

**Hexter 1 Newsletter from The Principal**  
**Sep 20, 2019**

Writing to you on our first High School Grade Day Week which is like “finals” week at a traditional school. Units of study are ending, grading periods are finalizing, and students are exerting last efforts to show mastery at an A, B, or C level to earn their credit. Thursday is Grade Day and only students who are not passing classes need to attend those individual periods. No students (7-12<sup>th</sup> grade) need to attend on Friday, Sept 20<sup>th</sup>, as that is a Professional Learning Day for Aspen Valley only.

These are just a couple of the processes that make us an application-based school and a great choice for students who need a fresh start-new hope! This is my first hexter as principal and I am so proud of our students and staff on a great start!

In addition to an entire district welcome rally and a couple days of professional learning, staff enjoyed a couple days in August getting ready for students. Our first day of school, our HS station rotation was a little bumpy, but then HS Student Counsel treated all families and 7-12<sup>th</sup> staff and students to a BBQ! Our 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders spent a day at Fox Run park getting to know one another while enjoying the beauty of nature. Popsicle Friday was a hit where all students enjoyed popsicles after our first full week of school.

We’d like to welcome our latest staff member, Kari Overly, our new middle school para-educator. Ms. Overly has volunteered much of the last few years volunteering in schools helping her own children’s’ teachers and is now helping us with yours!

Thanks to Elder Construction and our district project manager, Dan Moors, for completing our middle school remodel/addition project early! Students in PE classes have already started enjoying our newest multi-purpose room, and once we get cafeteria tables, all students will be eating lunch in there. All 7-12<sup>th</sup> grade students, families and staff are invited to our Soft Opening **Community Dinner on Oct 2, 4:30 – 6pm**. Please rsvp by Sept 25<sup>th</sup>.

Having a security officer on campus every day has added yet one more resource for our community. Under Officer Matt Peska’s guidance, we have conducted our first fire and lockdown drills and are working on making our parking lot traffic run more smoothly.

Looking into the future, we are still looking for a Parent Sounding Board to represent AV Campus; Vision/Hearing Screening (Sep 24); HS and MS Community Service days (Oct 16 and 26); Parent-Teacher Conferences (Oct 17-18); Coffee with the Principal (9:15am first Wednesday of every month, HS Library); AV Advisory Committee (6pm second Tuesday of every month).

Please read below for updates from our MS facilitator, Randy Thomas, and our HS counselor, Courtney Morrison. Follow us on Facebook (HS and MS pages) and Instagram (aspensvalleycampus)

~Robin

## ***Middle School Updates***

Community, this first semester has been a sprint for us all but we have succeeded in so many awesome achievements. Thank you for attending the first three HOPE Academy classes at the end of busy work days. You have shared wonderful stories about your child's happiness at school this year paired with levels of academic and social success never achieved before. The school staff has met almost daily discussing the events of the day, identifying individual student needs, sharing successful strategies and celebrating a wide array of successes.

The three-legged stool is standing strong with labor from students, staff and parents. Beginning Monday, both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade will eat lunch together in our new space, the Grove; something they are quite excited about. Students will have new power group and exploratory classes; these change each hexter. The core classes remain the same all year.

Our final HOPE class for first semester is this Tuesday at 6:00 to 7:00 PM in the high school multi-purpose room. You will each receive a folder to inform you of your child's present level of ability in literacy and math and be able to review (but leave at school) your child's portfolio which houses a wide range of work samples for Self-Regulated Learning, reading, writing, and math. This portfolio follows them to Aspen Valley High School to document their growth over the years.

Our sole fund raiser, Butter Braids, is underway and runs through October 2, 2019. This is the only source to pay for all of the incentives and field trips planned for the year. Below is our dream list, but it depends on how many butter braids are sold. Our target is for each student to sell 15 items.

1. Hexter rewards:
  - a. Hexter 1 –September 27—Legends Mini Golf
  - b. Hexter 2—November 8-Gaming For You in Chapel Hills Mall
  - c. Hexter 3—January 9—Bowling AFA
  - d. Hexter 4—February 21—Soccer Haus (Bailey works there)
  - e. Hexter 5—April 17—Movie theater
  - f. Hexter 6—May 28<sup>th</sup> -- contingent on last day of school and continuation
2. Whole-school field trips:
  - a. October 16---Perhaps a community service day (in the works)
  - b. January 17---Denver Aquarium? Or U.S. Mint in Denver
  - c. March 6—Cave of the Winds and Cliff Dwellings
  - d. April 30—Some form of outdoor adventure

Let's continue to support students by strengthening the home/school relationship that we have already worked diligently to establish

~Randy

## **Counseling Corner**

Greetings from the High School Counseling office! We are off to a great start here at AVHS and have already had two successful events with both our Senior parent night and Cookies with Counselors. If you

missed either of those events and have questions about them feel free to contact me. Second hexter marks the beginning of our group counseling opportunities with Cassandra Lesniewski our partner from Peak View Behavioral Health. These counseling groups will run during the HS assembly on Tuesdays and are a great opportunity for your student to work on personal growth in different areas. We are also starting our ICAP lessons with Freshman and Seniors this hexter and I am very much looking forward to exploring your students academic and career goals with them. I hope you are all getting acclimated to being back in school and please always feel welcome to contact me with any questions. Here are some important dates to keep in mind as we move into 2<sup>nd</sup> hexter.

**-Monday Sept 30<sup>th</sup> 5:30-7:30pm** Southern College Fair at Coronado High School. 1590 West Filmore Street. Meet with 200 plus colleges from across the country.

**-Tuesday October 15<sup>th</sup>** Colorado Council on High School/ College Relations (D20'S) College fair. Open to grade levels 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> at Chapel Hills Mall Event Center. Register online before you go at <https://cocouncil.gotocollegefairs.com> Come explore your interests! Learn which colleges best serve your growth. Find your fit!

**-Tuesday October 29<sup>th</sup> 6:00-8:00pm** Aspen Valley FAFSA night in the HS multipurpose room. Come receive help from two PPCC financial aid representatives and get your student's FAFSA application submitted.

### **College Visits**

- Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> PPCC 11:35 am
- October 16<sup>th</sup> at 12:45pm CU Boulder. This is also AVHS's community Service day so if your student is interested in visiting with CU Boulder please have them select the Aspen Valley Community Service Opportunity and they can meet with the CU Boulder Rep.
- Nov 13<sup>th</sup> Western State College 9:00am

~Courtney


*In the future, look for:*

### ***Student Council Updates***



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Students, Staff, and Visitors  
Aspen Valley Middle School

**FROM:** Joe Costas   
Facilities Supervisor (Custodial/Environmental Health and Safety)

**DATE:** September 4, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Asbestos Update

In 1986 the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) was signed into law requiring all non-profit Public and Private Schools (K-12) to inspect for the presence of Asbestos Containing Building Materials (ACBM). Academy District 20 has completed the initial inspection on all buildings in the district and continues to monitor the status of any materials that were found during inspections. A copy of the inspection and the Management Plan for your building, devised to keep in compliance with applicable regulations, can be viewed at the main building or at the Facilities Management Office located at 10221 Lexington Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80920.

The building was purchased in 2012 and an asbestos inspection was performed on August 4, 2014. This initial sampling was conducted to determine if ACM was present and to assess the physical characteristics of the ACM through the leased portion. No asbestos containing materials were identified in your building during this inspection.

Academy District 20 is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for our employees and children and the administration is interested in your concerns and suggestions. Please contact the offices of Facilities Management at 719-234-1500 to discuss your thoughts and concerns regarding asbestos.

JC/rv