



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
37569 South Highway 213
Mt. Angel, Oregon 97362
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August 16, 2019

Dear Butte Creek Families:

Welcome back for the 2019-2020 school year! Summer is flying by quickly and Sept. 3 will be here before we know it. For those of you I haven't met yet, this will be my 14th year as principal here at Butte Creek, and my 34th year in public education. It's a great privilege to be here and to work with all of you. There is always a feeling of excitement as we prepare to begin a new school year, and we are all looking forward to our students arriving on the first day of school.

As you enjoy the rest of our beautiful Oregon summer, and start to gear up for the school year ahead, please consider the following three areas of focus for our school. The first two are critical to our mission; for effective teaching and learning to take place, we all have to be here absolutely as much as possible. The third goal will help with both communication and time management, but we need your commitment to make it happen.

1. **Be here!** Our goal is for every student and staff member to be at school 95% or better, which means missing no more than about 9 or 10 days per year. **To help with planning appointments, a school calendar is included with this letter. As little impact as possible into school time for medical, dental, or other appointments will be best for our students.** For example, early release Mondays are great times to schedule appointments after 1:00pm so kids are not pulled from school. When it comes to vacations, please consider this: out of a 365 day year, just 174 days are school days, which leaves 191 days for fun vacation trips. We have so many days and weeks with no school scheduled...will you please consider taking long family vacations around the school calendar? To do so emphasizes the importance of being at school every possible day.
2. **Be here on time!** We typically have a number of students who consistently arrive late to school. When students arrive late to class, they miss important time with their teacher and classmates. Instructional time is interrupted for the other students who are in class on time. Time is lost catching the tardy student up and getting the class back on track. We understand an occasional emergency, but really, all it takes to be on time is a little planning, preparation, and effort.
3. **Please call or email Susan** in our school office if your child will not be in school that day. A good deal of time is spent each day by our secretaries making 'safety calls' to families, when all we really need is a quick call or email in the morning (or the night before!) to let us know. If the office isn't open, call our school number, 503-829-6803, and leave a message for Susan on Ext. 302. Or send her a quick email at egbert_susan@silverfalls.k12.or.us. That's all it takes, and will be greatly appreciated!

We have clear and effective procedures for safely dropping off and picking up students at school. For dropping off kids before school, simply pull up even with the office doors and let your kids enter the building, walking by the office on the way to class, locker, or playground. At 3:00pm dismissal (and when picking up from after-school activities) please park and **come in to the cafeteria** to pick up your child. Parking is available in front of the building, as well as in the north gravel parking lot. Also, a good reminder for everyone is to please never leave your vehicle unattended along the fire lane, which runs the length of the school and is painted red. This space is not intended as a waiting area for picking up kids, and we certainly do not want visitors leaving their cars in this area, even for a short while. Please find a parking space in one of our two lots before coming into our school. Thank you!!

The first Parent Teacher Team (PTT) meeting will be Tuesday, August 27 at 3:00pm in the school library. All parents are welcome to attend. Our school cannot be successful without the hard work of our volunteers and support by all of our families, so please join us and be an active part of your PTT!

Sports activities (volleyball and soccer) for girls and boys in grades 6-8 will begin after school on **September 4**. Markie Hess and Emily Allen will return to coach volleyball and soccer, respectively. All students planning to participate in sports must fill out a participation form, have a current sports physical on file, (**no student will be allowed to practice without a current physical**), verify insurance coverage, and pay a fee of \$50.00 per sport. Please contact me if this fee presents a hardship for your family. Due to budget shortages, we prefer to work with families on payment plans, rather than giving total fee waivers for athletics. **Physicals will be offered at Butte Creek by Dr. Frank Golden and Dr. Denise Chun the morning of Thursday, August 29 from 9:00-10:00am in the middle school wing. The cost is \$5 per student.**

Russian Class will begin on Thursday, Sept. 12. Our instructor, Mrs. Yoder, will assess students during the first several days of school. Registration forms are available online (<http://buttecreek.silverfallschools.org/>) or in the school office. The Beginning level class will be held from 3:15-4:15pm on Tuesday/Thursday. Intermediate level class will be held after school on Wednesday/Friday. Middle School (Advanced) Russian Elective will be held Monday-Friday from 2:15-3:00pm.

Our Open House event this year will be held on Thursday, August 29 from 4:00-6:00pm. This is a great opportunity to visit our school and your child's classroom, and to meet our teachers. The office will be open during this time in case you'd like to take care of school supply fees for grades K-3, lunch accounts, or sports participation fees. Middle School students can also purchase their planner and practice their new locker combination at this time.

