

Williston Public School District #1
Superintendent's Update

Back to School

Williston Public School District #1 started the 2009-2010 school year on August 24th with professional development for staff. The day of professional development included our keynote speaker, Peg Portscheller from Denver. During the summer Peg worked with the administrators to build a quality leadership team for our district. She will now be working with Middle School Principal and Curriculum Director, Marcia Armogost to write and align our K-12 reading and math curriculum. Mrs. Armogost and Ms. Portscheller have recruited a great team of teachers and administrators to work as the Curriculum Steering Committee for the district. I am very excited about the formal curriculum document that will be the end product.

The afternoon included several breakout sessions for the staff to attend. These sessions were offered to enhance the skills of the staff as they continue their work with the students throughout the school year. The breakout sessions included:

- Drop-out Prevention, Credit Recovery
- District Curriculum Team
- Accommodation/Modification Techniques for ALL Classroom Teachers
- Tie-Net, Special Ed Teachers
- NWEA-required for all new teachers
- On-line Career Exploration for teachers 6-8
- Brainstorm Your Classroom Behavior Techniques
- Enhance Your Lessons with Multi-media
- Office 2007

Wednesday, August 26th was the official first day of school for students. We are excited to announce the enrollment for the 2009-2010 school year for Williston Public School District #1 has increased by 83 students, as compared to the start of school last year. We currently have 166 Kindergarten students, 155 1st grade students, 172 2nd grade students, 147 3rd grade students, 168 4th grade students, 137 5th grade students and 167 6th grade students; 371 students in the Middle School and 800 students in the high school. I had anticipated an increase in enrollment of around 50 students, but the numbers exceeded my expectations. I think it's great that parents and guardians want their children to attend our district and I thank the parents for entrusting your precious children with Williston Public School District #1. We are a top ranked district in the state for providing quality education to our students. For example, according to the 2008-2009 ND Standardized test scores, out of the 12 largest school districts in the state, Williston ranked number one in the Math test scores and number 2 in the Reading test scores. I plan to keep this upward trend of excellence going for our district and for our children.

I plan on keeping the public informed of the progress in the school district by submitting a bi-weekly Superintendent's Update in the Herald. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like me to share specific information about Williston Public School District #1.

Thank you and as an educator in the community, we appreciate your support.

Dr. Viola LaFontaine