

***MORCS Executive Administrator Report***

**February 2018**

*The mission of the YPI Charter Schools (YPICS) is to prepare students for academic success in high school, as well as post--secondary education; prepare students to be responsible and active participants in their community; and enable students to become life-long learners. Students at YPI Charter Schools will become active citizens who characterize the ideals of a diverse and democratic society. Students will provide service to their community, take responsibility for their own learning, and develop the habits of mind and body that will empower them to be successful in high school and beyond.*

**Attendance and Enrollment:**

Our current enrollment at MORCS is 336.

Enrollment Numbers:

<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>118</b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>101</b>
<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>117</b>
<b>All</b>	<b>336</b>

Attendance:

6th grade - 98.353%

7th grade - 97.740%

8th grade - 98.218%

Overall - 98.118%

**Professional Development**

In our PD plan for the second semester, we have been focused on meeting the needs of our at risk students. Currently our teachers are participating in a “Choose Your Own PD Adventure” series in which they had the opportunity to select their sessions for the next 5 weeks. Topics include: Project Based Learning, Student Roles and Routines for Classroom Management, Thinking Maps, and EL Strategies. All options were planned intentionally to support our struggling students and our at risk populations. We are also including time for exhibition planning and critical friends groups for unit plan/rubric feedback from peers.

**Performance Reviews**

Every staff member on campus has received a performance review. For the teachers, this is a very reflective process that includes 4 steps:

1. The first step is to prepare for a meeting in which teachers bring data to discuss the following:
  - a. Goals for the first semester
  - b. Whether or not goals were met (based on data)
  - c. Upcoming goals
  - d. Feedback from administration
  - e. Calibration of strategies across classrooms:
    - i. SFA strategies
    - ii. Hallmarks
    - iii. YPICS resources
2. The second step is to have Mr. Myers and Mr. Zepeda observe your class and record a lesson in which they focus on the areas of growth identified in the initial meeting.
3. The third step is to observe a colleague and focus on how they address the teacher’s area of growth.

4. The final step is to come back to have a meeting with Myers and Zepeda to discuss and reflect on steps 1 through 3.

We are hoping to get through this process twice with everyone by the end of the year!

**Continued Work on Positive Culture:**

We continue to work on our tier 1 implementation for our PBIS program. To ensure that all students have positive events and experiences at school that will help continue our positive school culture, we have been working on implementing the following activities:

*Lunchtime Competitions:* During lunch students have the opportunity to participate in activities in which cohorts compete against each other. Most recently we have had Feats of Strength (arm wrestling) and Visual Masters (Pictionary). The kids are very excited and are getting into the competition!

*Clubs:* Our list of clubs run by teachers and staff continues to grow. Our drama department is now including student soliloquies and one act plays in addition to their full productions. We have more students engaged and excited about drama club and we are looking forward to the spring events. We also have Anime club continuing from last semester, and our teacher-sponsors took a small group of students to an Anime convention in Ontario a couple of weeks ago. One of our English teachers is working with our Youth Advisory Board to focus on student leadership in our service learning projects. These students have also gone into the community to participate in several projects and to volunteer their time at local homeless shelters and soup kitchens. Mr. Castillo and Ms. Archer continue to work with our leadership class and student council to make recommendations to the school leadership team and to plan fun events like movie nights and dances. Mr. Perez holds an art class several days per week in which the kids learn about different art styles and techniques. Mr. Duran leads math tutoring to support our struggling 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Ms. McKinzie is running a choir during lunch and after school.

*Sports:* Mr. Zepeda and Mr. Garcia are coaching boys and girls soccer; they are currently just practicing until the season begins, but the kids are really enjoying it! Basketball is in full swing, and the duo of Mr. Hicks and Mr. Strahan are really creating a positive culture on the teams.

*Fun Friday:* Once per month, teachers use their elective period to provide a time for fun activities for students who have done a great job academically and behaviorally. Activities include Minute to Win It games, chess and other strategic games, and video games.

*Pumapalooza:* Preparations for our annual talent show are underway! Our kids and teachers are already working on their performances to get ready.

