

July 1, 2022



Jackson County School District #91 (Butte Falls)

Next Up: Summer and then a New School Year!

Dear Butte Falls Charter School Parents and Community Members,

And now the dust settles! We finished the year with a flurry of field trips and field days and celebrations. We said our “thank you’s” and “goodbyes” to our friends and to another year of school together. How thankful we all are that we were able to finish a full year of school on campus. Congratulations to our students, our staff, parents, relatives, and our community!

Already we are looking forward to the coming school year. When students return to school the day after Labor Day (Tuesday, September 6) we anticipate all of the construction improvements to our elementary campus will be finished! We anticipate meeting our new elementary principal and three new teachers. We anticipate increased enrollment and more sports and activities options for students and families. And we anticipate welcoming volunteers back to help us with SMART Reading and field trips and other classroom activities. We will be ready!

Our New Elementary Principal: Mrs. Karina Ferre. We are very pleased to welcome Mrs. Karina Ferre (rhymes somewhat with hurry!) as our new school administrator. She will be serving as Principal at our elementary campus (grades K-7) this coming year.



Mrs. Karina Ferre meets staff for the first time on June 13. She looks forward to meeting our elementary students and families this fall.

Since 2018, Mrs. Ferre has served the Alsea School District in multiple roles as including as a testing coordinator and K-5 teacher, as a principal and, most recently, the Student Services Coordinator for the Alsea online *Learn at Home Program*. This made her the first line of contact for families and students enrolling in the program. In that role, Mrs. Ferre worked with students and families to troubleshoot curriculum and technology issues, coordinated Special Education supports for IEPs and related services, supervised Educational Assistants, set up schedules and conducted staff meetings to monitor the progress of students, and worked with support staff, teachers, and administrators to serve family needs including academic and social-emotional learning.

Previous to this, Mrs. Ferre was an English Language Learner/Reading Intervention teacher at Ferguson Elementary in Klamath Falls, a Middle School Science/Social Studies teacher at Eagle Point Middle School, A Middle School Technology teacher at Sandstone Middle School in Hermiston, a Child Family Advocate/Pre-K teacher at Umatilla/Morrow Head Start, a 4th/5th Grade teacher in Stanfield, Oregon, and a Kindergarten teacher in Umatilla, Oregon. Because her husband’s work resulted in multiple relocations, she benefited from the need to be flexible, versatile, and responsive to new situations. Her

varied work experiences reflect her resilience and persistence. Throughout all of this, Mrs. Ferre has also been a high school volleyball and softball coach as well as a Middle Robotics Coach.

Mrs. Ferre earned an Associates Degree in General Studies with a minor in Science from Utah Valley State College (Now UVU), a Bachelors Degree in Cultural and Environmental Geography with a minor in Environmental Studies from the University of Oregon, and a Masters Degree in Teaching with an emphasis on Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education from Willamette University. Subsequently, she completed the Initial Principal Licensure program through Concordia University—Chicago. Her administrative preparation included internships at North Medford High School and Griffin Creek Elementary School in Medford.

Mrs. Ferre was a very strong applicant because of her professional goals and vision for public education align strongly with our school’s vision for stewardship of natural resources. She grew up hunting and fishing. Camping is one of her family’s favorite pastimes. She has local ties to several state and federal agencies including the Army Corp of Engineers. Because her family is important to her, she recognizes the importance of our school working with and encouraging not only our students, but also their families. She resides nearby in Eagle Point.

I was able to complete all the reference checks on Mrs. Karina Ferre. I checked with references with administrators in the three previous school districts where she has served as a teacher, intern or administrator. They confirmed that she is a high-quality person, a competent and caring administrator, and has a heart for serving students and families. She has a passion for small schools and has worked in many capacities for several small districts.



Welcome to Mrs. Karina Ferre, our new Butte Falls Charter School Elementary Principal!

Over the past 18 months I have talked with students, parents, staff and community members about the characteristics we need in a principal. In a nutshell here is what I gleaned from their responses. Select someone who wants to be here for a while. Make sure they have had some credible teaching experience, preferably in a small school district or two. They need to like people. They need to be a good listener and connect with students, staff and our community. Choose someone who understands the traumas that many of our students have experienced, someone who is solid on special education and the importance of effective academic interventions and social-emotional supports. Find us a leader who is consistently fair, someone who can see the big picture while helping us attend to the day-to-day work. Hire a good communicator who can trust that we are working hard to do our jobs well but who can also provide constructive feedback in a professional credible manner. Bring us a thoughtful, kind, honest, firm, positive, trustworthy, encouraging leader.

