



Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

Welcome to Ponderosa Middle School. The faculty, staff, and I are excited to have your child joining us for an exciting year of teaching and learning!

Middle school is an exciting and sometimes frightening time for students. They move away from the comfort of elementary school and begin the journey of becoming more independent. Ponderosa welcomes the opportunity to support your child during this time!

The expectations placed on students in Oregon and across the country are higher now than at any other point in history. We are prepared to support our students in these expectations. One way we are prepared to meet this is by focusing on Common Core Standards. Ponderosa uses these standards to ensure students are meeting the correct standards to prepare them for the next grade level. We also use schoolwide AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) strategies that focus on strong instructional practices. We also have clubs and activities after school that allow your child to continue to grow. Please contact the main office for more information on these great opportunities.

The schedule this year is similar to the schedule prior to the start of the pandemic. Our school day begins at 8:15 a.m. and ends at 3:16 p.m. On every Wednesday we have “late start” at school begins at 9:15 a.m. In our day we have built-in an Advisory class that allows students to eat breakfast in the morning and go over soft skills to help them be more successful in school.

School success begins with every student attending school on time, every day. If students are absent, they are missing out on valuable learning time and instruction. If you can schedule appointments outside of the school day whenever possible, we can limit the amount of class time your child loses. If your child does have to miss school, please call the attendance office at 541.883.4740.

As we continue to move through the COVID-19 pandemic, please be sure to keep your child home if they are displaying any major symptoms. We will continue to follow the guidance of the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and the Oregon Department of Education’s (ODE) “Ready Schools, Safe Learners Resiliency Framework” to keep our students, staff, and families safe!

We work extremely hard to ensure every student feels safe while at school. Students should never feel threatened, bullied, or put down at school. If your child ever feels this way, please contact the school counselor or administration immediately. Working together, we can address these concerns and get them resolved quickly.

I look forward to getting to know all of you! On behalf of the faculty and staff, I would also like to thank you for collaborating with us to support your child’s education. This is going to be a great year to be a Bobcat!

Brett Lemieux - Principal
Ponderosa Middle School
541.883.4740