

# Falls Valley Elementary School

Falls Valley's opening newsletter doubles as the school's handbook.

Please keep this for future reference.

## The 2019-2020 School Year

Welcome to another great school year at Falls Valley Elementary where **we believe in the POWER of YET; we THINK BIG; we DREAM BIG; we GO FOR IT to achieve GREATNESS!!**

Our mission: Through intentional design Falls Valley Students will be reflective learners; persevere through challenges; synergize to create and achieve goals; and own their choices.

**Congratulations students on your accomplishments!** We are grateful for the extraordinary efforts of our dedicated staff and the hard work of our exceptional students! Through our hard work, we have great achievements to celebrate! Our K-3 grades grew **37.3%** from **Fall 2018 to Spring 2019** on the **IRI**. Our 3-6 grade students grew **6.3%** on the **ELA ISAT** and **4.7%** on the **Math ISAT from Spring 2018 to Spring 2019 School Wide**. More detailed reports for the Bonneville schools is posted on the State Department of Education website at [www.idahoschools.org](http://www.idahoschools.org).

## School Hours

|                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Breakfast</b>     | <b>7:45 am - 8:20 am</b> |
| <b>School Starts</b> | <b>8:20 am</b>           |

## Lunchtimes

|         |                   |
|---------|-------------------|
| Title K | 11:17 am-12:00 pm |
| Grade 1 | 11:25 am-12:05 am |
| Grade 2 | 11:35 am-12:15 pm |
| Grade 3 | 11:45 am-12.25 pm |
| Grade 4 | 12:00 pm-12:40 pm |
| Grade 5 | 12:10 am-12:50 pm |
| Grade 6 | 11:00 am-11:40 am |

|                                      |                |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Dismissal</b>                     | <b>2:55 pm</b> |
| <b>Early Release every Wednesday</b> | <b>1:30 pm</b> |

## Supervision of Students Before School

We value your children's safety. Since there is **NO** adult supervision **OUTSIDE ON THE PLAYGROUND** before **7:50am**, please **drop off students at school BETWEEN 7:50 – 8:20 am** Breakfast is available at 7:50 am. Students will enter for Breakfast through the North Doors.

**Dress for the WEATHER!** We love our Idaho weather but it can be cold much of the school year. Please ensure that when your children leave the house they are dressed for the weather of the day. Most days, students not eating breakfast will remain outside the school building prior to the start of the school day (7:50-8:20) and they will be outside for recess. We do bring students into the building if temperatures are **0 Degrees and below, or if snow / rain create wet or**

**hazardous conditions.**

## School Staff and E-Mail Addresses

Communication is critical in facilitating the student/parent/school partnership. Feel free to contact our staff members listed below if you have questions, concerns or share your ideas. Individual e-mail addresses are listed for your convenience. Thank you for respecting instructional time from 8:20-2:55 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday and from 8:20-1:30 on Wednesday's Early Release days. Teachers very much want to work in partnership with parents and students to ensure the academic success of their students. Thank you for scheduling appointments to discuss concerns about your child with teachers ahead of time between 3:00 and 4:00 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Wednesdays are dedicated time for our Professional Learning Communities. A short newsletter and calendar will be sent home with students each month. In addition, don't forget the scheduled parent activity nights, and to attend our parent teacher conferences.

### Principal

Mrs. Orme ([ormet@d93.k12.id.us](mailto:ormet@d93.k12.id.us))

### Secretary

Mrs. Memmott ([memmotta@d93.k12.id.us](mailto:memmotta@d93.k12.id.us))

### Preschool Teachers

Mr. Wyatt ([wyattm@d93.k12.id.us](mailto:wyattm@d93.k12.id.us))

Ms. Reeder ([reederj@d93.k12.id.us](mailto:reederj@d93.k12.id.us))

Ms. Brown ([brownmic@d93.k12.id.us](mailto:brownmic@d93.k12.id.us))

Ms. Farrer ([farrerl@d93.k12.id.us](mailto:farrerl@d93.k12.id.us))

### Kindergarten Teachers

Mrs. Ball ([balll@d93.k12.id.us](mailto:balll@d93.k12.id.us))

Mrs. Morgan ([morgana@d93.k12.id.us](mailto:morgana@d93.k12.id.us))

Title I Ext Kindergarten Mrs. Coyne ([coynej@d93.k12.id.us](mailto:coynej@d93.k12.id.us))

### First Grade Teachers

Mrs. Beck ([beckj@d93.k12.id.us](mailto:beckj@d93.k12.id.us))

Mrs. Nichols ([nicholsb@d93.k12.id.us](mailto:nicholsb@d93.k12.id.us))

Mrs. Moser ([moserk@d93.k12.id.us](mailto:moserk@d93.k12.id.us))

