Welcome Letter

**School Year 2018-2019**

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

As we embark on a new school year, I am excited about the opportunities that lay ahead. La Grande School District remains committed to providing ALL students with an educational environment to reach their full potential: academically as well as personally. This is exemplified through the District’s Mission Statement:

**In the La Grande School District we believe every student can learn and deserves a safe, motivating, and challenging school environment.**

 **Therefore, it is the mission of the La Grande School District to provide a learning environment where educators work collaboratively to ensure that each student maximizes their learning. To accomplish this mission, we will use best practices and data to ask and answer:**

* **What do we want our students to learn?**
* **How will we know what students have learned?**
* **How do we respond when they don't learn?**
* **How do we respond when they do learn?**

This letter is to inform you of recent changes within the LHS Alternative Education Program as well as obtain your support in providing a positive and productive learning experience for both student and teacher.

I am the new Alternative Education Teacher at LHS effective this school year and a recent graduate of Eastern Oregon University with a Masters in Arts Teaching. My student teaching was completed last year at LHS and therefore am familiar with the school, the administration and the student body. I bring extensive experience in the business world as well as in youth work to this position.

This year LHS is recognizing the AltEd program under a new moniker: REACH. This stands for **R**ealizing **E**xcellence in **A**cademics, **C**haracter and **H**abits. Our goal is to encourage and motivate students requiring learning opportunities outside the traditional classroom to pursue a growth mindset in a personalized setting. Its purpose is to provide a safe environment with a high-quality education, prepare the student to integrate into the traditional high school experience in their Junior year of standing, and stay in school, earn their Diploma and develop a post-secondary plan, contributing to students realizing their full potential in all aspects of life. The school district is also dedicating significant resources to assist students needing additional supports which will be directly available to the REACH program.

Attached you will find several exhibits. They are: school day by class, the Internet Use Policy and Student Code of Conduct for the REACH Program. Please note that the Internet Use Policy and the Student Code of Conduct requires both student and parent/guardian signatures of acknowledgement and are to be returned to me.

If you have any questions you can find my contact information on the district website or email me at michael.rubrecht@lagrandesd.org.

I will planning a parent/teacher open house within the first few weeks of school and will notify you of the date when it is determined. I appreciate your time and look forward to meeting with you soon in person.

Regards,

Michael Rubrecht

REACH Program Teacher