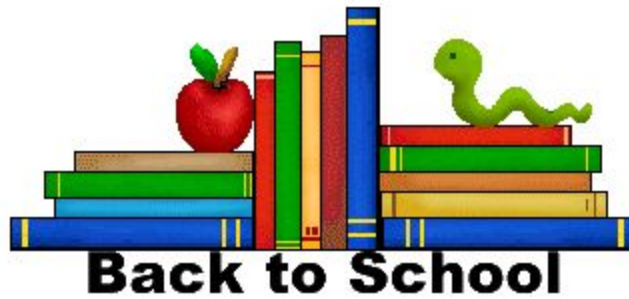


September Newsletter



A Note from the Principal, Mrs. Haney

Dear SMS Families,

Welcome back for what will prove to be a school year for the history books both at Sisters Middle School and across the globe! Our staff is full of energy and enthusiasm to take on the challenges of a year that will likely find itself in different schooling formats. Regardless of the school locale, it is with great confidence that we will provide an outstanding education for your students each and every school day!

Greetings to all our new families, we have over fifty new students at SMS this year! For those seasoned Outlaw families, please make sure you and your students reach out with a warm Sisters welcome to all!

Bear with me ya'll as this initial newsletter for the year is jam packed with information and it's all important information. Please read through it thoroughly to find helpful information on comprehensive distance learning support, fall benchmark testing, MS sports, new staff, SMS social media, spirit wear and more!

I'm looking forward to a successful year at Sisters Middle School, and I hope you are too! Thank you for your support as we embark on the 2020-2021 school year at SMS.

Your partner in education and community enhancement,

Mrs. Haney, SMS Principal

A Note from our Assistant Principal, Mr. Roth

Ohhhhhhh we are excited for the start of the school year! Outlaws are always Outlaws...in the building, in the community, and even working from home during Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL). If you need support or have any questions don't hesitate to reach you to me as we start this school year: Email: tim.roth@ssd6.org Phone: 541.549.2099 ext 5507

A quick reminder about school issued Chromebooks. Please talk to your SMS student about only using the school chromebook for school related activities. All other online activities and needs must be met through a personal electronic device. If you need any clarification don't hesitate to give me a call. I can't wait to see you in person! Mr. Roth

A Note from our School Counselor, Mr. Jackson

School Reentry: The School Counselor's Role

Hello Outlaws! As students, staff members and families prepare for the start of the 2020–2021 school year, we will all likely experience a range of emotions from excitement to anxiety. The nervous excitement many students experience at the start of any school year may be heightened as they prepare to reconnect with former friends, meet new classmates and resume learning through virtual, in-person or a hybrid setting.

SCHOOL COUNSELING

For some students, the start of the year may prompt feelings of fear and anxiety regarding attending school with large groups of people, resuming classes, coping with challenges of technology, attending a new school and creating new relationships with students and adults in a challenging time. Some students may have experienced trauma over the past few months and will need additional support beyond what the school counselor and the school can offer. By focusing on direct student services, I can help students develop skills that will help them navigate changing expectations and environments. I also offer consultation and collaboration with families. I am happy to create a partnership with you to make this year the best it can be, even with its many uncertainties. School counselors have specific training to help students successfully transition to a new school year. They also have training to recognize and respond to early-warning signs of potential problems including: ■ mood swings ■ acting out ■ lack of interest/withdrawal ■ pushing limits or boundaries ■ disrespect for others ■ nonparticipation in activities.

Please reach out so we can discuss how I can help.

I am excited for this unique year and most importantly, We are all in this together!

Brook Jackson, Middle School Counselor brook.jackson@ssd6.org, 541-549-3195



A Note from our K-5 Instructional Coach, Mrs. Velikonia

A huge “Welcome Back” to our Outlaw community! I am looking forward to a new year of learning, growth and even the challenges that come with it. If there’s one thing that I have learned from my time at SMS, it is that staff and students can do HARD things!!!

This year my position will focus on grades Kindergarten through 5th. I appreciate the ability to focus more in those grade levels, yet I’m excited to still be able to walk the halls and be a part of Sisters Middle School.

While this year may be starting differently than what we’ve come to expect, many of the routines, procedures and expectations remain the same. With that being said, I wanted to share a few tips that may be helpful while you navigate starting the school year with your child learning virtually.

