

Empowering ALL Students to Succeed in an  
Ever-changing World



Who are we?

# Watertown High School, Watertown, SD

- ☼ Watertown High School has approximately 1170 students in grades 9-12, a classroom teacher FTE of 76.41 teachers and a student-professional staff ratio of 15:1
- ☼ WHS is in year 10 of a one-to-one 24/7 laptop program
- ☼ WHS runs on a 4X4 Block schedule of 90 minute class periods in a 175-day school year with 24 credits required for graduation
- ☼ Title I school with 32% of our population in the Economically Disadvantaged category



# Where were we?



- Our house was not in order.
  - ✿ SY 2004-2005 62 Freshmen and 42 Sophomores were retained
  - ✿ SY 2005-2006 72 Dropouts and 66 Freshmen off grade-level
  - ✿ SY 2005-2006 second quarter 24.7% of Freshmen failed 1 or more classes

# We had TERMITES!!

- ✿ Our own policies and practices were eating away at our success.
- ✿ Suspensions for Truancy
- ✿ No credit for suspended student work
- ✿ ZERO's for late work
- ✿ Removal from class to study hall
- ✿ Removal of students from main building to other buildings
- ✿ General Belief: Out of sight; out of mind.



# Our Remodel

- ✿ Policies and Practices Changed
- ✿ Freshman Academy including Transition program
- ✿ Shift in Alternative Education
  - ✿ Moved in-house VS Alternative sites
  - ✿ Credit Recovery/Summer School
  - ✿ Night School/After School
  - ✿ Transition Room
  - ✿ Project HOPE
- ✿ Graduation Coaches



# Policies and Practices

- ☀ Paradigm Shift: We are ALL going to succeed!



# Transition to High School

- ✿ Bridge Academy
  - ✿ Summer after 8th Grade
  - ✿ Targeted population
  - ✿ RELATIONSHIPS/ Credit for kids



