

THE PANTHER LINK

News of the Park City Schools



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PARK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT #5
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DISTRICT #5
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A COUPLE KEY DATES FOR THE WINTER:

Christmas break Dec 22
normal dismissal time, last
day of 1st Semester.

Return January 4. First day
of 2nd semester.

December 21 & 22 are
designated as remote days.

Teachers will send
instructions specific to their
classes. Students will be
contacted also to come in on
those days if they are opt out
students, students who are
failing or behind, or parents
may arrange appointments
to bring in their students for
extra help.

January 27 is a noon early
out.

February 8 & 9 is Parent/
Teacher conferences

February 18 & 19 No school

DISTRICT NEWS

One of the choices we have provided for families is the choice to “Opt Out” of coming to the school building and having their students take classes on line. We understand that there are a myriad of reasons for parents to consider this. Opting Out is not a work at your pace option. Opting Out means being on line with teachers and students during the actual class times, doing work within the same time frame as the students who are at school, and participating as much as possible. It requires parent help at times, especially for the younger children, but not so much help for all the students that we are unable to determine their individual skills.

Teachers have been generally working their classes with live sessions for the opt out students and during second semester the live sessions will be the norm for all classes. This means that your student needs to be on line and with their camera on for the class at the time it is live. Student participation and interaction with the class is a key component of their grade and attendance. This is when the student gets direct instruction, a vital component of the educational process. If the student misses this, the parent will be responsible for helping the student understand the concepts missed in the live session. The actual lesson where the teacher is teaching is going to generally be a maximum of 20 minutes. If bandwidth is an issue in homes, it is fine to turn off the camera after the instruction.

If secondary students are not taking part in the live sessions with their cameras on, they will be considered absent. Elementary students will need to make arrangements with their teachers if missing live sessions.

Signing up for the Opt Out choice is a parent responsibility. The Opt Out form must be signed and submitted by the parent. Please note that the Opt Out choice is a semester choice. Students that are out because of illness, close contact, or other reasons can still participate with their classes online, but will need to return to school once they are cleared.

DISTRICT NEWS cont.

FACILITIES UPDATE

Our school has continued to look at the immediate facility needs of the district and to develop a plan that takes that into account as well as how it would affect the district long term. The biggest areas of need include our agricultural classroom and shop, our science classrooms/labs, and some dedicated computer/math classrooms. We need to move our modular classrooms into regular building classrooms that are larger, more educationally friendly and more energy efficient. We need to expand our kitchen. And we need a gym with new locker rooms and a weight room.

At this point, though, the local economy is not supporting the idea to move forward. Costs of building materials and the difficulty in finding skilled laborers are combining to jump the cost above the threshold we are willing to take to the community. The board will revisit this project as future cost analyses warrant.

Unfortunately, though, that doesn't solve any problems for our over crowding. Some sort of temporary solution will be needed to help alleviate the over crowding in our school so that students have safe and useable learning environments. Some of the options we will look at include leasing more trailers, renting space, and remodeling existing space. We will look closely at the best solution at the best cost.

CSCT FOR STUDENTS

One of the big influences in educating students that folks don't always think about is trauma. We have found that trauma can be one of the biggest barriers to a student's education, whether it be a death in the family, abuse, a major change in living conditions, or other types of trauma. Often times schools don't have the resources or training to work with students on the socio/emotional level that is needed to try to overcome these educational barriers. One thing we are doing at Park City Schools is to partner with the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch to bring in a behavioral therapist and specialist to provide this type of therapy for students who need it. This service, Comprehensive School and Community Treatment Services, or CSCT, will be provided at our school. The school will make a referral with the parents consent. The therapist will then contact the parents to discuss the program and whether or not they qualify for it. The program is paid for through either Medicaid or private insurance. Our goal is to help find ways for students to cope with their trauma so that we can decrease the time students are removed from class for behavioral issues related to their trauma.

