



Wyoming Primary Schools

Elm • Hilltop • Vermont

September 6, 2024

Dear Wyoming Families,

We are now three weeks into the school year, and it has been wonderful to see our students settling into their routines and engaging with their learning. As we move through the first trimester, I wanted to provide you with an update on our benchmark assessments.

Our students in grades 1-4 have been completing the **NWEA MAP (Measures of Academic Progress)** assessments for both **reading and math**. Students in grades K-2 and 3 and 4 who need additional diagnostic information have been taking the **Acadience** assessments in **reading and math**. These assessments help us understand your child's current academic strengths and areas for growth, enabling us to create an instructional plan tailored to their needs. We will continue to monitor your child's progress throughout the school year by administering the assessments again in the winter and spring benchmark periods.

The results of these benchmark assessments will be included with your child's first-trimester report card, which will be sent home in Thursday Folders on October 24th. While the data from these assessments is valuable, it is just one of the many factors we consider in planning instruction. Our teachers also use classroom performance, ongoing assessments, and observations to ensure your child is supported and appropriately challenged throughout the year.

We look forward to continuing our partnership to ensure your child has a successful school year!

Have a great weekend!

Gina Kirchner

Principal, Wyoming Primary Schools

Patriot's Day

On Wednesday, September 11th, Wyoming Primary Schools will observe Patriot's Day first thing in the morning. Our Patriot's Day celebration will take place at 8:35 a.m. at the flagpole in front of each Primary School. At this ceremony, our fourth-grade students will raise the flag, and our students will sing a few patriotic songs. Parents and community members are welcome to attend and sing along! Everyone is encouraged to wear red, white, and blue on September 11th.

Arrival procedures will remain the same on September 11th. The students will go into the buildings to drop off their things as usual, and teachers will bring the students outside to the flag pole after the 8:35 bell rings.

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

At Wyoming Primary Schools, we are committed to creating a positive and supportive environment where all students can thrive. To achieve this, we utilize Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) in our K-4 setting. PBIS is a proactive approach that focuses on teaching and reinforcing expected behaviors, helping students develop the social and emotional skills necessary for success both in school and beyond.

One key part of our PBIS program is Cowboy Cash. Students earn Cowboy Cash when they demonstrate behaviors that align with our school-wide expectations. This not only motivates them to make positive choices but also provides an opportunity to celebrate their efforts. Students can then use their Cowboy Cash to shop at the Cowboy Cash Cart, where they can "purchase" prizes and experiences that they are excited about.

This system not only reinforces good behavior but also connects to real-world learning. Students learn valuable skills like saving, decision-making, and delayed gratification as they decide how to spend or save their Cowboy Cash. These experiences help build responsibility and financial literacy in a way that's fun and engaging for them.

We believe PBIS and Cowboy Cash foster a positive school culture where students feel recognized for their contributions and are motivated to continue making good choices. Thank you for your continued support in helping our students grow both academically and socially!

Counselor Corner

During the first weeks of Cowboy Counselor Time we will be discussing Kelso's Choices with every class. This conflict management program teaches students how to solve "SMALL problems" on their own. "SMALL problems" are problems that are not dangerous, harmful, or scary. However, "SMALL problems" can cause uncomfortable feelings, such as annoyance or embarrassment. "BIG problems" are situations that are dangerous or scary and can result in someone being hurt or something being broken or damaged. "BIG problems" always need to be, immediately, reported to a trusted adult. Kelso has nine choices to solve "SMALL problems": (1) Go to another game, (2) Talk it out, (3) Share and take turns, (4) Ignore it, (5) Walk away, (6) Tell them to stop, (7) Apologize, (8) Make a deal, and (9) Wait and cool off. When a "SMALL problem" occurs, children are encouraged to try two of Kelso's Choices first, and if the problem is still not resolved, then they should ask an adult to help solve the problem.

Picture Retake Day

Picture retake day is scheduled for **Thursday, September 26th**. This is different from the date on the printed Wyoming calendar. If your child needs to have their picture retaken or was absent

on picture day, they will be able to do so on September 26th. Our first round of pictures taken on August 22nd should be here any day. Keep an eye out for them in backpacks!

Play Dates & Dismissal

As the new school year begins, we are excited to see the new friendships blossoming among our students. These new connections often come with play dates, and we love seeing our students socializing outside of school.

However, due to logistical constraints, we cannot accommodate playdates during dismissal. For safety and organization, students must follow their regular dismissal procedures and will be dismissed to their primary contact. Playdate arrangements should be made independently by parents and occur after school hours.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in helping us maintain a safe and orderly dismissal process.

Harvest Fest

We are so excited for Harvest Fest 2024! WPS hosts this fun event each year to raise money for our sister school in Sierra Leone. Through this event, our students learn many valuable lessons about nutrition, growing food, and helping others.

- You can RSVP to attend Harvest Fest to enjoy a delicious meal served by our fourth graders: [Harvest Fest 2024 RSVP Form](#). The last day to RSVP is September 11th.

We hope to see you there! Thank you for your support!

Upcoming Dates

- **Patriot's Day** - Wednesday, September 11th at 8:35 a.m. at the flag pole - parents are welcome to attend
- **Literacy and Math Information Night** - Parents Only - Thursday, September 12, 2024 - 6:30 p.m. at Hilltop School
- **Harvest Fest** - Saturday, September 14th - Wyoming High School - 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Please use this link to RSVP by September 11th: [Harvest Fest 2024 RSVP Form](#)
- **Picture Retake Day at WPS** - Thursday, September 26th (Please note that this is different from the printed calendar!)

News from Around Wyoming

[Click here for more Events and Information from around WCS & the community](#), including:

- Finance Friday
- WPS Harvest Fest on September 14
- Upcoming Events
- WyoShop Spirit Store open 3-6 p.m. Thursdays in September
- JWC Mum Sale

Photos from the Week!

Click [HERE](#) to view some fun photos of this week at WPS!