

July 9, 2014

Dear Spring Bluff R-XV Parents and Students,

The first day of school, Thursday, August 14, is fast approaching. I hope you all have enjoyed your summer and are making plans to attend **Open House on August 12, from 4-6 p.m.** This is a great opportunity to become familiar with the building, teachers, and classmates. The Educational Foundation will once again be serving popcorn and soda for the event. We appreciate their continued support of all programs and events throughout the school year.

When arriving at Open House, students in grades **K-5 will go directly to their classrooms** to receive informational forms, etc. from their teachers. **Middle school students should report to the cafeteria** to pick up their schedule, locker number, informational forms, etc. Bus drivers will be in the cafeteria if parents are needing to check pick up/drop off times. Mrs. Messex route has been revised due to the weight limit on the Timber Ridge bridge so please stop by and check times with her. Ms. Schlueter, After Care Director, will also be in the cafeteria if parents need to sign their student up for after school care services. **It is important that we have a current enrollment form on file before your child can stay.** Mrs. Richards, Title 1 teacher, will also be available in the cafeteria to answer questions and hand out information about the Title 1, K-5 program.

All K-8 parents can prepay for lunches during this time as well. Breakfast and lunch prices for 2014-2015 are as follows: breakfast \$1.30, lunch \$1.95, milk \$.40. Reduced prices are: Breakfast \$.30, lunch \$.40. Parents/guardians may apply for the free/reduced lunch program at any time during the school year and are encouraged to do so. Applications will be handed out during Open House and will be located in the office for future need. Note: Applying for free/reduced lunch program will not address outstanding lunch bills. Any individual student whose outstanding lunch bill exceeds \$25 will be served an alternate lunch/breakfast until the bill is paid in full. No extra milk, extra entrees, or ala carte items may be purchased during the time that the bill is outstanding.

School begins at 7:25 a.m. and students are expected to be in class ready to begin when the tardy bell rings at 7:30 a.m. Breakfast is served beginning at 7:10 a.m. daily. School ends each day at 3:03 p.m. Parents/guardians are reminded to make an extra effort to have end-of-the-day plans made **prior** to arriving at school each day. Please do not make a habit of calling into the office after 2:00 p.m. to make arrangements for your child. Thank you!

Students are not allowed to bring cell phones to school unless they are needed for an after-school activity. If a cell phone is needed for an after school activity, students are to bring them to the office immediately upon arrival (not on their way to class).

We will continue this year with **early dismissal every Friday at 2:08 p.m.** which will coincide with Sullivan High School's schedule. This provides time each week for teachers and staff to participate in professional development activities, provide collaboration time, improve instructional strategies, and continue curriculum development.

There are a few staff changes within the building this year. Mrs. Bylo retired at the end of the 2013-2014 school year and I have stepped into the role of Superintendent/Principal. Mrs. Cindy Buettmann, Special Services Director, will be assisting me and assuming Assistant Principal responsibilities. Mrs. Heidi Binsbacher will be teaching 6th grade English Language Arts this year. Mrs. Linda Richardson, Library Media Specialist, will add Technology Instructional Coach to her list of duties as well. Mrs. Beverly Gable will once again be teaching Music Appreciation to middle school students and Ms. Pam Schlueter, Instructional Aide, will be adding special services secretarial duties to her list. Mr. Kenny Lowe is our new Head of Maintenance since Mr. Don Creek retired this summer as well. Mr. Jack Hardcastle has taken on full-time custodial duties along with Ms. Jill Creek as part-time custodial staff.

New for this school year will be the addition of 1:1 Chromebooks for grades 6-8. Recognizing the importance of technology in students hands to better prepare them for high school and beyond, the Spring Bluff Board of Education voted to equip each student with a Chromebook and integrate Google Apps for Education beginning this year. Students will be able to utilize this device during the school day and at home learning 21st century skills to better prepare them for high school and beyond. Devices will be rolled out in August beginning with 8th grade students. An announcement will be made at a later date for the roll out of devices for 6th & 7th grades. Before a device will be issued to a child, each parent and child will be required to attend a parent meeting. The **eighth grade parent/student meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m., after Open House on August 12**, as well as August 14 at 6:00 p.m. for those who need an alternate date.

Technology user agreement forms, contact information forms, and 6th-8th schedules will be distributed the night of Open House in the cafeteria. It is very important parents complete these forms and return them to school as soon as possible so we have current and complete contact information on the first day. Thank you in advance for returning these important papers early!

Weekly Friday newsletters will be sent home with the youngest child in the family. We will be transitioning away from paper newsletters as the year progresses and utilizing email and our district website to deliver this weekly information. Please see the attached letter requesting information to continue the SchoolReach notification system sponsored by the Bank of Sullivan for cancellations, early closings, emergency notifications, etc. The number on your caller ID and the callback number for missed messages from SchoolReach for replay is 855-955-8500. We suggest putting it in your cellphone now for easy recognition.

Planners are a terrific way for students to keep track of their daily assignments, upcoming projects, and are an excellent communication tool for parents to use to stay informed about their child's homework. Planners are required for 3rd-5th grade students and optional for 6th-8th grade students. Planners will be available for purchase (\$5) in the gym during Open House. Through the use of Google, 6th-8th grade students will be required to manage their assignments using Google Calendar. Students will be able to share their calendar with parents electronically as well. This will be a great tool for students to stay organized and keep parents informed!

Parent/Guardian signature sheets verifying that they have read and discussed the handbook including the code of conduct with their child(ren) will be given out with the planners and student handbooks and due back signed in the office by Monday, August 18, along with the emergency, over-the-counter medical information forms, technology user agreement, and SchoolReach forms. All of these forms must be completed for each child in our district. **Note: Students will not be allowed to utilize any district technology until the technology user agreement forms are signed by both parent/guardian and the child and on file in the office.**

We will begin 2014-2015 as we have every other year, with high expectations for student growth and a strong partnership with parents, staff, and community for the success of all students. The Spring Bluff Board of Education, teachers and staff take great pride in providing students with small class sizes along with a variety of educational resources to ensure each child's success in a 21st century classroom. Spring Bluff's success is the accomplishment of many, inside and outside of the building along with their commitment to education. Plan now to be an active participant as a student, parent and community member in our school!

When dropping students off at school in the morning or picking students up in the evening, parents need to exit out the back of the school via Bluebird Lane to Highway 185. When picking students up in the evening, parents must walk to the gym doors before their child(ren) will be released. **Please be cautious of the crosswalks and parking lot signage to keep all students safe!** If your child arrives after the tardy bell, a parent must enter the building and sign the student(s) in.

All athletes are required to have a current school year physical on file before participating in practice and/or games. Girls volleyball camp will be held August 4-7, from 6-8 p.m. for grades 5-8. The coaches for the upcoming year will be: A Team- TBA ,B Team-Jennifer Glaser/Erica Schertler , 6th Grade- TBA, 5th Grade-Monica Craft. Please contact Ms. Pam Schlueter and/or Ms. Kristen Harden, Athletic Directors, if you have any questions.

An **8th Grade Student/Parent Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, August 12, at 6 p.m.** in the Big Gym to discuss upcoming fundraising activities, 8th grade celebrations, and Chromebook usage. The eighth grade year is filled with lots of experiences that are unique to Spring Bluff. Please plan to attend this important meeting and stay informed of upcoming events.

I am looking forward to another great year at Spring Bluff with the best students and staff around! Enjoy the rest of your summer break, stay safe, and we'll see you at **Open House on Tuesday, August 12, from 4-6 p.m.**

Sincerely,

Jeannie Jenkins
Superintendent

