Mount Baker SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOCUS

Volume 77:2 | *Educational Excellence and Community Pride* | Fall 2017

Photo credit: Doug Sutton

MBHS Mountaineer Band in Leavenworth, Washington, September 23, 2017

Attendance in the Mount Baker School District

Troy Wright
MBJH Principal

Everyone knows that attendance is one of the most important factors to a child's educational success. Good attendance is one of the prime indicators of a student's ability to succeed in school and graduate on time. The interactions among teachers, students, and their peers are the heart of education and it is impossible to replicate through missing work when a student is not at school. This is why the Mount Baker School District is making attendance a special point of emphasis throughout the 2017-18 school year.

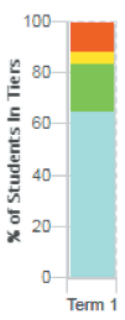
This year, the Mount Baker School District is reaching out to parents in a variety of ways. Frequent updates to social media, halftime announcements at games and extracurricular activities are just two of the ways we want to put the message out there and get attendance on people's minds. Schools are also sending out letters whenever students reach two, five, and seven unexcused absences. In addition to this, four times a year each school will send out a nudge letter. A nudge letter is a research-based approach to informing parents about where their student's attendance stands as compared to the average student in both the district and their particular school. If students fall below a 91% attendance threshold, they will receive a nudge letter (unless there are known, extenuating circumstances like an ongoing health concern).

Poor attendance takes two forms: excused and unexcused absences. Unexcused absences are absences that are left unreported to the school, absences that are reported outside of the 48-hour window, or absences that do not meet state requirements for being considered excused. Excused absences are absences that are reported in a timely manner and meet state criteria for being excused. Both have detrimental impacts on a student's ability to be successful in school.

In each building, school administrators, teachers, and other staff are working with renewed focus on the issue of chronic absenteeism; chronic absenteeism is defined by the state as an attendance rate below 91%. School staff meets regularly to identify students whose attendance is a concern. In these meetings, our staff tries to connect students with interventions that will help support the student in improving their attendance.

When building based interventions fail to improve attendance and unexcused absences grow in excess of seven per month or ten per year, the district partners with the Whatcom County Juvenile Court to improve student attendance through what is commonly referred to as a Becca petition. When a Becca petition is filed with the court, the family and student are asked to appear before a court commissioner to discuss the causes of the poor attendance and to develop a plan to improve attendance.

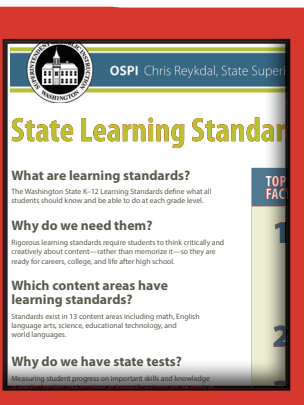
Continued on Page 8



A colored indicator graph of attendance, like this example, is used to inform staff and families about attendance issues.

Tier	N	%
1	151	65.1
2	43	18.5
3	11	4.7
4	27	11.6

INSIDE



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Mount Baker SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Deming, WA 98244-0095

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Mount Baker SCHOOL DISTRICT

www.mtbaker.wednet.edu

Board of Directors

Your Mount Baker School Board of Directors is comprised of five District citizens elected by District voters for four-year terms.

Board members serve in an unpaid, volunteer capacity. Although directors are elected to specific areas, they collectively represent the entire district.

Brian Kelly,
Director District 1

Karen Reich,
Director District 2

Trish Hart, President,
Director District 3

Nancy Workman,
Director District 4

Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt,
Director District 5

Charles Burleigh,
Superintendent

Board Meetings:
Community Members are encouraged to attend our regular Board meetings held on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays each month at 6:00 p.m., usually at the District Office.

School Office Hours

District Office	7:30–4:00 p.m.
Jr./Sr. High	7:30–3:30 p.m.
Transportation	6:00–5:00 p.m.
Kendall	8:00–4:30 p.m.
Harmony	8:00–4:30 p.m.
Acme	8:00–4:30 p.m.

Mount Baker Bell Schedules

Elementary:
First Bell at 9:05 a.m.
Class/Tardy Bell at 9:15 a.m.
Dismissal at 3:25 p.m.

Secondary Campus:
First Bell at 7:55 a.m.
Dismissal at 2:30 p.m.

Early Release Days:

Secondary students dismissal at noon.

Elementary students dismissal at 1 p.m.

Superintendent Search Underway

We find ourselves at a crossroads in the Mount Baker School District once again. As you know, Superintendent Burleigh will be leaving the district in June of 2018. We have been very fortunate to see progress in many areas of our district strategic plan under Burleigh's guidance. He has provided essential leadership in helping us obtain, develop and retain quality staff and administrators, has worked to improve student learning, created an operating budget that reflects intentional decision-making based upon our needs, made thoughtful decisions regarding facilities upgrades, maintenance and planning, and has encouraged and maintained open communication between the schools and the public. Burleigh has worked tirelessly with the school board, administration and staff to fulfill the mission of our district and schools.

