

September 3, 2024

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Welcome back to the 2024/25 school year. We are excited to have your child(ren) attending school with us this year. As we get the school year going, we would like to provide you with some updates:

This fall we will be administering the Idaho Youth Well Being Survey (Grades 6-12). At registration you should have received a QR code to give your child permission to participate. We need 60% of our students to participate and obtain valid data. Additional information can be found at <https://www.sde.idaho.gov/student-engagement/iywa/>. If you have not given your child participate, you may do so by using the following QR code.



Families should also be receiving a **blue sheet** that will provide the district with consent for minor treatment of injuries or care. *This is a new legislative requirement that we are required to follow.* We are asking for one sheet per family to be returned. Please list all your children and grades on one sheet and return. If we do not receive the form back, we will have to receive your verbal consent via phone whenever your child needs care (even as small as needing bandaids or icepacks).

Elementary:

What an incredible start to the school year! The energy in our classrooms is infectious as students reconnect with friends and staff, learn classroom routines and schoolwide expectations, dive into hands-on activities, and practice the 8 Habits through our Leader in Me program. Our students have embraced the new ELA and Bridges math curricula with enthusiasm. Our Little Bulldogs Preschool also thrives, creating a warm and welcoming environment for our youngest learners.

The safety of our school community is important to us. For this reason, the doors on the elementary side of the building will be locked at all times. Before school, staff members are outside and will let elementary students into the building at 7:45 AM. Students who arrive after that time will go in through the main office if no staff is available outside to open the elementary doors.

Thank you for helping ensure our before-school drop-off and after-school pick-up times are safe for everyone in our school community. We appreciate your support in keeping the bus loading zone clear of parked cars and for driving one-way east-to-west on Ash Street if just dropping off.

Middle School News

As you may already know, we have transitioned grades 6-8 into a Middle School style for this year. There will be an intentional approach to helping the Middle School students have their own space, some of their own activities and their own student groups. With this transition, Mr. Crowley will be the Dean of students for the middle school, in addition to his regular teaching duties. Mr. Caldwell and Dr. Moore will still be available for assistance, but we're trying to give the middle school the attention it deserves as we transition into this new model.

High School news

It has been a great first week with new faces in the classrooms and students settling into their new schedules. The High School will still have color groups this year, but they will only have students 9-12 as the middle school will be doing more of their own activities. Sports are in full swing, and the Latah Co. Fair will soon be approaching for students to show their animals and projects.

A point of emphasis for the High School this fall will be to tighten up the electronic device policy, but really focus on limiting the distractions a cell phone can bring. HS Students are to turn off notifications so they can focus on what is happening in class, and not what is buzzing in their pocket. Students are still allowed to use their phones during passing times, lunchtime and before and after school. The use of earbuds and headphones will be limited, and only allowed when the teacher gives permission. We are trying to help students manage the use of their devices in a way that allows them to still have them, but not be a distraction to the learning environment.

We also know that taking pictures or videos for a class assignment works much better on a phone, and students use their phones for timers when practicing speeches, among other uses. The phone can be very useful in the right context for schoolwork. As I told the students we believe they can handle this or we would simply not allow them to use them during the day. We know other schools are not allowing students to use their phones during the school day, and the students know if we can't make this happen that is where we will be headed. Many students already have some kind of phone limitations/restrictions for their job, so this is not surprising to them.

New staff to get to know are: Mike Brocke—Secondary Math (mornings only).
Lori Brown—Secondary Science. Oscar Avila—Secondary PE, Fitness & Health.

Have a great week! Go Bulldogs!

Wendy J Moore

Dr. Wendy Moore, Superintendent

Heather Kirk

Heather Kirk, K-5 Principal

Pete Crowley

Pete Crowley, MS Dean of Students

Kelly Caldwell

Kelly Caldwell Secondary Principal/AD