Charging through failures, stampeding through challenges

Message from the Principal

“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.” ~Coretta Scott King

This school year, and the whole year of 2020 is by no means normal. Uncertainty and change are words that dominate our thoughts each day. Each of us is being challenged on a daily basis to make adjustments, balance personal and professional responsibilities, expectations and beliefs, and quell anxiety bubbling under the surface as we navigate each day.

Throughout these past eight months the thing that centers me, reigns in the anxiety and fear is our High Plains School community. I have witnessed more compassion, care, and perseverance in these past months than the whole of my life. The responsibility and belonging to our community forces me to step outside of myself, so that I can be present and supportive for our students, staff, and families.

As we continue through these uncertain times, our Bison community will continue to develop and thrive. Our students, your children, unite us to do our best thinking and planning, so they are academically engaged, physically and emotionally safe, and happy. Thank you parents and guardians for being active, caring, and compassionate members of our Bison community and keeping us all safe. Together we are Bison strong!

Sincerely,
Danielle Feeney, principal
Student Fees

Each school year fees are placed on each student’s Infinite Campus. Fees are assessed annually per TSD Board policies and will continue to accrue from year to year and school to school within the Thompson School District.

With the unique and challenging start to the school year, there have been many questions from families regarding how student fees will be managed. Please see below for important related information:

The district will collect the instructional materials fee from ALL students. This fee ranges from $25 - $32 per student depending on the grade level. These fees support the purchase of consumable materials and supplies, which are being provided to students in both learning environments (In Person and TCO).

The district will wait until the spring semester to collect course fees.

You can pay your outstanding balance one of three ways:

1. Access RevTrak through your Infinite Campus Parent Portal account
2. Check, made payable to High Plains School
3. Exact cash (we do not keep change in the school office)

If you feel that there is an error, due to being a recipient of free/reduced lunch, please contact Nutrition Services at 970-613-5143.
Health & Safety

In addition to cohorting groups of students, transportation instituting assigned bus seating, and routines during the school day for cleaning and washing hands, parents can support student and staff health and safety by following the tips on this Colorado Department of Education’s Can I go to school today? document. Thank you for keeping our Bison community safe and in good health, so we can continue in person instruction.

Internet Safety

Our children are spending more time on the screen, but that does not mean they cannot practice internet safety. The links below include helpful tips for parents/guardians, and a fun game for kids to test their internet safety skills. Check them out!

Be Internet Awesome (English)
Be Internet Awesome (Spanish)

Fun game to test your internet safety skills!

All the above links and more information can also be found at: https://beinternetawesome.withgoogle.com/en_us/families

SEL

Our district Social Emotional Learning Specialist, Simone Perry, created this helpful document, How to Talk to Your Child About Trauma (Handout for Families) to support parents/guardians in helping children work through events that may impact their mental and physical health.
**Updated BOE policy**

Our Board of Education has revised the district student code of conduct policy. Please take a moment to review it with your child: [JICDA: CODE OF CONDUCT](#). High Plains School adheres to all district BOE policies, in addition to specific processes and expectations noted in our Parent-Student Handbook. Please take some time to review the handbook to help our community remain safe and effective.

**PM Crossing Guard**

Are you looking for an opportunity to support High Plains School? We need an afternoon volunteer crossing guard. Training is virtual and easy! This volunteer position is between 3:30-3:45. Volunteers are welcome to support every day, once a week, or any portion that works in your schedule. Please contact Mrs. Feeney, danielle.feeney@thompsonschools.org for details and to schedule your time.

