

The Crossroads Connection

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 5, 2019

WELCOME BACK!

The floors are waxed, the classrooms are clean, and we are so excited for the changes this year. The staff has been working hard to make this school year the best ever!

Check and Connect has been moved to 1st period, and 6th and 7th are combined into your Project Based Learning block.

We have a new teacher upstairs: Jesse Nelson. He will be teaching Geometry, Biology and a new class.

Farley will be the PE teacher this year, and there is still one section of yoga being taught by Carlson.

We've added a few new classes: Psychology and Emotional Intelligence (Orr), Executive Functioning (Nelson) Microsoft (Pullen) and Culinary (Hitchcock).

The quarter dates will not be the same as the rest of the district. Crossroads will be doing a PBL between the two semesters, like we did last year, but hopefully without the snow.

One Day For Change

Over the past several years, Crossroads has been participating in what we call "One Day for Change." This day is an intense bonding experience where students and staff open up, set judgement aside, and learn that we are in this fight together. So, can one day make a difference?

The day starts out with stu-

What is PBL?

In Project Based Learning, teachers make learning come alive for students.

Students work on a project over an extended period of time – from a week up to a semester – that engages them in solving a real-world problem or answering a complex question. They demonstrate their knowledge and skills by developing a public product or presentation for a real audience.

As a result, students develop deep content knowledge as well as critical thinking, creativity, and communication skills in the context of doing an authentic, meaningful project. Project Based Learning unleashes a contagious, creative energy among students and teachers.

Our staff has been preparing for a year to bring PBL to Crossroads in our daily schedule. Please keep an open mind and enjoy!

dents lining the gym with chairs and playing games. After a little bonding and playing, students then join into "family" groups. These groups are led by either a student or teacher. Each group has around 6-7 people. We use this time to get to know each other a little more, then we take a break to eat lunch. The tough part

First Week of School

Schedule 9/9 to 9/12

Success Academy and One Day for Change

We always like to start the year with a review of the rules, institution of new plans and team building activities. This year will be no different.

Students will rotate through all the teachers **Tuesday** and **Thursday** to learn the way things work at Crossroads. If you think you've heard it all before, you're wrong! We're changing things up a bit this year, so you'll want to pay attention. **Monday** will be dedicated to C&C team building and the explanation of the PBL classes. One Day For Change will take place **Wednesday**.

Your participation in all of these activities is crucial. At Crossroads, we feel like we're a family. In order to be a peaceful family, we need to learn a little more about one another.

BONUS: by completing all of the required tasks, you can earn .25 credit.

comes next.

After lunch we gather together to listen to guest speakers tell their stories about overcoming pain, heartache, and unimaginable challenges. This shows us that it's OK to be vulnerable, that all of us are flawed, but we must press forward and strive to love those around us. *(cont. on back)*

SCHEDULES

Today you will go over your schedules with your Check & Connect teachers.

Be aware that all schedule changes need to go through your C&C teacher. If you want to change your schedule, you have to discuss it with your C&C first!

STOP BY AND INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO MR. NELSON TODAY!

ROOM

212

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Have you participated in One Day For Change before?

We need leaders to help facilitate our small groups and speakers to tell their stories.

You would need to be open to spending the day with our students, encouraging them to tell their stories, and be available to make follow up calls as needed.

Please see Bridgette for more information.

School Paperwork Needed As Soon As Possible

And you thought the WSLP was all you needed to sign today...

The start of the school year always includes paperwork! Here are some things you may need to complete and return to the office:

Everyone should complete a new medical form, especially if your health insurance or medications have changed!

If your address or phone number has changed, parents can make those changes on Family Access or contact the Crossroads office.

The **Free and Reduced lunch** form and **McKinney Vento** paperwork are forms that need to be filled out at the start of every year. You can get both of these forms in the office.

In order to go off campus, you need an **Off Campus** form signed by you and your parents.

Picture Day is September 19

Picture order forms are available in the office.

Do you need to change your privacy status? Occasionally, we take photos or videos of our students to be used in District publications which may be used by the news media. If you do not wish to grant permission for your student's picture or name to be used, you'll need to update your FERPA status by speaking with Cheryl or Lori in the office.

District Office: (360) 691-7717

Crossroads Office Contacts :

Principal:

Bridgette McVay (360) 283-4407

Crossroads Secretary and Open Doors Registrar:

Cheryl Berg: (360) 283-4407

Appointments with Bridgette need to go through Cheryl.

Crossroads Registrar

Lori Hanson: (360) 283-4012

Crossroads and Open Doors Counselor

Jennifer Foster: (360) 283-4014

District Information That You May Need to Know

New Superintendent

If you haven't heard, Josh Middleton is the new superintendent of the Granite Falls School District. Check out the school district's Facebook page to see some of his videos.

www.gfalls.wednet.edu

A wide variety of information can be found on the district website. The student handbook, district calendar, commonly requested forms and school board policies can be found there. You can also use Family Access to check your student's grades through the district website.

Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying

We are committed to provide an environment free from harassment, intimidation and bullying. Students who engage in such behavior will be subject to disciplinary action. Students who believe they have been a target of such activity, should report the incident to a parent, guardian or staff member. Then they will need to complete an incident report. The district's 504/ADA coordinator is Sara Woolverton: (360) 691-7717 or swoolverton@gfalls.wednet.edu

Vaccination Updates

In May 2019, the Washington State Legislature passed a bill that removes the personal and philosophical option to exempt children from the MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine required for school and child care entry.

This law does not change religious and medical exemption laws. Children who have one of these types of exemptions on file are not affected by the new law.

All students have to have a second dose of the Varicella (chickenpox) vaccination. Any student with only one dose will be required to get the additional dose unless they have an exemption waiver. Please contact our district nurse, Cassie Bounds, if you need to discuss an exemption waiver. 360-283-4538

One Day for Change *Cont.*

After hearing their stories, we are ready as students and staff to get back in our families and talk. Students open up to those they had only seen walk past them in the hall. Students share stories of depression, being bullied, homelessness, and lack of parental love. As each student finishes their part of the story, they are met with kind hugs and words.

Finally, we prepare for the part that truly brings us together as students. This is called "Crossing the Line." In this activity, a statement is read, and if it applies to you, you cross the line. As students cross the line, they see others

cross with them; people who have experienced similar pain. This really brings us together as a family, knowing we have shared experiences. You know that you are not alone.

As we complete the day, students do shout outs to each other. Students thank each other, and apologize to one another. Students voice how grateful they are to be at Crossroads.

And that's what makes us a FAMILY.

This article is made of excerpts from the journalism class blog. Go to the Crossroads website to read the entire piece.

C.A.R.E.

has become

P.E.A.C.E.

Come to Success Academy
to learn about the change!