That being said, the stage is set for our next Superintendent of Schools here in the Mount Baker District. Our district has hired Northwest Leadership Associates to guide us through the search process and hiring of a new educational leader. Wayne Robertson and Mark Venn, consultants for Northwest Leadership Associates will lead the process for our district. Both Wayne and Mark are retired superintendents and are very familiar with the MBSD and the responsibilities associated with this position. As we move forward, they will help us in providing several opportunities for students, staff and community to give input into the desired qualities and experience of a new superintendent. The information gathered will be vital to the Board in our decision-making process and will be used to help develop the job posting and recruit qualified applicants.

Information about the search, including online survey link/info, will be posted at:
www.mtbaker.wednet.edu

School Boards are charged with 1) setting direction and monitoring progress in the district, 2) setting policy, 3) approving and monitoring budget, and 4) evaluating the superintendent. In order to carry out our duties, it is imperative that we have the right leadership in place to guide the district. To fulfill this charge, the board will welcome input during this process from all of our stakeholders. We can make our best decisions when they are well-informed, and we look forward to meeting with students, staff and community members to hear your thoughts regarding qualifications/selection criteria to be used in guiding our decisions.

It is important to the Board that our students, staff, and community have meaningful involvement in this process. Please take time to participate in whatever capacity you are able; the online survey, a community focus group at one of our schools, a phone call to one of our consultants or a board member, or all of the above. We will welcome your input and your continued desire to be involved in YOUR public schools!

Community focus group meetings:

Monday, November 20th

12:00-1:00 Community Focus Group at EWRRC
6:30-7:30 Community/PTO Focus Group at Kendall
6:30-7:30 Community Focus Group at Harmony

Tuesday, November 21st

6:30-7:30 Community Focus Group at Acme
6:30-7:30 Community Focus Group at JH/HS

Trish Hart
MBSD Board, President

New Schedule Next Year for Secondary Campus

We are excited to announce that the Secondary campus, Jr./Sr. High School, will be moving to a new schedule next school year. This was approved by our School Board on 09/28/17. The purpose of this new schedule will be to increase the number of opportunities for our students to take career pathway and elective courses. We pride ourselves on being a top-notch comprehensive Jr./Sr. High School and this will enable us to cater to the needs of our diverse student population. This new schedule will be called a 4 A/B, which we previously had until 2012, and students will take 8 classes per semester.

What this means:

- Students will now take 8 courses per semester instead of 6 courses per semester
- Students will have access to 2 more classes per semester, meaning there is more opportunity to take music, Career and Technical Education (CTE), Technology or varied academic courses
- This will enable the school to address the needs of all learners in a more intentional and comprehensive manner
- Students will take 4 classes one day and the other 4 classes the next day
- Students will have more time between classes to work on projects and homework

Knowing that there are a lot of complexities to a new schedule change, as a district, we plan to hold some community meetings throughout the year to build understanding of what this all means and gather feedback. Stay tuned for further details and community meetings.

MBHS Academic Accomplishments

We have some exciting news at the high school. As continued evidence of our high academic achievements at MBHS, our students have shown great academic accomplishments on last year's SAT and performed FAR above state average on their reading and math scores.

SAT Reading — Top 6% in the state

We had an average score of 588, the state average was 533. We ranked number 15 out of the 245 reporting school districts in the state (there are a total of 295 school districts).

Math — Top 5% in the state:

We had an average score of 580, the state average was 531. We ranked number 12 out of 245 reporting districts.

This is a testament to our incredible teachers, teaching and support staff, community and students; our goal is to be the best school in the state and we continue to work towards this every day!

Matt Durand
MBHS Principal

Facilities Update

Bob Tisdale Field Improvement Completed in Record Time

In an outstanding collaboration between contractors, the Mount Baker School District, and the Athletic Boosters Club, Bob Tisdale Field has had its long standing drainage problems fixed and new high quality sod installed. This fix was started in August and was complete in time for our student athletes to begin using the field in late September – a time line made possible by a donation by the Mt. Baker Athletic Booster Club to purchase sod made for athletic fields and have it delivered to our site once the site drainage had been fixed. The result is the highest quality natural grass field in the region. Special thanks go to Dan Williamson of Williamson Construction, Brent Cowden of Cowden Gravel and Ready Mix, Chellie Anderson of the Athletic Boosters and the Mount Baker Staff and Community, who pulled together to make this special project possible.

