Board Report Jim Knott - Principal

August 12, 2019 Douglas County West High School

This is a very busy and exciting time here at DC West High School. The new school year always brings with it a renewed excitement for students, staff, and parents. However, every year seems to bring even more excitement as we finish a major remodel to all of our high school classrooms and hallways. It has been amazing to watch the transformation of these areas over the summer. The amount of facility work done in our district over the last few years is staggering. However, all of these facility updates and additions were badly needed and it is exciting to see the direction we are going! I would like to thank Scott Perrigo and his crew for their efforts in supporting the construction crews as well as taking on several remodeling projects themselves.

We will have four new teachers at the high school this fall. Mike Troy will teach science and be our head football coach. He comes to DC West after twenty years of teaching at Valley, Bellevue East, and Platteview High Schools. Ty Hansen will teach high school special education and social studies and will be an assistant cross-country and assistant track coach. He is a Midland University graduate and student taught last spring at Bennington High School. Russ Ninemire will teach high school physical education and will be our head girl’s basketball coach. Russ spent 30+ years in Sandy Creek teaching PE and being the AD and head girl’s basketball coach. During the 2018/19 school year, he taught elementary PE and was the 9th grade boys basketball coach at Omaha Westside. Britney Johnson will be the district-wide EL teacher. She comes to DC West after serving as an elementary and EL teacher in Ralston over the past four years. Please stop by and meet them at our upcoming open house on Tuesday, August 20 from 6:30-8:00.

From June 29-August 1, I attended the Freshman Success Institute at the University of Chicago as part of a MOEC (Metropolitan Omaha Education Consortium) task force.  High school principals from Bennington, Elkhorn, Millard, and OPS spent three days at the University of Chicago with other administrators from around the country learning about 9th grade at-risk student attendance, intervention, and graduation rates.  I will go back to the University of Chicago in October and February to finish the workshop. MOEC Superintendents will then ask for a report from the principals about potential actions/programs that Omaha area schools might be able to use to help increase attendance and graduation rates for at-risk students.

New student registration will take place the week of August 12. I plan to include high school student numbers in my next board report. GO FALCONS!