

## AlterNATIVE School

January 5, 2016

### **Building Improvements**

Work crews didn't break for the holidays. They finished the complete makeover of the student restrooms, added the covered porches to both the office building and the computer lab, laid the pipes for the irrigation system and prepared the area for grass, and they poured the concrete walkways, basketball court, front bumper parking areas. The students were amazed when they returned to school on January 4. Still need to put up the basketball hoop, finish the fence slats plant the shrubs, complete the two signs (one drawn by a local artist) and plant the grass. Stop by and take a look. Student pride in their school has soared.

### **Attendance**

The implementation of a strict attendance policy has had tremendous results. We were able to attain 90% attendance in the last month of the semester but we are not resting on past performance. Students are beginning to understand that they cannot graduate unless they complete all of the coursework and they can only complete the courses if they are at school. We had 5 students who worked on their coursework over the holiday and a total of three courses were completed. Our students have come to understand how our policies are designed to help them complete and there has been an overall positive reaction.

### **I'm Ready**

Principal Draper drew the line at the front of the entrance to the school. The **I'm ready** line is the spot he has marked for students to put their personal problems behind them and concentrate on completing their degree. If a student acts in a manner that proves they are not ready, Mr. Draper will escort that student back to the line and they will start again. In the first semester, we have had no major infraction of the rules the student and their parent/guardian signed off on and this semester is off to a continuation of that mature behavior displayed by our students in the first semester.

### **Completers**

Katrina Cutter, Ernestine Ailak, Cheyenne King, Jerrica Hinton, Dominic Newman, Erik Steele, and Brandi Logan have all completed their missing credits and will be graduating in May with the Secondary. We have several students who are close to completion and expect that two will finish in early January.

### **Exercise/Intermural Teams**

Principal Draper switches hats to his previous position as a PE coach. He is concerned that our students are not active and has identified the short break periods as insufficient to address the problem. We are asking our students for suggestions that might include lumping all of the breaks into one 20 minute period and provide basketballs for boys/girls intermural team, perhaps volleyball and he has already driven the stakes for horseshoes. As the construction team completes their work, we will begin our programs for a more balanced educational experience.

### **Coming Academic Events**

Students will take the ASVAB military placement exam on January 20 at the high school and February 6, the students at the AlterNATIVE will take their SAT exams, a requirement before entry into a 2 or 4 year institution of learning. A large number have signed up to take advantage of these exams and both are at no cost to the student.