

Welcome to a New School Year

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Safe High Achieving Collaborative

- Crisis planning
- Positive environments open the door to learning and development.
- School safety and school climate develop positive cultures.
- A collaborative culture is key to success.

Three Words

If you were asked to describe excellence in your life or in your organization, what would they be? This is a good exercise whenever one is starting a new venture. Recently this writer has been giving this some thought for the school district for the new school year. What three words would define excellence for KFCS schools? Three adjectives come to mind: safe, high achieving and collaborative. In other words, the 2015-16 school year will be a success if it is safe, high achieving and collaborative.

Virtually everything KFCS is planning for the new year falls under these three categories. For example, schools are striving to be safe by reviewing and improving what is done for crisis plans to make sure facilities are as secure as possible in case of emergency. This includes updating plans for possible crisis situations so they are managed most effectively, and the risk to students is eliminated or at the very least minimized. A great deal of work at each site goes into this to assure careful planning and implementation.

Safety also includes reducing student-to-student conflict and having positive school environments in which students can learn and develop. A big

part of creating positive and welcoming schools is developing attitudes of mutual respect and cooperation. For years, KFCS has used a system called Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). Through it, schools encourage students to be safe, respectful, and responsible.

To enhance efforts in this area further, KFCS has contracted with an organization called Community Matters that is doing training in late summer and early fall with administrators, support staff, teachers and parents. Their focus is on identifying why students are sometimes mean and unkind and what adults can do to change such behavior. See information on the special parent training information attached.

Another way to address safety in each school is through a school safety and school climate improvement plan that will include parents and students as key resources in developing positive cultures.

In order to help the district be high achieving, KFCS will be expanding their work with AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) in all schools. The strategies from this organization help all schools create a college-going mindset

with students. They also help teachers create thoughtful engaging classrooms for their students.

Also in support of high achievement is the continuing work that is being done to improve attendance across the district. Studies are showing that one fundamental difference between high performing and low performing students is how often they are in the classroom. Common sense, and now solid research, is saying that students are highly unlikely to achieve if they are not active participants in the learning process. This naturally starts with being in school.

Finally, having a collaborative culture is key to success. This means that all work together for the common goal of student growth. This has been said many times but it bears repeating: Schools cannot accomplish their mission alone. They need the help and support of students, parents, and the community to bring about maximum success. Please give some thought to what you can do to make KFCS safe, high achieving and collaborative. Working together, this will be a tremendous year of growth and development for students.

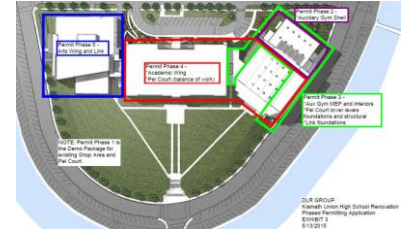


KUHS PROGRESS

The Klamath Union High School bond project has proven to be an interesting challenge. However, it is close to being on schedule.

In order to allow more access to the building to facilitate the construction process, a total of nine portable classrooms have been placed on site. These portables will house math, English, and health classes. Two additional portables will house the school office staff.

While this year will have its challenges due to the construction process, the good news is the end is in sight as we move closer and closer to having a beautiful, newly remodeled school to enhance learning for years to come. Check our web page for ongoing progress on the work. You can also see the most current KU remodel update video.



Watch the KU Remodel August Video Update by clicking [HERE](#)

Exciting things are happening throughout the Klamath Falls City School District in 2015-16."

KLAMATH FALLS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Superintendent, Paul Hillyer

School Board

Lori Theros, Chairman
Bill Jennings, Vice Chairman
Trina Perez
Michael Moore
Mychal Amos
Jeremy Player
Donald Ambers

Board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the boardroom of the district office.

Important Dates 1st Term

9/8 – First day of school
10/30 – No school
11/3-11/5 – Conferences
11/6 – No school

- This week the Klamath Falls City School District was notified about a successful grant application, which will be used to continue implementing the AVID program as well as to provide more opportunities for teacher leadership. The grant, in the amount of \$293,000, will stimulate improvement across the district.

- A parent and community workshop will be held on Wednesday, September 2nd, from 6:00 - 8:00 pm in the Ponderosa Middle School cafeteria. All parents and community members are encouraged to attend and learn what they can do to team with schools to promote safety, positive relationships and academic improvement. See the attachment for more information.

- All of our schools are developing a plan to improve parent communication. Please respond to this email if you have ideas you would like to share to help principals in this work.

OTHER NEWS

- KFCS is an active participant in the Blue Zone Project that will be expanding in the community this year. Board member, Mike Moore, and I are on the steering committee and Pelican principal, Tony Swan, is the co-chair of the education sub-committee. We will be sharing more information on this as it unfolds for our community and our schools.

- We are teaming up with the YMCA this year to provide physical education twice a week for all of our K-5 classrooms. They also provide swimming lessons free of charge for all of our second grade students. The Y is a great partner.

- There is an exciting event planned for Friday, September 11th, for Ponderosa and KU students called A Day Without Hate. Students will have activities in the morning addressing positive interactions with one another. In the afternoon they will walk from KU to Veterans Park for motivating guest speakers who will help the students get the year off to a great positive start.

All are invited to the event in the park starting at 12:30 pm. Citizens for Safe Schools is the organizer of the event.

- Through funds gained from the Collaboration Grant mentioned above, the district will be providing a mentor program for new teachers. This program will match a veteran teacher from the same school with all new teachers to help them acclimate to the district and give them ideas on how to be effective classroom instructors.

- Ponderosa will be providing required tutoring after school this year for students who have a midterm or quarter failure on their report cards. This is set up to help students throughout the year learn what is needed to be successful for the next grade.



Bullying Intervention and Communication Skills Workshop: Knowledge and Tools for All Parents

The Problem:

Schools and youth-serving organizations everywhere are being negatively impacted by youth-on-youth mistreatment. Students and their families are deeply affected by this problem. Incidents of bullying, intolerance, put-downs, and exclusion are far too common and far too costly. This mistreatment is getting younger, meaner, harder to identify, and more acceptable. Moreover, many of these incidents happen when and where adults are not present.

Bullying and other types of mistreatment undermine student achievement, are harmful to young people's social and emotional development, and can erode staff morale. These are challenging issues for families to address, especially since parents/guardians or other adults are often unaware of the incidents that are happening.

The Workshop:

This engaging and informative, 2-hour workshop will help parents/guardians significantly improve their interactions and communication with their children and other youth. Attendees will gain an increased understanding of emotional and physical violence – especially relational aggression and cyber-bullying – and their impact on:

- learning/academic achievement, attendance and participation in school
- child/youth development
- school climate and security.

This workshop will equip parents/guardians with knowledge and skills to act effectively when they or their children witness or hear about mistreatment. Through a series of hands-on activities, parents will learn how to use proven communication skills and strategies to encourage their children to talk with them about mistreatment at school, and respond effectively. Parents will also learn about an effective, youth-centered, school-based program called Safe School Ambassadors® and other ways they can work with school leaders to reduce mistreatment and improve school climate.

Workshop participants will:

- learn about the extent and cost of mistreatment, as well as efforts to address it
- understand basic principles of child/youth development
- gain knowledge and skills for communicating and intervening effectively
- strengthen parent-child communication through “relational” power and skills
- practice skills and receive coaching and feedback.

WHEN: Wednesday, September 2, 2015, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

WHERE: Ponderosa Middle School cafeteria