Bridge Academy

2012

# Spanish

- Mrs Kolb & Mrs Longworth -



Ojos de Dios  
\* God's Eyes \*

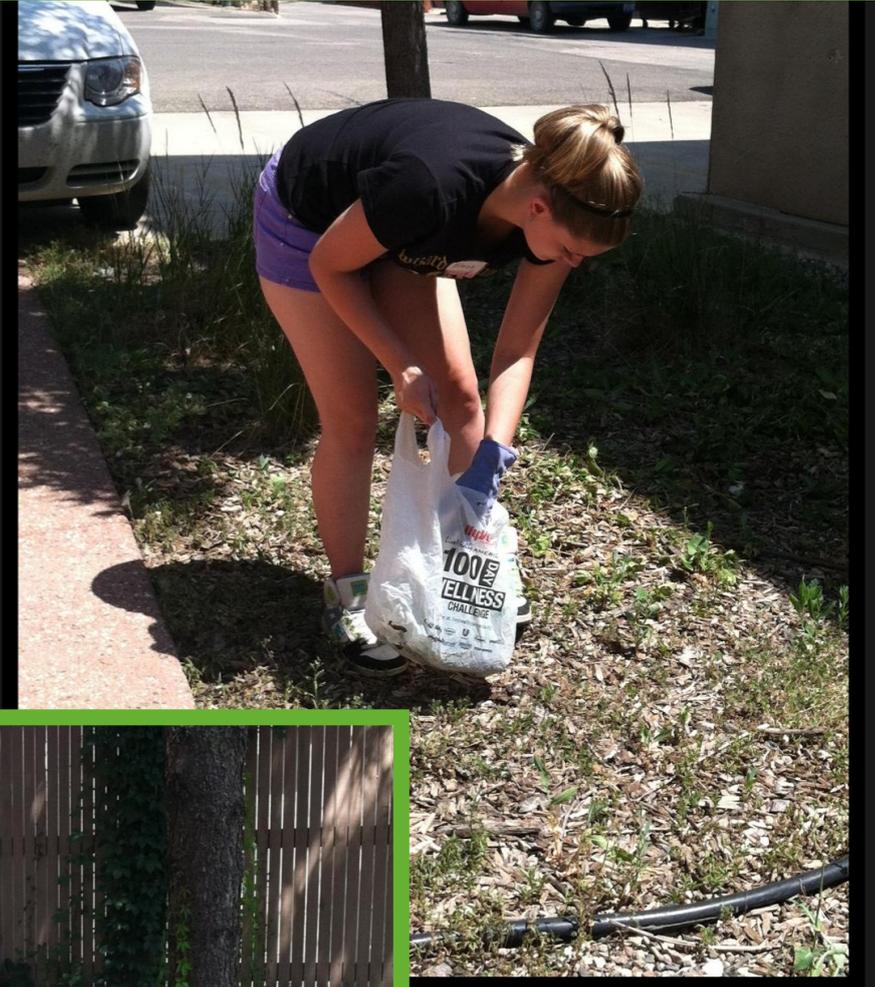


# Team Building By Mrs. Overby

# Pay it Forward



# Butterfly Gardens - Uptown Watertown



# Stop Motion Videos

- Mrs. Mehlberg-



# Construction of Duck Boxes

- Mr. Dalton -



# Installation at Sandy Shores & Lake Pelican





# Theater

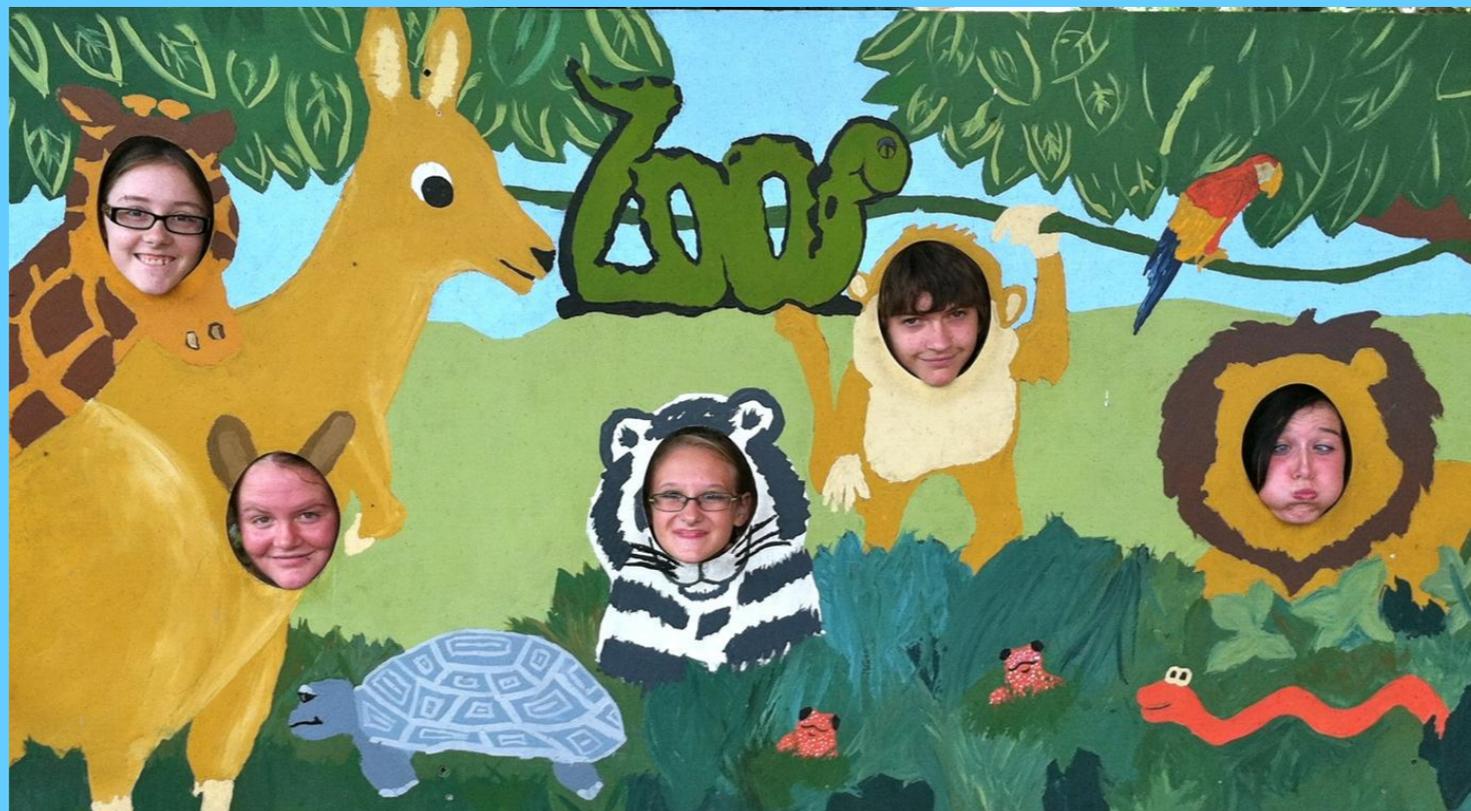
- Mrs Weerts -



# Classification of Species



Mr. Ammann  
&  
Mr Swiden



# Constructing nets & catching frogs, crawfish & clams.



# Geo-Caching

- Mr. Walker & Miss Harms -



# Bridge Academy 2012





THANK YOU

# Transition to High School

- ✿ Transition Room--Grade 9 Students' Credit Recovery Center
  - ✿ 2 FTE's
  - ✿ Begin the year with students from Bridge Academy who will need help
  - ✿ Work a caseload of students identified by 8th grade teachers
  - ✿ Daily Point Sheet for classroom management (reward system)
  - ✿ BUILD RELATIONSHIPS!!!