Butte Creek participates in the federally funded Free and Reduced cost meal program. This program offers free or reduced cost meals for students who come from eligible families. The names of students who qualify are kept confidential. This program is also the criteria utilized to determine the funding level that the school receives for Title I reading and math assistance to students in the building. *You must apply each year in order to qualify for Free/Reduced meals. Applications are available in the school office, or you may apply online through the district website.* Breakfast prices for 2019-20 are \$1.75 for grades K-5 and \$1.90 for grades 6-8. Lunch prices are \$2.80 for K-5 and \$3.20 for 6-8. Parents will receive an automated notification when their child's account has a low balance.

I would also like to remind you of the requirements from the Health Department regarding additional immunizations for students who are entering the **SEVENTH GRADE**. If you have not already done so, please be sure your seventh grader has begun the Hepatitis B series, and has completed their Chicken Pox and second Measles vaccines, along with the required Tdap vaccine. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

When purchasing school clothes or jewelry for your children please keep the following in mind. Students are not allowed to wear clothes that:

- Promote tobacco, alcohol, or other drugs.
- Depict weapons or could be used as a weapon. Some jewelry and chains fall into this category.
- Contain racial or gender put-downs.
- Are revealing. No bare midriffs, tank tops, or spaghetti strap tops, please. **Please remember that shorts and skirts must cover past mid-thigh length, regardless of what is worn underneath them.**
- Clothing (especially jeans) should be free of tears, rips, holes, etc.

At Butte Creek School we strive to maintain a safe school environment that is conducive to learning, and the student dress code helps us do that. The full Butte Creek dress code is available by request in the school office. Thanks in advance for your support!

Welcome to Butte Creek our new 2nd grade teacher **Laura Blair**; 3rd grade teacher **Devan Brady**; 5th - 6th grade Language Arts teacher **Kris Freeman**; SLP assistants **Ericka Hirth** and **Bridget Cook**; LRC assistant **Susan Harding**; and Lead Cook **Patricia Mathers**. Welcome to Bobcat Country! Also, **Gretchen Kuiper** will move from 1st grade to teach K-5 PE along with **Sierra Kester**.

Please make sure to introduce yourselves and help us welcome our new staff members!

Classes and teaching assignments are as follows:

KG: Mrs. Kuenzi

KG: Mrs. Zollner

1st Grade: Mrs. Thompson

2nd Grade: Mrs. Blair

2nd Grade: Mrs. Bolduc

3rd Grade: Mr. Brady

4th Grade: Ms. Barkett

5th Grade (self-contained): Ms. Fuerst

5th - 6th Language Arts/Tech: Ms. Freeman

5th - 8th Math: Mr. Uselman

5th - 8th Science: Ms. Watts

5th - 8th Social Studies: Ms. Allen

7th - 8th Language Arts: Ms. Sherwood

PE (Grades K-5): Mrs. Kester/Mrs. Kuiper

PE/Health (Grades 5-8): Mr. Seiler

SLP (Grades K-2): Mrs. Draper

ELD (Grades K-8): Ms. Cortez

Title I (Grades K-6): Mrs. Beyer

LRC: Mr. Howard

Counselor: Ms. Scott/Ms. Zukowski

Behavior Specialist: Mr. Harrington

Russian Class: Mrs. Yoder

Our teachers have worked carefully and collaboratively to assign students to each classroom. After new students are enrolled, final class lists will be posted on the front doors of the school the week of August 26. Supply lists for grades 4-8 are available at school or online at <http://buttecreek.silverfallsschools.org/>. For students in Kindergarten - 3rd Grade, we are asking that you send in \$30 per child so teachers can purchase appropriate school supplies in bulk for their students.

The people in our school, our students, staff, and families, along with a combination of strong character foundations and high academic standards, make Butte Creek a GREAT school to learn in, teach in, and participate in! As always, it's a priority to maintain a high level of communication with students, parents, and staff. As usual, we will use the Edulink/InTouch messaging system to keep you all informed of school events, and the *Little Bits* newsletter is published every Thursday on our website, with hard copies available on request. If we don't have your current email address, please make sure we get that in our system, as it really helps us get information directly to you in a timely manner. If you have any questions, or if we can help in any way, please contact our school office at 503-829-6803. All Butte Creek and Silver Falls staff members may be reached easily by email:

lastname_firstname@silverfalls.k12.or.us.

We are excited about the possibilities for the upcoming year, and will be anxiously awaiting the arrival of our students on **September 3!**

Sincerely,

Kevin Palmer

Principal