

CUSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT #15
AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER
www.custerschools.org

NOTES FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Looking forward to another great school year! I was very impressed with our student growth last year both in academics as well as in character development. We are excited about the further growth that will occur this year.

Meet the teacher is an important event that we would love to see you all at on 8/19.

While we do have a few new teachers this year, this is not just about meeting the teachers; it is a chance to touch base with staff in a way that creates a more positive start to the year. It is also a community time. We will be serving dinner in the cafeteria again this year.

Student attendance at school is very important to us. Absenteeism is down significantly in the past few years, which has led to a jump in academic achievement. Please contact the office and make arrangements with the teachers if your child is going to miss school. We are working hard to provide a great learning experience for our students and open up as many future possibilities as we can. If you have thoughts or concerns about your child's education, please contact me with those concerns. Thank you in advance for your continued support of our school, it has meant a lot to us over the past years!

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

The 2025-2026 school year will begin Wednesday, August 20 from 8:00 am until 3:40 pm for grades K-12. A general assembly will be held in the gym at 8:00 am for junior high and high school students to go over our school's rules and regulations. Hot lunch will be served and our buses will return our rural students home at the end of the school day.



KINDERGARTEN

Our Kindergarten will be attending school on Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday of this coming school year for the first semester from 8:00 to 3:40. After our first semester all kindergarten will attend the four days.

REGISTRATION FOR GRADES 7-12

Pre-registration for all students in grades 7-12 will be August 13th and August 14th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Come up to the counseling office on the third floor to sign up for classes and get locker assignments.

NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION

All new students are encouraged to register as soon as possible prior to the start of school on Wednesday, August 20. The office will be open during the summer, Monday through Thursday from 9-3. Please bring a copy of immunizations and birth certificate when registering. Students must complete the required series of immunization shots prior to enrollment. Our school nurse will be checking to make sure all immunizations are complete.

SCHOOL PICTURES

School pictures for the 2025-2026 school year have been scheduled for Monday, September 8 beginning at 8:00 am.

INTERNET AGREEMENT FORMS which are in your packet is for all grades K-12. They will need to be filled out and turned in at the office the first day of school.

STUDENT SPORTS PHYSICALS - NEW PHYSICAL FORMS

All students, grades 5-12, who plan to participate in volleyball, football, basketball, wrestling and track for the 25-26 school year are required to have a sports physical before they can practice and participate. The MHSА pre-participation physical form is available at the school office, summer open gym times or may be picked up Monday through Thursday from 9-3. The MHSА pre-participation form is the only form that will be allowed for the student's exam (no other forms will be accepted). Parent(s)/legal guardian(s) and their students will fill out the History portion of the form together. The student and parent/guardian, will sign the form. A medical provider will review the form with the student and parent/guardian and perform the exam. A signature from the medical provider is required to clear the student for participation. The completed MHSА Pre-participation Physical Exam form will be given to the appropriate school administrator or at the Fall Sports Night. All sports forms must be completed and turned into the school office before the players are allowed to be on the practice field/court.

FALL SPORTS NIGHT

There is a **required** parent and athlete meeting for all students in grades 5-12 that will participate in athletics. Training rules, concussion forms and other important items will be handed out at the meeting and discussed. The reason for this meeting is to get all paperwork finished at these meetings and turned into the person in charge. Sports night will be held in Custer Monday, August 4 at 7:00 pm in the lobby. Hysham will be Aug. 5.

COACHES: Remember you **ARE REQUIRED** to have completed the coach's education certification, concussion training, First Aid/CPR certified, and the rules clinic PRIOR to the first game of the season. If you do not complete these, you will be fined by the MHSА.

REBEL SPORTS ACTIVITY TICKETS - CHANGE IN PRICES

All elementary, junior high and high school athletes along with junior high and high school band students must purchase an activity ticket. An elementary ticket may be purchased by any student in grades **K – 8 for \$35.00. Students in grades 9 – 12 may purchase a ticket for \$45.00.** Our activity tickets will admit our students to all regular season home football, girls' and boys' basketball and girls' volleyball games. The passes are not good for away games, invitational tournaments, or post-season games.

Adults may purchase a season pass for \$75.00 and our Senior Citizens (Age 60) \$25. Games always seem to change so please call the school if you have any questions.

Gate ticket prices for games in Custer and Hysham will be adults at \$8.00 and students at \$6.00. Seniors will get in at \$2.00.

MEET THE TEACHER – TUESDAY, AUGUST 19

Meet the Teacher is scheduled for Tuesday, August 19, from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Custer Schools invites everyone to attend. This is a great opportunity to check out the school and meet the new teachers. Especially for our elementary students, it is a great time to drop off supplies. Meet the Teacher is not a confidential conference time. We encourage you to set a separate conference time if you want to talk about any concerns in depth.

LUNCH AND BREAKFAST INFORMATION

Enclosed in our packet of school information, you will find hot lunch information, applications and guidelines for free and reduced price meals. Please mail the applications or drop them off at the school office. For those who **do not** qualify for free or reduced priced meals, hot lunch prices will be for students in grades **K-6 \$2.70** and students in grades **7-12 \$3.10**. Extra milk prices are .40 cents.

Breakfast in grades **K-12 is \$1.45** each and extra juice is .25 cents.

Reduced meal price will be .30 cents per meal for breakfast and our reduced lunch price will be .40 cents per meal.

We strongly recommend that parents apply for free or reduced meals if you qualify. The additional money our school receives from the Federal government helps operate our hot lunch program and helps us to keep our prices down. Besides benefiting our lunch program, our percentage of free and reduced lunch impacts the amount of government grants we receive for areas such as Internet/phone service and Title Programs. This helps reduce the burden on the local taxpayers. We are requiring that all lunches be purchased in advance. Our secretary will keep track and notify parents when your child needs to purchase lunches for another month.

