



Butte Falls School District #91

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Be Safe. Be Respectful. Be Responsible.

January 8, 2018

Dear Butte Falls Charter School Parents (and Students),

We are almost half-way through the 2017-18 school year. Like many, I was thankful for the winter break as it gave me a chance to catch my breath after a very busy start to school. School is now back in session and we are sprinting forward toward spring. I wanted to update you on several items of interest.

Rapid Enrollment Growth. This past fall was especially busy as our enrollment increased substantially—from 180 to 230. While we anticipated some of this growth by hiring a new elementary teacher in the fall and adding a half-position at the secondary campus, we have continued to add part-time teachers and aides to support the needs of our larger student population.

Sports Collaboration with Crater Lake Charter Academy (CLCA). Our recent agreement with CLCA created some growing pains for our athletic program. While the partnership resulted in many more opportunities for our students to play a sport, it also increased the demands on our gymnasiums, coaches, and transportation services. Additionally, we thank parents and staff who have stepped in the gap to help support this infusion of athletic energy and hope in our athletic program. Thank you also to community members who have turned out to support our student athletes at games. We are working to refine our programs so that students get the maximum benefit for them.

Student and Staff Safety—Cameras and secure doors. The addition of cameras to our elementary campus this past summer has helped reduce inappropriate behavior at the school in the evening and on weekends. We added cameras on our buses as well as temporary bus monitors to coach students on following expectations. Bus rider behavior has been marked better this year. We also added additional emergency exit doors to our modular classrooms and upgraded locks so we can better secure classrooms in the event of an emergency.

Student and Staff Safety—Appropriate Interpersonal Boundaries. As some of you are aware, several students raised concerns about uncomfortable interactions with a staff member at our high school campus. While we did not effectively respond to this when we initially learned of the concerns from one student in late-September, additional reports including those from several other students in mid-November caused us to thoroughly investigate and attend to the matter. It is a challenge to sort through such matters while respecting individual rights. It is