

The background is a light blue color with a repeating pattern of various school-related icons such as a pencil, a ruler, a clock, a bell, a pencil sharpener, a star, a book, a globe, a compass, a pair of scissors, and an apple. In the center, there is a white graphic of a spiral-bound notebook with a grid pattern. The text is written on this notebook graphic.

*Shadow Butte
Elementary*

School Board Update
by Jodie Farnsworth

Launching 2024

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



1. Student Achievement and Progress

- **Academic Performance:** Last year's data on student performance was reviewed at an elementary professional development which has helped to chart the course for our teachers and their goals for student achievement.
- **Interventions and Supports:** We have historically lower overall achievement in standardized testing at SBE. We recognize that we have some gaps to fill. As such, I have shifted our schedule around to allow for more staff to be available during our small group intervention time, or what we call WIN, "What I Need" time. We will also be reaching out to our community for additional volunteer opportunities to help support our students and their learning.
- **Student Success Stories:** During our data review we are noticing positive growth trends in groups of students that have been with our school district for a significant amount of their schooling. In contrast, data suggests that students that have not been with our district for as long show less growth and achievement.

2. Curriculum and Instruction

- **Curriculum Updates:** This school year, we will be integrating IXL more extensively into our curriculum. IXL Learning provides online skill development, instructional resources for teachers, comprehensive assessment options, and personalized insights to guide our students' learning journeys.
- **Professional Development:** Our staff will participate in professional learning with regards to the implementation of IXL in their classrooms on August 14th. I envision this program to be an interactive learning experience that can help give students lessons at their level during our WIN time when they are not seated with their teacher(s) and involved to a small group.
- **Innovative Practices:** Several of our teachers have piloted the use of IXL in their classrooms this last school year and have provided positive feedback. We recognize that online programs can enhance student learning, but through COVID it was reinforced that there is no replacement for face to face time with their teacher.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT CONT.



3. Transition to 4 Day Week Prep

- **New Staff Orientation:** Our new teachers, as well as a few second year teachers, took part in a wonderful workshop led by our instructional coaches and Isa De Armas. They covered a lot of “need to know” and best practices topics while also getting a chance to connect with each other.
- **Certified Teaching Staff:** This year, our certified staff received two bonus planning days before the start of school. On August 8th and 9th, we took advantage of this time to review ELA and Math data and prepare for the upcoming school year. These days were filled with productive conversations and thoughtful planning, setting a strong foundation for the year ahead.
- **Looking Ahead:** In the week leading up to the start of the school year, we have several activities planned for our staff. One key activity is a deep dive into the Danielson Framework for Effective Teaching, focusing on our end-of-year evaluation rubrics. Using the Danielson Framework, we will collaboratively develop our school’s “Must Haves” for effective teaching and learning. For a general overview of our week, please see the following [Welcome Back Letter](#).

4. New Staff

- **From Last Year to Now:** We have had the honor of retaining most of our teaching staff and have been able to add a couple of key positions this year.
- **New Staff:** Nurse- Mandy Chambers, Head Secretary- Dawn Costella, Music- Shandra DeWitt, 2nd- Heather Medley (shifted to 2nd from 4th), 3rd- Amy Kunka, 4th- Angela Allington, Head Custodian- Josh Garcia, Community School Coordinator- Abby Buck (new position)
- **SpEd Changes:** We restructured our Special Education department and added a teacher, Sondra Koontz, to our team. Heather Kluesner will be the paraprofessional working with her. They were both previously working together at Butte View.