

CGHS *from A1*

things,” said Cottage Grove High School Principal Mike Ingman.

Instead of having those unique classes, check-ins and other schedule bumps throughout the week, students and teachers will be able to focus solely on coursework Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, providing uninterrupted class time for those four days and dedicated mid-week jolt.

It's part of the evolution CGHS has experienced since Ingman stepped in as principal after a domino effect sent him from his principal's seat at Kennedy High School to replace for CGHS principal Iton Udosenata.

Ingman, who described the position as his dream job, has been facilitating changes for just under a year and he's about to get his report card.

The state of Oregon De-

partment of Education releases a yearly report for each school in the state in regard to everything from student attendance to state test scores to college readiness.

The practice was initiated in 1999 by the state legislature and underwent a redesign in 2013.

The percentage of students attending school regularly, meaning they make it to classes 90 percent of the time, jumped 10 percentage points, something Ingman attributes to two things: Kids wanting to be in school and Chris Wells.

Wells, in addition to his teaching duties, handles truancy for the school and his adhering to the same policy that has always been in place.

“It's not that the policy changed, it's that there is a coordinated and consistent effort that's being applied to it and making it well-

known,” he said. “

The state of Oregon requires students between the ages of six and 18, who

the cultural norm around attendance. Students know that if they miss a period, there's an adult who will be

thing, it just takes an adult to highlight that they are important and that we are a better school with them here.”

To keep them in school, CGHS has added several new clubs and Ingman has focused on fostering a school spirit to combat the stereotypical dread some kids may have of having to go to school.

“Chris Wells has done an amazing job with enforcing the truancy policies that we have and the second, which I think is way more important, is that we're really working on connectivity and en-

couraging students to be more involved and making things more relevant. We're making people follow the rules and encouraging people to be here,” he said, noting that one of the new Wednesday periods was recently used to encourage students to explore the different clubs CGHS has to

offer.

And CGHS isn't just doing better at keeping kids in school, they're improving when it comes to getting them out too.

CGHS has consistently seen graduation rates in the 90th percentile for the last three years, falling in the top five graduation rates around the state.

The rate at which kids are going to college has also jumped — 10 percentage points in a year — thanks to senior nights aimed at informing students about community college, universities and trade schools.

The state report card is scheduled to be released today and can be viewed online by visiting ode.state.or.us.

While Ingman is positive CGHS did earned a good grade, he said he continues to stay focused on the future.

“We're not there yet,” he said. “We want to know how we can keep getting better.”

**“We're really working on connectivity and encouraging students to be more involved and making things more relevant.”**  
— Chris Wells, CGHS teacher

haven't completed 12th grade, to attend school. According to state law, eight unexcused absences in any month of the school year is considered truancy and comes with the possibility of a fine that can reach \$500.

“As a school, we are working to actively change

talking with them about it,” Wells said. “Last year, we had at least 930 face-to-face conversations with students and 120 communications with parents about their specific student's attendance. Teenagers get a bad rap sometimes, I have found that our students are driven to do the right

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