

Poland Regional High School

School Board Report

September 2021

Staff Updates

Rick Kramer, health and PE teacher, will be transitioning to a new position in SAD 15. We will be holding interviews to fill a one-year Health/PE position during the week of September 13th.

Teaching and Learning

The year has started with happy kids! We have over 500 students in the building, (up from 469 last year at this time!) so it did feel pretty overwhelming on Thursday, especially at lunch. Things began to settle down even by Friday, so we are feeling good about the start of school.

Our current numbers:

9th grade:	144
10th grade:	123
11th grade:	145
12th grade:	95

We have had many more registrations than normal and only two requests for remote education. Both of those requests were related to our mask optional policy.

Our first Pooled Testing will be Tuesday, September 7th and every Tuesday after that. We have 53 staff members and 169 students participating. I predict that the student numbers will go up as the first quarantine situations occur. Only close contacts who are neither vaccinated nor participating in pooled testing will have to quarantine.

When Ben Poulin took over the Yearbook in 2015, there was a debt of \$12,000 held in the student activities account. The annual project had been managed by a rotating series of teachers and was not attached in any meaningful way to the educational process. Ben has been teaching the class, which is regularly oversubscribed, with a great deal of success bringing consistency and professionalism to the project. With an annual budget contribution of \$1,500 and strong ad sales, the debt has been reduced to \$2,500. A big thanks to Ben for reviving the Yearbook and leading it to financial solvency.

Facilities & Safety

With the purchase of 25 new tables last spring from round 2 of our federal money, we have been able to set up a satellite cafe in the lobby. The tables seat 4 students and allow us to reduce the number of students in the cafe by reducing seating at the circular tables and the booths. While students will still have assigned seats as we did last year, students are choosing their table and lunch buddies and having a much more social experience.

Events/Activities

Our sports teams are back to normal participation numbers, and our student-athletes are excited to be playing under normal rules.

We had our first pep rally since March 2020. We brought all of our students out to the football field Friday afternoon (9/3) and had an experience similar to what we have traditionally done in the gym. Three of our 4 classes fit in the bleachers and seniors sat on the team benches that Don and Sal brought over to the track. Thanks to both of them for the extra work to make this happen!

Open House: September 8th

Picture day: September 15th

Homecoming week activities: October 4th - 7th