

Back-to-School Letter from the Superintendent
August 2012

Dear Parents, Students, Staff and Community Members,

Welcome to the 2012-2013 school year. I am excited to begin my first year with the Billings School District and want you to know that I believe that there is no greater investment in the future than the education of our children. At the Billings School District, we are committed to academic excellence, with vibrant programs, exceptional staff, involved parents and a supportive community. Together, we will create and sustain a powerful and unifying educational focus for all of our students.

The 2012-2013 school year will begin for all students on Wednesday, August 22, 2012. As students gather at bus stops early Wednesday morning, I ask everyone to please slow down and be mindful of our youngsters. Traffic will be a bit more congested around our schools as parents, students, staff and bus drivers become familiar with new schools, routes and routines. Please contact your student's school should you have questions, need additional information or simply need clarification prior to opening day. The safety of our students and staff is paramount.

This year it is my goal to sustain and improve academic achievement for all students, increase parental and community involvement and maintain a focus on continuous district and school improvement. As an educational system our highest priority is to prepare students for life readiness, which includes equipping them with the necessary skills to take on the challenges and opportunities in their future. As you will often hear me say, the most precious commodity our community has are the students walking the halls our schools. This is reason enough to continue and improve upon our road map to create a powerful and cohesive commitment to our children.

Strong communication is my promise to families, staff and community members. As a District, we will continue to strengthen communications through our automated phone system, Superintendent Forums, District and school websites, local media, school board meetings and the monthly Superintendent's Newsletter. Parents and staff automatically receive the Superintendent's Newsletter; however, if you are a community member without children in the District, you will need to register at <http://billingsschools.org> (under Superintendent's Corner).

Our schools belong to our community, and I want to invite you, the members of the community, to visit schools and classrooms and volunteer your time and talents. I am certain that you will be impressed with the commitment of our staff and volunteers and their dedicated work to support high-quality instruction for every student, every day, in every classroom. I invite you to join me in making this a great year for our students!

Sincerely,

Terry Nelsen Bouck
Superintendent

As we approach the first day of the 2012-2013 school year, I want to update you on some things that are going on in the District...

Administrative Changes in our Schools

- Robert Bazant, from Health Enhancement Teacher at West High to Assistant Principal at West HS
- Debra Black, from Assistant Principal at Skyview to Principal at Skyview
- Kevin Croff, from Meadowlark Principal to Poly Drive Principal
- John English, from Military leave to Bitterroot Principal
- Stacy Lemelin, from Sandstone Principal to Meadowlark Principal
- Scott Lynch, from Riverside MS Assistant Principal to Skyview HS Assistant Principal
- Pam Meier, from Poly Drive Principal to Arrowhead Principal
- Julia Mattson, from Alkali Creek Principal to Orchard Principal
- Gregory Senitte, from Bitterroot Principal to Alkali Creek Principal
- Mark Sulser, from Math Teacher at Senior HS to Associate Principal at Riverside MS
- Mark Venner, from Orchard Principal to Sandstone Principal

First Student and Bus Drivers Reach Tentative Agreement

First Student and bus drivers reached a tentative three year agreement on Monday, August 13, 2012. The drivers are scheduled to vote on the ratification of the three year contract on Friday, August 24, 2012.

Trustee Zones for the Billings School District

District #1 – Travis Kemp – Newman, Orchard, Ponderosa, Washington, Lewis & Clark, Riverside, Senior, West

District #2 – Pam Ellis – Beartooth, Bitterroot, McKinley, Riverside, Castle Rock, Lewis & Clark, Senior, Skyview

District #3 – Greta Besch Moen – Alkali Creek, Bench, Eagle Cliffs, Sandstone, Castle Rock, Skyview

District #4 – Kathy Aragon – Broadwater, Burlington, Highland, Washington, Lewis & Clark, Senior

District#5 – Lindy Graves – Burlington, Central Heights, Meadowlark, Miles Avenue, Rose Park, Lewis & Clark, Will James, Senior, West

District #6 – Allen Halter – Arrowhead, Boulder, Poly Drive, Rose Park, Lewis & Clark, Will James, Senior, West

District #7 – Connie Wardell – Big Sky, Burlington, Central Heights, Meadowlark, Lewis & Clark, Riverside, Will James, Senior, West

HS District A – Teresa Stroebe – Lockwood, Senior, Skyview

HS District B – Travis Smith – Blue Creek, Canyon Creek, Elder Grove, Elysian, Independent, Morin, Yellowstone Education Center (all county schools)

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