**YMCA**

The YMCA is on site offering before and after school care for our Bison families. Please check out the [YMCA link](#) (also on our website) for details. Scholarships and waivers are available through the YMCA. Please contact them directly.
School Accountability Advisory Committee

HPS will hold our 2nd SAAC meeting (virtual) on December 1st at 5:15pm. The remaining dates are February 16th and May 4th. All meetings will be via Google meet, unless otherwise communicated. Please take a moment to share with us topics you may like to hear about and/or discuss at the remaining meetings: HPS School Accountability Advisory Committee (SAAC)

The School Accountability Advisory Committee supports High Plains School staff with some of the following items:

Reviewing and providing input into the development and implementation of the School’s Unified Improvement Plan

Providing input into budget allocation as it relates to the School’s Unified Improvement Plan

Providing input into activities to increase parent engagement in school

Jenny Webb is our School Accountability Advisory Committee chairperson. Jenny meets with the principal prior to SAAC sessions (4 a year) to set the agenda, helps recruit members of our school’s community for SAAC, supports the communications and dialogues of the SAAC to community members, and participates in District Accountability Committee sessions to gain a district wide perspective that supports High Plains School’s efforts. If you would like to reach her, please email her at jennysue@gmail.com.

Picture Day

Picture Day will be Monday, November 2nd for all In Person K-5 and 6th-8th Group A.

Picture Day will be Friday, November 6th for 6th-8th Group B and TCO Students.

TCO students will need to use the Sign Up Genius to sign up for a time. Walk-ins will be turned away.

Giving Tree

Sponsor a family for Holiday gifts this season with our Holiday Giving Tree. Giving Tree ornaments will be available starting November 11th. Each morning and after school the “Giving Tree” will be placed outside the front doors with ornaments for you to choose from. Gifts are due to the school office by December 9th.
Registration for Second Semester

In August families were asked to choose either in person (which started remote) or fully online (Thompson Connect Online) for each student. Second semester will begin January 4, 2021. We know there are students who may wish to change instructional models at the semester. In order for us to plan for these changes, we need all students to register for the learning environment each will engage in for the second semester (January 4, 2021 - May 27, 2021).

Information about the instructional models is available in the TSD Return to Learn document available at this link. Please submit a registration form for each student by November 15, 2020.

REGISTRATION FORM

TSD Climate and Culture Survey

The Thompson School District has created a short survey for you to share your input about our school and our district. We truly value your opinion, and are asking for your help by taking the Thompson Climate and Culture Survey.

You should have already received the survey by email, and can also find a link on our Facebook page or by going to Thompson School District’s website at www.thompsonschools.org/Climate and Culture. Paper copies of the survey are also available outside the main entrance of your school or at the District Administration Building. The survey can also be accessed at this link.

Please complete one survey for each school that your family attends. Each should take no more than 10-15 minutes and the survey will close November 13th. Make your voice heard by completing the survey today!
News from the Library

A Book Fair “Thank You!”

Thank you to everyone who visited our virtual Scholastic Book Fair. We deeply appreciate everyone’s support and are looking forward to a great fair in the spring.

TSD’s New Partnership with the Loveland Public Library

Thompson School District has recently partnered with the Loveland Public Library so that all of our students, K-8, now have access to LPL resources—including ebooks, audiobooks, and databases—by simply using their name and their 6-digit TSD student ID number (password without the lead characters). For more information and answers to FAQs, visit https://lovelandpubliclibrary.org/TSDstudents/.

Ebooks

As the days begin to shorten and the time spent inside lengthens, don’t forget the huge number of ebooks available to your students through Sora!

⇒ Go to Sora.
⇒ Click on "Find my school."
⇒ Select any Thompson School District school (all are the same account).
⇒ Choose "Thompson School District R2-J" on the drop-down menu.
⇒ Sign in with your child’s district log-in. Please contact me (megan.mcgee@thompsonschools.org) if you have any questions about log-ins.
⇒ Notice the different options (you can search by popular subjects, genres, or other categories) and enjoy browsing and then checking out books.
Yearbook Lowest Sale Price Ends November 6th!

This historic year is different. The yearbook is going to be different, too. You will want to order your student’s copy of this unique book. We promise it’s one you won’t want to miss! Visit www.jostensyearbooks.com to order yours by November 6th for the lowest price!

Mrs. Jones and the Bison Yearbook Staff

Lost and Found

For health reasons we are unable to maintain a Lost and Found at this time. Please label your student’s coats, hats and other items so that when we find something, we can return it to the owner. Otherwise, the unmarked items will not be returned to you.