### Second Grade Teachers

Mrs. Olson ([olsonka@d93.k12.id.us](mailto:olsonka@d93.k12.id.us))

Mrs. Starnes ([starnesc@d93.k12.id.us](mailto:starnesc@d93.k12.id.us))

Mrs. Melander ([melandera@d93.k12.id.us](mailto:melandera@d93.k12.id.us))

### Third Grade Teachers

Mrs. Hendry ([hendrys@d93.k12.id.us](mailto:hendrys@d93.k12.id.us))

Mrs. Grover ([groverm@d93.k12.id.us](mailto:groverm@d93.k12.id.us))

### Fourth Grade Teachers

Mrs. Harrop ([harrops@d93.k12.id.us](mailto:harrops@d93.k12.id.us))

Mrs. Cowen ([cowene@d93.k12.id.us](mailto:cowene@d93.k12.id.us))

### Fifth Grade Teachers

Ms. Hornby ([hornbym@d93.k12.id.us](mailto:hornbym@d93.k12.id.us))

Mr. Reynolds ([reynoldr@d93.k12.id.us](mailto:reynoldr@d93.k12.id.us))

### Sixth Grade Teachers

Mrs. Kniep ([kniepm@d93.k12.id.us](mailto:kniepm@d93.k12.id.us))

Mrs. Koenig ([koenigk@d93.k12.id.us](mailto:koenigk@d93.k12.id.us))

### Special Education Teachers

Mrs. Gleave ([gleavem@d93.k12.id.us](mailto:gleavem@d93.k12.id.us))

Mrs. Thomas ([thomase@d93.12.id.us](mailto:thomase@d93.12.id.us))

### Intervention Specialist

Mrs. Udy ([udya@d93.k12.id.us](mailto:udya@d93.k12.id.us))

### School Counselor

Mrs. White ([whited@d93.k12.id.us](mailto:whited@d93.k12.id.us))

gets to your student in time.

### **Breakfast and Lunch Prices**

**Breakfast:** students-\$1.55, reduced-30¢, adults-\$2.25

**Lunch:** students- \$2.35, reduced- 40¢, adults-\$3.85 Milk a la carte- 40¢

Lunch is served on the early release days. Check the school or district calendar for further information.

### **Computerized Meal Cashiering System**

You may go online and put money on your student's account. There is no fee associated with the payments. The computer tracks their purchases and payments. You may register online with My Payments Plus through the district website [www.d93schools.org](http://www.d93schools.org).

### **Drop Off and Pick Up Loop Procedures**

\*We ask you to stay in your vehicle to help keep this process moving as quickly as possible.

\*\*Please use caution when driving in the loop. Always be aware!

#### **Drop off**

Enter the loop from Hitt Rd. turn right when entering the loop. In the morning there is only one lane. Please pull up as far as you can where there is sidewalk. If there is a teacher out they will help your student(s) out of the vehicle. The students will go to the playground or enter the north doors for breakfast. Adult supervision begins at 7:50 on the playground. Teachers/staff members are at the drop off loop at 8:05.

#### **Pick up**

Enter the loop from Hitt Rd. and go right. At dismissal there is two lanes of vehicles. Please pull up as far as you can where there is sidewalk. A teacher/staff member will help your student(s) get to the vehicle. If your student(s) is in kindergarten, first, or second grades we ask that you use the outside lane to be right by the sidewalk. If your student(s) is in third, fourth, fifth or sixth grade we ask that you use the inside lane.

Please have the card posted on the passenger side window or passenger side windshield in the bottom corner with the grade level and last name. This is how we can quickly get your student(s) to the vehicle.

\*If the outside lane is full please use the inside lane (no matter what grade level) to prevent traffic backing up on to Hitt Rd.

**Pre-K** Parents please drop off and pick up your students in the front of the building on Virlow Drive. Please park facing West for your safety. Pre-K parents whose students ride the bus, please be sure to call the school to let us know if your child is ill. If you just tell the bus driver the message may not get to the school.

**We ask that all follow the handicap parking signs! We want to allow accessibility for our students and staff who need to use these zones to access the building safely.**

Messages to students at the end of the day. The end of the day gets very busy. Please call by 2:15 to ensure that your message

### **Scooter/Bike Procedures**

Scooters/bikes must be walked to the bike rack area and left at the bike racks. Scooters can be chained up easily and must remain in that area upon entering the school grounds. We have had some injuries of students and staff tripping over scooters that were left in the halls or classrooms due to not having safe areas to store them in the building. Thank you for helping remind students of the change to store scooters at the bike racks when they arrive at school.