# Transition Room

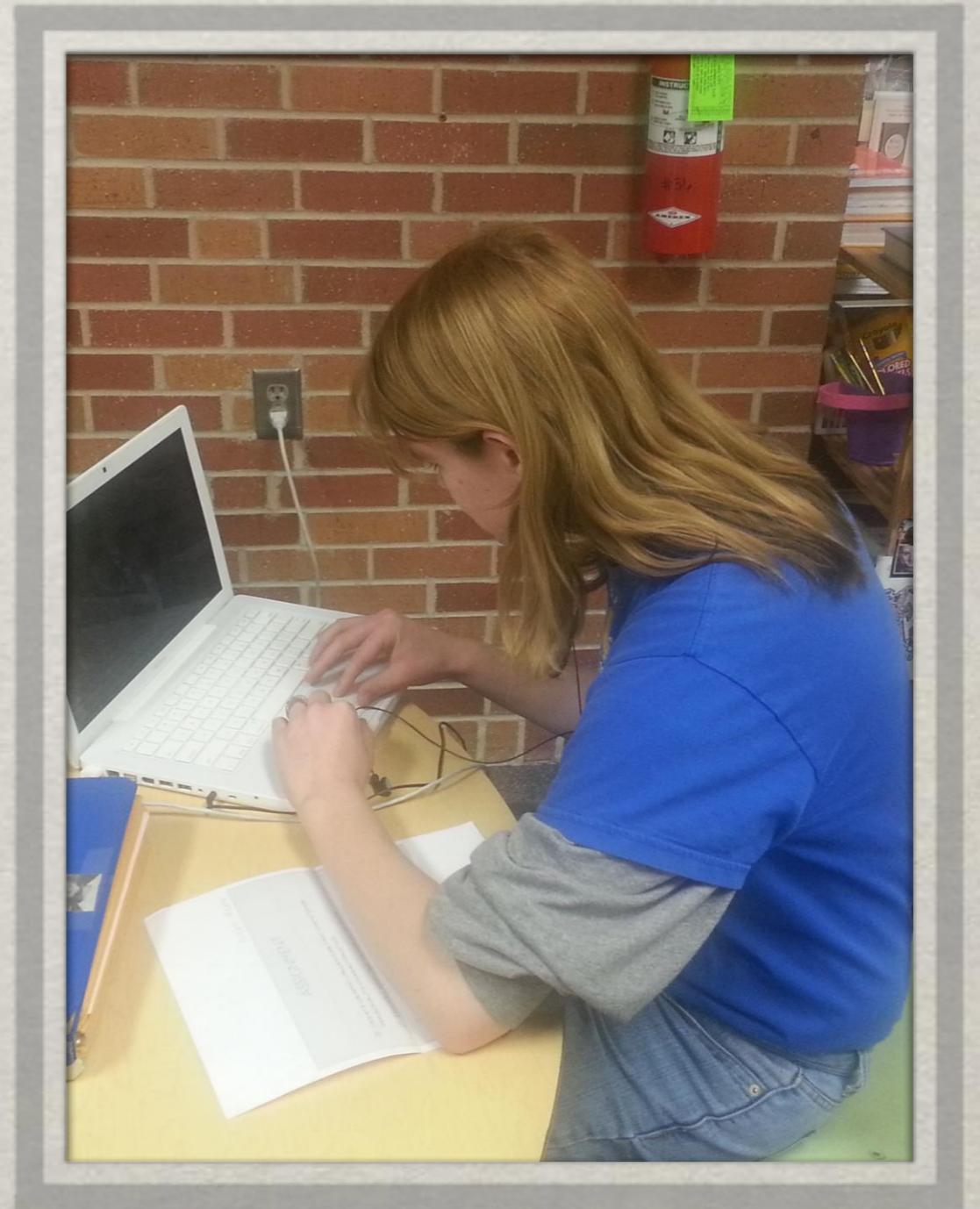




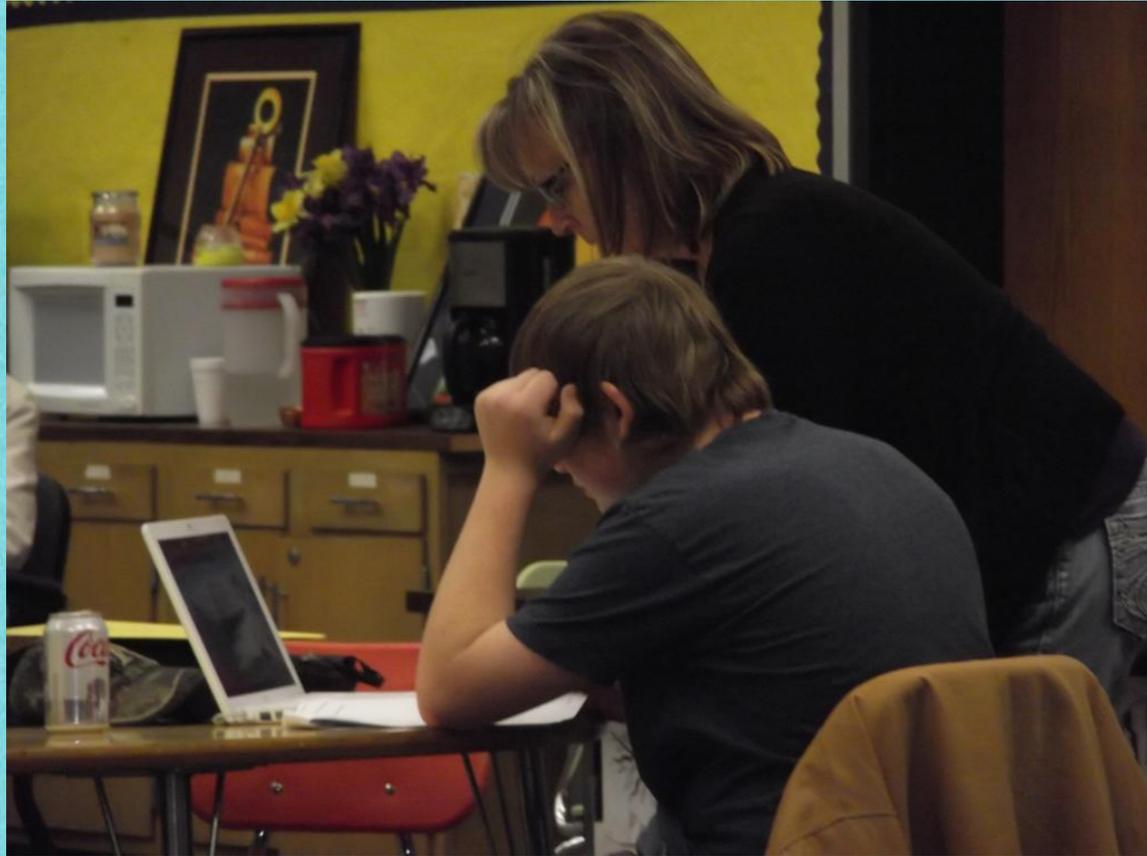
# Shift in Alternative Education

# Academic Resource Center (ARC)

- ✿ Credit recovery for Grades 10-12
- ✿ Personal Learning Plans
- ✿ Apex assisted curriculum
- ✿ 4.5 FTE's
- ✿ RELATIONSHIPS!!!!
- ✿ TOAST!!!!!!