Charles Burleigh
Superintendent

21st Century Learning Center After School Program

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Whatcom County is excited to announce the opening of 21st Century Learning Centers at Kendall Elementary and Mount Baker Junior High. The after school programming will be on an invite-only basis, focusing on students who are not meeting standards in math, reading, or writing. Learning centers are not just after school care, they are created specifically to guide at-risk students to success. Students will have time with teachers four days a week for tutoring and homework help and will take part in Boys & Girls Clubs programming.

In addition to tutoring and homework help, students will participate in programs that will teach the importance of good character and citizenship and healthy lifestyles. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Whatcom County is glad to be partnered with the Mount Baker School District to help create Great Futures for East Whatcom County kids.

Local Youth Substance Prevention & Wellness Effort Brings New Resources to MBSD

The Mount Baker Community Prevention & Wellness Initiative, a new community-based effort and partnership with the Mount Baker School District (MBSD), focuses on building community to develop healthy youth and prevent and address youth use, abuse and addiction of prescription medications as well as other substances.

The effort brings new resources for at least two years—perhaps more—to youth, families and neighborhoods in the MBSD service area, including a full-time Prevention/Intervention Specialist, who will be placed at the junior/senior high school campus sometime this fall, and a full-time Community Prevention Coalition Coordinator, Wa'Lynn Sheridan.

Sheridan is a local resident and mother of three MBSD students. She will spend her time between the Jr./Sr high campus, the East Whatcom Regional Resource Center (EWRRC), 8251 Kendall Road, Maple Falls.

Youth, parents, and community members passionate about growing a strong, healthy community for generations to come are urged to attend upcoming Community Coalition meetings on 10/30; 11/20 and 12/18 from 1-3 p.m. at the EWRRC, 8251 Kendall Road, Maple Falls. As the Coalition gets established, meeting times may change. Get more information on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MBCommunityCoalition/.

This effort, funded by a federal State Targeted Response grant to address the opioid crisis in America is managed by Washington State's Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) and Whatcom County Health Department and coordinated locally by Whatcom Family & Community Network (WFCN), a local nonprofit.

For more information contact WFCN at (360) 734-1196.

Mount Baker School District
www.mtbaker.wednet.edu

Mount Baker Schools

Acme Elementary
Secretaries
Michelle Anderson
Sally Shetler
(360) 383-2045

Kendall Elementary
Secretaries
Norma Adkinson
Diane Jacoby
Justina Grimes
(360) 383-2055

Harmony Elementary
Secretaries
Noel Conlee
Colleen Seutz
(360) 383-2050

Mount Baker Jr/Sr High School
Secretaries
Angie Bass–*Registrar*
Karin Snavely–*Attendance*
Heidi Brown–*ASB/AP Principal's Secretary*
(360) 383-2015

ERC: Educational Resource Center
Becky Phillips (360) 383-2012

Mount Baker Academy
Anne Erlandson–*Teacher, Student Learning Plan Consultant*
Jodi Ericksen–*Teacher, Student Learning Plan Consultant*
(360) 383-2078

Winter Pantry

The Foothills Food Bank, with support from the Mount Baker School District and a grant from Whatcom Educational Credit Union, will once again present the Winter and Spring Pantry Programs. The Pantry Programs provide supplemental breakfast and lunch items to families with children at Acme, Harmony and Kendall elementary schools during the 2017-18 Winter and Spring School breaks.

At their child's school families can sign up with the Family Services Coordinator. Boxes with breakfast and lunch items that children can prepare themselves are delivered to their home the Friday morning before the break.

How to get involved:

Donate money

Host a food drive

Donate non-perishable food in bins at various east county locations:

Volunteer to deliver the boxes on Friday, December 15, 2017

Email:
foothillsfoodbankcontact@gmail.com

Mount Baker SCHOOL DISTRICT

Our Mission

The Mount Baker School District, working with the community, will provide a strong educational foundation upon which all students can build their futures as productive citizens in our changing world.

District Administration

Superintendent
Charles Burleigh
(360) 383-2000

Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Bridget Rossman
(360) 383-2013

Director of Finance & Operations
Ben Thomas
(360) 383-2005

Director of Special Programs
Ian Linterman
(360) 383-2012

Principal, Mount Baker HS
Matt Durand
(360) 383-2015

Principal, Mount Baker JH
Troy Wright
(360) 383-2015

Assistant Principal
Athletics Director,
Mount Baker JH/HS
Quinn LeSage
(360) 383-2015

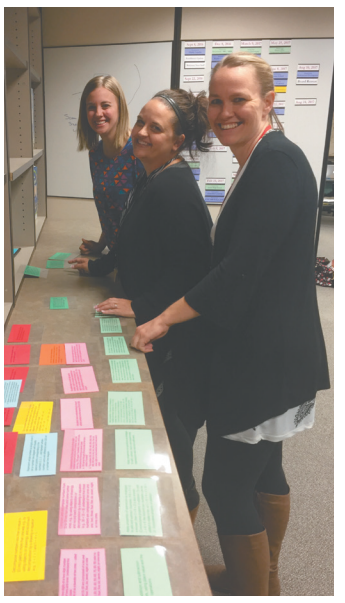
Principal, Acme Elementary
Carly Takata
(360) 383-2045

Principal, Harmony Elementary
Todd Mathews
(360) 383-2050

Principal, Kendall Elementary
Susan Gribble
(360) 383-2055

Elementary Math Team

The Elementary Math Team is working on researching and providing a recommendation to the school board for the adoption of a K-6 core mathematics curriculum. They hope to recommend curriculum that meets the learning needs of our students and ensures that they are well-prepared for high school and eventually be college and career ready.