### **Parent Teacher Organization/Parent Advisory Committee (PTO/PAC)**

This year's PTO officers are **Tiana Sautter** (President), **Natalie Coulston** (Vice President), and **Cat Walker**, (Treasurer). Falls Valley PTO is very active and depends on parent support throughout the year. Meetings are held on the first Friday of each month from 9:30-10:30. Consider joining PTO and volunteer to support one of the many activities that are planned for the year. Your children and many others will benefit from your gift of time and talent. This organization is a great way for parents to give their input to the principal and stay informed about all that we are doing at Falls Valley and in the school district. All parents are invited to attend any of the meetings.

### **Back-to-School Night**

Our Back to School night always occurs within the week before students return to school. Come meet our teachers, visit your children's classrooms, sign up for PTO and learn about upcoming PTO activities.

### **Box Tops**

The PTO is still collecting Box Tops for Education. There is now an app, you can download. Information about Box Top collection contests will be coming home periodically.

### **Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)**

The District is continuing a school improvement initiative for our staff to have release time which will provide valuable collaboration time to improve student learning. Falls Valley teams collaborate to develop ways to meet the needs of all students through aligning curriculum, instruction and assessment. They plan interventions for students needing extra help to learn grade level curriculum standards. This initiative supports the effective schools' correlates – a safe and orderly environment; a clearly stated and focused mission; instructional leadership; high expectations for all students; frequent monitoring of student progress; maximize learning opportunities; and positive communication. Through the PLC process, Falls Valley will strengthen the response to intervention model, improve student learning, and help us live up to the district's mission of student success by design. (Early Release is every Wednesday)

### **District and School Website**

Log on to <http://www.d93schools.org> to find a wide variety of information about curriculum, calendars, special programs, school board meetings, busing, lunch menus, school status reports and links to other educational sites.

### **Progress Reports and Report Cards**

Grading periods are 12 weeks in length for all grades, K-12. Parent/Teacher conferences will be held in October and January. We will issue printed progress reports at the end of the other 6-week periods. Report cards will go home at the end of each Trimester.

### **Curriculum Information**

You can find information on [www.d93schools.org](http://www.d93schools.org)

### **Statewide Testing Schedule**

Students in kindergarten and grades 1-3 take the Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI) three times a year, in September, January, and May. .

Students in grades 3-6 take the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) every spring. Our testing dates will be the first of April - May 15th. The ISAT tests students in reading, language, and math. Fifth grade students also take the science ISAT. These results will be sent home to you after the testing is complete some time in June.

### **Hope Squad**

Students in grades 5-6 are selected by their peers to support their peers who may be struggling emotionally, participate in service projects, help greet new students, mentor younger students, and assist in resolving conflicts. After nominations in September, they receive training with Mrs. Koenig and Mrs. White. This program is crucial to helping our students gain leadership skills, mentor younger students, participate in service for others, build friendships and resolve their disagreements peacefully.

### **DISTRICT AND SCHOOL POLICIES**

The following are summaries of the various policies and procedures for your easy reference

#### **Attendance**

Regular attendance is crucial for children's success in learning. Scheduling doctors' appointments when possible outside of the school day and vacations within the regularly scheduled breaks helps children stay on track with their learning. District policy states that the school must notify parents by letter at 6, 9 & 11 absences when a child has been excessively absent, regardless of the reasons for those absences. **Please note:** According to District Policy, we may refer students with absences of 6 or more in a trimester to Bonneville County Juvenile Probation for truancy subject to Idaho Code 33-206 and 33-207. Students have two days for every day of absence to complete missed classwork. Often the work must first include instruction from the teacher and we ask that missed work be picked up upon returning to school.

#### **District Procedure for Absences**

We are concerned when our students are not in school. Please call or email the office to let us know that your child is absent. If we don't hear from you, we will call your home to verify the absences. Please bring in a doctor's excuse if your child is absent for medical reasons. When your child needs to stay inside during recess after an illness, write a dated note to let us know. Otherwise, we will assume he/she can go outside for

recess. Refer to the School District's Attendance Policy above about the procedures for excessive absences.

#### **School Tardy Policy**

Our first bell rings at 8:20 am. There is a five-minute transition period until the 8:25 am bell. Students coming in after the 8:25 bell are considered tardy. The following are our tardy policy steps.

Tardy 5: Phone call home by the teacher  
Tardy 6-8: Notification by letter  
Tardy 10: Parent contact  
Tardy 15: Parent conference, truancy issued

#### **Checking Out During the School Day**

Please come to the office to sign out your children, and we will have them meet you there. If they return before the end of the day, we ask that you stop by the office to sign them back in to school. You are welcome to check out your children for lunch during their usual lunch times, however children from other families may not be checked out to join them.

#### **School-wide Behavior Expectations**

Our students have agreed to follow these expectations so that Falls Valley School is a positive and safe place.

