PECATONICA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 321
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Friday, August 18, 2023

Dear Students, Family and Community Members,

Wow, this is the last weekend of the summer break and we are excited to welcome our Kindergarten through 12th grade students back on Monday, August 21st.Reminder that we do have an early dismissal on Monday, August 21st with the Elementary dismissing at 1:35 and the Middle School and High School at 1:45. PreSchoolers will be starting back on Wednesday, August 23rd!! It is amazing how fast the time flies over the summer.

Our staff returned back to school full-time yesterday and today and have been very busy preparing for opening day and an awesome year. The Elementary and Middle School had an excellent turnout at the Meet the Teacher night last night.

District Renewing E-Learning Plan

The district will be renewing its E-Learning Plan as the original plan was good for three years. The E-Learning Plan allows the district to have students attend school “remotely” in the event we have to utilize our emergency days and not have to make them up at the end of the year. The district has the legally required five emergency days built into the school calendar and can be used in times such as inclement weather, a major issue with a school building that would not be safe for students to attend, or for any other emergency reason that threatens safety. The district did not make any changes to its original plan. I have provided a link below for you to view the plan if you would like.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gbju4k1ixi6YlkIBzSTEjUobMcPGkdn7/view?usp=drive_link

Public Service Announcements:

School Speed Zones: I want to remind everyone to adhere to the posted speed limit signs around the schools and specifically the 15 mph on the road between the elementary and middle school.

Crosswalks: This year the district will not have a crossing guard at the corner of 6th and Main. We are asking the handful of students that crossed at 6th and Main to cross at 7th and Main where we will have a crossing guard. The district will have crossing guards at 6th and Division, 6th and Reed, 7th and Reed, 7th and Main, 10th and Main. There will not be a crossing guard at 12th and Main in front of the high school.

Parent Drop Off at Elementary: Reminder that the parent drop off zone at the elementary school is on 6th which is the north side of the elementary school. Students are NOT to be dropped off on 7th Street. We want to keep this road and intersection clear so that our buses can drop off at the elementary school and proceed to the middle school without unnecessary congestion. This will help promote more consistent traffic patterns for everyone to follow.

School Bus Stop Arm: Reminder it is against the law to pass a school bus that has its Red Stop Arm out. This is out when the bus is picking up/dropping off students. We design our routes to have right side of the road drop offs for safety reasons but a vehicle is still not allowed to pass with the red stop arm out.

Cell Phones in School Zones: Reminder that being on your cell phone while transporting in school zones is also illegal. Please try to avoid being distracted and maintain your focus on the environment around you. Everyone's safety depends on it!!

the playground but the problem is the vehicles that are left in the way while this happens. PLEASE, stop dropping students off on Seventh Street and use the designated drop off areas on Sixth Street. This will greatly reduce the log jam of vehicles for our buses to maneuver while restoring a more consistent traffic pattern for everyone to follow.

As Superintendent, I want to make sure all of our students and families remain safe. When people decide on their own to create their own routines it creates a higher likelihood for unpredictable things to happen. Adhering to posted speed limits and maintaining consistent traffic patterns helps reduce the unpredictable.

Chain of Communication

I want to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the expected chain of communication between families and school. The district encourages families to first contact the classroom teacher to discuss any classroom concerns. If during this process we don't get a resolution please contact the building principal. If the concern is still not resolved please feel free to contact me the District Superintendent. The vast majority of the time the concerns are resolved more effectively and efficiently when following this chain.

Summer Work: I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our summer workers for all their hard work. They all really busted their tails and we got way more done than we anticipated. I can't wait for the students, our families, and community members to see all their hard work when you visit the schools.

Middle School Gym Floor Redone: This past summer we hired a company to come and sand away who knows how many years worth of wax on the middle school gym floor and took it back to bare wood. We put the same logo that we put on the high school floor last summer with a similar color scheme. It really turned out great!!

Again, we are so excited to welcome back our students for what will be an awesome year. I hope everyone has a great last weekend of summer break. Take care all!

Yours in Education,

Carl B. Carlson
Superintendent