

JUNE 2020



Our mission is a shared commitment to educate the whole child in a safe and nurturing community

A Message from the Principal

2020. What a year we have seen and experienced...so far. There have been many, many challenges put in our paths in the first half of our calendar year. We are learning new ways of teaching, learning, socializing, traveling, shopping – the list can go on and on. I am thankful to be on this incredible and sometimes scary journey with the staff at White Bluffs. Their dedication to the students of whom we all serve has been steadfast and strong. We stand at the ready to continue this dedication and service as we lean into the second half of 2020. This week our school district will receive guidance from OSPI about what our fall opening will look like. The school district will communicate this out to all in the Richland community as soon as possible and hope to have a working plan in place by the end of June.

LIBRARY BOOKS and CHROMEBOOKS

We will not be collecting library books or chromebooks prior to the summer. We do not have the capacity just yet to collect all of our outstanding books or chromebooks, and you may want to continue with learning over the summer, and the use of the chromebook may be a very useful tool! We ask that families hang onto the library books and chromebooks. We ask that you return them when our students return in the fall. Please stay tuned for more information that will come to you.

SUMMER MEALS - JUNE 17 – AUGUST 28 11:15 – 12:00 (new time)

Our meal program will run through the summer! We will be offering meals Monday – Thursday during the week. Thursdays pick up will include frozen meals for Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Pick up times is from 11:15 – 12:00 (new time!) Meal pick up locations in the summer months are:

- White Bluffs Elementary
- Chief Jo Middle School
- Enterprise Middle School
- Marcus Whitman Elementary

SUMMER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Do you want to keep your kids learning throughout the summer months? There are some choices that we will offer families beginning on July 6. These offerings will be posted on the district web site for full access to all. Each week there will be:

- Learning packet per grade level (distributed at Monday meal locations and available for website download)
- Weekly Mini-lessons via Web videos
- Extra web resources for parents

YEARBOOKS

Our PTO has worked very hard in the production of our yearbook this year, and again have put together an excellent review of our year at White Bluffs. PTO folks will be in the bus loop behind our school for parents to drive through and pick up their yearbook orders this week. They have divided up the times to ease congestion and ease in the distribution. Thank you for staying in your car and driving through the pickup area.

Tues 6/9 6-7pm Last Names A-H

Weds 6/10 6-7pm Last Names I-Q

Thurs 6/11 6-7pm Last Names R-Z

FIFTH GRADE CELEBRATION

We will celebrate our fifth grader's completion of elementary school at a special "Drive Through" on June 16, the last day of school. Families of fifth graders will be getting a special invitation to drive their students by the school for a special send off. We are proud of our 5th graders and send them off with our best wishes!

TEACHER WELCOME LETTERS TO STUDENTS

While we don't know what our return to school will look like, we are still planning for our fall! We look forward to welcoming back our Wolfpack. Families will receive an e-mail in mid-August from your children's new teachers introducing themselves, and giving information needed for the start of school.

CHROMEBOOK/INTERNET ISSUES?

If you are experiencing issues with school-issued Chromebooks and need help, we've created a tech support hotline and email address specifically for students and family use during school closures. 509-967-6162 and ChromebookHelp@rsd.edu

On the Home Learning website tab, a Technical Assistance button is available for students and families with the above information.

<https://www.rsd.edu/programs/at-home-learning>

We understand that some of our families do not currently have Internet access in their homes, making it difficult for their children to stay connected to their teachers. **Charter Communications will offer free Spectrum broadband and Wi-Fi Internet access for 60 days to households with K-12 and/or college students who do not already have a Spectrum broadband subscription and at any service level up to 100 Mbps.** Families may enroll by calling 1-844-488-8395. Installation fees will be waived for new student households.

The district asks everyone to watch their email, the district website and social media accounts for future updates.

DATES OF NOTE

YEARBOOK PICK UP	June 9 (A – H)
in Bus Loop	June 10 (I – Q)
6:00 – 7:00	June 11 (R – Z)
FIFTH GRADE SEND OFF	June 16
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL	June 16

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

June 4, 2020

In horror we have watched and read of the recent senseless deaths of Black Americans. As a board and a school district, we want to say that we reject all forms of racism in our nation and community.

Schools are called to give children the opportunities they need to be successful. Ensuring each child has equity in accessing those opportunities—providing a welcoming and inclusive learning environment and providing safety and support—are paramount to meeting that mission. It falls upon us and all Richland School District staff to accomplish it.

Richland School District is dedicated to ensuring equity in its schools. This goes beyond making sure Black students and other students of color have access to opportunities. Our schools help students understand current events and their context in our nation's story. They teach about racism and oppression in the past and in the present. They instill in students the importance of a diverse, democratic and just society and the need to be active citizens in their communities.

We recognize we need to do more. Our own Black students experience racism both within and outside our schools. What's more, they see others in our community failing to call out racism, allowing it to continue. We understand that we as a nation and a community have a long way to go in fully embracing and lifting up all of our neighbors.

We know that some of our students are struggling with their own reactions to these recent events. If our schools were operating normally, they would seek guidance and support from our counselors, teachers and administrators. While such face-to-face interactions are not currently possible, we are working with administrators and counselors to identify resources for our students and families during this time.

We will continue to stand up to racism and inequities in the educational system and our community. We will challenge and inspire our students to move toward a society with malice toward none and charity for all.

Sincerely,

Richland School Board

Rick Jansons, President

Jill Oldson, Vice President

Heather Cleary

Rick Donahoe

Kari Williams

Dr. Rick Schulte, Superintendent

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