advocate meets weekly to discuss student progress.
- **High Levels of Family and Community Involvement:** Site Council is the focus for parents, students and staff to discuss issues that impact the entire school community. The first topic of high interest was dance styles at VHS dances. The discussion was respectful and candid on all sides. We are privileged to have a high number of parent volunteers that help in classrooms, at dances and sporting events, and in the office. Parent Booster Clubs support sports and other co-curricular activities with time, talent and treasure.



LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBER REPORT

Administrator: Susan Hanson and Stephanie Spencer

Building/Program/Department: Vashon Island High School

Board Meeting Date: November 29, 2007

Focus: Professional Learning Communities

HIGHLIGHTS and ACHIEVEMENTS

- Representatives of five academic departments completed the first all day training in creating Professional Learning Communities. Representatives of English, social studies, the arts, science and math learned the protocols for assessing student work in a collaborative, professional framework. The point of the assessment protocols is to establish a base line of achievement that will guide instructional practices.
- Staff that were trained in the protocols reported that they found the work to be very useful, especially in promoting cross departmental collaboration. It will also provide a formal means of assessing instructional efficacy. It checks the quality of student learning rather than the instructional delivery.
- Some VHS staff who teach the same courses are currently using a less formal collaborative assessment of student work. They are interested in learning how the more formalized protocol will enhance their understanding of student learning and allow them to better tailor lessons to meet learning needs.

WORK IN PROGRESS

- All five initially trained member felt they needed more training before beginning to train other staff.
- The initially trained staff, all members of the VHS Learning Improvement Team, would like to see a one hour late start twice a month during the 2008-09 school year to implement the Professional Learning Communities assessment protocols. They feel that the protocols will enhance the abilities of teachers to modify instruction to meet student learning needs.

- Having dedicated time to implement the protocols prior to the school day will ensure that staff are actually utilizing the tool for its maximum impact on instruction and learning. Attempting to implement the protocols after the teaching day will result in too many conflicting distractions: coaches that need to get to practice, staff meetings, departmental meetings, commuting staff, etc. Dedicated time within the school day will enhance implementation at no additional cost to the district.



LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBER REPORT

Administrator: Susan Hanson and Dr. Stephanie Spencer

Building/Program/Department: Vashon Island High School

Board Meeting Date: January 24, 2008

Focus: Strategic Plan

HIGHLIGHTS and ACHIEVEMENTS

- *Students meet or exceed state and district learning goals:* Vashon Island High School students and staff have been recognized by OSPI for their academic achievement. OSPI has nominated VHS to the federal No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon Schools Award program. VHS was selected because students achieve in the top 10 % of all high school students in the State of Washington. As part of the nomination process, the administration and staff are preparing an extensive application packet to be submitted to Washington, D.C. by February 15, 2008. Also, principal Susan Hanson and teacher John Rees are attending the OSPI State Learning Conference in Spokane at OSPI's invitation at their expense.
- *Students demonstrate the skills to contribute meaningfully to their community:* VHS seniors each contribute a minimum of 25 of community service to the larger community as part of their government class. 20 students serve as mentors at CES, assisting teachers and individual students. Amnesty and Interact students have taken on the VHS recycling project. We now recycle paper, cans and plastic bottles. Students empty bins weekly.
- *Students form reasoned judgments and solve problems enabling them to lead responsible, productive lives.* Riptide editors held a mock primary during lunch. Students cast votes for their favorite presidential primary candidates. Results of the straw primary will be published in the Riptide. Humanities staff use Socratic seminars as one assessment of students' ability to problem solve using higher order thinking skills. Science teachers use inquiry based on hands on labs to promote problem solving.

- *Students plan and accept responsibility for their own development, education and future:* All students create a five year plan during freshman registration. This plan is updated annually with their counselor. Students are encouraged to attend after school tutorials for extra help from their teachers, Students with IEP's are active participants in designing their individual education plans. Seniors create scholarship notebooks that document their learning achievements.



LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBER REPORT

Administrator: Susan Hanson and Stephanie Spencer

Building/Program/Department: Vashon Island High School

Board Meeting Date: March 20, 2008

Focus: February March Reports

HIGHLIGHTS and ACHIEVEMENTS

- The number one accomplishment in March is the administration of the reading and writing portions of the WASL. 145 sophomores, 17 seniors and 15 juniors took the assessment. Students were focused, serious and cooperative. Their behavior demonstrated how seriously they took the assessment. We had very few absences. Compliments to all staff proctors and especially to Shirley Ferris who organized the week.
- Tom DeVries and Elizabeth Jellison attend the Laser Institute presentations at the OSPI conference at the end of January with a team of district science teachers.
- Elizabeth Jellison, Tom DeVries and Amy Bogaard attended a Saturday workshop presented by the Center for Science Inquiry. Again, they were part of a district wide science team.
- Elizabeth Jellison's biology classes are participating in the UW Genome Sciences Education Outreach program: *Investigating the Effects of Genes and Environment on Smoking Behavior*. Students conducted genotyping in the classroom using "reverse dot blot analysis." Data is submitted to the University of Washington. Next year's students will continue with phase three of the study and analyze data and test hypotheses using statistical methods learned in the curriculum.
- We are proud of our scholar athletes from winter sports: Boys basketball, Girls basketball and Wrestling cheer were all awarded WIAA team scholastic awards. Boys and Girls basketball also were Nisqually League Champions and competed in State competition.