If you are planning to fill out the free and reduced forms, please fill them out before Monday, August 11, (These are in your packets). Free and Reduced numbers also helps the school with grants and government programs. Even if you don't think you qualify, your application could help the school. Please mail them to Custer School or drop them off at the school office. If you qualify, Custer School will put your information in our system before the first day of school and you will not be charged for meals if returned on time. At this time, we do not have an August lunch menu.

Parents are encouraged to purchase lunch tickets prior to school starting this year. Please notify the school office if your child has any food allergies.

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

All medications taken during the school day, both prescription and over-the-counter, need to have written permission on file.

Please make arrangements prior to the start of the school year if your child has a known medication need.

Students capable of self-administration may do so with a healthcare provider's written order and written authorization by parent/guardian.

Medications must be in the original container. Prescription meds must be properly labeled by the pharmacy and include student's name, prescriber, medication, dosage, and specific instruction.

A family bottle of Tylenol may be secured by the office and a designated school official can assist in self-administration with proper paperwork on file.

CUSTER SCHOOL MEDICAL RELEASE FORMS (Not the Co-Op Form)

Custer School medical release forms will need to be filled out for EVERY student in our school in case your child will need to travel for a field event or any kind of activity the school may be attending during the year. (This paper is in your student packet and is a little different from for athletic form.)

Please contact the school nurse if your child has any known allergies or medical conditions that may need to be addressed so proper paperwork can be on file in case of an emergency.

In case of an emergency, it is important that we have an accurate medical history updated in our system which includes allergies, medications (both Rx and OTC), and medical conditions.

Immunization Requirements

The State of Montana requires that all students must provide documentation regarding immunizations prior to the first day of school. Below is a list of the minimum required immunizations. Please provide documentation by a physician or provider clinic.

Preschool:

DTaP – 4 doses

Polio – 3 doses

MMR – 1 dose on or after 1st birthday

Hib – 1 dose given after 12 months and before 59 months of age

Varicella – 1-dose on or after 1st birthday

Kindergarten:

DTaP – 5 doses (4 doses only if 4th dose is given on or after 4th birthday)

Polio – 4 doses (3 doses only if 3rd dose is given on or after 4th birthday)

MMR – 2 doses (1st dose on or after 1st birthday, and spacing between doses is 4 weeks)

Varicella – 2 doses (1st dose on or after 1st birthday, and spacing between doses is 12 weeks for children under 13 years, and 4 weeks for older than 13 years)

Students Entering 7th GRADE:

Tdap – all 7-12th graders must have Tdap

It is a parent's responsibility to ensure their children are up-to-date on immunizations or proper forms are completed. State law requires students are current on immunizations or exempt or conditional attendance forms be on file before a student is permitted to attend school.

Medical and religious exempt forms must be notarized and turned into the office before the first day of school.

GAME SCHEDULES

Please check our website (www.custerschools.org) to check on events and game changes daily. This will be our way to communicate to you what is happening at our school. Sports schedules always change from time to time. Our AD will make changes when needed.

ELEMENTARY SWIM DAYS IN FORSYTH

Swimming starts early this school year. The first day will be Thursday, September 11 in Forsyth. The bus will leave at approximately 12:00 pm and return no later than 3:20 pm.

Students are required to bring swimming suits and their own towels. If they have goggles, they may bring them.

Students may bring books, hand held video games, or other small items to use during the bus trip. This year's swim day will be:

SEPT. 11 & 25 - OCTOBER 9 & 23 – MARCH 12 & 26 – APRIL 9 & 23

Should these dates change, we will notify you immediately. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher.



SUPPLY LIST 8-12 English

Enough pencils and/or pens to last the school year

A 1 or 1.5 inch binder for organizing handouts (strictly for English)

A 1 subject spiral bound notebook

Multi-colored highlighters

1 plastic pocket folder for assignments

SUPPLY LISTS – GRADES K-6

Kindergarten Supply List

2 decorative folders
scissors
glue sticks
1 box of crayons
1 box of # 2 pencils and pencil box
1 pair of gym shoes (no black soles) to stay at school
snacks
water bottle

1st & 2nd Grade Supply List

12-glue sticks
washable markers (like the crayon ones)
1 box of Ticonderoga pencils (NO click pencils please)
1 box of 12 colored pencils
1 box of 12 markers
1 set of headphones (NO ear buds/ipods)
4 Clorox wipes
1 pair of inside gym shoes (no black soles) to stay at school
water bottle

3rd & 4th Grade Supply List

1 pair of scissors
1 pk. of highlighters
3-glue sticks
2 boxes of Ticonderoga pencils
1 box of colored pencils
1 box of crayons
1 black sharpie
2-2 pocket folders
4-dry erase markers
2 post it sticky notes
1 composition notebook – must have
1 pack loose leaf paper
1 container of disinfectant wipes
Families (Last Name) A-M bring 1 box gallon ziplocks
Families (Last Name) N-Z bring 1 box sandwich bags, ziplock
1 ear buds/headphones
gym shoes inside only (no black soles) and outside PE shoes
water bottle

5 & 6th Grade Supply List

#2 pencils or mechanical pencils
choose between colored pencils, crayons or markers
4 highlighters
1 ruler with inches and centimeters
2 notebooks
composition notebook
headphones
2 large pink erasers or 1 package of pencil top erasers
1 pair of scissors
1 protractor
1 pencil box
1 pair of inside gym shoes (no black soles) to stay at school
gym shoes for inside use only/outside PE shoes
PE cloths (shorts, t shirt, socks) & water bottle

If you have changed your name or address, please contact the school and we will update our system.