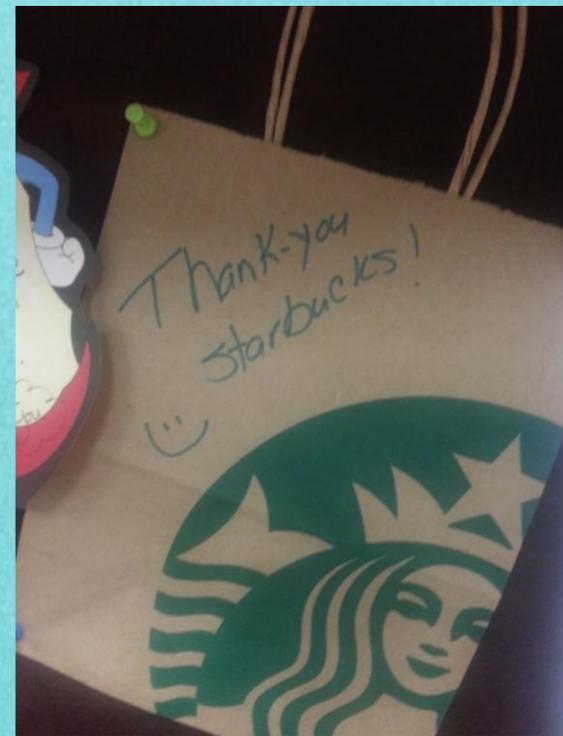
















## WHS night school graduates first student



**Kirsten Johnson** (second from left) has become the first graduate of the night school program at Watertown High School. Johnson, whose future aspirations include becoming a mortician, received her diploma at WHS Tuesday evening in a short ceremony. Pictured with Johnson include night school instructors (from left) Eric Swanson, Josh Seetz, and Jessica Selin. WHS Principal Michael Butts presented the diploma to Johnson. Other school officials present included Superintendent Lesli Hanson, Lake Area Multi-District Director Julie LeVake and Academic Resource Center Director Aimee Zachrison. Johnson's family and friends were also in attendance.

Public Opinion Photo by Terry Hoffman

# Night School

# Graduates

Saturday/Sunday, March 19-20, 2011



**State B**  
Castlewood  
rebounds with  
55-31 victory.  
Page 1B



**NCAA**  
No. 1 Ohio State  
among winners  
on Friday.  
Page 1B

Wheel down to  
**\$1 SAVE \$93?**  
TODAY, in this issue!



# Watertown PUBLIC OPINION

Vol. 125, No. 66

Serving the Glacial Lakes Region of South Dakota and Minnesota since 1887

Price: \$1.00/Home delivery 37¢

## Couple receives high school diplomas



Chris and Chelsea Paulson last week became the first married couple to earn their high school diplomas from the Watertown School District.

Only in today's paper.  
(not available on Web site)

By **TERRY HOFFMAN**  
Public Opinion Staff Writer

Chris and Chelsea Paulson are the latest students to take advantage of the night school classes offered by the Watertown School District.

They are the first married couple, however, to come back to high school and earn their diplomas. The couple celebrated their accomplishments with their family, friends and teachers Thursday with a ceremony in the Academic Resource Center at Watertown High School.

"We have had great support from our family and from the instructors of the program — without them, none of this is possible," said Chelsea Paulson.

"We have had great support from our family and from the instructors of the program — without them, none of this is possible."

— **Chelsea Paulson**, who, along with her husband Chris, earned high school diplomas after attending night school.

The Paulsons left school when Chelsea became pregnant with their first child, Avah, who is now 4 years old.

The couple was made aware of the night classes at the high school in 2009 and made the decision to return to class, one they are happy they made.

"I hated school, but found out I really needed the diploma to get a decent job," said Chris, now 22. "The doors are pretty much closed to those who don't have the diploma."

"Most of the kids who

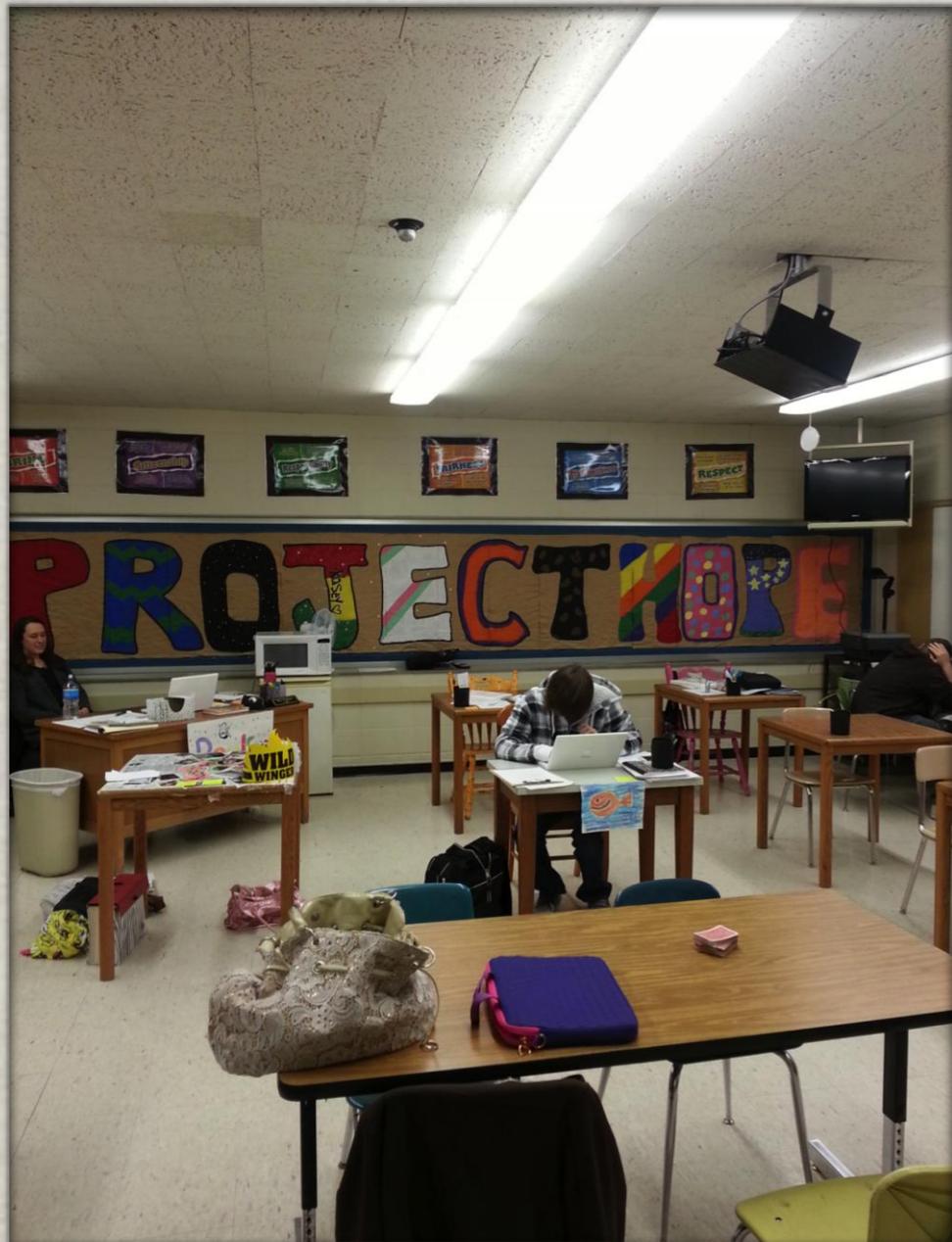
have come back to school are a credit or two short of graduating," said WHS Principal Michael Butts. "The Paulsons needed more and have shown true perseverance in reaching their goal."

