

P.O. BOX 208
865 LASALLE STREET
HARRISBURG, OR 97446-0208
541-995-6626 OPTION 1
FAX 541-995-3453

Harrisburg School District



Important Dates

January 16

Holiday no school

January 26

End of first semester

January 30

Start of second semester

February 10

Curriculum Day

February 20

Holiday no school

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THOUGHTS FROM THE Superintendent

I hope all of you had a wonderful time with family and friends during the holidays. My wife and I flew to Nebraska to visit our daughter and her beautiful family after Christmas. We all drove to Indiana for my nephews wedding on New Years eve. It was great to be with family and friends over the holidays. Of course we spent a little time with our three grandchildren.

Over the month of December, I met with almost every staff member, some business and community people gathering information from a few questions dealing with what educational experiences we should offer in our schools. We had survey questions for parents, licensed and classified staff and community people. We plan to use the information gathered to help develop a strategic plan for the school district. I am organizing a strategic plan task force that will represent each building. This committee will be tasked with retooling our vision and mission statements, coming up with our core values and beliefs and selecting district goals. This committee will meet between January and March until all the work is completed. A presentation to the school board will be in May.

Alex Allen is working with a group of people updating the school districts technology plan. The technology plan will be a good source for the school leaders and board to use when making financial decisions concerning technology.

Where are we at with the seismic revitalization project you ask? Currently, we are working with ZCS engineering firm to select a Construction Manager/General Contractor. This person (company) will work closely with ZCS as they prepare to draw up plans and do construction this summer. We will begin design phase in February and finalize in April. Construction begins in June with plans to be completed by the beginning of September. Remember this project is for the elementary/middle school gymnasium creating a safer building in case of earthquake.

On Monday, January 9, the Harrisburg School District Board decided to not make—up the two missed days for inclement weather. Also, if we have to miss another day for inclement weather, we will use Friday, April 21, and Friday, May 5 as classroom make-up days.

Our enrollment is up at the Elementary school by about 25 students. The teachers and support staff are doing a wonderful job assimilating all of the students into a wonderful educational environment. I want to thank the Parents Club who provided the funds for the illuminated reader board. The new reader board replaced the old reader board without much construction costs. This will allow the elementary staff to more readily communicate activities and events.

Go EAGLES!!!

School Delays and Closures

We've added a link to the front page of our district website. If you click on the delays and closures in the left hand column, it will take you to an informational page. This way you can sign up for your very own flash alert notification via email or free app on your cell phone.

School Attendance is Vitaly Important

One of our goals this school year is to improve the student attendance rate across the school district. Listed below are some ideas to consider when it comes to attending school. We have a number of students who have perfect attendance while still others who have a difficult time attending.

- A) This is the time of year when winter weather and children's illnesses can take a toll on school attendance. But it's important to get your children to school every day possible.
- B) Absences, even if they are excused, can add up to academic trouble. This is true in kindergarten as it is in high school.
- C) Children who miss too much school in kindergarten are less likely to read well by third grade. By middle school, absenteeism can predict who will graduate from high school.
- D) There are two key steps every parent can take to help avoid absences this year: Make back up plans for bad weather and keep your children healthy.
- E) If you're having trouble getting to school, reach out to other families, or call the school. We can connect you with families or staff members who can help.
- F) If your children are sick, talk to your doctor if you think they maybe contagious to see whether they are too sick for school. Students with a fever or flu like symptoms should stay home so not to spread the sickness. Each school has health guidelines you can follow.
- G) Do what you can to keep your children healthy. Dress them warmly for cold weather. Encourage them to wash their hands regularly, and send them to school with a bottle of hand sanitizer.



Winter