The team is comprised of teachers from our three elementary schools and a facilitator from Northwest ESD #189.

Staff on the team are: John Mumma, Lisa Gyllenberg, Michelle Hubbert, Diane Leigh, Marla Reimer, Emily DeGroot, Paul Spring, Carly Takata, Bridget Rossman and Mary Ellen Huggins from NWESD #189.

Bridget Rossman
Director of
Curriculum & Instruction

OSPI Chris Reykdal, State Superintendent | *Every student ready for career, college, and life*

State Learning Standards & Testing

What are learning standards?

The Washington State K–12 Learning Standards define what all students should know and be able to do at each grade level.

Why do we need them?

Rigorous learning standards require students to think critically and creatively about content—rather than memorize it—so they are ready for careers, college, and life after high school.

Which content areas have learning standards?

Standards exist in 13 content areas including math, English language arts, science, educational technology, and world languages.

Why do we have state tests?

Measuring student progress on important skills and knowledge is key for families and teachers to know if students are on track to graduate with options, or if they might need extra help or advanced learning opportunities.

Testing data is also a tool for schools, districts, and the state to help educators improve instruction for all students. Statewide testing also helps ensure all public school students, no matter where they go to school, have access to a quality education.

Are state tests required?

State and federal laws require students to be tested in:

- **English language arts and math:** Grades 3 through 8 and high school (students take the Smarter Balanced assessments)
- **Science:** Grades 5, 8, and 11

To see which tests are required for high school graduation, please visit **www.WAtesting.com.**

TOP 5 FACTS about Washington's K-12 Learning Standards and Assessments

1 ***Real-world skills***

Washington's learning standards and assessments focus on real-world skills that students are learning and practicing in the classroom every day such as problem solving, critical thinking, and writing. On assessments, students show their work, write, and explain their answers as part of the assessment process, thus measuring skills and knowledge they will need to pursue the career path of their choice.

2 ***Closing gaps***

The assessments help identify achievement gaps and allow school districts and the state to direct resources where they are needed the most.

3 ***Testing is just one measure***

State testing is one of several indicators, in combination with report cards, teacher feedback, and classroom work used to create a complete picture of a student's progress in school.

4 ***The right stuff***

Washington's state learning standards and the aligned assessments are designed to prepare students for college, work, and life.

5 ***Accessible for all students***

The Smarter Balanced tests are designed to accommodate all students, including those with disabilities and English language learners.

LEARN MORE!

Learning Standards
bit.ly/StateStandards
or email **CoreStandards@k12.wa.us**

State Testing
www.WAtesting.com
or email **StateTesting@k12.wa.us**

Support Your Student
Great Schools:
bit.ly/2tRyZoO

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION • WWW.K12.WA.US

PUBLICATION NO. 17-0020

Safety

The District's focus on safety is an ongoing endeavor which includes attendance of safety seminars, meeting with local first responders, the work of the District's Safety Committee, and other activities.

The District has now added an all-inclusive & active drill to its safety management process.

The District has been planning an all-inclusive & active drill with the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management for quite some time and on Thursday, October 26, 2017, a drill entitled "Silver Bear" took place. Below is a brief summary of that activity.

Actions Taken

- 911 was called indicating that an extremely loud issue had occurred
- The Deming campus went into Shelter-in-Place and student accountability occurred at the JH/HS (was done within four minutes)
- The District initiated communication to the Elementary schools that Deming was going into Shelter-in-Place
- The District initiated its Reunification Team to proceed to the Reunification Site. (Reunification means getting students back to parents/guardians)
- The Transportation Team initiated preparation of the Bus Barn for the evacuation of the Deming Campus to the Bus Barn
- After some protocols were followed, the Deming Campus was evacuated via bus (in actuality, we evacuated a small group of students to the reunification location)
- A detailed reunification exercise took place where parents were a part of the process (needing to show photo ID, following direction of personnel at the site, etc.)
- The District worked with Emergency Management personnel on passing along relevant District information to them (e.g. – accounting for students, when the bus arrived at the Reunification site, etc.)
- The District managed communication between the Reunification Site and the District Administration/Office team documenting the event, walking through what next steps would need to be considered (such as: next day school plans, how would we handle elementary dismissal, etc. should the entire Deming Campus be evacuated)
- There were a wide variety of other activities that occurred during this incident. What we learned was that it is a team effort and that trust in eachother to do their part is essential.

