



# Omak High School

P.O. Box 833  
20 South Cedar St  
Omak, WA 98841  
HS Office 826-5150  
HS Fax 826-8515

**John Belcher**  
Principal  
826-7697

**David Kirk**  
Assistant Principal  
Alternative High School Principal  
Career Tech. Ed. Administrator  
826-8529

**Darryl Moulton**  
Guidance Counselor  
826-8536

**Joe LaGrou**  
Athletic Director  
826-8369

August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009

Dear Omak Student and Guardian,

This letter is to inform you of our new policy and procedures at Omak High School that will be critical to your success this school year. We are implementing two new initiatives to improve student achievement, connection and relevancy to your school and helping you prepare for your post high school plans.

This year we will implement PRIDE 101. This is an advisory program on Monday's twice a month, one of your regularly scheduled classes for all students. We will spend a little over a half hour twice a month on planning activities for your future after high school. Each advisory will work on activities that will help you build a portfolio full of evidence of your learning, goal setting, planning, and celebrations towards your goal of post high school success. In March, during our Parent, Teacher, and Student Conferences, you will be scheduled to lead a "student led conference" with your parents or guardians. You will be trained on how to present your portfolio of learning, your strengths and dreams, and what your plan is to achieve those dreams. The portfolio and the student led conferences will now be a requirement of graduation.

The other new policy to be aware of as a family is our attendance procedures revision. Omak High School staff and administration are concerned at the number absences some students have, and the impact it has on their achievement. It also has a detrimental impact on the students with good attendance when classroom teachers have to spend valuable time on reviewing information, and preparing to catch up absent students. It is critical if we are to meet state, federal, and local student success expectations that students be in a class where the learning and instruction takes place.

We know that families and students have a variety of issues that come up that cause a student to be absent. Currently, excusable absences are only granted for illness, medical appointments (to be scheduled before or after school if possible), family emergencies, religious observances, court attendance as required by law, school sponsored activities such as field trips and athletic events, short-term suspensions, and pre-arranged approved absences. ("Needed at Home", "Out of town", "Slept in" and "Personal" absences are not accepted as excused unless there is further explanation and they are for an excusable reason as indicated immediately above.)

**This year we are implementing a 10 Class Absence Procedure. Ten absences in any one period during a semester will be considered excessive absences and has a detrimental impact on student learning. Students who approach the 10 class absences (both unexcused and excused) in a semester will need to meet with building principal or designee and the parent/guardian to discuss options to reduce further absences. Conferences will be requested at 7 absences to develop a contract to reduce absences and increase student success. Consequences for further absences (beyond 10) may mean, required doctor notes, utilizing pre-arranged absences with principal approval, reduced credit, removal from class, placement in alternative education program, reducing or changing of schedule.**

We know with a team approach to ensuring our student success, and early planning for doctor appointments, postponing family vacations to school holidays, and setting other appointments outside of school, we can ensure your student gets the support they need to be a success. If you have questions, you may call me directly for more information.

This is going to be a great year, and we are excited about the opportunities for students and families with the implementation of PRIDE 101 and student led conferencing.

Sincerely,

John H. Belcher  
Principal