ARC Director Aimee Zachrison and instructors Carl Bankowski and George Serer say they are thrilled with the progress of the program and of the students who participate.

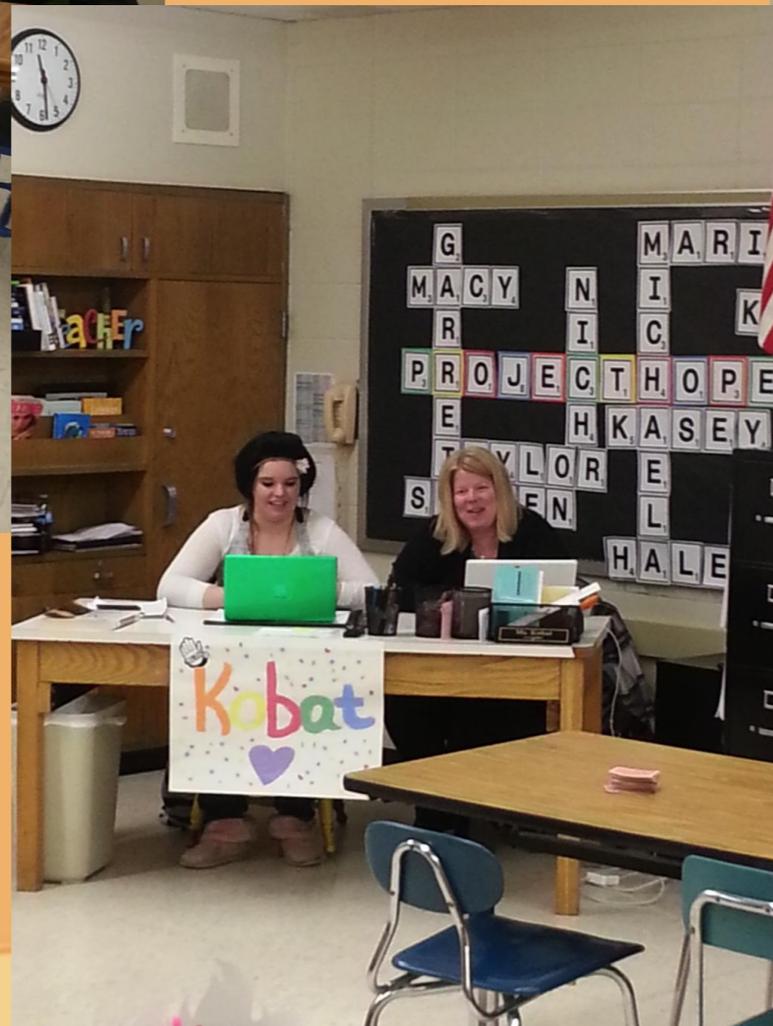
"We have found, in cases, the students' goal to shoot for them focused," said