What's Next

We (the players from within the District in this exercise) will be meeting on Wednesday, November 1, 2017, at the District Office at 3:00 p.m. to debrief and talk through what went well, what we'd change, etc. This will be incorporated into an updated plan on management of an emergency situation.

An Essential Reminder (Reunification)

Reunification (getting students back to parents/guardians) is a major factor that is considered should the District experience an emergency situation. If this were to occur, we would communicate with parents/guardians via an all-call, text communication, and via the website on the location where reunification would be occurring.

Ben Thomas
Director of Finance & Operations

Library Corner

"We have a good start to our library year. Already, we have had more students reading award books than in prior years, and student enthusiasm for library is very high."

Digital Research Orientations

We have had every high school history class in for an orientation on the digital research resources available to them not only at our school, but also through our partnership with the Whatcom County Library System. We have thousands of dollars of resources available to our students, and we are working to make sure students know what they are and how to use them. We will be reaching out to junior high and elementary students as well.

WCLS Account Numbers

This year marks a significant change for our partnership with the Whatcom County Library System. Because of our success, other districts have joined the program as well. **This means student account numbers have changed.** Instead of merely using their student number as their library card number, they must add mb (for Mount Baker) before their student number… i.e. mb80001.

Melissa Menti
District Librarian

Guest Author Event

Mount Baker Libraries will be welcoming a guest author, Kevin Emerson, of *Last Day on Mars*, will be speaking in the high school auditorium to 4th-8th grade students.

Tuesday February 13th at
10:00 a.m. for 4th-6th graders
12:00 p.m. for 7th & 8th graders

Teachers received a copy of Emerson's book to read aloud to their students. His book is a first in a series about a family who is transitioning from earth to a planet in a distant galaxy. It centers on the temporary colonization of Mars. As the title indicates, the action takes place on the last days before the evacuation of Mars as it is mysteriously destroyed. There are several unexpected twists, and friendship is an overriding theme.

Kevin is a very engaging and dynamic speaker who will describe his childhood and how he became an author. He will also explain how he wrote the book and the science behind it. As a former K-8 science teacher, he relates well to student audiences.

The sequel to this novel will be released the day he speaks at Mount Baker. For more information on Kevin Emerson and his books, visit his website: www.kevinemerson.net.

Mount Baker SCHOOL DISTRICT

Safety Drill Thank Yous

A Thank You to the Players (Students and their families)

Kelly, Zakary
Brown, Blaze
McDaniel, Jacob
VanderWeff, Tyler
Strandberg, Alexandria
O'Dell, Trey
Dawson, Duke
Henson, Joseph

A Thank You to the Players (Staff)

Tammy Baisden (Reunification Lead)
Bonnie Fedenuik (Reunification)
Jolene Baisden (Reunification)
Marilyn Schwartz (Reunification)
Karla Atwood (Reunification)
David Lewis (Teacher who went with the group of volunteer students)
Amber Abshire (Reunification)
Angie Bass (Reunification)
Katy Schmidt (Reunification)
Michelle Anderson (Reunification)
Justina Bass (Reunification)
Kelli Blockley (Reunification)
Dinah McAbee (Transportation Lead)
Kim Gates (Bus Driver & Reunification)
Keith Monteith (Student Safety)
Troy Wright (Students Safety & Administrator)
Matt Durand (Administrator)
Quinn Lesage (Administrator)
Mike Neuterman (District Office)
Pam Butenschoen (District Office)
Ken Root (District Office)
Gitana Jensen (District Office)
Bev Bergsma (District Office)
Susan Windnagel (Safety Committee)
Katie Chugg (District Office & Parent)
Holly Peterson (Transportation)
Kristi Baklund (Transportation)
Bridget Rossman (Administration)
Ian Linterman (Administration)
Charles Burleigh (Superintendent)
Ben Thomas (District Office, Incident Commander)

And others who may have jumped in to assist when their teammates left their normal assignment to help with the exercise

A Thank you to Outside Organizations

Fire District 1
Fire District 14
Fire District 16
Williams Pipeline
Nooksack Indian Tribe
Washington Schools Risk Management Pool
Whatcom County Division of Emergency Management

Special recognition needs to go to Tammy Baisden & Charlie Burleigh and the staff, students, and parents who were a part of the Reunification exercise which was an essential element of this exercise - it gave the District the opportunity to get the feel of moving students to an alternate location and contacting parents to go through a formal process to be reunified with their students.

Mount Baker SCHOOL DISTRICT

www.mtbaker.wednet.edu

Child Nutrition Services

Mount Baker Child Nutrition provides an essential piece to your child's education. We pride ourselves on fueling your child with Fit & Nutritious meals, for each age group which meet all current regulations.