- Henry Porter and Andy Sears were each name Nisqually League Coach of the Year.
- VHS debaters were Academic State Champions, and are competing in the State Debate Tournament Friday and Saturday (3-14,15,-08).
- Boys Wrestling placed fourth in state, with two state champions, and VHS Girls Wrestling placed sixth in state with one state champion.
- Nisqually all league honors went to many of the BB and Wrestling team honors. John Gage was selected as MVP for the Nisqually League.
- VHS was nominated by OSPI to the federal Blue Ribbon School competition. The nominating criteria was to be in the top 10% of all public high schools in student achievement. We submitted all required paper work and will find out in September of 08 if are named as a Federal Blue Ribbon School.

WORK IN PROGRESS

- Dr. Tom DeVries is meeting with UW staff to finalize the UW Geology 101 course offering for the 2008-09 school year. This will be the second year that we have offered the course as part of the college in the high school program.
- Health classes and the Foods and Nutrition classes taught by Melinia Owens are studying low fat food choices. Low fat Kebobs with vegetables were on the menu for an in-class barbeque.



LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBER REPORT

Administrator: Susan Hanson and Stephanie Spencer

Building/Program/Department: Vashon Island High School

Board Meeting Date: May 22, 2008

Focus: Arts _____

HIGHLIGHTS and ACHIEVEMENTS

- Wood art teacher, John Burke, and his students worked with artist and wood carver Odin Lonning. Mr. Lonning taught the students to use traditional Coastal Native American carving techniques, and introduced them to the significance of the symbols used in Coastal Native American carving. Students designed and carved relief plaques. The carvings are on display at the Heron's Nest. This artist residency was made possible by an Artist in the Schools grant. Wood art students also contributed hand made cheese platters to the PTSA auction. Students Tim Jovanovich, Tristan Roberson and Evan Bell assisted Mr. Burke in creating the "Diner" art work that decorated the Live Auction room.
- English and mythology teacher, Anders Blomgren is working with artist Carol Schwennesen. Mythology students are studying symbols used in myths. They are designing armor that represents them and creating it from found objects. The armor will be on display at the Public Library, complete with photos of the student artists and a poem written about the symbols used. This artist residency was made possible by an Artists in the Schools grant.
- The Vashon Island High School Symphonic Band, the VHS Drum Line, and the Vashon-McMurray Jazz Ensemble, all under the direction of Mike Scott presented the spring concert on 5-13-08 to a standing room only audience. During the concert Mr. Scott honored the senior band members and the outstanding students from each grade. The band also honored Mr. Scott with a farewell gift.
- Jewelry design teacher, Mike Calder's students have created two separate displays of student work so far this year, and plan a third for graduation weekend.

Students using piercing, soldering, and lost wax casting in creating original jewelry and metal art. This class may be taken more than one time, and advanced students may branch out with original designs and fabrication.

- Theatre arts teachers Harris Levinson and Stephen Floyd had over 70 students involved in theatre performances this year. Mr. Floyd's Drama II students presented "The Dining Room" fall trimester. The play is a collection of scenes, all which take place in a homes dining room across time. It was a challenging, but rewarding experience for the actors. Drama I students all performed in a Showcase evening. Students selected monologues, dialogues and short scenes to bring to performance readiness. For many young actors, this was the first performance before a live audience. Stephen Floyd and Susan Hanson team taught the Musical Theatre performance class. The class presented Rogers and Hammerstein's Cinderella. Choreography was by Christine Juarez, thanks to an Artists in the Schools grant. Maggie Laird was music director and conducted an 18 piece student orchestra.
- This school year, VHS artists entered two major art shows: The Frye Art Museum Youth Art Month Show; The show is a cooperative effort between the Washington Art Education Association and the Frye Art Museum. The show is only open to art teachers who maintain a membership with the W.A.E.A.; Ms. Dubin personally pays her association dues so her students can have the opportunity to have their art exhibited in a museum setting. This year the show was titled "Hugs". It was open to all students, K-12, from across the state. 29 pieces were juried into the show; 7 were high school; 4 of those were from VHS: Clayton Stork, Nelle Horsley, Daniel Chesney and Clorrissa Estrella. Ms. Dubin was also honored for being the only teacher who has entered student work for the past 9 years that has been juried into the show every year. I also submitted two pieces of art (the maximum allowed per each full time art teacher) to the Puget Sound Educational Service District 2008 High School Art Show. Sarah Arnold exhibited an acrylic painting and Kalee Abella an oil painting. These were on display at the Puget Sound Educational Service District headquarters in Renton. Many students created and donated beautiful plates and platters to the PTSA auction this Spring; Emily Horwitz (multiple pieces), Spencer Caldwell (multiple pieces), Osani Shapiro, Danielle Devereau, Loren Frohning, Carly Berry, Amelia West, Ariel Cartwright, Erika Raven, Timmy Jovanovich, Lizzy Corliss, Emma Frost, Erica Reed and Katie Murphy. Ms. Dubin also donated two platters she made. Five seniors just contributed to the design for the cover of our Class of 2008 Commencement Program; Clayton Stork, Danielle Devereau, Carly Berry, Haley Hills and Susannah Bard. The VHS Art Department has had a very busy and successful year!
- Spring electives include Shakespeare and Introduction to Film Studies.
- Each month, members of the Literary Journal present Open Mic assemblies. They have selected the "Best of Open Mic" (BOOM) to perform on May 21, 2008 at 7:00.

- Thanks to PTSA, Akoma, an African drum and dance ensemble performed for the student body on May 15, 2008. PTSA and VHS Site Council collaborate on selecting culturally enriching assemblies.
- All high school students must complete one full credit of fine arts in order to graduate. All arts courses include a classroom based assessment that is aligned with the Washington State Essential Academic Learnings, EAL'ers.