

August 2011

Our mission is to create a learning community that prepares all students to be productive, responsible, and successful.

Strategic Planning Process

The summer always goes by fast but this year it really seems to have flown by. Hopefully you have had an enjoyable summer and are getting ready for another great school year.

With the help of community focus groups made up of parents, community members, teachers, and administrators, we have been working on revising our district strategic plan. Through the input from surveys and focus group meetings, the goals and objectives for the next three years have been formed.

The goals and objectives are posted on the website and a brochure will be mailed out to everyone shortly. As was the case with the last strategic plan, communication is still a major focus. Our goal is to increase the effectiveness of communication between the school district and the community through a variety of ways.

Please share your suggestions for specific activities or areas to address as a part of the strategic plan by calling or e-mailing me directly or by visiting the Opinions and Ideas link on the website at www.okawvalley.org.

What's New at OkawValley

The summer crew has been working very hard to get the buildings ready for the beginning of the school year. Below is a list of some of the changes for the new school year.

-The 4th grade will now be housed at Okaw Valley Elementary School. The two fourth grade classrooms will be housed in the South hallway and the old locker room storage in the main hallway has been renovated and will be used as a resource room.

-The middle school will now consist of 5th through 8th graders. The upstairs hallway and classrooms that was previously the library, computer lab, and math room will now house two 5th grade classrooms as well as a computer lab in between the two classrooms. This will allow the 5th graders to remain self-contained as they were in the past. The downstairs storage area is also being converted into a media center and will serve as the library and computer lab for the middle school students. The work at the middle school is nearing completion and we are excited about the opportunities this will provide for our students.

-As I mentioned in one of the newsletters last year, the middle school and high school will be implementing a modified block schedule this year. This new schedule will allow us to keep the benefits of offering some classes in a block setting while moving others, such as math, to a traditional in order to provide the consistent reinforcement needed for maximum effectiveness.

-We are welcoming the following new teachers to the district this year: Becky Zindel-4th grade, Paula Coffey-District Guidance Counselor, Jodi Buehnerkemper-School

Psychologist, Martin Call-High School English, Brennon Baker-Middle School
PE/Health, and Sarah Boline-Band and Chorus

-Through grant funds, we were able to provide new student and teacher computers in
several areas.

Important Upcoming Dates:

August 4th-Registration at OVHS-11:00-7:00

August 5th-Registration at OVMS-11:00-4:00

August 17th-Teachers' Institute

August 18th-1st Student Attendance Day

Enjoy the Rest of Your Summer!!!