

# Schools Update: Start of the School Year

By Superintendent Aaron Miller

Time flies when you are having fun, and this makes summer go by way too quickly. With August halfway gone it is time to start thinking about the beginning of another school year. The following are some important upcoming dates and events happening in the Vernonia School District:

## August 13-24

- Kindercamp will be in session for ALL incoming kindergarten students. If you have not done so already, please sign up by calling the Vernonia Schools office at (503) 429-1333 or the District Office at (503) 429-5891.
- There will be a Kindercamp Family Meeting on Thursday, August 23. This meeting will be held from 5:30-6:30 pm and will share information regarding Kindercamp, student expectations, and our kindergarten program. Free dinner for participating families, as well as free

babysitting will be available.

- All registering kindergarten students will need to provide a copy of their birth certificate and immunization records to the school.

## Friday, August 17

- Vernonia Middle School registration will be held on this day. Please call the office at (503) 429-1333 for details on when each grade level should arrive.

## Through August 24

- The School District will continue to sponsor the Vernonia Summer Meals Program located at the Grace Fellowship Church. Children up to the age of 18 can get a free lunch Monday-Friday between 11:30 am and 1:00 pm. Adults are welcome to join us for lunch as well, at a cost of \$3.50.

## August 27-30

- Teachers and classified employees professional development and instructional/classroom preparation

## Tuesday, September 4

- 1<sup>st</sup> day of school for all incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders and 9<sup>th</sup> graders, as well as any students in grades 7-12 who are new to the VSD, including all foreign exchange students.
- Kindergarten Readiness Assessments will be provided by appointment.
- Meet the Teacher Night for elementary students will run from 6:00-7:00 pm. On this night students and parents will find out who their teacher will be for the school year.

## Wednesday, September 5

- 1<sup>st</sup> day of school for ALL students, with the exception of Kindergarten students.
- Kindergarten Readiness Assessments will be provided by appointment.

## Thursday, September 6

- 1<sup>st</sup> day of school for Kindergarten students.

School supply lists are available on our website. Just go to [www.vernonia.k12.or.us](http://www.vernonia.k12.or.us), click the Parents drop down tab, then click Virtual Backpack. If your family is in need of support for your child's school supplies, free backpacks are once again available. The United Way of Columbia County, former VSD staff members, and the Vernonia community at large donate supplies to help with this program. About 80-90 backpacks are supplied to VSD students annually.

Thank you all for your support, and we are looking forward to seeing your children back at school soon.

# VSD Bond Project Update

By Superintendent Aaron Miller

It has been a very busy summer on Vernonia School District grounds with large Bond projects in process at Mist Grade School, as well as on the new high school football field and track.

While this work continues to move forward and progress, there have been a couple of obstacles that have had to be overcome.

The football field and track are on schedule to be completed in time for our second or third home game of the year, but that is now in jeopardy. High temperatures and city water restrictions may impede the District's ability to establish new sod without it dying. While details and a final answer were not available at press time, the District is doing everything in its power to spend Bond money wisely and effectively, while still meeting City requirements for water curtailment. This could mean postponing the use of the new field until next year, or finding another (non-local) water source to keep the sod hydrated.

At Mist Grade School the gymnasium was slated to be resided and painted this summer, and that project is still moving forward. When the old siding was removed, a large amount of dry rot was discovered in the sill plate and bottom portion of the framed walls. After working with the County and a struc-

tural engineer, a plan for repair has been approved, the damaged portion of the building will be repaired, and the siding and painting will then be able to move forward once again.

Also at Mist the main school building has been completely repainted, and is looking good.

The District also continues to work with its project manager on the four-classroom addition to the West wing of the building, and constructing a new welding shop. Some preliminary excavation work will begin soon, but these two large projects are not slated for completion, and student use, until the fall of 2019.

If you have any questions regarding these projects, or other District business, please contact Superintendent Miller at (503) 429-5891.

Vernonia School Board Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month. The next School Board Meeting is scheduled for September 13 at 6:00 pm in the Schools Library.



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