Charging through failures, stampeding through challenges

Message from the Principal ...

What an incredibly interesting school year! Here we are in March, nearing spring break and our fourth quarter already! On February 25th our district announced secondary students attending the *hybrid in person model* will be returning to a 5 day a week 100% in person schedule. This is exciting news! This also means our drop off and pick up will be even fuller, so please review the procedures for dropping off and picking up your student(s) (below) so that everyone gets to their destination in a safe and orderly manner.

Besides this monthly newsletter please also check the school’s website for important information on events, activities, and resources. For school specific expectations please check out the [Parent-Student Handbook](#) on the school’s website. Follow us on Facebook too! Don’t forget Daylight Savings Time begins at 2AM on March 14th. Spring forward!

Sincerely,

Danielle Feeney
Principal, High Plains School

“At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child’s success is the positive involvement of parents.” -- Jane D. Hull
**MS 100% Return**

Our 6th-8th grade middle school students who have been attending our *hybrid in person model* will return to a 100% in person, 5 days a week schedule on March 22nd! All students and staff will continue to wear masks 100% of the time, follow cleaning and disinfecting protocols, cohorting, and all other expectations to keep all of our Bison community safely learning in person. Some adjustments that Larimer Health Department has approved for TSD include:

- Removing the 6 foot teacher distance between students, if the staff member is 10 days past their second vaccination shot

- Maximizing space between students to the extent possible with the goal of 3 feet between students.

- Allowing 2 students at tables following the above spacing

We will continue to offer free lunch to all students. If weather conditions are acceptable, students will eat outside. For inclement weather days, we will split larger classes to allow more spacing between students while they eat indoors. Please reach out to your child’s teacher, Ms. Helfrich, or Mrs. Feeney, if you have additional questions. For additional information and resources on COVID testing, mental health resources, and the district dashboard, please check out the links on the district website located [here](#).

We *soooo* look forward to having all of our Bison back 5 days a week!!
Hug and Go Reminders

All parents please review drop off/pick-up procedures so all students, parents, and staff get to their final destination in a timely and safe manner. Check out the video for drop-off/pick up [here](#), as well as a map showing drop-off/pick-up. **Key points:**

- If your child cannot exit and enter the vehicle without assistance, park in the parking lot or on the street and escort them to and from your vehicle.
- If you use the hug and go, please stay in your vehicle and keep moving forward.
- Students can be dropped off as early as 8AM (9AM on Wed.)

SAAC Survey

HPS will hold our 4th and final SAAC meeting for the 20-21 school year (virtual) on May 4th at 5:15pm. All meetings will be via [Google meet](#), unless otherwise communicated. If you have suggested topics for discussion, please complete this [form](#) or reach out to Jenny Webb, our School Accountability Advisory Committee chairperson, at [jennysue@gmail.com](mailto:jennysue@gmail.com). Jenny meets with the principal prior to SAAC sessions 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.

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

1. Reviewing and providing input into the development and implementation of the School’s Unified Improvement Plan
2. 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
Bullying Prevention & Education Grant (BPEG)

High Plains is excited to continue our participation in the state Bullying Prevention & Education (BPEG) through 2022! This competitive grant provides us with evidenced based bullying prevention and educational strategies and opportunities for students, staff, and family engagement. An annual anonymous student perception survey will be given to students each year for student grades 3 and up to monitor prevention efforts and make decisions to continue to make High Plains a great school where all students feel safe and welcome. The survey requires parent permission: please click on the link to sign permission for your child to participate in the survey. (If your child is a returning 4th-8th grader, and you have already completed this permission form, you do not need to complete it again:

Student Survey Permission Form - CLICK HERE
News from the Library  
March 2021

A Book Fair “Thank You!”

Thank you to all who visited our virtual Scholastic Book Fair. We deeply appreciate everyone’s support and hope you enjoyed discovering new and exciting books. Happy reading!

Spring into the Pages of Ebooks

If you’re looking for entertaining and stimulating reads for your student, remember the thousands of ebooks available through Sora and the district’s partnership with the Loveland Public Library.

1. Go to Sora.
2. Click on “Find my school.”
3. Select any Thompson School District school (all are the same account).
5. Sign in with your child’s district log-in. Please email megan.mcgee@thompsonschools.org if you have any questions about log-ins.
6. Notice the different options (you can search by popular subjects, genres, or other categories) and enjoy browsing and then checking out books.

All TSD students can sign in to access the Loveland Public Library’s resources by simply using their name and their 6-digit TSD student ID number (password without the lead characters). An easy, one-time way to add the public library’s ebook collection to your child’s Sora account is to select “Add a library” under settings and then choose the Front Range Downloadable Library.
Bison Cares

We are excited to share a new program here at HPS called Bison Cares. Its purpose is to financially help High Plains students participate in district/school-sponsored activities or needs, and we’re inviting our entire community to get involved. There are three ways to help: by donating, spreading the word, or applying. If you’d like to support or apply for this program, you can go to the High Plains website -> Family & Community -> Family Information -> Bison Cares for more information. Thank you for helping to empower students and families to be the best that they can be.

If you would like to apply, please use this link: https://forms.gle/jbnfYmCHj8mxVh3T7

If you would like to donate, please use this link: https://forms.gle/4Qo91eFgPj9PxSM86

Middle School Innovation

This quarter in Innovation, the 6th graders have been learning about the Design Engineering Process. They designed, created and tested a boat made of straws, paper cups, tape and plastic wrap. This week they shared their final boat in an “Anchors Away” celebration.

Harper Oldham
Liza Edwards
Chance Mason
Ryan Tucker, Harper Oldham, Liza Edwards, Peyton Gross, Mrs. Strickland, Chance Mason