

Dear Bomber Families,

I hope this letter finds you enjoying the final days of summer. As we gear up for another exciting school year, I want to offer a warm and enthusiastic "Welcome Back!" to all of our returning families, and a heartfelt welcome to those who are new to our school community. We are thrilled to begin another year of learning, growth, and connection together.

**Staffing Updates:** We are pleased to welcome two new teachers to our team! Alina Laslo will be joining us as our new 4th Grade Teacher, and Megan Thompson will be leading our Preschool classroom. We are excited for the knowledge and enthusiasm they will bring to our school family.

**Academic Focus:** We are excited to continue building on our success with Amplify CKLA and ELA, our English Language Arts curriculum now in its second year. Amplify strengthens reading by combining phonics, vocabulary, comprehension, and background knowledge in science and social studies. Students are not just learning to read, they are reading to learn.

You might notice your child sharing stories, interesting facts, or new vocabulary they have picked up from their lessons. Asking open-ended questions like, "What was something fun or interesting you learned today?" or "Can you tell me about a story or fact that caught your attention?" can be a wonderful way to connect and support their learning.

This year, we are also placing a renewed emphasis on math. We will again be using our Big Ideas Math curriculum. Big Ideas supports a strong foundation in mathematical thinking by balancing procedural skills with real-world problem-solving and conceptual understanding. It encourages students to think critically, explain their reasoning, and make connections across math topics.

We are already seeing great strides in both reading and math, and we look forward to continuing this growth throughout the year.

**Attendance Matters:** Strong attendance is one of the most powerful predictors of academic success. When students attend school consistently, they are more likely to stay on track academically, build positive relationships, and feel connected to their school community. We ask for your partnership in helping your child build strong attendance habits from day one.

**Phones & Focus:** We continue to encourage students who have phones to leave them at home this year. Research shows that phones can significantly impact attention, learning, and mental health. As Jonathan Haidt writes in *The Anxious Generation*, "The

phone-based childhood... is making young people more anxious, more fragile, and less equipped to navigate the challenges of growing up.”

If a student must bring a phone on a rare occasion, it needs to remain in their backpack throughout the school day to minimize distractions. If you ever need to reach your child during the school day, please call the office, we are always here to help.

**Supporting Student Well-Being:** We are proud of the caring support system we have in place for our students. Our school counselor, Ms. Kait, does incredible work helping students navigate challenges and build emotional resilience. In addition, we continue to partner with Classroom Clinic and School based therapist Bree to provide access to in-school and virtual mental health resources.

If you believe your child could benefit from social-emotional support; whether through check-ins, counseling, or therapy services, please reach out to Ms. Kait, Nurse Kim, your child's teacher or myself. We're here to ensure every student feels safe, supported, and ready to learn.

**Health Office Update:** Our nurse's office has moved across the hall to a larger, more accessible space, which makes it easier for Nurse Kim to assist students and help respond to phone calls quickly. We're excited about this improvement and the extra comfort it brings to our students.

**District Office Update:** Our district office has moved to the office space Nurse Kim previously used.

**School Safety:** Keeping students safe is always our top priority. Last spring, we made several important safety upgrades, including:

- Keyless entry access
- New security cameras
- Door alarms on all exterior entries

These improvements help ensure that our building is secure throughout the school day. We are also thrilled to welcome back Officer Dierks as our School Resource Officer (SRO) this year. Officer Dierks plays a key role in fostering a safe, respectful school climate and building strong relationships with students.

**Important Dates:** Please mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

- Unpack Your Backpack: Wednesday 8-20, 5:30 - 6:30 pm
- First Day of School (K-6): Monday 8-25 Dismissal @ 12:00
- Flag Raising Ceremony: Monday 8 -25, 8:30 am
- No School Monday 9-1 Labor Day

- First Day of Preschool: Tuesday 9-2
- Picture Day: October 13
- Picture Retake Day: November 19

**Bell Schedule:**

- Breakfast Available: 7:30 am
- AM recess: 7:40
- First Bell: 7:55
- Dismissal: 3:05 M, T, Th, F & 1:00 W

**Bus routes:** Information will be sent soon to all families of bus riders.

**Enrollment Reminder:** If you know a family with school-aged children who aren't yet enrolled, please encourage them to join our Bomber family! We would love to welcome them and are happy to answer any questions, simply have them give us a call or stop by the office.

We are so excited to begin a new year of learning with your child. If you ever have questions, concerns, or ideas to share, please don't hesitate to contact me. Communication between school and home is essential, and we truly value your partnership.

Wishing you and your family a joyful and successful start to the school year!



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