

Aug. 4, 2021

Hello Ishi Hills Middle School Families,

I want to welcome back all of our returning families with a special welcome to new families! I hope you have been enjoying a wonderful summer break—filled with whatever you and your family did to refresh, restore, reconnect, and relax.

At the moment, the school is buzzing with the sound of teachers and staff preparing their classrooms for the beginning of the 2021-22 school year. After a year of constant changes due to COVID-19, it will be a relief to get back to a new “normal.” We will continue to require masks but indoors only at this point. Please stay connected to our social media for updates.

We have a few new staff members this year. We are so excited to welcome them to our Ishi Hills family:

- Raylene Robinson is our new school counselor
- Herman Hodnett is our new campus supervisor
- Sara Schmid is our new 6th grade teacher

As we begin another school year at Ishi Hills, there are many things to make you aware of so you will be able to support your child’s education. First, there are some important dates to remember for August:

- **Aug. 16: 6th grade orientation/Back-to-School night (see 6th grade parent letter)**
- **Aug. 17: First day of school - start time at 8:25**
- **Aug. 20: School Site Council Meeting 3:30-5:00 via Google Meet: [meet.google.com/vjy-bryc-xmq](https://meet.google.com/vjy-bryc-xmq)**
- **Aug. 25: Minimum Day - release at 1:15 pm**
- **Aug. 26: 7th and 8th Back-to-School Night (details to follow)**
- **Sept. 6 : Monday - Labor Day Holiday - No School**

Second, we extend a special year long invitation to our families to join us at school activities and events whenever possible. We value your involvement and support in your child’s education! Your active participation is key to the success of our young Cougars his/her school years. You can join our School Site Council, PTC, LCAP, classroom volunteers, and other activities taking place throughout the year. We look forward to working with you to make this a fantastic year for our students. Please remember, all volunteers must fill out a form prior to volunteering, which is located in our office. We are looking for a new SSC parent/community member to join us this year.

Finally, please know that we highly value home/school communication here at Ishi Hills Middle School. It plays an integral role in each student’s success. We encourage you to contact us if/when the need arises, and to *stay in the know* about your child’s studies, assignments, assessments, and school activities, as well as other events and happenings. Our school offers several ways to keep up-to-date as the district move towards eco-friendly communication:

- **IHMS website** is <https://www.ocesd.net/o/ishi-hills-middle> and will be updated monthly for school activities, events, news, live feeds, Facebook, Twitter, and parent newsletters called *The Cougar Call*.
- **IHMS Remind** is a quick way to get important information in a **text message** from your school. Please join. I will accept you and send you info about school through text message. It works!!
  - Last name A-J send a text message to **81010 and text @ishihi**
  - Last name K-Z send a text message to **81010 and text @g63efc**

*Please join your group for Remind because you will be connected to our information system.*

I am so honored to be able to work with the staff and to serve as your new principal going into my 3rd year and many years to come. Remember, if you need to contact me directly, please feel free to email a message to me at [rhenderson@ocesd.net](mailto:rhenderson@ocesd.net) or call me at the office (530) 532-3078 ext 205. You can also reach me at (530) 990-0160.. Here’s to a fantastic year of growing, learning, and having fun!

In Partnership,

*Renee Henderson, Principal*