



Butte Falls Charter School - Secondary Building

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Butte Falls Charter School is an equal opportunity employer

It takes a village.....

The school is experiencing increased pressure to solve a multitude of cultural problems. We are expected to address drug and alcohol education, and treatment in some cases. We are also expected to deal with bullying issues that happen outside school and on Facebook. I encourage all parents to monitor their students' social media accounts. I truly believe this should be a family issue instead of a school one. Unfortunately, it affects life at school, so we will deal with it as appropriate.

When you see or hear about bad things that teenagers are doing, don't be afraid to step in. This can be done in a positive way. Build relationships with teenagers, employ them, talk to them. Let's teach our youth to be problem solvers instead of problem creators.

As a team, we need to address these issues. Kids are learning every day about being good citizens. The school can do part of that. In fact, we are addressing these issues more and more every day, but it needs to be a parent and community issue as well. I've had to deal with several bullying issues this year. When I investigate I find out that many times, the victim was the bully first. Sounds crazy, but true! It's a never ending cycle of blaming others for our problems. This is a cultural problem that we can all help turn around.

With the lack of a police force in Butte Falls, the responsibility falls on all of us to guide our youth in the right direction. Even if we did have a police force, we can't expect one person to solve all the problems. Just as you can't expect the principal to solve all the behavior issues at school. It is a team effort between staff, parents and students.

Middle school is an especially crazy time. Try to remember when you were in middle school. There's a lot of silliness and emotions. Academics are not high on the list. There is an ongoing discussion about which building the middle school students need to be at. It's not the building that matters. Our current high school students are great role models for the younger students. Our current situation does not allow for another configuration at this time.

Everyone can make it through middle and high school with a little help from EVERYONE around them. We are having lots of talks at school, but we need to know that the whole community is helping support us off-hours. If you see students on school property being inappropriate, ask them what they are doing. Ask them if they are supposed to be doing it. Find out their names. Hopefully they get the hint. If not, contact the sheriff and/or the school. Yes, the sheriff will still respond to Butte Falls if necessary.

It's time to teach our kids to be respectful, not just at school, but everywhere in life. If they get the push from every direction, it will work a lot better!

I am proud of all the good citizens we create in Butte Falls and all the great programs we offer, especially considering we are such a small school.

Your teammate and principal,

Dianne Gorman