1. Post your student’s schedule in a place where it’s easy for you both to reference.
2. Canvas is your friend! Please sign up for a Canvas parent account. Frequent, regular check ins via Canvas is a crucial part of your student’s success. Assignment due dates, videos and missing work can all be found in this one place.
3. Reach out and encourage your child to as well! We are here for you both.
4. Maintain a scheduled routine. Middle schoolers still thrive on specific and consistent expectations. Breaking the day into manageable chunks that makes sense with the school schedule is important.
5. Lastly, remember this is temporary. It’s not ideal... for families, for students or for teachers. We will be together soon. Until then, we are going to do the best we can... parents, teachers and students. Together we’re stronger... we’re OUTLAWS!

Notes from the Front Office

Turn in all paperwork (medical, tech agreement, tech insurance, acknowledgement form)

Please contact Mrs. Lesowske or Mrs. Neilson at the front office if you still need to arrange for Chromebook or other materials pick-up

New Staff...Please welcome our new staff members!Á

Brady Velikonia, 6th Grade Social Studies & 7th Grade Math

Hi Outlaws! My name is Brady Velikonia and I’m excited to be teaching 6th grade Social Studies and 7th grade Math here at Sisters Middle School. I am honored to be a part of the Sisters community. This is my seventh year teaching. Previously, I taught in Paradise, CA and then in

Bend. My three daughters right for our family to be place.

As I reflect on myself as a child's learning, a few goal is to help your student able to analyze, question variety of ways.

also a huge part of what we

When I'm not teaching, spending time with my family outdoors is important to my wife and I. We love camping, hiking, fishing and exploring all Central Oregon has to offer. Please feel free to reach out, email or call me. I look forward to getting to know you and your student(s) better. Go OUTLAWS!

Nicole Stefano, Social Work Intern HDESD

Hi Outlaws! My name is Nicole Stefano and I will be the Social Work Intern at Sisters Middle School during the 2020-2021 school year. I am currently in my second year of the Masters of Campus. I have Vancouver, Portland, Oregon four boys who Sisters



attend Sisters schools and it feels planting roots into the same

teacher and facilitator of your things are important to me. My become a critical thinker that is and apply their learning in a Relationships in teaching are do.

resources, and generally helping out wherever I can be useful. I am looking forward to a great year!

Amber Tollerud, 7th Grade Social Studies Student Teacher

Britlee Brost, Sisters School District Speech Pathologist

All Things Comprehensive Distance Learning

School-Wide Communication: Newsletters will go out on the following dates: 9/8, 10/5, 11/2, 12/7, 1/4, 2/1, 3/1, 4/5, 5/3, 6/1. Time sensitive reminders will also be sent via email.

Canvas & Email: Students should check their email multiple times a day as well as Canvas to ensure they have all knowledge and directions for each day/week.

Tech Assistance: For general tech assistance such as your students password, contact their homeroom teacher or our front office team.

Comprehensive Distance Learning Assistance:

For **content specific** help: Contact the subject specific teacher for any assistance.
 For **general CDL help**: scheduling, structuring CDL at home, courseload, Canvas help etc. contact the grade-level point person below:5th: Kathy Few kathy.few@ssd6.org, 6th: Deb Riehle: deb.riehel@ssd6.org,7th: Judy Fuentes judy.fuentes@ssd6.org, 8th: Jules Davies: julee.davies@ssd6.org

CDL Schedule

2020-2021 SMS Daily Schedule			
DISTANCE LEARNING			
(A)		(B)	
Period	Time	Period	Time
1	8:30 - 9:40 (70 min)	4	8:30 - 9:40 (70 min)
2	9:50 - 11:00 (70 min)	5	9:50 - 11:00 (70 min)
3	11:10 - 12:20 (70 min)	6	11:10 - 12:20 (70 min)
Lunch & Self Care	12:20 - 1:20 (60 min)	Lunch & Self Care	12:20 - 1:20 (60 min)
Office Hours & Small Group	1:20 - 3:15 (115 min)	Office Hours & Small Group	1:20 - 3:15 (115 min)

Progress Reports & Report Cards

For information on progress reports and report cards, please visit the [link](#).

