

Principal's Opening Day Report to the Raymond School Board

Thomas Waldron, Principal, Iber Holmes Gove Middle School

2023-2024 School Year, August 29th, 2023

Overview and Acknowledgements	<p>IHGMS had a very smooth first day of school, in almost every regard. Buses arrived and departed on time, parents dropped off and picked up students while maintaining safe traffic patterns. Food Services had healthy options prepared for breakfast and lunches, helping students learn their lunch ID numbers. The building was clean, classrooms had adequate furniture and colorful visuals hung on the walls. We had 100% attendance from faculty and staff, and 97.2% attendance from students, with parent contact made for all absent students.</p> <p>The day began with students entering the school with many smiling adults outside and inside welcoming them back, and passing through the main lobby to see it decorated in green and white with a large welcome banner and balloons. A special thanks to our dedicated Parent Core Group who volunteered to decorate the main lobby. Another thank you to School Resource Officer Susan Frotton for being on scene to greet students and families as they entered the building. 4th grade students entered the building through the side entrance door, directly to the 4th grade pod area. Parents were able to walk their 4th grade student(s) to their classroom for the first day.</p> <p>During morning meetings I walked around and saw homerooms engage in activities designed to welcome students and ease them back into school with structured social activities to promote connections and develop a sense of community. Classes and lunches ran as scheduled without any major incidents.</p> <p>Overall I am exceptionally proud of our students, families, faculty and staff for how well the day went. Coming back to school can be a difficult transition for many as we return to early morning schedules and structure that has not been in place for a while, but ultimately we came together as a collective school community on the first day of school and put our best foot forward. I could not ask for a better outcome.</p>
Transportation	All buses arrived and departed on time within the arrival and dismissal windows. Vehicles that picked up students followed all protocols which contributed to a safe flow of traffic, getting students out of the building safely and efficiently.
Enrollment	4th Grade-- 97 5th Grade-- 87 6th Grade-- 73

	<p>7th Grade-- 87 8th Grade-- 89</p> <p>Total Enrollment: 433</p>
<p>Staffing</p>	<p>We are in good shape with our present staffing situation. We had a lot of new hires for the start of this year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Karen Arendt- Library/Media Specialist ● Brenna Baxter- Behavior Coach ● Katie Bronson- Dean of Student Services ● Renee Cooney- Paraeducator ● Darcy Cronan- Receptionist ● Stephanie Duxbury- 7th Grade ELA ● Joanne Franklin- 6th Grade Case Manager ● Gina Frink- Computer/STEM ● Caitlin Fogg- School Counselor ● Mary Hoyt- Lead Behavior Coach (District-wide position) ● John Kollmorgen- Title 1 Reading ● Randy Lacasse- Band (shared with RHS) ● Albert Lapiejko- 6th Grade Social Studies, LT Sub ● Stephanie LeBel- Administrative Assistant ● Michelle Mainz- Paraeducator ● Heather Newton- RAM Room ● Susan Peters- Green Room ● Ellie Samuelson- Music ● Tom Waldron- Principal ● Kaitlin Wallace- Health ● Emily Watts- 4th Grade <p>Open Positions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Grade 4 Case Manager- Pending ● Title 1 Math Tutor ● Long Term Sub, Social Worker ● Paraprofessionals- multiple ● Custodians- multiple ● Food service- multiple
<p>Challenges</p>	<p>All challenges are opportunities. Here are a few:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There is no transition time built in the master schedule between different classes, lunch, recess, and UAs. This causes some issues in the form of delays when accounting for walking/transition time. We are working on streamlining our transition processes. ● Without lunch monitors, teachers now cover lunch and recess

	<p>duty. This has cut their PLC time in half from every day, to every other day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Unfilled/Open Faculty & Staff Positions
Upcoming Events	<p>September 8th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Picture Day <p>September 11th - 15th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● All grades- iReady Assessments● Scholastic Book Fair in Library <p>September 12th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 3-4pm Principal Coffee Hour <p>September 14th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 6-7:30pm Open House <p>September 29th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Teacher Professional Development Day