



August 17, 2022

Dear students, staff, families and community,

I am looking forward to seeing all of our students in just two weeks as we launch the 2022-23 school year. I hope everyone is feeling that excitement that comes with the approach of all things fall including the first day of school as well as the many fall sports and activities that are happening. It is going to be a great year!

Wall calendars with pertinent dates will be mailed to households soon. Here is our one-page [2022-23 Mount Baker School District Calendar](#) for an easy reference to our schedule this year. The first day of school is Wednesday, August 31st for first through twelfth grade students and September 6th for Kindergarten and Pre-School. Our ninety-minute early release Wednesdays for staff professional development do not begin until October 5th. This time is vital for our staff to learn and collaborate together as we build systems of support for all students at all levels.

Please see my [letter to families explaining the new COVID-19 Guidance for Fall 2022](#). You will find several links for information and resources in that letter which is posted on our [website](#). While COVID-19 vaccinations are now available for children five years and older, **they are not required to attend school**. Staff members and volunteers are still required to be vaccinated unless they have a [medical or religious exemption](#).

Elementary school supplies are provided, so please do not send elementary students to school with supplies. The junior high has a [list](#) on their website. High school students will have class specific needs that will be shared by their teachers. They should bring basic supplies for the first day such as their Chromebook, a notebook, pencil/pen, and backpack.

School meals including breakfast and lunch are free to all Mount Baker students this year. You can find more information [here](#) including a Family Income Survey we encourage every family to complete.

Please remember to check your school's website for important and timely information.

Fall sports are starting this week and next week for high school students. Junior high sports begin August 29th. Students should register to play sports at <https://mountbaker-wa.finalforms.com/>. Join us at Deming Speedway to support our athletic and academic programs this Friday evening and Saturday, August 19th and 20th. They are hosting the Annual Mount Baker Athletics & Academic Weekend with racing and many fun activities including a silent auction, chili cookoff, pancake feed, dunk tank, raffle, and more. A huge thanks to Deming Speedway for all of their awesome support!

I have enjoyed connecting with community members this summer at some of our community events such as the Northwest Washington Fair, Bigfoot Festival, and Kendall Summer Festival. Coming together as a community is always a great experience. This weekend the South Fork Valley Summerfest at the Josh Vander Yacht Memorial Park and Van Zandt Community Hall is on Saturday, August 20th. The annual Reading of the Names to honor and remember friends and family members who passed too soon will be at 1:00 p.m. followed by opportunities to connect with organizations, businesses, and vendors as well as enjoy a community picnic and live music.

I am looking forward to seeing you all soon!

Sincerely,

Mary Sewright, Superintendent
msewright@mtbaker.wednet.edu
360-617-4600