



THE PATRIOT

September 2017

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

What an exciting start to the school year! It has been a breath of fresh air welcoming our students back into these halls and classrooms - compared to the many tradesmen and workers that have spent the summer performing demolition and renovating our school. Our students have been overjoyed with our new library commons and classes have already begun making use of this new space. A common request I've heard from students is to add a cafe - maybe something to look into.

Standing in the hallways and entering into classrooms, you can feel the positive energy of a new school year and the hope that each new year brings. The key is to ride that wave and continue to challenge our students so that that positive energy stays with us for the entire year!



Our New Library Commons

I am thrilled to show off our newly renovated library commons! For many of you, you were able to see this firsthand at our Open House this past week. If you could not attend, I am excited for you to see it the next time you are at IJHS for any of our numerous upcoming events.

This was a major renovation that took place over the summer with the

purpose to provide our students with an open area that promotes student collaboration; which can be seen by the various areas where small groups of students can sit and work together. Already, students have begun taking advantage of this space and look forward to how we utilize this space for years to come!



GRANDPARENTS DAY: We hope that all of our grandparents can come celebrate with us on Friday, Sept. 8 from 9:00 - 10:00a. Students came home this past Monday with permission forms for our annual breakfast celebration. We're asking for any pictures to help with our slideshow be brought to the office



FALL MAP TESTING: Our students will begin their Fall MAP testing on Tuesday, Sept. 5 and will run through Sept. 15. This is our local benchmark assessment where students are tested in math, reading, and language usage three times per year. Parents can expect to receive Fall MAP reports later this month.



PATRIOT VOLLEYBALL: Our IJHS Patriot volleyball teams are off to a hot start! We hope that you can come out and cheer them on at any of the home or away games over the month of September. The team schedule can be found on our school website under "Downloads."

The Emphasis on Feedback

Over the past decade, actually a bit longer, the emphasis on lesson and unit design has been to start with end in mind - often referred to as backwards design. What does this mean? This philosophy is that teachers design lessons by first creating the appropriate assessment for the learning targets/objectives of the unit. This affords the teacher to design an assessment that is accurately aligned to what students should be able to know and do by the end of a unit. Once this step is completed, the teacher then begins to develop activities and formative assessments to ensure that the student is well prepared and provided with the appropriate amount of supports to be successful. However, this does not always assure that the student will be successful. So, what does? Feedback.

Our staff kicked off this school year with having Garnet Hilman, present on assessment design and student feedback - the mortar that strengthens teaching and learning. Rick Wormeli, a educational researcher, quipped that

“Students can learn without grades, but they cannot learn without timely, descriptive feedback.” It is feedback that supports each individual child in their own learning progression.

Garnet identified three types of feedback: punitive, corrective, and actionable. Punitive feedback is when a student receives an assessment back where the teacher has identified student errors. Corrective feedback is

descriptive feedback and that hold students accountable for learning when mistakes are made.

Mistakes will happen; it is human nature. However, it is our responsibility to hold students accountable for learning from their mistakes. A term often heard in education circles today is growth mindset; which, is used to describe people who believe they can develop



demonstrated through teachers returning student work where they have made the corrections where students have erred. Actionable feedback is where students are given enough information and direction where they are able to make corrections on their own and are held accountable for resubmitting. Based on these descriptions, only one of these three types offer timely and

and strengthen skills through effort, effective strategies, and feedback. This is why how we provide students with feedback is so critical. All students can learn, they just need the right information and direction from their teachers.