ADULT ED

We try twice a year to offer Adult Education classes to our community. We have had some years with a good variety of classes and some years without any at all. We are looking to try to offer some classes again starting in February but through an online platform, like Google or Facebook or Zoom. If you have a great idea for a class you want to teach that you think would work with this type of platform, please fill out the proposal form on the school website at www.parkcityschools.org or stop by the school to pick up a form. Once we have some classes to offer, they will be posted on the website and in the local paper with

times, location, and cost. Classes can be anything from knitting, to photography, to dance, to computer literacy.

PRE-SCHOOL OPPORTUNITY

Pre-school is a game changer in preparing a child for kindergarten and all the way up through 3rd grade. Montana has partnered with the Waterford UPSTART program to try to provide pre-school opportunities to rural students (which includes our school district). Students who are age 4 and are not part of a pre-school program may participate in this pre-school program. The program provides the family with a Chrome-book computer that is pre-loaded with the Waterford UPSTART program. Parents will then agree to work with their pre-schooler for 15-20 minutes a day in reading, math and science. If the family does not have wireless connectivity, the Waterford program will provide that also. The program also requires site visits by a Waterford representative- those can be either in person or virtual. This program has been used in Utah for more than a decade and since 2009 has had over 60,000 enrollees. It is now being expanded to include Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and North and South Dakota. If you are interested in this or know of a pre-schooler in our community that might benefit, please call Mr. Grabowska or Mrs. Beil at the school.

SCHOOL MEALS

Once again we are able to continue the free lunch and breakfast programs through the federal extension of the summer meal program. This allows your student to eat for no cost (unless grabbing an extra milk). We will continue to offer curbside service for those who are not in school. Children aged 0-18 are eligible to participate in this program. Curbside starts at 12:15 PM and runs through 12:30 at Door 5, which is the main entry for the gym.

SCHOOL NOTES

Once students return on January 4, they will be starting 2nd semester. Students in grades Kindergarten through grade 10 will be taking their reading, language usage, and math MAP assessments through the first couple weeks of the semester. It is important that students work hard on these assessments as they are good indicators for other assessments they will be taking. The MAP assessment results are a good indicator of how students will do on their Smarter Balanced State Assessment later in the spring, so we try to stress the importance of trying their hardest on the MAP tests. For students in grades 9 & 10 it is an indicator of how they might do on the ACT test they take in their junior year of high school. If students do not do well on the MAP tests, we have several different tools to use with them throughout the year to help fill in gaps they may have in their learning when it comes to math or reading.

On February 2 and 3 we will be having our second set of parent/teacher conferences. Our goal is to have live scheduled conferences. This would allow for face to face while limiting the opportunities for groups congregating. Teachers will send out scheduled invites and you are encouraged to accept those invites and visit with the teachers regarding your student. I am positive they are doing much more than the “Nothing” or “I don’t know” response you usually get when you ask what they did at school. You can also find out how your student did on their MAP tests and what skills you can help them with at home to better prepare them for the spring Smarter Balanced test.

Basketball, wrestling, winter cheer, FFA, and FCCLA are all happening now. Junior high boys basketball will start up in February and we will see a number of academic bowls in March. Students are very busy with school work also. Remember to check on your student’s grades with the parent portal to keep track of their work in case they slip a little.

The schedule of high school basketball games are going to be different than they have been. To start the season, in the first session the JV girls will play first and the Varsity girls will follow. The gym will then be cleared for cleaning. In the second session the JV boys will play after the gym cleaning with the Varsity boys finishing the evening. This schedule will flip halfway through the season. We will be limiting the number of attendees at the games to two per player (and only 25 students). Attendees will need to pay a separate entry fee for each session, \$5 for adults and \$3 for students. Anyone who is planning to attend will need to sign up for the games. The 2 per player rule and the entry fee is for all district games, home or away. There are still plenty of NFHS codes for people to watch. If you have a family pass, it is included. Otherwise we are selling them for \$50. Please contact the school for your code. And please check the school’s website for updated information.

Students who want to take classes through Montana Digital Academy or dual credit courses through one of the colleges need to get signed up with Mrs. Storey ASAP. Secondary students who wish to transfer classes at semester must do so within the first 3 days. After that they must stay in the class for the remainder of the semester.