

December 1, 2023



Checking In After Nine Weeks of School

Dear Butte Falls Charter School Parents and Community Members,

Fall has lived up to its name. The frosty nights have resulted in an avalanche of leaves and the need for extra layers of clothing. In three weeks, winter will officially begin. In the meantime we are working hard to get two more weeks of learning in before we break for the winter holiday season.

November Conferences a Success!

We are sending out a huge “Thank You” to all the parents and students who met with teachers during our Fall Parent/Student/Teacher conferences right before Thanksgiving week. That was an excellent time to check in on student progress and share the successes and challenges that students encounter when they return to school each fall. If you were unable to attend your student’s conference, we encourage you to reach out to the classroom teacher via email or call the main office to let us know how we can help. We are one-fourth of the way through the school year and there are still many opportunities for learning and growth. Partnering together makes a big difference for students.

We look forward to our spring conferences in April when we can discuss the successes that will come between now and then. We appreciate the feedback on our elementary and secondary campus Parent Satisfaction Surveys. We continue to look for ways to improve our support for student learning and growth as well as ways we can improve our working relationship with parents. We also appreciate hearing what is working well for your student.

Our online Parent Satisfaction Surveys will remain open through December 11. If you would like us to resend you a link to the Surveys, please contact the school office (541-865-3563) and let us know.



6th Grade Teacher Melodie Ealy meets with the whole family and their student to discuss what’s working. Conferences extended into the evening to accommodate work schedules. 11/20/23



Health and PE teacher Eli Bowers serves as our 8th grade advisor. Having 8th graders at our secondary campus provides them access to more elective options and firsthand knowledge of the importance of showing up every day ready to learn. 11/20/23

Cutting Edge Classes

Sparks are flying as we restart our manufacturing electives. This quarter we are offering a daily 2-hour **Introduction to Welding** class as one of our two applied manufacturing technology courses. Our instructor is Mr. Sean Childers, who has previous experience in the manufacturing process of highly calibrated aeronautic parts and equipment. He has cleaned up our manufacturing shop and reactivated our four welding booths. He has five committed students who have passed the equipment safety tests and who are learning how to use a variety of welding techniques.



Self-discipline and awareness of the surrounding work environment are key skills that allow for a safe and productive work environment. 11/16/23



Students scrutinize equipment used in a welding booth. 11/14/23

Before the end of the quarter, the students will know the basic welding and fabrication procedures used in the manufacturing process. They will develop skills in bench work, welding applications, and shop safety. Students are exposed to oxy-fuel welding, shielded metal arc welding, gas metal arc welding, and oxy-fuel cutting. They will also be introduced to our computer-directed plasma cutter and complete several projects demonstrating skills essential for planning and precision manufacturing.

Our second applied manufacturing technology class is **Introduction to Woodworking**. Our current social studies teacher, Mr. Carrigan, has years of experience as a woodworking/construction technology instructor and has reactivated our wood shop. This introductory course teaches basic skills in (1) Power Tool operation and application, (2) Power tool safety, (3) Shop safety, (4) Measuring, (5) Blueprint reading, drafting, plan design, (6) Wood identification, nominal and dimensional lumber, defects, (7) Hardware applications, (8) Finishing-paints, stains, lacquers, (9) Clamping, gluing, fastening, and (10) Joinery. Specific projects are required as the vehicle for building these basic woodworking skills.



Mr. Carrigan demonstrates the safe procedure for using our [SawStop](#) table saw. All students must pass the safety test before using this equipment. (FYI, our insurance underwriter, [PACE](#), help fund the purchase of this saw.)

In each of our manufacturing classes, students must complete safety training, wear safety glasses (when the task requires so), and adhere to safety rules at all times.

A Special Thank You!



Ms. Ruby Edwards is personally invested in the lives of our students! In addition to her annual contribution to fund swimming lessons and water safety instruction for our younger students, Ruby was overjoyed to present the District (represented by Mrs. Julie Freeman) with a check to fund student learning activities. Thank you, dear Ruby!

What year will it be when you are in your mid-90s? If you are blessed to live that long, what will you be thinking about? If you are Ruby Edwards, you are thinking about what has been your life's pleasure—helping students learn to be safe around water, to respect the environment, and to work hard with others to become respectful, responsible community members.

Ruby (and her life partner, Cecil Bailey) lived in our district for many years and hosted field trips to their property for many years. They also sponsored cross-country skiing adventures and other outdoor adventures. Ruby has placed in trust funding to ensure our young students can have annual swimming and water safety instruction for many years to come. Her additional special gift this visit was a check for over \$25,000 to be used for learning projects and activities for our Butte Falls Charter School students. Thank you very much, Ruby!

Winter Safety starts with planning, preparation and communication.

Winter weather presents some challenges, as the elevation of our school campus is about 2540 feet above sea level. This means that it can be snowy or icy at school but just rainy in Shady Cove, Eagle Point or White City. For this reason, we monitor road conditions early on winter mornings. The county is good to plow and gravel Butte Falls Hwy, but it is sometimes helpful to delay the start of school 2 hours to allow for daylight and better driving conditions into Butte Falls.

We use our electronic messenger program to let families know when we need to adjust the schedule for school due to stormy weather. We recognize it may be difficult for some students who live at elevations higher than Butte Falls to get to school. Be sure to let us know if this happens. Our school buses are equipped with automatic snow chains. We usually run our regular routes even in snowy weather, except for the routes up Obenchain or east of town. Even if we are open, we respect decisions by parents to keep students home if road conditions are poor near home. Safety remains our first priority. If we have a emergency school closure, we plan to make up the day later in the year.

Middle School Basketball is holding Court.

We are underway with our Middle School Boys Basketball season. Head Coach Bonnie Freeman and Assistant Coach Chelsie Stephens have a dedicated group of boys working hard on skill building and teamwork. Dates and times of games are updated regularly on our website (www.buttefalls.k12.or.us). Come have some popcorn and enjoy basketball in our high school gym! Go Loggers!

Are you willing to help?


We are always looking for people who like working with kids and are willing to serve as substitutes for some key support staff positions (custodian, educational assistant, bus driver, cafeteria help). If you are interested in this or in being a volunteer, contact us at Feedback@buttefalls.k12.or.us or call Julie Freeman at 541-865-3563, Option 5.

Here are some important upcoming District dates. Please check the District News and Events at our website (www.buttefalls.k12.or.us) for any updates.

- **School Board Meeting** – 6:00 p.m., Monday, December 11, at District Office
- **Elementary Winter Holiday Event** – 6:30 p.m., **Tuesday, December 13 (Updated)**
- **Winter Break – No School** – December 18 through January 1 (Classes resume January 2, 2024)
- **Friday School** – January 5 (Please plan to send your student to school)
- **Martin Luther King, Jr., Day** – Monday, January 15
- **Possible Snow Makeup Day** – Friday, January 19 (If we have a snow day before then)
- **End of Second 9 Week Term** – Thursday, January 25.
- **First Day of 3rd Quarter** – Monday, January 29.

Thank you for your support and encouragement for our students and staff! We hope to see you at our community and sports events!

Sincerely,



Dr. Phil Long, Superintendent

What you focus on gets done!



Class of 2036 visits high school on Halloween day! Mrs. Chavez (AKA Thing 2) and her Kindergarten class wore their costumes and were treated with a sweet welcome by high school students and Benjamin Franklin (AKA Mr. Carrigan). 10/31/23