1. Be Safe
2. Be Responsible
3. Be Respectful

#### **School Discipline Policy**

When the agreements above are not followed, our school philosophy is to help students address and change behavior through the use of Restorative Practices and Circles. We work to address behavior fairly and with dignity by utilizing our School-Wide Restorative Practices Framework in accordance with the discipline policy outlined in the District's "Student Code of Conduct."

#### **District Zero Tolerance Policies**

The school district has a zero tolerance policy for drugs, weapons, and violence. These can be found in the **District Code of Conduct**. Teachers and the principal discuss all of these policies throughout the school year with students. Please talk with your children about these policies and emphasize the importance of solving their disagreements peacefully. We have trained staff members, who are available to help students constructively resolve their arguments.

#### **School Substitute Teacher Discipline Procedure**

When a student chooses to be disruptive in class, the substitute teacher will send the student to the office. Office personnel will call a parent or guardian to report the disruptive behavior and to let the parent/guardian know that a second occurrence of the behavior will require that the student be picked up immediately.

#### **Student Dress Code**

1. Shorts, skirts, and skorts must reach at least the child's fingertips when standing.
2. Baggy pants and shorts must cover underclothes.
3. Avoid tank tops, spaghetti straps, halter-tops, and

- clothing that bare the midriff, shoulders, chest or cleavage.
- 4. Heavy chains, including those on clothing and wallets, are considered a hazard and possible distraction.
- 5. Shoes with retractable wheels in the soles are prohibited.
- 6. Headgear may not be worn inside the building. This includes hats, caps, visors, triangle scarves, and bandanas.
- 7. Clothing and jewelry should not advertise or convey messages having to do with subjects such as alcohol, cigarettes, and drugs.
- 8. Please keep hair in a condition that it does not detract from the education of self and others.
- 9. Students are encouraged not to wear flip flops.

Student dress which falls outside the prescribed guidelines will have the opportunity to make the changes as needed. This may require a phone call home for a change of clothes.

### **Student Cell Phones**

We ask that students leave cell phones at home. The school phone is available for student use during the day, and parents are able to call the school to speak with their children. In the event that cell phones or text messaging devices are brought to school, they are to be turned off, stored in backpacks or stored with the teacher as per their direction or office personnel during the school day.

### **Kindergarten Snacks and K-6 Party Treats**

Because of Health Department regulations, school district policy states that food for kindergarten snacks, birthday treats, and party treats must be commercially produced. As much as we appreciate homemade goodies, we ask that they not be sent to school for class or party activities.

### **Parent Visitors and Volunteers**

Parents and volunteers are always welcome! Since the safety of your children is our primary concern, we keep all doors locked except by the office. We ask that you sign in at the office and wear one of our visitor or volunteer stickers during your time in the building. Please contact the teachers if you would like to volunteer in your children's classrooms. Thank you for making appointments outside of teacher/student contact time to discuss academic or social concerns with the teacher.

### **Tips for School Success**

The start of the school year is an exciting time. Talk with your children about the new year and share your positive school experiences. Provide structure and consistency for your children. Spend time together. Develop a positive relationship with your children's teachers – they share your care and concern about your children. It was their love of children that brought them to the teaching profession.

Here are some other practical items to consider as the school year gets underway:

- Mark the end of summer and the transition into the school year with a special family activity like camping one last time or a picnic at the park.
- Talk with your children about what they did well last year in school and encourage them to continue working on their strengths. Ask what they need to focus on this year, help them set realistic goals and provide any support they might need.
- Keep a daily family mealtime, whether it's breakfast or dinner. Encourage everyone to talk about his/her day.
- Set and enforce a regular bedtime. Current brain research indicates that a good night's sleep enables learning to move from short-term to long-term memory. Have your children start the day with breakfast, even if it's only a glass of instant breakfast mix.
- Limit extra-curricular activities.
- Set a reasonable time for homework. Check that the work is completed correctly. Recommended times by grade is 10 min. per grade 1<sup>st</sup>- 10 min; 2<sup>nd</sup>- 20; 3<sup>rd</sup>- 30 and so on. If time spent on homework becomes excessive and brings frustration and anxiety for all involved please discontinue, write a note to the teacher to let them know your child is having difficulty. Homework should be practice of what they have already learned or extension/enrichment.
- Provide a space for doing homework.
- Contact your children's teachers right away if you see they are struggling with their schoolwork.
- Designate a spot near the door for backpacks and schoolwork for easy retrieval in the morning.
- Regulate TV, computer, and video game times. Set a time limit and stick to it.
- Encourage reading at all ages. Read to or with your children nightly for a minimum of 15 minutes. Talk with them about what they are reading.
- Be available to listen to your children.
- Have fun together!

### **A School-Family Team**

We care very much about your children – our students – and we want their years at Falls Valley Elementary School to be a positive learning experience. When we all work together as a team, we are all winners! The staff at Falls Valley Elementary School is looking forward to working with you and your children.