



# SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY UPDATE

**Blue Ridge CUSD #18**

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**July 2022**

July is in full swing, which means welcoming new staff members, preparing for Summer School, Kindergarten Jumpstart, and Induction Day. Fresh beginnings. Hope-filled excitement.

I've learned that summer comes and goes very quickly, maybe more so as I age. So, I've committed to doing those summer things after a long day of work, even when it takes a bit of effort. This summer, swimming is on that list. Taking some moments of quiet reflection and putting aside all the plans for tomorrow has been refreshing and rewarding. I've heard someone suggest making a summer 'To Do' list, even if the items were small in size and the complete list was small in size. I didn't exactly get to the list, but I believe that my time in the pool has been a big win for me. Have you found that piece of summer that feels magical to you? Are you making sure that you are fully present in that this summer? If not, I think you may have a few more weeks left to practice.

As a district, we have some new and exciting things in store this year. We will soon be advertising the timing of our welcome back events. We have named those events First Knight. Our plan is that Boosters will have a small meal available for families for a donation on Monday, August 15 when both Schneider and BRHS have their First Knight event. Follow that by a similar First Knight event at BRIJHS on Tuesday, August 16. You can plan for a dessert treat to be available for purchase at that event. More details will follow soon.

To back up just a bit, I hope that you've heard that our District Strategic Plan has been finalized and approved. The administrative team will be providing progress updates each quarter as part of our report to the board. Part of the strategic planning process was the revision of the District Mission Statement, which now reads:

**Blue Ridge Schools will embrace, engage, equip, and empower  
students, staff, parents, and the community.**

As a district, we believe that statement reflects how we want to serve our community. Along with the new mission statement comes a significant 'refresh' in a few other areas. Our district webpage will have a new, fresh look in the next few weeks. BRIJHS and BRHS will have some special school pride additions, and our refreshed district mascot will be revealed.

Below you will find three short videos that summarize the processes that led us to where we are now and where we are going this school year. These videos have been posted to our social media account and our webpage over the last few weeks, but perhaps you've not watched them yet. Would you take just a few minutes to watch the short videos to learn more about the process? We'll have our final video posted this upcoming week.

Please stay tuned for the unveiling of so many new areas of school and district pride. Join us, as we continue  
[#br\\_u\\_knighted!](#)

<https://youtu.be/d4ORXKVpmMk>

<https://youtu.be/dMWm4I8dyDY>

<https://youtu.be/6srOTtLS80U>



## PARTIAL ACTION FROM THE JULY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

This month, we welcome several new staff members to our Blue Ridge team!

- Nicole Plowick will serve as a 4th grade teacher at BRIJHS teaching ELA and science. Welcome, Nicole!
- We've added a third position to our marching band staff. Jacalyn Meisner will continue her work under the official title of Color Guard and Angela Mitchell will serve in the role of Marching Band Assistant.
- Cheyenne Clayton will serve as BRHS Football Cheer Coach. Thank you, Cheyenne!
- Lori Friel will serve as BRHS Head Golf Coach. Thank you, Lori!
- Rich Voyles will serve as BRIJHS Head Softball Coach. Courtney Reynolds will work with Rich as BRIJHS Assistant Softball Coach and Ashlyn Voyles will serve as a volunteer assistant. Thanks, Rich, Courtney, and Ashlyn!
- Food Service Staff: Jacinta Smith returns and will be working at BRIJHS. Kate Funderburk joins the Farmer City campus. We are still looking for a part time cook to join the BRIJHS staff.
- Brian Field will drive for Blue Ridge.
- Lisa Olsen will serve on the O&M staff for a few weeks this summer.
- Herb Coffey will serve as Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach for BRHS.

We warmly welcome each new staff member and each returning staff member who is taking on a new role!



## UPCOMING EVENTS



July 25 K-8 Summer School Begins- 8:30-11:30 Mon through Thu  
July 29 Online Registration Opens  
August 4 In Person Registration in each respective school building 8-3 and 4-7  
August 5 Online Registration Closes  
August 8 Kindergarten Jumpstart Begins 8:30-11:30  
August 10 BOE Meeting, BRHS Library, 7:00 p.m.  
August 11 Induction Day for all new staff  
August 15 Curriculum Day, No Student Attendance  
August 15 First Knight Schneider Elementary and BRHS, Time TBD  
August 16 Institute Day, No Student Attendance  
August 16 First Knight BRIJHS, Time TBD  
August 17 First Day of Student Attendance, 2:20 Dismissal  
August 18-19 Early Dismissal Days, 2:20

## IN OTHER NEWS

### SCHNEIDER ELEMENTARY



We hope that all our Schneider Elementary students continue to enjoy a safe summer! Keep reading, writing, and counting along the way and we'll see you very soon!

### BRIJHS



Mr. Burt Huddleston has been working hard in his new role as BRIJHS Principal. He's anxious to meet staff and students and get the new year off to a great start!

### BRHS



The high school has some HVAC work being completed this month in preparation for the new school year. We have some other exciting surprises coming your way right before the school year begins. Stay tuned for more details!

## TECHNOLOGY



The Technology Department doesn't rest much during the summer. These months with few people in the buildings are prime time to get a significant number of projects completed, in addition to all the tasks associated with closing one school year and opening another, onboarding new personnel, online registration, and state reporting. Here's a look at what they've been up to:

- State Reporting for Year End Items Concluded - including Final Grades Reported, Attendance, Student Course Assignments, Early Childhood Outcomes, and Student Exits
- Onboarding for new staff as background checks and hiring completed
- Phones - Most office phones installed, Building integration testing completed
- Servers - Base configuration completed on all new servers, preparing for cut over next week
- ViewSonics - Schneider and HS Units Installed
- Chromebooks - Intake of new Chromebooks Complete, Old Chromebooks Checked
- Heart Technologies installed cabling for the ERate '22 bid on the JH side of BRIJHS
- ERate monies received for 2021
- Doors - Door controllers have all been configured, Installation starting this week
- Website final touches for reveal late July
- Worked to update Blue Ridge App
- RDP Server for staff now operational
- "The Dr. Is In" Series recorded and edited with Dave's first BR acting debut
- Server Upgrade for Primary Hyper-V server at HS in progress
- 2nd Quarter Management software audit for all desktop PCs
- Server closet wiring clean up at HS and JH

Enjoying the summer...

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