Website:
www.mtbaker.wednet.edu/domain/61
"Child Nutrition"

FAQ Answers:

https://mymealtime.com

You can monitor your student's meal account for free.

You can set up your own alerts that meet your family's needs, and you can deposit too.

Free & Reduced

Free & Reduced applications can be filled out at any time (this is confidential).

Yes, new application's need to be done each year.

Applications can be found on our district website and at every school.

Applications not only help families to feed their students but it also helps our district with grant applications.

We serve about 1600 meals per day.

Breakfast Program
Elementary $1.75
Grades 7-12 . . . . . $1.75
Kendall Elementary . . . . $Free
District Wide Reduced . . $Free
Non-Students $2.00

Lunch Program
Elementary $2.95
Reduced K-3 . . . . . $Free
Reduced
Pre School & 4-12 . . . . $0.40
Grades 7-12 . . . . . $3.20
Non-Students $4.00
Extra Milk $0.50

Karla Atwood
Child Nutrition Director
(360) 383-2024
katwood@mtbaker.wednet.edu
Fax: 360.383.2057

CHILD NUTRITION DEPARTMENT GUIDELINES:

Payment Options, Charging, Account Balances & Notifications to Parent/Guardian

YOUR STUDENTS DEBIT ACCOUNT – PAYMENT OPTIONS AND MONITORING

In order to have your student's meal account in good standing you may provide payment the following ways:

Check or Cash: We accept personal checks or cash. However, we recommend using checks as this is a safer method of sending money to school with your child. We do not accept any foreign currency.

Make checks payable to "Mount Baker School District or MBSD." We can't accept checks written in gel pens or pencil. Elementary Only: If you send cash, please put it in a sealed baggie/envelope clearly labeled with student's first and last name and student ID#. The full amount will be deposited onto the student's account.

Direct Deposit Online:

The www.mymealtime.com system allows you to conveniently make an electronic deposit through an automated service. Deposits are updated every five minutes online. You will need to know your student's ID number (this # is assigned to each student) to set this up. The system requires seven digits, so please put a leading 0 (zero) in front of the six digit ID. There is no charge to view purchases, receive email notifications, or check balances. There is a small 4.9% transaction fee to make an online payment. All student balances follow your student into the next school year at any school within the district.

We encourage every household to sign up for Low Balance Parent Email Notifications: You may log on to your profile for free (www.mymealtime.com) at any time and review your student's account balances and/or purchases.

Setting up email notifications: When you are logged into MyMealtime, you can go to "My Profile" and set up a low balance email notification. For instance, if you wanted to know when the balance falls below $23.00, you can enter that dollar amount, and you will receive an email letting you know when the balance falls to that level. You can choose any dollar amount you wish.

Email and Phone call notifications: Mount Baker School District has a low-balance notification that is emailed to parents on Sunday and Wednesday. If you would like to receive this notification please send your email address or call your child's school office and ask to have it entered into your Skyward account.

DEBIT AND LOW BALANCES AND FAMILY ACCOUNTS

All grade levels: Meal accounts work like a debit account. Students who intend to buy food through the school meals program must pay in advance or pay as they go to purchase items. A $5.00 limit for full meals on each student will be allowed. No charges are allowed for any ala carte items including milk only.

Family Shared Accounts: Please contact us to set up a shared family account. This allows money to be transferred between family members (students and adults). 360-383-2024

Charging Exceptions:

- If our point of sale system is down, we allow ALL students to charge. There is no way of knowing a student's balance. The student will be served the meal and charged accordingly. We do not allow a la carte items to be charged at any time.

NOTIFICATIONS TO FAMILIES – LOW BALANCES

Low Balance: Households are notified of any low balances with an automated email or phone call. The email and phone call will state the student's name and low balance amount. We encourage every household to sign up for low balance email notificaitons at www.mymealtime.com. Mount Baker School District has a low balance notification that is e-mailed to parents on Sunday and Wednesday. If you would like receive this notification please send your email address to the school office or call the school office and ask to have it entered into your skyward account.

INFORMATION REGARDING FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS

If you think you might qualify under federal guidelines, please complete a current application. Applications are available at each school or you can access a copy online at our department website at www.mtbaker.wednet.edu "Child Nutrition" under departments. All information provided is kept confidential.

Eligible students may receive free or reduced-priced meals. Applications are accepted all year long. According to government guidelines our office has 10 working days to process an application once received by Child Nutrition.

Turning in an application does not automatically approve a child for free or reduced meals. A family will be notified of their status or they can call the Child Nutrition Office to check the status of their application. We do our best to approve them as soon as they are received. Until officially approved by the Child Nutrition Office the family is responsible for any student food purchases accrued.

