

September 1, 2023



It's time to get school started!

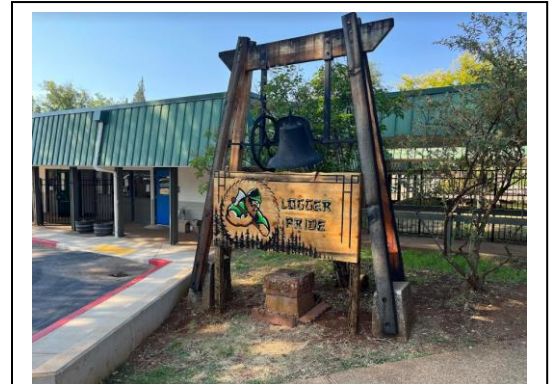
Dear Butte Falls Charter School Parents and Community Members,

We are very excited to welcome back students to our school! Over the summer, we have been reallocating our resources to be very prepared to meet the new school year.

At our elementary school, we have added a counseling conference room to provide improved support for meetings with students and parents and more privacy for counseling. Our sixth and seventh grade classrooms have benefited from fresh paint (and new carpet in one room). We are finishing the summer cleaning and sanitizing this weekend to be ready for the first day of school.

At our secondary campus, we removed asbestos tile and added new carpet to the English classroom. It also received a fresh coat of paint as did our health classroom. As we work to maintain clean, welcoming, and safe school facilities, we are also able to improve our classroom furnishings and dispose of items that have worn out.

At our Natural Resource Center (NRC) we have finished the development of the parking areas and cleaned up our driveways with fresh gravel. The food forest is green and lush with produce. And the site is ready to welcome students back for outdoor, hands-on learning activities.



We are very excited about our new sign at the entrance of our elementary campus. Thank you to one of our supportive parents, Jeremiah Cruz, for designing, constructing, and installing this. This will be in many "First-day-of-school photos" in the years to come. Yay!



Principal Karina Ferre and Special Education Teacher Gemma Zamora plan the service/support schedule for students. Mrs. Ferre will also be serving at the District's Special Education Director.

We are implementing our newly adopted K-12 Math curriculum published by SAVVAS Learning Company. This curriculum comes with additional academic supports so we can better support student learning. We are also implementing the rest of our K-12 English/Language Arts curriculum published by Houghton-Mifflin Harcourt, Inc.

The addition of an experienced 4th/5th grade elementary teacher, Ms. Kristina Severns, and the willingness of Mrs. Jill Dufresne to teach seventh grade has ensured that we have experienced, licensed teachers at all grade levels. We are also thankful to have Mrs. Gemma Zamora joining us as our new full-time Special Education Teacher. She is partnering with Mrs. Erin DeCarlow to provide excellent Special Education support for all grade levels.

We are also pleased to welcome our newest employee, Mrs. Kathy Rambo, who will be serving as an educational assistant at the secondary campus. She brings a wealth of life experience with her (in insurance finance, retail management, and helping others).

Staff Preparation and Planning Supports Student Success.

This year we are investing additional time and resources into training and professional learning support for our staff. During the last week of August, our classroom educational assistants participated in 12 hours of training in [Playworks](#), a program to help our students stay active and build valuable life skills through play. We will be applying the strategies of Playworks to provide a better recess experience and help our students acquire skills to work out disagreements and difference and to develop a stronger sense of fairness, confidence, and communication. Students who develop these skills are more likely to participate in class, which means better attendance and better academic learning success.



Inservice Week provides time for planning, learning, and strengthening our relationships and commitments to work as a team. Our team focus this year is on helping every student learn and grow!



District Administrative Assistant (AKA BF Welcoming Fairy Godmother) Julie Freeman officially welcomes our newest employees to the team!

Remaining Staff Positions to Fill. We have filled all of our teaching positions as well as classroom educational assistants. We still have part-time and full-time openings for our kitchen crew, for custodians, and for substitutes (teachers, bus drivers, educational assistants and custodians).

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 is open and our classes still have room for students. Classes begin on Tuesday, September 5. If you have a student to enroll, please contact our school office at 541-865-3563 or email techsupport@buttefalls.k12.or.us. Our on-line registration process is available at our website (www.buttefalls.k12.or.us). You may also come directly to our school to enroll. Once we reach our target enrollment for a grade, we place additional students on a waiting list. At this point our average class sizes are generally landing between 10 and 16 with a few exceptions slightly higher or lower.



Open range cows showed up for school one week early. No, we didn't enroll them, but we are saving a spot for any student who wants to come and learn and be a part of our terrific school community!

We are ready to welcome students and families back to school. Our rooms have been cleaned over the summer. Carpets and floors were shampooed or scrubbed the last week in July. Walls are freshened up. Our grounds are greening up. Our teachers have lessons ready. Our staff is ready to welcome kids back to school. Our support staff is deployed to help throughout our campuses. Our kitchen is cooking! Our buses are ready to roll!

It's time to get going!

Sincerely,



Dr. Phil Long, Superintendent