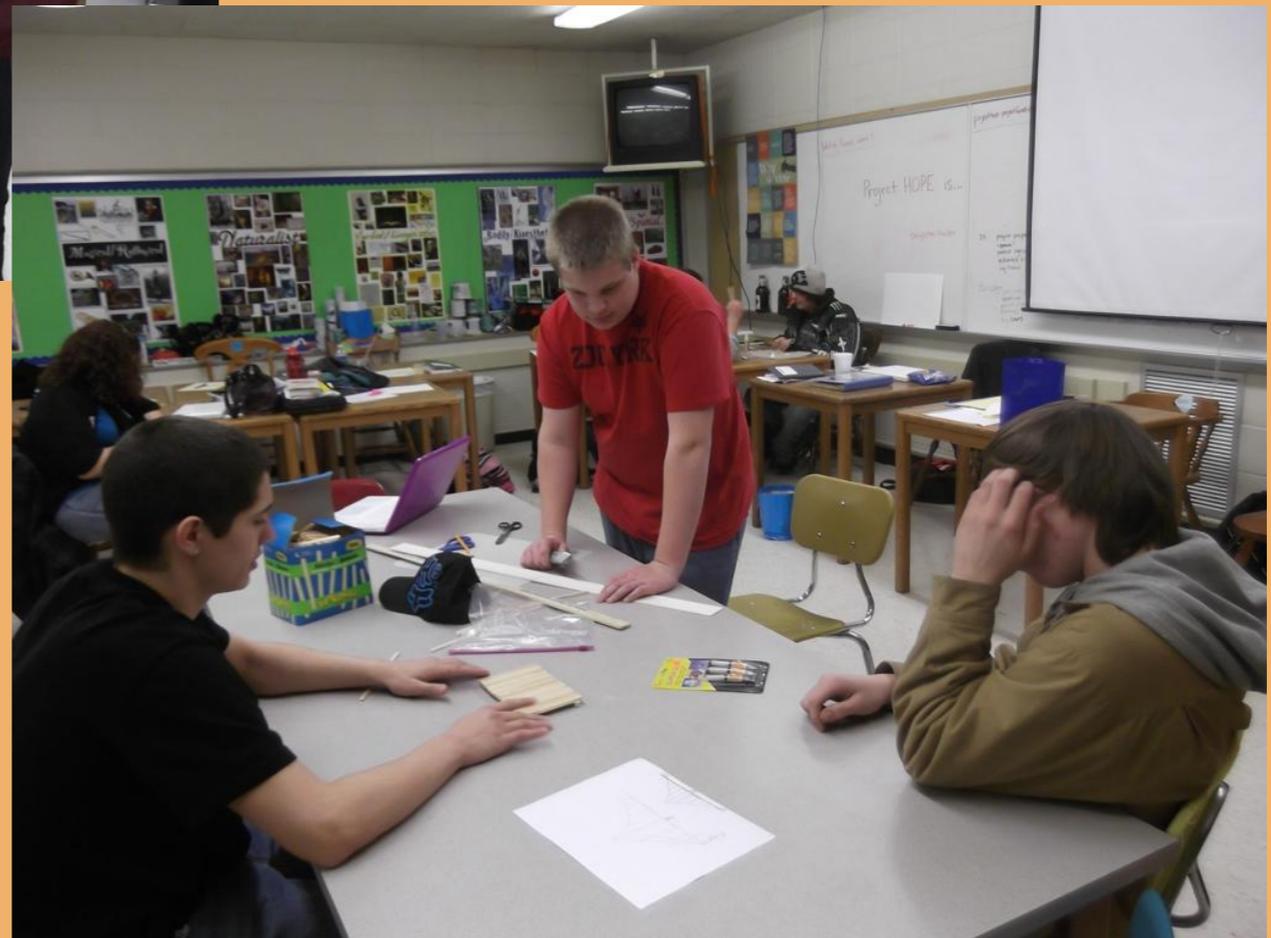
Please see **COUPLE,**

# Project HOPE



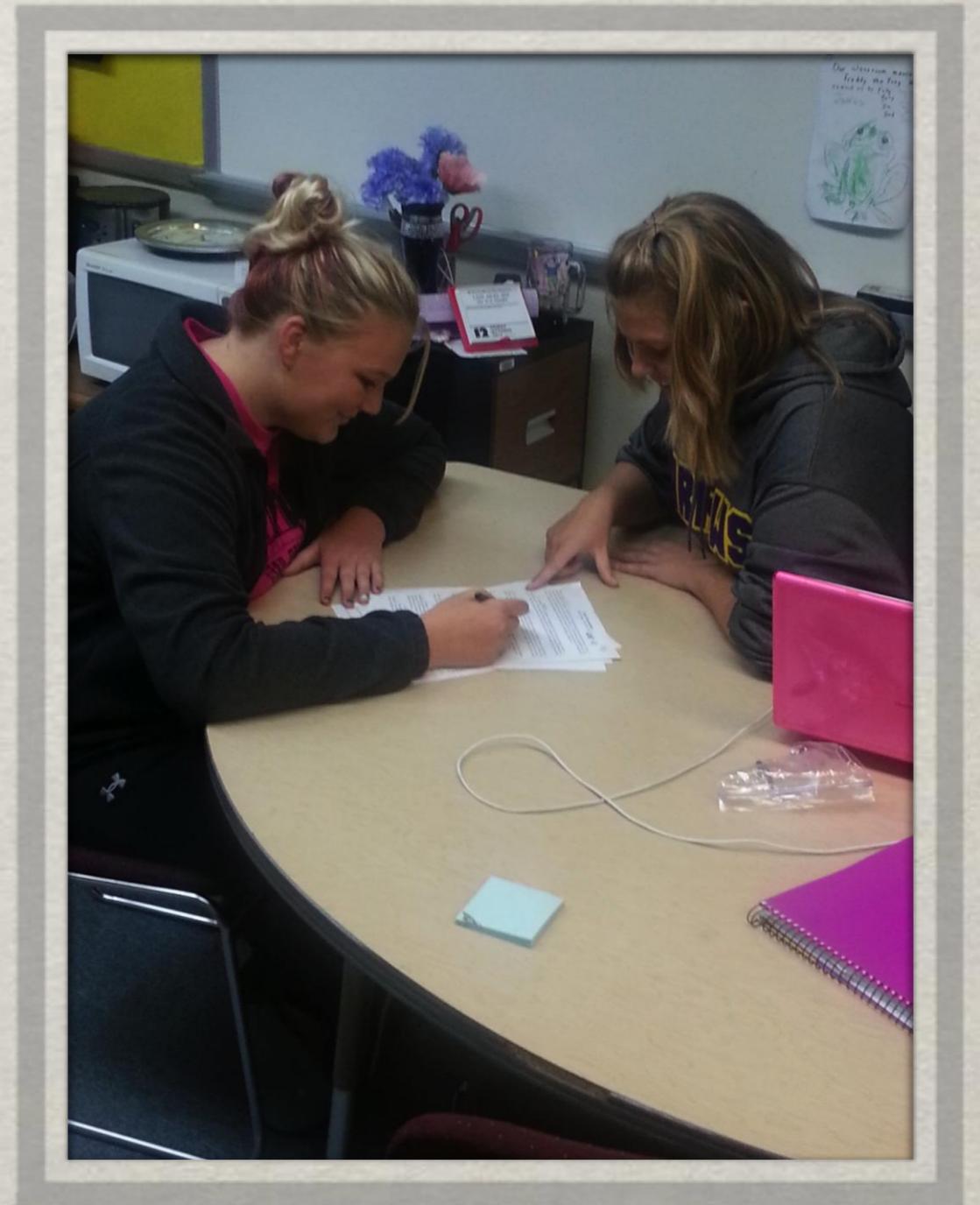
- ✿ Truly “Alternative” Education
- ✿ Many ways of learning
- ✿ Project-based and Apex assisted
- ✿ Heightening Opportunities and Possibilities in Education



