

Onamia Academy Principal Board Report

January 2025

- We had our winter reading and math diagnostic testing in December. These tests help determine where our students are at in their math and reading in regards to grade level proficiency. We had 29% of our students increase their reading scores and 57% of our students increase their math scores from the fall. Diving deeper into the results, 8% of our students improved their reading scores by 2 or more grade levels while 29% of our students improved by 2 or more grade levels in math. We added a WIN (What I Need) hour this school year as an elective class for all students. During this hour, students work on social skills for half the time and then math or reading depending on their diagnostic results from September. From the results of our diagnostic testing, you can see that we made great gains in our academic testing thanks to adding this class.
- A priority for us this school year has been communication with families and team members (social workers, probation officers, guardian ad litem, etc). For every new student we send a welcome email to their family/team that includes the school calendar, Synergy sign up instructions so grades can be monitored, and contact information for the school. Twice a month, emails go out to all team members updating them on grades, behavior, and test scores. We have found that this communication has helped everyone stay involved with the school and makes discussions about behaviors and grades easier because the teams are involved with what is happening at school. Anna and I are also attending as many Nexus Case Conferences as we can so the teams can put a face to the emails that are being sent out. We appreciate Nexus letting us be a part of these meetings. A huge thank you to Anna, the Behavior Interventionist, for helping to improve communication with student team members.
- We held our annual Chili Cook Off on January 9th. School staff make chili and then our Level 3 students taste each one and get to vote on their favorite. We had chili made with chocolate, white chili, chili made with cream cheese, and chili made with pickle juice. The students usually just vote for the most “normal” looking and tasting chili in their eyes. For the 5th year in a row, Karly, the secretary, won the Chili Cook Off.
- We held a winter graduation ceremony last Thursday, January 16, for one of our super seniors. It was a great graduation ceremony held at the gym at Nexus. Thank you to all the staff that helped pull together the mid-year graduation.