



Middleton School District #134

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Dr. Josh J. Middleton, Superintendent

Andy Horning, Assistant Superintendent

March 18, 2019

Dear MSD Parents and Staff,

On Sunday evening, March 17th, Mrs. Pennington – Director of Curriculum, Mr. Horning – Assistant Superintendent, and I presented to the visiting Advanc-Ed Accreditation Team. Our presentation covered a number of academic and operational topics with the primary focus on our 5-Year Goals from the School Board’s Strategic Plan.

Too much information? Let’s start with accreditation. Accreditation, according to the Oxford Dictionaries, is the action or process of officially certifying that a school or course has met standards set by external regulators. Advanc-Ed is the “regulator” and recognized regional accrediting agency for most of the United States. In Idaho, all middle schools and high schools must undergo a rigorous review by Advanc-Ed every five years. Middleton School District is just one of a handful of Idaho Districts to voluntarily seek the more difficult K-12 system-wide accreditation.

Is this a big deal? YES! The scrutiny and accountability measures have increased since No Child Left Behind and continues with the new Every Student Succeed Act. A K-12 accreditation review ensures that a district puts in place practices whereby 31 standards are met under three domains: Leadership, Learning and Resources. Similar to a financial audit, this team reviews what we are doing, how we are doing it, and how it is being communicated, with recommendations and commendations at the end of their report. The bottom line is not about getting a seal of approval but having a continuous improvement process that betters teachers and leaders for the benefit of ALL students and student learning. This week, through a review of our data and plans, observing classrooms, interviewing teachers, students, parents and staff, Advanc-Ed will provide a report highlighting our successes and areas we need to focus on for improvement.

After the team’s visit and the Advanc-Ed report is published, I look forward to sharing it with the entire Middleton School District. In the meantime I want to thank the MSD#134 staff, the Board, and stakeholders who have collaborated on our strategic plan, our processes and procedures, and various initiatives such as textbook adoptions, budget review and facility planning. We started down the accreditation path over 3 years ago and now embrace a continuous improvement cycle while promoting consistency and change that ensures equity for the community’s students we educate.

Sincerely,

Dr. M

Every Child Learning Every Day