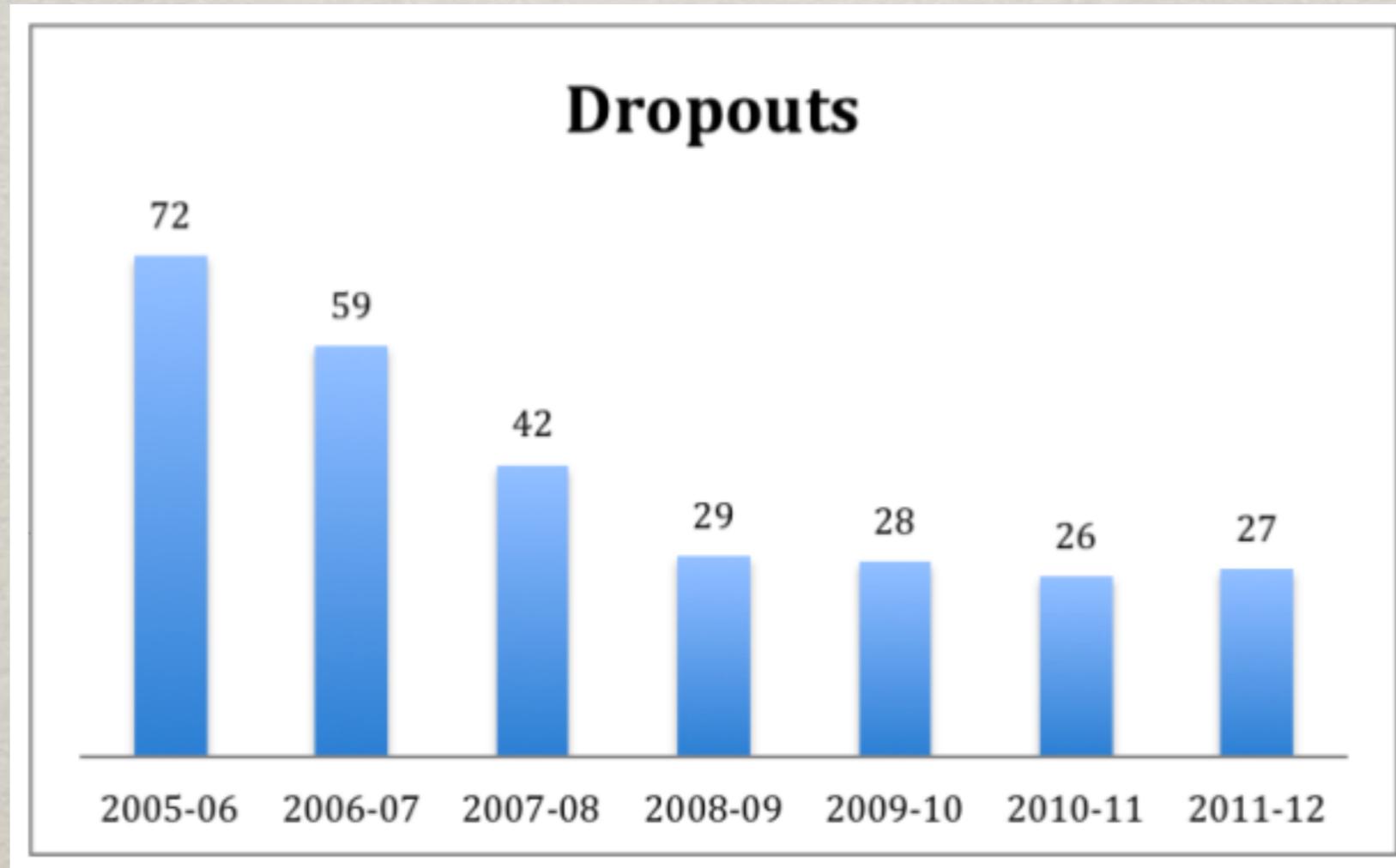


# Graduation Coaches

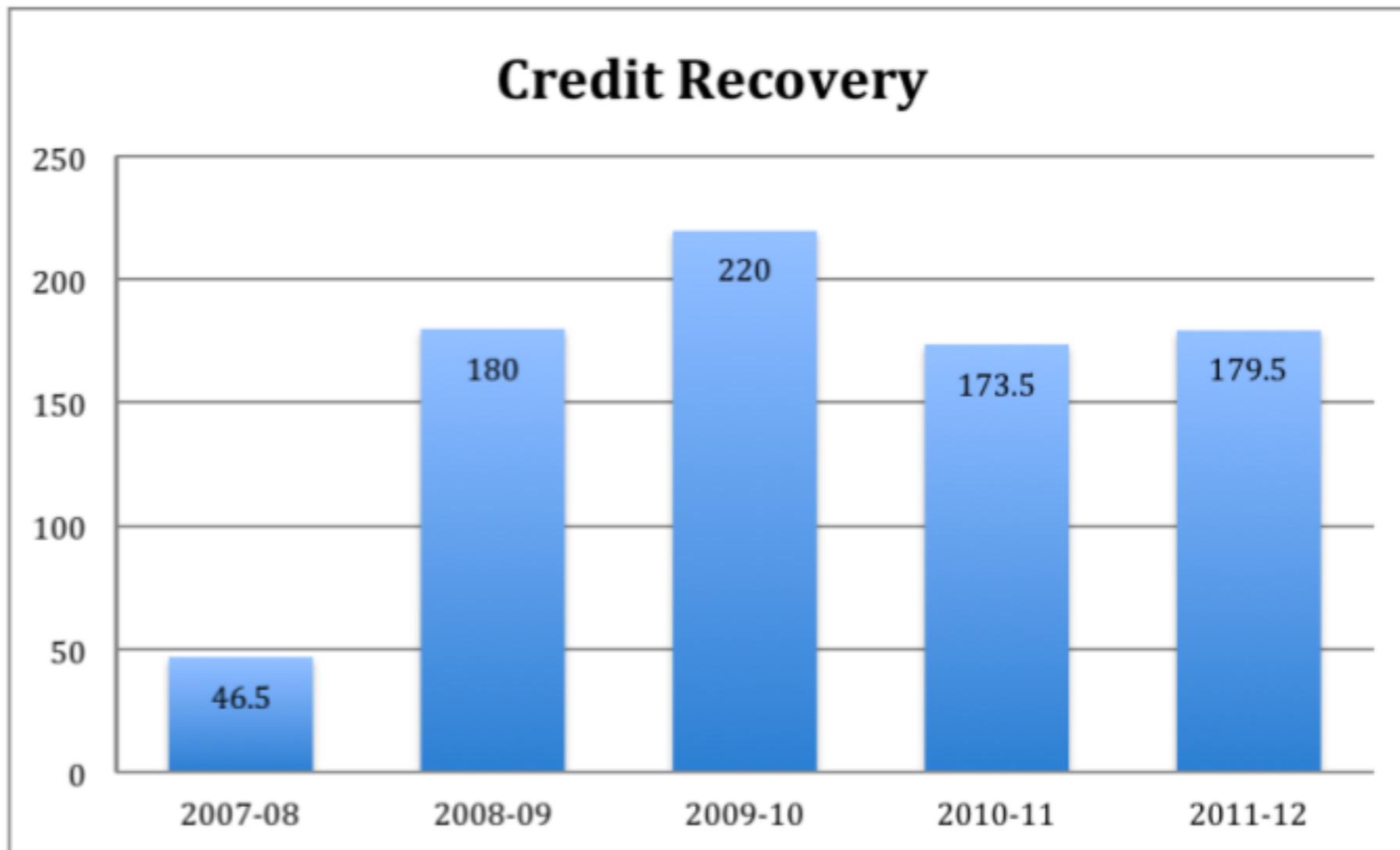
- ✿ Work with Identified Caseload of students in grades 10-12 “on the bubble”
- ✿ “Chase” students for their classwork and attendance
- ✿ Safe Harbor
- ✿ Liason between students/teachers/administratio  
n