Problem Solving University

We are continuing to offer Problem Solving University for students needing extra support and some Collaborative Problem Solving. This is the [link](#) that will take you to a PSU form. It will take you to a form to fill out. Fill out the form and a staff member will connect with you as soon as possible.

Social Media

Please follow us on either Facebook or Instagram, where you can get important school wide announcements and reminders. You can find our page on Facebook at Sisters Middle School @SMSoregon, or on Instagram @sistersmiddleschool .

Fall Benchmark Testing

<https://www.curriculumassociates.com/-/media/mainsite/files/i-ready/family-guide--english.pdf>

At the end of this month, Sept. 21-25th, all students will be assessed in Reading and Math during their ELA and Math Classes using iReady. You can read more information below:



What is *i-Ready*?

***i-Ready* is an online program for reading and/or mathematics that will help your student's teacher(s) determine your student's needs, personalize their learning, and monitor progress throughout the school year.**

i-Ready allows your teacher(s) to meet your student exactly where they are and provides data to increase your student's learning gains. *i-Ready* consists of two parts: Diagnostic and Personalized Instruction.

The *i-Ready Diagnostic* is an adaptive assessment that adjusts its questions to suit your student's needs. Each item a student sees is individualized based on their answer to the previous question. For example, a series of correct answers will result in slightly harder questions, while a series of incorrect answers will yield slightly easier questions.

i-Ready Personalized Instruction provides students with lessons based on their individual skill level and needs, so your student can learn at a pace that is just right for them. These lessons are fun and interactive to keep your student engaged as they learn.



Make sure your students are getting enough sleep and healthy nutrition during this time. It is just to get a snapshot of where the students are academically.

Leadership Announcements from Mr. Schiedler

Welcome back everyone! I am so excited for a new year, as crazy as it may be! The leadership students and myself are ready for the challenge to continue to motivate and connect all students at SMS! Please look out for continued efforts by these students to make CDL fun and engaging.

On that note, we finished last year with a great initiative to help raise money for Kiwanis Food Bank and Family Access Network. We did that through the sales of Sisters Strong shirts and decals. This was incredibly successful as we sold around \$2000 worth of merchandise. The students will decide soon if they want to continue this initiative, or transform this into something new. Either way, we will be excited to present both of those organizations with a substantial check here soon.

A huge thank you to **Paulina Springs Books** and **Canyon Creek Pottery** for helping with this Sisters Strong campaign as T-Shirt pick up locations. Another thank you to **Twisted Juniper Coffee, Spoons, Fika Coffee**, and **Dixie's** for their help as decal purchasing locations.

Spirit Gear

Thank you all who contributed to the leadership program through the purchase of spirit gear last week. We will continue to have opportunities to purchase spirit gear throughout the year. One item that flew off the shelves, was our spirit hoodies. We will be making more hoodies soon, and we will let everyone know when they are available along with other new spirit gear items.

Limited In-Person Instruction

Limited In-Person Instruction is **not** Comprehensive Distance Learning and is **not** the Hybrid learning model. It is an exception from the state that allows us to bring small groups of 10 or less for two hours or less to support students learning. It is not mandatory. There are many other conditions with limited in-person instruction and more information can be found at:

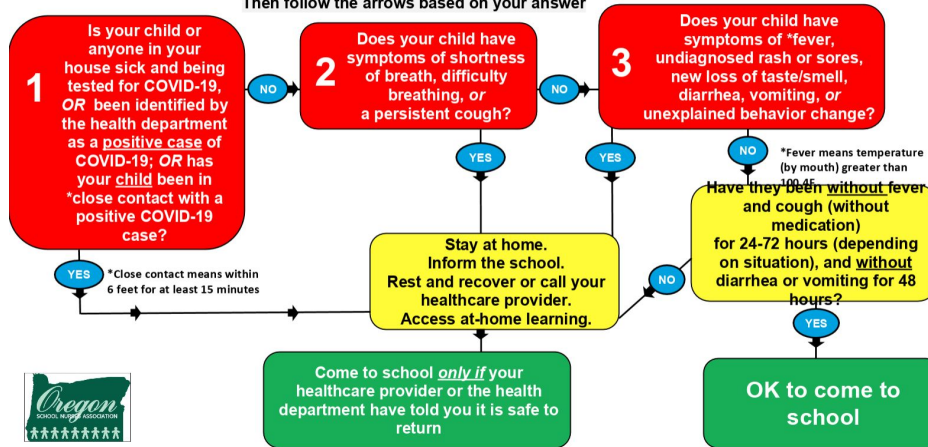
<https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Documents/Guidance%20for%20Limited%20In-Person%20instruction%20during%20CDL.pdf>