To qualify for these programs a guardian must fill out an application every school year and submit it to the Child Nutrition Office. Eligible students are based on total household income levels, household members, and/or federal assistance program qualifications (i.e. TANF, FDPIR, and BASIC FOOD). Please note: If you have a child approved for free or reduced meals, any a la carte purchases (i.e. extra milk, bottled water or extra slice pizza) will need to be pre-paid for.

REQUESTING A REFUND

You may request a refund at any point during the school year. Contact the Child Nutrition Office at 360-383-2024. A check will be mailed to your current home 4-6 weeks after the request has been made.

REPAYING AN NSF CHECK (Non-Sufficient Funds)

We only accept cash or online deposit to repay any NSF check returned by the bank. Until it has been paid we can no longer accept checks from the household. A household is responsible for any fees charged by the bank for the NSF check.

Photo credit: Laura Fox

Early Learning

"Kaleidoscope© Play & Learn"

With a great mix of new and returning families at four sites, facilitators Kaye Marshall and Vesla Kazimer are helping families learn together with play-based activities. Children are busy practicing skills in 6 developmental areas: social emotional, physical, cognitive, language, literacy, and math. New friends having fun together creates a strong community and leads to school success. Please feel free to visit the group that works best for you.

Play & Learn groups are FREE, fun, weekly drop-in classes for children ages 0-5 and the parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers and sisters who care for them. The Kaleidoscope© program includes information for parents, playful learning for children, and support for all families.

Family Engagement, PreK through 6th Grade

New this year, families are invited to learn and share ideas about supporting your student at home, in school, and beyond. Classes are scheduled once a month, during the 3rd week of the month, at each elementary school, from 2:30–3:15 p.m.

2:30–3:15 p.m.
3rd week of each month

- **Mondays at Acme**
- **Wednesdays at Harmony**
- **Thursdays at Kendall**

Upcoming topics:

November –
How to Talk to Your Child's Teacher

Communication is key to success at school. Drop by to learn and share strategies that help students – everything from classroom expectations to WA state standards.

December –
Healthy Families

Winter can be tricky – it's important for children AND adults to manage stress and know when/how to ask for help.

January –
Guiding Behavior

Positive discipline and Dan Gartrell's "Five Life Skills": what they are; why they're important; how to teach them at home.

Kaye Marshall
Early Learning Specialist &
Parent Involvement Coordinator

New Website Launched Early Fall 2017

The new website meets these important goals:

1) Security!
Protecting the sensitive data of our students and staff is critical. An update to a modern SSL secured site was/is necessary.

2) Front-User Friendly
A site structure/theme where staff can easily add content allowing fresh relevant material to be available quickly.

3) End-User Friendly
Logical navigation, visual shortcuts, content highlights and a clean bright design provide a pleasant user experience.

4) Responsive
An optimal user experience across various device/platforms, particularly phones & tablets, increases accessibility.

Tips for Navigating Our New Website

Credit for the graphic above goes to Kristi Nason. Kristi's role on the website team was visual site design and general support.

Mount Baker SCHOOL DISTRICT

Play and Learn Schedule:

All classes are 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Mondays–Acme Elementary
Tuesdays – Glenhaven Clubhouse
Wednesdays–Harmony Elementary
Thursdays–Kendall Elementary

Please check in with secretaries when entering district buildings.

New Play and Learn Group at EWRRC

Join our new group at the EWRRC, Monday afternoons, 1:00-2:30 p.m., in the Head Start classroom. FREE to all families with children, birth-age 5. Playgroup facilitator is Vesla Kazimer, who is currently leading our group in Glenhaven. First class November 6. Many thanks to Head Start for sharing the wonderful space!

For more information, please contact facilitator Kaye Marshall at 383-2012 or kmarshall@mtbaker.wednet.edu. She will be happy to answer any questions and pre-register you and your child(ren).

The website has been, and continues to be, a team project, but we extend a very big thank you to Katie Chugg for her leadership, clarity of purpose, problem-solving skills, determination and hours of hard work!

MBSD Communications & Public Relations Team

Charles Burleigh, Superintendent
Bridget Rossman, Curriculum Director
Pam Butenschoen, HR Coordinator and Assistant to the Superintendent
Katie Chugg, Web Master & Editor
Kristi Nason, Print & Graphic Design

The MBSD newsletter is published periodically by the Mount Baker School District as a communications link between the district and the community. Its intent and purpose is to provide the board and district staff a venue to inform community members about programs, goals and activities of public education in our district. Please direct questions or comments to the Communications Team through the District Office: **pbutenschoen@mtbaker.wednet.edu**

The Mount Baker School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, age, Vietnam-era Veteran's status, or disabled Veteran status or the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability or the use of training dog guides or service animals by a disabled person in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Charles Burleigh
MBSD Superintendent:
PO Box 95, Deming, WA 98244
(360) 383-2000

SCHOOL BOARD GOOD OF THE ORDERS

Email your news items for the Good of the Order:
pbutenschoen@mtbaker.wednet.edu

September 14, 2017

Substance Prevention Coalition Grant

The Mount Baker School service area has been awarded the Community Prevention & Wellness Initiative (CPWI) grant that was submitted in July 2017.

