



Highland Magnet School at Kenwood

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Mr. Scott Edmondson, Principal

August 14, 2023

Dear Highland Families,

I am excited to introduce myself and welcome you all to the 2023-24 school year! My name is Scott Edmondson, and this will be my 29th year in education, 21st as a principal, with the past 16 years in Bend/La Pine schools (eight years each at Sky View Middle School and R.E. Jewell Elementary). I grew up in Alaska working on my dad's commercial fishing boat, and then captained my own boat from the time I was 18 through my first three years of teaching. I love sports, played football through college and was a competitive powerlifter for almost 30 years. I am so happy to be here at Highland Magnet School, and look forward to meeting all of you and building relationships that are long and strong!

Construction Updates

As you may, or may not know, we are getting some much needed updates throughout the school. New LED lights and fans are being installed in every classroom as well as ceiling repair, sheetrock work, and painting being done in each hallway. They are a bit behind schedule but are working hard at getting projects completed before Teacher Inservice Week.

There will also be water line repair work taking place on the blacktop starting Tuesday, August 15th that could last up to two weeks. We will be locking the two playground gates during this work time for safety reasons. Thank you for your understanding.

Staff Updates

Michelle Zeigert will be joining our 1st grade team, coming from R.E. Jewell.

Alisha Vickery will be joining our 2nd/3rd team.

Susie Wittwer will be joining our 4th/5th team. She was at Sky View last year but has taught at Highland for numerous years in the past.

Sarah Frost-McKee will be joining our 4th/5th team, she has most recently taught 4th grade at R.E. Jewell.

Carol Howe will be our new School Psychologist.

Tami Ottis will be our new Learning Specialist, coming over from Buckingham.

Katy Parker will be our halftime Counselor, splitting with us and Miller.

Jessica Bentley will be our new Office Manager, replacing Ashley Chally.

Shelli Peters will be our new FAN Advocate.

Class Updates

We know families are eager to learn teacher assignments for this school year. Teacher assignments for students will be available in ParentVUE on Wednesday, Aug 30th, at 4:00 PM. If you need help setting up your ParentVUE account, please contact the office at 541-355-1900. In order to protect students' privacy, class lists will not be posted on the exterior school doors at any time.

Ice Cream Social

We are thrilled to invite you to our annual Ice Cream Social on Thursday, August 31st, from 4:00-6:00 PM. This is a drop-in opportunity for your child to come see their classroom and meet their teacher. We will have some cold treats on the front lawn before or after your classroom visit.

School Supplies

As we have done for the past two years, parents will not need to buy or pay for regular school supplies. We will provide what is needed. What you will need to provide for your student would be personal items like a backpack, lunchbox, water bottle, etc. If you need any assistance providing these types of items, please reach out to our FAN advocate, Shelli Peters at shelli.peters@bend.k12.or.us, or at 541-355-5674.

Nutritional Services

There will once again be free, reduced, and paid status for meals. Paid students will need to start paying for meals on the first day of school. You can load your child's lunch account at BLPay on/or after September 3rd (the Sunday before school starts). All students who are registered for school on ParentVue at that time will be uploaded to BLPay with their school assigned as of that date. There are no fees for using BLPay.

This school year breakfast will cost \$2.50 and lunch will be \$3.50.

First Day of School

The first day of school is Wednesday, September 6th for 1st-5th graders. Kindergarten families will receive a separate mailing explaining the "staggered start" scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday of the first week of school.

School Hours

Gates and the cafeteria will again open at 7:30 AM, our first bell will be at 7:40 AM this year so students will have 10 min to play on the playground, and classes begin at 7:45 AM. Any student arriving after 7:45 AM will need to access the front of the school to enter. School will dismiss at 2:15 PM, except for School Improvement Wednesdays (12:45 PM). The first day of school (Sept 6), and the last Wednesday of the school year (June 12th) are the only full Wednesdays on the school calendar. School Improvement Wednesdays provide incredibly valuable professional development time for teachers throughout the school year around Storyline design and implementation, our new reading curriculum adoption, and a variety of other trainings.

Visiting or Volunteering on Campus

Please remember **all** adults must check in through the office before entering the school building. All volunteers need to re-apply every 2 years, so if you applied last year you don't need to apply again this year. Just a reminder, in order to help with field trips, help teachers in the classroom, or supervising/supporting any students, you must be on the approved volunteer list.

On behalf of our amazing team of educators here at Highland Magnet School, I am thrilled to welcome you to the 2023-24 school year. Let's make it the best one ever!

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Scott Edmondson

Principal

Highland Magnet School at Kenwood

scott.edmondson@bend.k12.or.us