



KELSO SCHOOL DISTRICT

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October 1, 2021

Dear KSD Families,

Today marks the completion of the first month of school and I'd like to take this opportunity to share my deepest appreciation and gratitude for the tremendous work we've accomplished in September. There is much to celebrate, some to mourn, and opportunities for growth. Thank you for your continued belief in our Kelso staff, who serve your children every day.

The health and safety of our students and staff remain top priorities for Kelso School District. COVID-19 cases have been at an all-time high in our community and we are seeing that reflected in our schools. We've temporarily transitioned five classrooms to remote learning due to increased positive cases and are looking forward to welcoming two classrooms back on October 4, and the other three classrooms will return on October 11. We continue to share information on school or classroom closures and school-based transmissions for students on our [COVID-19 Dashboard \(bit.ly/ksd-c19\)](https://bit.ly/ksd-c19).

As you may have heard, Barnes Elementary lost a beloved 4th grade teacher, Karen James, this week. Miss James has been a member of our district family for 22 years, and the effects of her passing are deeply felt. She impacted over 550 students and families during her time as a Kelso teacher. Her smile, joy, love of students and colleagues, faith, dedication, kindness, and loyalty were a few of her amazing gifts.

Although this first month has had its challenges, we remain steady in our endeavor of offering the very best in-person instruction for each and every Kelso student. Our staff has been extraordinary and is tireless in their pursuit of excellence. We continue to be diligent in maintaining strict safety protocols and multiple mitigating factors to do our part in slowing the spread of COVID-19. And, we strive to keep the three C's (communication, compassion, common sense) at the forefront at all times.

Look for the monthly KSD Family Connection on Tuesday, October 12; which focuses on tradition and homecoming.

Thank you for your continued support as we navigate these challenging times.

As always, if you have any questions, feel free to email me.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth

Mary Beth Tack, Superintendent
Kelso School District
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