



**SCHOOL STARTS AT 8:20
STUDENTS SHOULD BE DROPPED OFF NO
LATER THAN 8:15 TO BE IN CLASS ON TIME.**

Principal's Corner

With summer nearing its conclusion, we are excited to begin a new school year. Each year brings a sense of excitement and anticipations—and possibly a little anxiety—for all of us—students, staff and parents. The new year always brings new opportunities to get to know our students and begin our goal of helping them understand their potential.

This past spring, the Sacajawea staff created a new vision statement. The statement is intended to define what we value as well as what we strive to achieve:

At Sacajawea, we are a compassionate community that honors grit and celebrates growth in order to face the future with a level head and a critical eye.

We know that learning is more than just the curriculum, the standards, and the lessons. It involves a foundation based on each student as an individual, a recognition of that student's strengths and challenges, and a dedication to look at learning as more than just what happens in our four walls and during the school year.

We look forward to partnering with you—who knows your kids better than you!—throughout the coming year.

≈Gordon Grissom≈

Schedule Pick-Up Day--Tuesday, August 25 @ SMS Gymnasium

Please plan to join us with your student at the following times to pick up schedules, locker numbers, agendas, Health Enhancement clothing, and information on athletics, PAC and other school items. 6th Grade: 8:00-10:00 8th Grade: 9:30-11:30 7th Grade: 12:00-2:00. Thanks to all of you who have already completed emergency contact information on-line. The portal is currently not accessible, but computers will be available in the gym on the 25th. Families should still complete the All-in-One permission form on-line: [All-in-One Permission Form](#). **7th Graders must have updated immunization records prior to receiving schedules.** Thriving 6th Graders, a workshop for all new middle school families, will also occur on Tuesday between 10:00-12:00 in the SMS Cafeteria. Very helpful information on providing supports in middle school will be presented by Ashley Mares-Jones, the SMS Parent Liaison. **Meet and Greet--Thursday, August 27 from 3:00-4:00** Students are invited to bring school supplies to their lockers and walk through their schedules at this time.

PAC News

Sacajawea's Parent Advisory Council (PAC) was created to bring parents, guardians, SMS staff, and community members together to enrich our students' middle school education. We work with the school to support and encourage parent/guardian involvement, which creates more success for our students.

Fall Fundraising Campaigns

You can make a difference in your child's school: Fall is here, and with it comes our annual fundraising effort. This is the only time PAC will be asking you for money. Our efforts here will determine how many teacher and school projects PAC can support this year and next.

Two Main Goals:

Our annual **Contribution Drive** supports projects and ideas teachers would like to add to their curriculum: field trips, science equipment, special speakers, scholarships, art supplies, the science fair and much more. Last year we gave \$19,000 directly to teachers and the school – all to enhance the experience of our students. This year we hope to raise \$20,000. **Our Cornerstone Campaign** brings technology into the school. Technology has become a crucial part of both the classroom and the larger society, and we want our children ahead of the curve. Last year your support allowed us to purchase three carts and 90 Chrome Books. That gives the school one cart of thirty Chrome Books for each grade level and they are constantly in use. This year teachers have requested sets of Chrome Books for the classroom. We hope to make a big impact and raise \$20,000 toward this goal. That is a total of \$40,000 for both campaigns. Your participation is crucial: We can hit our targets if every family contributes \$45 per student toward the Contribution Drive and \$40 per student toward the Cornerstone Campaign. Last year, the average donation was \$150. But any amount helps and is welcome. Our goal is 100 percent participation, at any level. Contributions are tax-deductible and matching corporate donations gladly accepted. Every dollar raised goes to the school. Look for more information in the PAC packet that will be sent home with your child later in September. You can donate to either campaign online: <http://squareup.com/market/sacajawea-middle-school-parent-advisory-council> Questions? Call Tami Knappenberger (307-214-8336) or Lori Faure (579-1499), fundraising co-chairs. Thank you for your help enhancing the classroom experience at SMS.

