



Butte Falls School District #91

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

I would like to let you know of some changes we are planning on for next year. As a continuation of our intense work to get all children reading at grade level by third grade, we plan to have a teacher for kindergarten, first and second grade. No blended classes for these grades. In order to accommodate this, the seventh grade will now be with the eighth grade in the high school building.

This move is part of our research based school improvement plan. Research shows that if students are not reading at grade level by the third grade, their chances of graduating are greatly reduced. If the student reads at grade level by third grade, they are much more successful in higher grades also.

We currently have a combined second and third grade class. We do not have the resources for a teacher in every grade. A combined seventh/eighth grade class makes more sense educationally than a second/third grade. There is not as large of a learning step between seventh and eighth grade as there is between second and third grade. Third graders must take the state assessments and second graders do not. Also, second graders are learning to read whereas third graders are reading to learn.

This configuration gives the seventh graders more opportunities since they will be in the high school building. Seventh and eighth graders will have their classes together. The seventh and eighth grade will continue to be somewhat shielded during school. They will be escorted to lunch before the other students are released, passing time in the hallways will be monitored by staff, and they will have their own PE period. The high school staff is excited they are coming and has a good plan for a safe and quality education.

Another change for next year is that we will have a full time principal in the district. We currently have about .75 FTE administration in the district. The addition of a full time principal will enable us to address many areas such as behavior support, teacher learning improvement, increased enrollment, curriculum improvement, and community communication. We are excited the board has made this decision and look forward to the improvements it will bring.

If you have any questions concerning the school, please give me a call.

Dr. David L. Courtney, Superintendent