*Field Trips:* This semester we took a trip to the California Science center and we are working on a few more field trips for the rest of the year, including our annual beach trip!

*Assemblies:* We had some great assemblies this semester to celebrate growth, better behavior, and to get the kids pumped up about having a great semester!







In addition to the welcome back assemblies, we also had a whole school assembly on gang prevention; we had a reformed gang member who came to speak to the kids about seizing opportunities, and the kids were really engaged and interested in the presentation.

*ALEKS Competition:* Our academic committee put together a competition to help push student use of the ALEKS program. The competition was between cohorts and the goal was to have the highest percentage of students in the cohort who finished 50+ topics in ALEKS over the course of a month. Here is the email from Mr. Duran, our committee chair, sharing the results of the competition:

On behalf of the Academic Achievement Committee allow me to say thank you to all teachers and staff for helping to support our students during the ALEKS competition. The competition was a success overall increasing student use of ALEKS in all three grade levels. The 6th graders made it a difficult task for both 7th and 8th grade by jumping out to an early lead. Even though the 8th grade made a late push, the 6th graders held them off. Here are the results based on each grade level's performance:

#### 6th Grade

6A (1st place): 20 out of 30 students completed 50 topics - 67%. Total topics completed: 1749

6B (4th place): 10 out of 30 students completed 50 topics - 33%. Total topics completed: 1202

6C (3rd place): 15 out of 30 students completed 50 topics - 50%. Total topics completed: 1613

6D (2nd place): 16 out of 30 students completed 50 topics - 53%. Total topics completed: 1506

#### 7th Grade

7A (7th place): 4 out of 24 students completed 50 topics - 17%. Total topics completed: 674

7B (6th place): 5 out of 26 students completed 50 topics - 19%. Total topics completed: 558

7C (8th place): 4 out of 25 students completed 50 topics - 16%. Total topics completed: 794

7D (12th place): 0 out of 29 students completed 50 topics - 0%. Total topics completed: 607

#### 8th Grade

8A (t-9th place): 4 out of 29 students completed 50 topics - 14%. Total topics completed: 774

8B (11th place): 4 out of 30 students completed 50 topics - 13%. Total topics completed: 859

8C (5th place): 8 out of 29 students completed 50 topics - 28%. Total topics completed: 1337

8D (t-9th place): 4 out of 29 students completed 50 topics - 14%. Total topics completed: 831

Be on the lookout for our next competition with Achieve3000. Feel free to share this info with your students and continue encouraging our students to work on ALEKS. In addition to completing topics, many students also finished courses and moved on to more difficult content so that was a nice side effect of the competition! Thank you all for the support.

#### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Culmination:**

We recently had mandatory meetings with our 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents and students to discuss requirements form 8<sup>th</sup> grade culmination and to push them to put in a strong effort the final quarter. The kids are re-energized and putting in extra effort to speak with their teachers and to master new and old topics.

#### **School Performance Quality Review**

On 2/20/18 we invited school leaders from many schools and organizations to come to MORCS, walk through classes and to provide us with some feedback on the work we have been doing. We are excited about our growth as a school and we appreciate the support of these partners. We also Ms. Trujillo, the principal from Berendo, and a few of her teachers to join us; this was a great opportunity for us to continue our collaboration and we greatly appreciated their participation.

#### **School Safety Training:**

In light of the recent events nationally, we have been reflecting on our school safety plan and practices and we will be implementing the following in the upcoming weeks:

1) Active Shooter Training on our 3/5 TPD for all staff at all schools.

2) Officer East (school police officer) will present at an upcoming PD about MORCS and our safety plan (possibly Monday, 2/26).

3) Safe Schools Day; this day may follow a similar schedule to our current bell schedule, but kids would not be participating in typical classroom activities. Mr. Castillo will work with the team to come up with activities and trainings we can do for all students on this day. Date TBD.

4) Lockdown procedures review for teachers and drill for kids/staff. The staff training *may* be done in collaboration with the training on 3/5 or on 2/26.