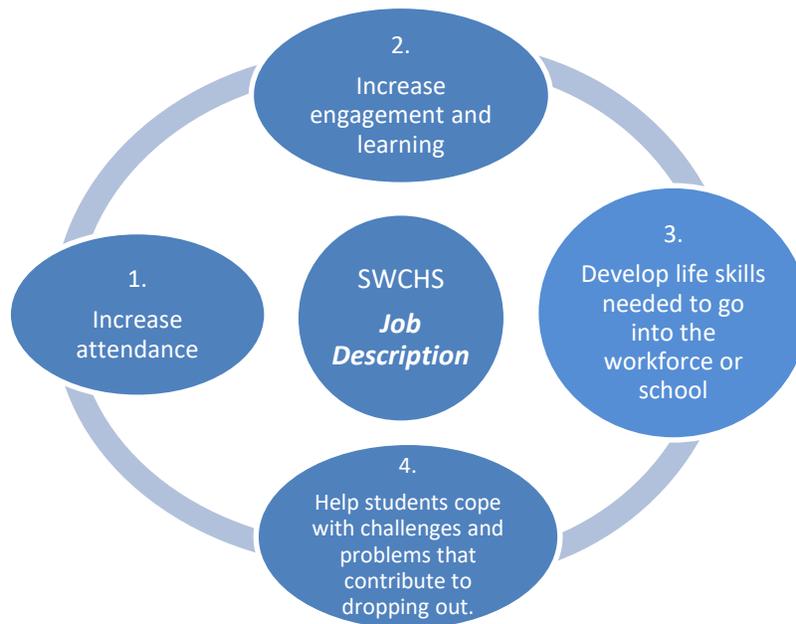


## Southwest Community High School- Board Report Dec 10, 2017

### Overview

Southwest Community High School (SWCHS) is currently in its 16<sup>th</sup> year of operation. SWCHS staff focuses on individualized instruction for each student, allowing us to meet students' needs on a student by student, skill by skill basis. SWCHS embraces the philosophy that by being relentlessly positive to students and teaching responsibility and character development on a daily basis will enable students to find success as well as have an enriched school experience. The individualized instruction allows staff to keep students academically accountable, as well as holding students accountable for their behavior. All staff collaboration and in-service decisions operate around how we can best accomplish this job of services our students. The following is SWCHS daily job description.



## **Student Enrollment for 2017**

Southwest Community High School currently serves 27 students from the Dickinson area. SWCHS's goal is to serve a population of students who possess a variety of risk factors including but not limited to, dropping out due to loss of credit, students who are parents and need an alternative setting or schedule, students who have may not fit into the traditional HS mold socially, as well as offering credit recovery opportunities. Our current enrollment is 27 – We have 3-4 students on alternating schedules to accommodate work needs and therefor are able to work around a slightly higher number

To attend SWCHS students are asked first to go through a semi-formal application/registration process, an interview/ meeting with that student and their parent/guardian if under the age of 18 and be between 16-20 years of age in order to attend. After that process if there is an opening, students can transfer into SWCHS or if there is no opening, placed on a waiting list to attend in the future

### **SWCHS Staff**

The staff at SWCHS is responsible for facilitating and instruct over fifty courses throughout a school year, in addition to offering support to students in need. The staff is made up of core group of very dedicated teachers. These teachers include : Jamie Wyant ( mathematics and PE ) – Myself, Kristy Goodall (Math/Science/Social Studies/Principal), and beginning today Colin Kapelovich (English ). It is the dedication and relationships that are formed between this staff and students that become the main reason SWCHS is successful at keeping so many students enrolled that may otherwise choose to drop out.

### **Coursework**

The coursework at SWCHS is organized into individual Syllabus' outlining performance content and standards that students complete to demonstrate proficiency in core competencies and the knowledge

required by the state of ND to earn a high school diploma. Students meet with staff members daily to discuss coursework and pacing aid them in developing and maintaining plans to stay on track for graduation. Students as well are on a checklist/point system for each class period which they fill out with their instructor that help them individually daily check themselves as far as staying on track. An exciting addition to our offerings from hiring Jamie Wyant has been the ability to offer PE courses this year to our student body and with the collaboration of West River Community Center, our students have been able to take everything from Lifetime Fitness to Swimming and weight lifting.

SW switched over to a positive attendance model after precedence set by South Central Alternative High School in Bismarck where credit is earned and tied to student performance and competency, more so than to a strict seat time model. Students are required to attend class daily and have a set number of days to complete their coursework – if students can demonstrate proficiency in the outlined standards for that course – and complete the requirements with an 83% or higher in less than the designated 60 hours for a class – they can receive credit for that class and move on to the next class in their academic plan – there are some very specific requirements tied to this which I would be happy to discuss further at a later date if needed

This has allowed a few of our students who take advantage of the positive attendance model to fast track through their coursework in a shorter time frame and have the ability to move into the work force or onto the next steps in their lives more quickly, and as well allows me to pull another student off our waiting list – and the number of credits earned by our students has increased dramatically as well as our attendance rates as are outlined in the supporting documents

SWCHS is also in its 8th year of offering expanded core and elective classes through Jefferson County Eschool. Eschool allows SWCHS to offer expanded course options to students that otherwise could not be offered due staffing restrictions. – It is our hope as we continue to grow to hire another teacher or

two to continue to work and expanding our program to continue to meet alternative needs of students in the Dickinson community

**At SWCHS this year.**

- 1) Mascot – The Mustangs School Colors Burgundy / Gold
- 2) 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens
- 3) Reading Plus
- 4) Independent Living Skills - Whitney
- 5) Whitney Fong – Roosevelt
- 6) Math Space
- 7) Prom in the spring
- 8) Community workforce Partnerships with West Dakota Veterinary Center –  
Job Shadowing and Dickinson PD – ride along