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August 8, 2022

Dear Students and Parents,

School is just around the corner! We are excited to start another year here at Shepherd Schools. We have lots of changes happening at every level. We will have 13 new teachers on campus this year. Shepherd Schools welcomes the following new teachers: Kindergarten Caitlyn Moran and Amber Hood, 2nd Grade Isabel Ramirez and Dawn Willis, 5th Grade ELA Misty Prudhomme, Title 1 Charity Hunt, MS Science Sven Jeuschede and Laurel Struck, HS FCS Janessa Haynie, HS Science Wesley Coy and Caitlyn Kessler, Rachel Steiner in HS math and Rachel LaVair for MS/HS Title. We welcome them to our campus and look forward to them being a part of the Shepherd team.

Again this year, we have a bit of a different start to our year for some of the grade levels. Our first day of school for 1st – 6th and 9th graders is September 1st and the first day for grades 7, 8 and 10-12 will be September 2nd. This will allow for 6th grade students and Freshman to have an orientation day where they will be the only ones in the school building. This has helped them settle in the new buildings before the rest of the student body arrives. Kindergarteners will be given individual times to come in and meet the teachers, do some short assessments and put items away on September 1st or 2nd. Kindergarten starts as a full day on Tuesday, September 6th. Families will be told when their scheduled times are in advance, please be looking for that information after August 15th. Our secretaries and principals are back in the buildings starting on August 15th.

We continue to welcome volunteers in the elementary school again this year, so please remember all volunteers need to have background checks and fingerprints done before volunteering. We are also looking for substitutes for the upcoming school year if you know of anyone who may be interested.

We have openings for two custodians if anyone is interested in working for the school in that capacity, please let us know.

We are excited to be moving forward with our fall sports programs. We welcome fans to come check out the changes made in our HS gym this year! We had a very couple of gracious donations from our community to cover the cost of a new high school gym floor. The district then decided to put some funds towards new bleachers as part of the project. Again, I want to make sure to be transparent and let you all know that no bond funds are being used in this project. These donations happened at the same time the school was being completed, but no bond money will be used on the floor or the bleachers. High School practices start on August 12th and MS practices start on August 22nd. Please remember that all paperwork, physicals and fees need to be taken care of prior to the first day of practice. We are not collecting any paper forms this year for all the forms that are due. Parents must create a Dragonfly account to complete all paperwork and upload all information prior to the first

day of practice. Please see our website for the link and information. We have parent meetings scheduled for fall sports. The schedule is as follows:

- High School Volleyball Parent Meeting - Thursday, August 11 at 6 PM in HS gym.
- High School Football Parent Meeting- Thursday, August 11 at 6 PM in the MS gym.
- HS Cheerleading Parent Meeting - Thursday, August 9 at 6 PM in coach Luptak's room.
- High School and Middle School Cross Country Parent Meeting- Monday, August 8 at 6:30 PM by the flagpole in front of the HS.
- MS Volleyball Parent Meeting - Monday, August 22 at 5:30 PM in the MS gym.
- MS Football Parent Meeting - Thursday, August 18th at 6:00 PM in the MS gym.

Due to a change in funding across the nation, Shepherd School will NOT be having free breakfasts and lunches for all students at school again this year. We will be back to having families pay for breakfast and lunch. If you would like to fill out an application for free or reduced lunch please feel free to do so. The forms are not turned in directly to us this year, they are filled out online. Anyone who had a free or reduced price back in the 19-20 school year, will need to fill out a new form by October 1st or you do not qualify to continue to receive free/reduced pricing. Please visit the website to access the new online form is: <https://dca.opi.mt.gov/frapp>. We will continue to serve breakfast for students to take and eat during their first class in the morning so they will have time to finish it and not be rushed before the school day starts.

We will be having an open house coming up prior to school starting in September. This year, our open house is Tuesday, August 30th from 4-6PM. I invite all parents and students to attend and take a look at your new classrooms and meet your teachers for the upcoming school year.

Please feel free to call and talk with your child's building secretary or principal if you have any individual questions and concerns as we get closer to school starting. They will be available starting August 15th. Again if you have questions, please feel free to get a hold of us or check our website and Facebook page for the most current information. Also I want to thank you as parents and students for your continued support of Shepherd Schools! WE ARE SHEPHERD!

Sincerely,
Drea O'Donnell
Superintendent