Mrs. Karina Ferre is that person! Her references check out with no discrepancies. She has been interested in our district for several years. She wants to be here. And she has already begun to prepare by reviewing key documents and policies of the school even before her contract begins.

Our School Board unanimously approved hiring Mrs. Ferre at its June 12 meeting. Her assignment this first year will be to lead and serve our K-7 students and staff. This will allow her to meet the majority of our students, parents, and staff and to build relationships with all parties. To support the school, I will continue to serve as superintendent, but also as high school principal for the coming year. I plan to expand the scope of Mrs. Ferre's responsibilities in her second year, but for now, "Hurray for Ferre" and "Hurray for our school!"

Our New 6th Grade Teacher: Mrs. Melodie Ealy. We are also very happy to welcome Mrs. Melodie Ealy to our Middle School Team. Mrs. Ealy comes to us from the Medford School District where she taught 4th and fifth grade for the past three years at Howard Elementary School. Previously, she served for seven years as a Special Education Resource Room Teacher at Jacksonville Elementary. Other life experiences include being a Nutrition Educator for the Cooperative Service in Palmer, Alaska, and serving as the Field Secretary for the Social Work Program at the University of Alaska-Anchorage. She has earned a Bachelors Degree in Music (Washington State University), a Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education (University of Alaska-Anchorage) and a Masters Degree in Special Education (Southern Oregon University). She loves teaching students and helping them become competent and kind self-managers. She chose to apply to teach at our school after attending our Open House in May. Welcome, Mrs. Ealy!

Remaining Staff Positions to Fill. We are seeking to fill the following teaching and staff support positions before the school year begins: (1) High School English/Language Arts Teacher, (1) High School Science Teacher, several Educational Assistants, one custodian position, and one Facilities Manager. Interviews to occur in early-to-mid August.

Coaching Positions to Fill. We are also seeking Fall Sports Coaches: (1) HS Football Assistant Coach, (1) MS Football Head Coach, (1) MS Football Assistant Coach, (1) HS Girls Volleyball Coach, (1) HS Girls Volleyball Assistant Coach.

If you are interested in any of these positions or know someone who might be a good fit for our staff, please contact Julie Freeman by email at Jfreeman@buttefalls.k12.or.us or by phone at 541-865-3563, Option 5, and she can direct you to an application.

Online Registration for Next Year is now Available. In order to reserve a spot for your student for next year, we encourage you to complete our on-line registration process. This is available at our website (www.buttefalls.k12.or.us). If you have any questions, please contact our school office at 541-865-3563 or email techsupport@buttefalls.k12.or.us. Once we reach our target enrollment for a grade, we place additional students on a waiting list. This allows us to finalize our staffing and ensure we have enough instructional materials and furniture for our students.

Scenes from June 2022. Below is a brief pictorial sampling from our June activities.

Outdoor School : Grades 5, 6, and 7 spend 3 days at The Crest at Willow-Witte Ranch. Thank you to our bus driver, Mrs. Kari Carlton, for the daily shuttle to this Ranch and to 5th Grade Teacher, Mrs. Dufrense, 6th Grade Teacher Ms. Bacon, and 7th Grade Teacher Mr. DeCarlow for advocating for this multi-grade adventure!



High School Anatomy and Physiology. Pig dissection. When hands on learning becomes hams on!



The Last Day of School: Field Day at the Elementary Campus.



Kindergarten Graduation. Growing up like Caterpillars and Flying on the last week of School!



Mrs. Wishy-Washy Day. Our Annual Visit by Mrs. Wishy Washy to First Grade



BFCS Spring Internship at the NRC. Building Bridges Today; Building Community for Tomorrow.



Butte Falls Charter School Graduating Class of 2022! CONGRATULATIONS!



Our Offices will be closed the month of July. While we will still have some staff working to refresh our campuses and prepare our facilities for the coming school year, our offices will be closed July 1 through 29. We will reopen to the public on Monday, August 1.

Thank you for your support of our school this year!
Have a terrific summer!

Sincerely,

Dr. Phil Long, Superintendent



Paint finally arrives at our Elementary campus! Yay!