

Hiteon Highlights

November 15, 2013



Hiteon Elementary School
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District Goal (2010-2015): All students will show continuous progress toward their personal learning goals, developed in collaboration with teachers and parents, and will be prepared for post-secondary education and career success.

Principal's Message:

I hope you are ready for the holiday season and Thanksgiving. This month is also a time to give thanks! At this time of year, it is important to give thanks for all of the amazing things that happen at Hiteon on a daily basis. I would like to take the time to thank you for all the positive help and support you have given our staff. Hiteon is such a wonderful school, mostly because of the amazing families, students, and teachers that we have here.

2013-14 Beaverton School District Inclement Weather Information

When the weather outside gets snowy or icy, school schedules could be affected. The District generally posts inclement weather decisions by 5:15 a.m. All Portland Metro area media outlets are also notified and announce the information on TV newscasts and online.

The District makes decisions based on the ability to operate school buses safely; the ability of parents and students to drive safely; the ability of students to walk safely. The decision that is made will be for the entire District. As always, parents may choose to make different decisions based on their particular location.

For the latest inclement weather information:

Log onto the District's website: <http://www.beaverton.k12.or.us> and a message banner will be posted on the top of the main page if there is a change in school operations. Public Safety webpage has information about inclement weather procedures and snow routes.

<http://www.beaverton.k12.or.us/home/departments/public-safety-and-security/> then click on Inclement Weather Information in English and other languages.

School Report Card

School and district report cards for the 2012-13 school year are available at: www.ode.state.or.us/data/reportcard/reports.aspx. (Select Beaverton in the District Selection drop-down menu). Our report card is also attached to this newsletter email. I welcome the opportunity to share this information with you on the progress we are making to improve academic achievement for each student in the District. State report cards began fourteen years ago when the

Upcoming Events

November 2013

- 15th Writing Celebration w/Principal
Popcorn Sales
Family Dance
- 18th School Board Meeting
6:30pm @Admin Ctr.
- 20th PTC General Meeting
6:30pm
- 21st Passport Check Day
- 27th Budget Reduction Day
- 28th Thanksgiving-School Closed
- 29th School Closed

December 2013

- 2nd Grading Day No Students
- 6th Newsletter
- 9th Budget Reduction Day
School Closed
- 13th Writing Celebration w/Principal
Popcorn Sales
- 20th Winter Parties
Newsletter
- 23rd Winter Break School Closed
- 30th Winter Break School Closed

January 2014

- 6th Happy New Year
- 15th 9:00am PTC General Meeting
- 17th Newsletter
- 20th Holiday-School Closed
- 24th Writing Celebration w/Principal
Popcorn Sales
- 27th Staff Development
No Students
- 31st Newsletter

February 2014

- 14th Valentine Parties
Hawk Squawk
Newsletter
- 17th President's Day School Closed
- 19th 6:30pm PTC General Meeting
6:30pm District Listening
Session

1999 Oregon Legislature passed a law requiring every public school and district to receive a report from the Oregon Department of Education about how they are performing overall. You will notice that the report cards issued this year are significantly different from prior years.

Elementary and middle school ratings are based mostly on the growth of each student on the State Reading and Math tests. Half of a high school's rating is based on graduation rates. Detailed data about how our school rating was computed is also available at the link above. During the year I will communicate with you frequently about student achievement and programs in place at our school to foster student learning and success. If you have questions about our report card, please contact me. You may also have suggestions for improvements. Please share them! Thank you!

Student Report Cards

Every parent should be demanding a standards-based report card. You should insist on knowing the learning targets being addressed in each subject and you should be asking for a rating of 1-4 on each target. If we want teachers and students focused on the most important skills and knowledge in each course and if we want students well prepared for their next step, whether that be next year's classes for our elementary and middle school students or starting life as a university student for our high school students, the choice is clear.

Why are clearly identified standards or learning targets so important and why is a student and their parents receiving feedback on the student's progress in each so critical? The teacher, student and parent should all know before the first day of class, what major skills and knowledge within the scope of the subject will be the focus of the learning. Teachers need to know in order to align their teaching, assignments, projects, tests, etc. to ensure students reach the level of proficiency required for success in the next step. These clearly identified targets and a classroom built around the targets also allows the teacher to recognize and communicate to students and parents where the student is succeeding and where gaps in his/her learning exist. Why is receiving feedback on each standard or learning target in the form of a 1-4 rating so important? Well, the magic isn't in the number, it's in the definitions behind each number. Under the old system, E, M, and D, there were never fully developed definitions used by all teachers. It was a very inconsistent way of communicating. In addition, students typically received a mark based on a comparison to the other students in the class. In other words, the "E" mark your child received in Writing simply meant that he/she was writing better than the class average. It did not tell you how they were progressing towards proficiency in the writing targets.

If your child's 2nd grade teacher states that your student is a 3 or "Proficient" with Writing Learning Target #2, both the student and parent know this means the student can introduce a topic, provide facts and definitions to develop a topic, and provide a concluding statement or section. You all know this because you can look at the rubric developed to describe the levels of proficiency for Writing Learning Target #2 in the 2nd grade and see what a "Proficient" score of a 3 means. This is the type of information all parties involved, the student, teacher and parent need to focus their energies and ensure success for the student.

Students and parents can view the Learning Targets and Rubrics for most subjects taught by going to the Beaverton School District website at <https://www.beaverton.k12.or.us> and then use the tabs across the top to go to

"DISTRICT" > "DEPARTMENTS" > "TEACHING & LEARNING" Once there, click on the LEARNING TARGETS / CURRICULUM tab on the left. We have not yet finished all of our work to develop Learning Targets and Rubrics but you will see that we have come a long way and we hope to have this work completed for every subject within the next year. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us and thank you for your on-going support.