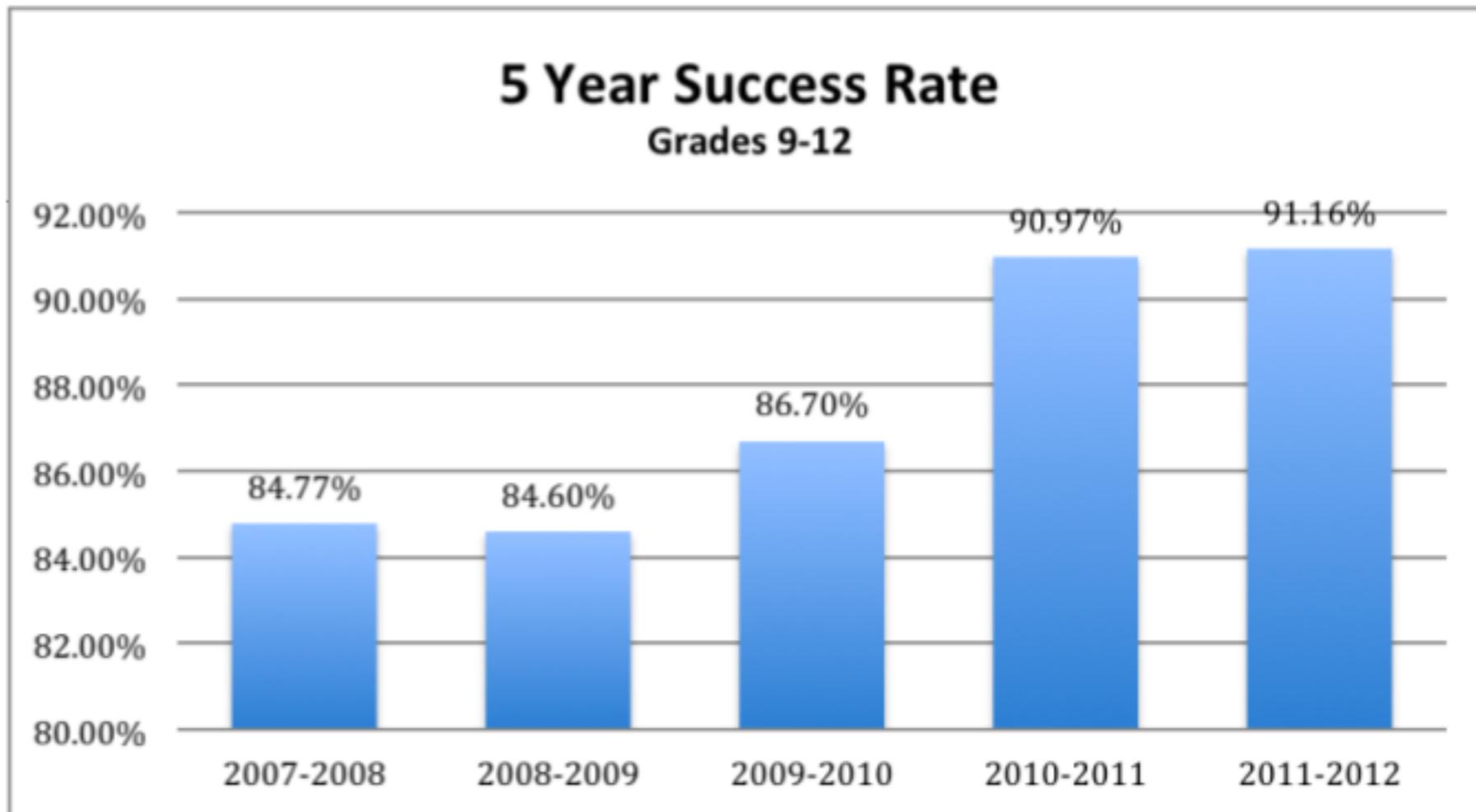
# Great Graphs and Charts



# Great Graphs and Charts



# Great Graphs and Charts



# Great Resources

- ✻ National Youth At-Risk Convention
- ✻ National Dropout Prevention Center
- ✻ Franklin Schargel's Works
- ✻ Education Week
- ✻ Visionaries/Thinkers within your district
- ✻ Inevitable by Chuck Schwahn & Bea McGarvey

**Mike Butts**

[michael.butts@k12.sd.us](mailto:michael.butts@k12.sd.us)

S

**Lyn Korbelt**

[lyn.korbelt@k12.sd.us](mailto:lyn.korbelt@k12.sd.us)



**Aimee Zachrison**

[aimee.zachrison@k12.sd.us](mailto:aimee.zachrison@k12.sd.us)

**Shannon Knopf**

[shannon.knopf@k12.sd.us](mailto:shannon.knopf@k12.sd.us)