This grant provides up to a full-time Community Coalition Coordinator who will convene community members and resources in order to build connections and collaboration to heighten wellness. The coalition will choose both evidence-based and community-specific prevention strategies to lower use and increase healthy opportunities for kids. Additionally, a full-time Prevention-Intervention Specialist will be hired to serve students on the Junior High and/or High School Campus in Mount Baker Schools. These individuals will work together to connect with neighborhoods, families and teens in our community.

This grant is provided by the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Department of Behavioral Health and Recovery.

A special "Thank You" to Joe Fuller from the Whatcom County Health Department!

2017 NWW Fair MB FFA Results

Grand Champion Landscape Design

Twelve students earned $11,250.00 on their swine and sheep projects that went through the market sale.

Brandi Chambers:

- Grand Champion overall Horse Fitting and Showing,
- Senior Grand Champion Fitting and Showing
- Round Robin Contestant

Grand Champion Overall Purebred Gilt - Brooke Harkness

Reserve Champion Crossbred Gilt - Chelsea Zender

Market Swine Class Champions - Hayden Linderman, Josie Gilmore, Bailey Harkness, Kylee Kelley, DJ Camacho, Josie Gilmore

Reserve Champions - Luke Steeves, Emily Treadaway, Jr. Camacho

Swine Fitting and Showing:

Chase Barter - Senior Swine Fitting and Showing Champion

Kylee Kelley - Novice Swine Fitting and Showing Champion

Class callbacks - Jr. Camacho, Chase Barter, Hayden Linderman, Luke Steeves, Emily Treadaway, DJ Camacho, Brooke Harkness, Kylee Kelley.

Dairy:

Jr. Champion Brown Swiss - Abby Yost

Sr. Champion Brown Swiss - McKenzie Yost

Reserve Champion Jr. Fitting and Showing - Abby Yost

Jr. Champion Brown Swiss - Abby Yost

Sr. Champion Brown Swiss and Grand Champion Brown Swiss - McKenzie Yost

September 28, 2017

MBHS Mountaineer Band

The Mountaineer Band represented in Leavenworth on Saturday, September 23, 2017. They earned a first-place trophy for Class 2A bands in the Autumn Leaf Festival Parade. There were at least 20 bands of various sizes there. The students also were classy in the way they went about their business. Very proud of these students.

Photo credit: Doug Sutton

October 26, 2017

Harmony Playground

Harmony Elementary was lucky enough to receive a much needed upgrade to its playground this year. The new play equipment was purchased with funds generously donated by the Harmony PTO, and were raised through their annual PTO student jog-a-thon. Getting it installed was a slow process, and even ran into the third week of the school year. As we waited for completion, with much of our playground roped off with construction tape we were concerned about how recess would function. The students were certainly excited, but their patience and understanding was truly impressive as they watched the installation process for several weeks and were unable to play on any of the equipment.

A special thanks needs to be given to the Harmony PTO for helping to make this happen for our students. The students of course should be recognized as well for their enthusiastic participation in the jog-a-thon fundraiser. Also thank you to our grounds and maintenance crews, and all the volunteers who helped on various stages of the installation process.

Acme Reading Night

Acme had our annual Reading Night event. This year, we had a camping theme developed by Elizabeth Arstol, our SLP. We had roughly 90 people attend the hot dog cookout event complete with smores (no fire needed) and all types of fun reading games. Acme staff come together to play games and help build family support around literacy.

Attendance *Continued from front page*

Carly Takata
Principal
Acme Elementary

To provide a building-level example of some of the attendance work going on in the district, Principal Carly Takata at Acme Elementary offers the following:

Acme has had a two year focus on improving attendance for all students. In order to achieve this, we have many rewards offered to students and classrooms who meet the 95% expected attendance percentage on a weekly, monthly and yearly basis. Each week, classrooms with an overall attendance percentage of 95% or higher earn a classroom reward. Students also earn entrance into the monthly "AttenDANCE" in the gym. Along with the interventions, Acme has set a school-wide goal in the area of attendance allowing us to focus on lowering the number of students who are chronically absent.

Acme staff is working with families to build awareness on the importance of attendance. When students fall below the 95% attendance, staff reaches out to families to discuss barriers or reiterate the importance of attending school each day. During the year, teachers send home a letter with a colored indicator of their child's attendance. This can begin conversations with families of students who are having an adverse impact on learning due to a high number of absences.

Kaye Marshall is providing family education around attendance awareness at the "School Success for Families" offered at each elementary school.

Mount Baker Junior High Assemblies

7th Grade Leadership Anti-bullying Assembly

PRIDE award recipients for Performance through Preparation