

Lands Trust Final Report 2016-2017

Goal Number 1- Valley High is an alternative high school whose focus is on helping students get back on track for graduation to improve graduation rates. In addition, we are committed to improving students' post-secondary options/outcomes.

1. In May of 2017 we had 308 graduates. We had an additional 7 finish their credits in the summer with the tutelage of one of our teachers. A total of 315 students earned a diploma who had previously dropped out or felt that they had no change to finish. We are extremely proud of this accomplishment. Preliminary data shows that our graduation rate for the 16 17 school year is at 65%.
2. Our Professional Learning community continues to collect and analyze the number of classes passed by our students. That data shows that the students continue to improve. The growth is small but steady. We continue to contact students and parents by phone and email when students are in danger of failing a class and we feel that personal outreach is essential to our student's success. We have a detailed data chart with the numbers of classes passed, failed, or earned NC but it is not accepted by this online program. It can be viewed on our website under the School Community Council drop down menu.
3. With the Lands Trust funds we were able to send teachers to professional conferences to update their skills and receive training on the latest advances in education. Valley High has now joined the National Coalition of Trauma Sensitive Schools who goal is to help students with childhood trauma have a positive school experience and feel loved and supported in their learning processes. We sent 6 members of our faculty to the National Conference of Behavioral Health in Seattle in April of 2017 to participate in the training for the National Coalition. This resulted in a huge increase in our spending over what we had estimated but we did not know that the conference would be offered and that a national group would coalesce around serving students with trauma.
4. For two years now we have had the Power Time flex program for remediation. Students have access to any teacher in the building from 1 – 2 pm each school day for personalized help with assignments. Approximately 15% of our students are utilizing it on a daily basis. This is up 5% over last year. This means we has 75 to 150 students are spending their own time each day getting additional help in subject areas and earning additional credit towards graduation. The math tutoring lab consistently has the most students using it each day. The library has also seen an increase in students using it for research and just to enjoy reading.
5. Our guest speaker series continues to grow in popularity. Each week we have fifty to eighty students attending a guest lecture to learn about career opportunities in the

community. These speakers are coordinated through our Student Advocate and the Career Center Assistant. We were able to take 45 students to the south Towne Expo Center last October to the Pathways to Professions fair to help them explore post-secondary options and possible careers.

Goal Number 2 - Our second goal is to increase the options that students have to earn recovery credit for classes they have failed in the past before coming to Valley High School. We strive to offer quality credit recovery options for students to earn additional credits beyond their full time class schedule with us.

We are on track for this goal. We has a program funded through Lands Trust which helped a few students finish over the summer months. That helped an additional 7 student's graduate and many more get much closer to that goal. We have had more students participate in our Friday Activities to earn recovery credit than last year. We have had more students utilize our recovery packets this year. New this year, students are able to earn elective credit by spending additional time each day in school pursuing their learning goals, exploring career choices, or working on college applications and scholarships. All of these factors put us at or ahead of our goal to increase our graduates this year.

1. As an alternative school, offering recovery credit is essential. We have had a packet program in place for quite a while. In the 20162017 school year, we had 1,577 quarter credits earned through a recovery packet. We are pleased to report that 1, 039 of them were Friday Activity Packets which get our students out into the community for experiential learning. Yes, a full 65% of the recovery credits earned were through students interacting in their community and having an experience may would have never had. Last year we visited Red Butte Gardens, Hill Air force Base, Kingsbury Hall, Loveland Aquarium, the Thanksgiving Point Tulip Festival, Tracy Aviary and Antelope Island. All of these field trips were accompanied by a cross curricular packet so that students could earn recovery credit by participating in these activities. Thank you LAND Trust funding for the opportunity to take our students into the community to enrich their lives and expand their cultural IQ.

Goal Number 3 – Our third goal is to increase our students reading abilities during the time they are here at Valley High School. Our testing data shows that the majority of students are at least two grade levels behind in their reading when they enroll with us. This is a large part of why they are struggling in school and have not passed their classes.

1. Our students take the SRI test when they enter Valley High school. We find that during their time at Valley most will read more than they have in the past which would lead us

to think that their SRI score should improve by the year's end. The data shows modest improvement but not near what we feel it should be. In a PLC discussion, it was brought up that we are not testing our early grads who may be the students exhibiting the most growth. We have a plan to test them this year before they exit.

2. We gave away 60 copies each quarter of a novel selected by the English department. Students can read the book and write essays to earn elective credit for their participation in book club. 48 quarter credits were earned by students participating in Book Club. We feel this number will grow each year.

Goal Number 4 - In accordance with research findings and the impact Service Learning has on student/school connectedness, our fourth goal is to expand our Service Learning program and provide opportunities for our students to experience civic engagement by giving back to their world locally and globally. There is ample evidence of the positive outcomes these programs generate on student success.

1. We are pleased that our students and staff members have put in over 1,000 hours this year in Service Learning projects. They have made scarves for the needy, and written cards to veterans. The biggest project was at Christmas time. The sewed stockings and then filled them with gloves, socks, small toys and candy to give to young children at the Midvale Boys & Girls Club. These students gave of their own time on a Friday to meet as a group to donate time and energy to these projects. Our theme for Service Learning is Be the Difference. Our counselors oversee and coordinate the service learning program at Valley High School.
2. The students came in on selected Fridays when they did not have regularly scheduled school. We had over 40 students each time. Some attended once, some came every single time and did not miss one opportunity to give of service to others. We will continue to use this avenue to connect our students to the community and to give some of them a chance to be the ones on the giving end of a charitable project.

Carry over funds – Based on classroom need and PLC discussions, we used the additional funding allotted from the state to buy additional sets of Chrome Book computers to use in our classrooms. We try to buy them in sets of 20 for each classroom. Each group of 10 also requires a small Belson charging stand to keep them ready for student use.