It’s that time of year again when we all say “School is starting already!” I found myself feeling like we just got out of school only to have blinked my eyes and here is September again. As I grow older the years seem to go by so fast. It felt like yesterday that I enrolled my oldest into the first grade in the Oroville School District. That was 12 years ago and now he is at Gonzaga University starting his freshman year.

I would like to encourage each of you as parents or guardians to remember that these children are only with you for a short time. We need to make sure that this time is not wasted or taken for granted. Please take time to talk to your child. Find out what their interests are and what they are wanting to do with their lives. They might surprise you with their answer.

Through GEAR UP and the district’s advisory programs, your child has been exposed to many different paths they can take. It is very important that you support your child and talk with them to help them prepare for the changes that are to come ahead.

I would also encourage your child to participate in one of the many clubs, sports, fieldtrips or other activities that will happen this year. In this newsletter we will share some of those things that have already happened and what’s in store for this fall. It is going to be a great year!

Mrs. Miller

On September 19th, 29 students from Oroville High School went to WSU Pullman to attend “Future Cougar Day” at the campus. They saw the campus, visited the different academic areas and attended a cougar football game. The cougs came from behind to win the game in overtime 30-27. It was an amazing day.
Rachel’s Challenge

On September 1, 2009 Oroville Jr. and Sr. high school students went to an assembly that could change lives. Here is what the students listened to and learned on that day.

Rachel Scott was the first person killed at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999. Her acts of kindness and compassion coupled with the contents of her six diaries have become the foundation for one of the most life-changing school programs in America.

Powerful video/audio footage of Rachel’s life and the Columbine tragedy holds students spell-bound during a one hour school presentation that motivates them to positive change in the way they treat others.

This is followed by an interactive 45-minute training session involving both adult and student leaders that shows how to sustain the momentum created by the assembly. The assembly creates the "want to" or desire for positive change. The training session teaches the "how to" and ensures that the positive impact will continue.

That evening the Rachel’s Challenge speaker conducted a powerful session with parents and community leaders. This session is similar to the assembly program and ends with a specific challenge to parents and community leaders, showing them how they can reinforce the decisions their youth are making.

New Study Tables

This year we welcome new tutors to the GEAR UP study tables. We have the privilege of having Ms. Harris and Ms. Cole join us after school this year. Ms. Harris will be having MATH Study table in her room 205 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Ms. Cole will be in the computer lab helping with English, Science and Social Studies with Mrs. Miller. We are really concentrating on academics this year especially math, so having Ms. Harris will be a great help to students. If your student is struggling in math, please encourage them to stay after school for extra help.

Parenting Class Available

GEAR UP and the Oroville School District would like to invite parents to a class called “Staying Connected with Your Teen”. It is an interactive program for all parents of teenage children. In a lively and open atmosphere, parents will learn specific strategies that will help teens become more involved in the family and less likely to engage in problem behaviors such as substance abuse, delinquency and violence. It is a two week program with two sessions lasting 2 hours each. This time will defiantly be worth your time and effort.

The instructors for the class will be Dawn Miller and Maria Griffin.

If you are interested in the class, please contact Mrs. Miller or Mrs. Griffin for further details. We will need at least 5 parents to hold the class. So please call 476-3612 so we can schedule a time that will work for everyone.
The Oroville School District’s Mission Statements declares that the students in the District will “have access to a variety of experiences and curriculum offerings that will enable them to become accountable, responsible, productive and respectful citizens.” To help make that mission a reality the junior high and high school students participate in an advisory class every Monday. Advisory, known as Hornet Connections as approved by OSPI (Office Superintendent of Public Instruction), assists students in creating a Five Year Plan, goals for the year and a portfolio to reflect on their progress and plans to move through the school year.

When a student at Oroville High School enters the 9th grade they are assigned an advisor and advisory class. This advisor follows them to the 12th grade and helps them stay on track for graduation. Using the Hornet Connections curriculum the advisor also participates in a Student-Led Conference with every student in their group and their students’ parents. These conferences keep parents informed of their child’s progress throughout high school and give them an opportunity to be more involved in their child’s education. Not only are the parents more involved, but the advisor helps to keep the students on track for graduation and plan for the future.

Oroville High School has been using Navigation 101 to develop a successful advisory class. Navigation 101 is a guidance and life planning program that was originally developed by the Franklin Pierce School District here in Washington. It was such a successful program in their district that hundreds of districts around the state have adopted it and it is now funded by the Washington State Legislature. This program is designed to focus on every student’s needs. Navigation 101 focuses on helping kids develop clear goals for the future and what they need to do daily to make their goals a reality.

There are grants available for schools to apply to use the Navigation 101 program. Oroville High School has been using Navigation 101 for five years now, so when they applied for an enhanced Navigation 101 grant they were easily accepted. This enhanced grant not only provides the classroom curriculum, but also some online tools to supplement it. Some tools include career and college surveys, an online portfolio, and access to college preparation information. This year’s 10th graders will be piloting this enhanced curriculum.

The Oroville School District is proving that they are dedicated to not only their student’s present success, but their future success in post secondary education and/or the 21st century work force by using Navigation 101 in the junior and senior high schools.