We hope to be able to start bringing in small groups of students in the coming weeks to ensure a great start to the year. You will hear directly from one of our teachers if your child is in a group that will be offered limited in-person instruction. When and if your child is invited to limited in-person instruction please go through the following checklist prior to sending your child:

Can my child go to school today?

Start with the 3 questions below

Then follow the arrows based on your answer



Sisters Middle School Athletics

SMS Sports Information: At this time we are only able to offer Track and Field due to restrictions caused by the COVID-19 virus. We will only be offering track practice with no meets scheduled for middle school sports. We also hope to add other sports later this fall including Cross Country, Football, and Volleyball but there will be no competition for these or other sports until later this year. A start date for winter sports including Boys and Girls Basketball and Wrestling is TBD at a later date.

Online registration is now open for 6th -8th Middle School Track!!!!

Eligibility to participate on any SMS athletic team requires the following:

- Cleared Athletic Physical on an OSAA physical form (Athletic physicals are good for 2 years; forms are on the SSD website and also at the SMS and SHS offices)
- All school fines and fees must be cleared
- Completed Family ID online enrollment (Please see instructions below)
- Pay-to-Play Sports Fees: We are not requiring any payments at this time for MS sports. Fees will be required when competition begins.

Helpful information to Register Online:

- Health Insurance Information
- Doctor and Dentist Information
- Emergency contact phone numbers

Electronic copy of cleared OSAA Athletic physical form to be uploaded. (If we have a current hard copy on file in the SHS Athletic Office, it is NOT necessary to upload)

How to Register Online:

REGISTRATION PROCESS:

A parent/guardian should register by clicking on this link:

<https://www.familyid.com/sisters-school-district>

Follow these steps:

1. To find your program, click on the link provided by the Organization above and select the registration form under the word **Programs**.
2. Next click on the green **Register Now** button and scroll, if necessary, to the **Create Account/Log In** green buttons. If this is your first time using FamilyID, click **Create Account**. Click **Log In**, if you already have a FamilyID account.
3. **Create** your secure FamilyID account by entering the account owners First and Last names (parent/guardian), E-mail address and password. Select **I Agree** to the FamilyID Terms of Service. Click **Create Account**.
4. You will receive an email with a link to activate your new account. (If you don't see the email, check your E-mail filters (spam, junk, etc.).)
5. Click on the link in your activation E-mail, which will log you in to FamilyID.com
6. Once in the registration form, complete the information requested. All fields with a red* are required to have an answer.
7. Click the **Continue** button when your form is complete.
8. Review your registration summary.

Payment:

No Payment is required at the time of online registration. Sports payments can be made at SMS, SHS, or on Sports Information Night. Click the green **Submit** button. After selecting submit, the registration will be complete and you will receive an email confirmation from FamilyID.

At any time, you may login at www.familyid.com to update your information and to check your registration(s). To view a completed registration, select the 'Registration' tab on the blue bar

Sisters Community Organization Announcements

A Message from Sisters Folk Festival, a Sisters School District Partner

Hello SSD families,

Traditionally this would be the Sisters Folk Festival weekend and unfortunately the Festival has been postponed to 2021.

For the past 20 years we would have been bringing outstanding artists into the schools for guest artist appearances. Of course, we are not delivering that service this year, however, we are

producing three days of socially-distanced music at our newly developed Sisters Art Works Venue, entitled Close to Home 2. The event is sold out.

If you are interested in supporting SFF and seeing fantastic music from the comfort of your home, we'd appreciate the support and hope the start of the school year goes well for everyone. There is a paid live stream of the event you can find at the link below, and if you purchase the live stream it will be available until Sept. 30, 2020.

Event link: <https://cth2livestream.eventbrite.com>

Sincerely,

Brad Tisdell

Creative Director and the Staff and Board of Sisters Folk Festival