More Information

Look for an information packet coming home with your student in the weeks ahead. It will include a fundraising letter that we ask all families return, regardless of donation. We're looking for 100

percent participation; the grade with the most envelopes turned in gets a voucher good for Popcorn Friday. We give a \$1 snack bar voucher to every student in the first class to turn in all envelopes. We have a lot of fun volunteer opportunities throughout the year. The donation form has an area to complete if you're interested. Or email Julianne Williams at volunteers4sms@gmail.com

Student Directory

Look for information the first few weeks of school about purchasing ads in Sacajawea's student directory.

Calling all volunteers!

A BIG THANKS to all who worked to make Schedule Pick-Up Day a success! It will be fun to see new (and returning) SMS families!

We need volunteers to fill several slots. A key position is the Snack Bar Volunteer Coordinator. PAC Officers for 2015-16

Co-Presidents: Becky Ellig k12m09@msn.com

Kristin Lauman kvlauman@gmail.com

Vice President: Open - we could use your help!

Treasurer: Gary Hellenga

gary.hellenga@gmail.com

Secretary: Tami Knappenberger

tkknappenberger@yahoo.com

Volunteer coordinator: Julianne Williams

volunteers4sms@gmail.com

Join us!

Our first PAC meeting of the year is Monday, Sept. 21. It's a great way for parents to be involved and tuned in to what's happening at SMS. Involved parents create successful students!

Upcoming events

Contribution Drive and Cornerstone Campaign:

Now through Oct. 10

Parent Back to School Night: Sept. 17

PAC meeting: Sept. 21

School pictures: Sept. 23

SMS PAC is on Facebook! Friend us at "Sacajawea Pac Bozeman Montana"

Active After School Club

Active After School Club is a highly motivational program filled with fun activities, engaging exercises and games, positive encouragement, and goal setting led by certified fitness trainers. Mentors will also be provided to participants for one-on-one attention; helping students gain confidence and strength to achieve healthy personal goals. Our team of dedicated lifestyle coaches will be with you every step of the way to provide support and information to guide you and your family to a healthier lifestyle.

Ages: 6th-8th grade

Dates: September 22nd- December 10th (12-week session) Tuesday and Thursdays Time: 3:30-5:30pm Location: Sacajawea Middle School- Cafeteria Cost: \$65 Registration

Deadline: September 18th, 2015

*Daily nutritious snack provided

Scholarships are available through YMCA.

New Staff

- Cale VanVelkinburg – Vice Principal
- Misty Stringham – Head Custodian
- Katie Duncan – Strategies/Literacy Workshop
- Alex Eby – Returning to SMS after a year Sabbatical
- Austin Sprenger – Band Teacher

Parent Night—September 17

Plan to join us on the evening of September 17 for Parent Night. As teams, core teachers will share their content standards, means of communication, expectations, and ways to support your kids. Elective teachers will also be available to discuss their classes. More information will be forthcoming, but plan to join us on the evening of September 17.

Summer 2016 Europe Trip

Still Interested? Contact your World Language teacher. Don't wait! Time and space are running out.

Dates To Remember

August	25	Schedule Pick-Up – 8:00-10:00-6 th ; 9:30-11:00-8 th ; 12:00-2:00-7 th Thriving Middle School 6 th Graders 10:00-12:00 Cafeteria
	26-27	Peer Mediation Training at SMS Cafeteria
	26-28	PIR Days
	31	First Day of School
September	7	Labor Day Holiday – No School K-12
	17	Parent Night 6:00-9:00 pm
	21	PAC Meeting 12:00-1:00 pm
	23	School Photos
	28	PIR Day – No School K-12
October	9	Trimester Mid-Term
	19	PAC Meeting 12:00 – 1:00 pm
	15-16	District Flexible PIR Days No School K-12
November	2	SMS 8 th Grade B/C/O, SMS Gym 7:30 pm
	3	SMS 7 th Grade
	11	Veterans Day Assembly, SMS Gym 8:30-9:30 am
	16	PAC Meeting 12:00-1:00 pm
	24	End of First Trimester
	25-27	Thanksgiving Holiday
	30	PIR Day, No School K-12

