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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2026

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New South Baker Intermediate School Principal

Krystal Irby will transition from her role as the Assistant Principal of South Baker Intermediate School (SBI) for 4th through 6th graders in Baker School District to the Principal of SBI for the coming school year. Buell Gonzales, Jr., who has been the Principal of SBI for the past three years, is moving to the role of Superintendent/High School Principal of Prairie City School District.

Ms. Irby grew up in Baker County and is a proud graduate of Baker High School. She earned her bachelor's degree in Secondary Education Science Broadfield from Montana State University and spent ten years teaching middle and high school science in Title I schools in Albuquerque, New Mexico. During her time in the classroom, she earned a master's degree in Science Teaching from New Mexico Tech and achieved National Board Certification.

After returning to Baker County, Ms. Irby earned her administrative license from Portland State University and served as a Professional Learning Specialist with WestEd, supporting educators and school systems in improving instructional practices and student outcomes.

For the past three years, Ms. Irby has served as Assistant Principal at South Baker Intermediate School, where she has helped lead school improvement efforts focused on student achievement, staff development, and positive school culture. She has also overseen two successful community partnership programs, Ski for the Health of It and Golf for the Health of It, which have expanded opportunities for students beyond the classroom.

As Principal of South Baker Intermediate School, Ms. Irby is committed to ensuring every student experiences high levels of learning, engagement, and belonging. She believes strong relationships, effective instruction, and collaborative partnerships between school and families create the foundation for student success.

"It has been a privilege to serve South Baker students, staff, and families over the past three years," said Ms. Irby. "I am honored to continue serving this community as Principal. South Baker has an exceptional team of educators who are deeply committed to students. I look forward to building on the strong foundation already in place as we continue our work to ensure every student is engaged, challenged, and supported to reach their full potential."

"Ms. Irby is an outstanding leader who goes above and beyond in service to others," says Superintendent Casey Hallgarth. "We are so fortunate to have her on our leadership team. I look forward to seeing the growth at South Baker Intermediate School this next year and beyond under her guidance."



Krystal Irby

About the Baker School District

Nationally recognized Baker School District 5J (BSD) is a major employer in Baker City, OR, serving approximately 1,500 students locally with an additional 5,000 online students across the state of Oregon. Through enterprising, collaborative endeavors, BSD is creating an innovative educational foundation for future Oregonians. BSD believes strong school collaboration with local partners enables us to create vibrant communities that support lifelong learners.