

Dear Families,

As we prepare for the next school year, I want to share important shifts in our practices based on recent state and board changes and how they support the work we have already been engaged in in Bend-La Pine Schools.

Assessment:

With the passage of Senate Bill 141, schools are expected to administer an **interim assessment three times per year in grades K-8 in the areas of reading and mathematics beginning the fall of 2027**. Bend-La Pine Schools will be using [NWEA MAP Growth + Fluency](#). As guardians, you will receive information from your student's teacher about how they are progressing over time in each area and how the assessment is being used in the classroom next year. As educators, we are looking forward to using these assessments because we believe they will provide:

- Actionable data to target instruction and respond quickly to student needs
- A clear picture of growth over time, not just a single snapshot
- Strong alignment between assessment, instruction, and intervention

Technology Tools and Use for Students:

With the passage of Board Resolution 2013, we are taking a good look at our current practices related to technology use in the classroom. This means that our technology use will be limited to tools that are most needed for the access and success of our students. Additionally, we are developing more stringent guidelines for how iPads and other tools are used at our different grade levels and making sure families know what to expect.

- **Grades K-5 iPad Use:** Rather than having an iPad with each elementary student at their desk, iPads will be stored in classrooms or common areas. We know that student interaction with these devices sometimes can be overused and under-supervised, and can create a distraction to learning. These tools are to be used for specific reasons at designated times. In some cases, students may benefit from eliminating access to iPads entirely during learning opportunities that are delivered through hands-on activities.
- **Grades 6-8 iPad Use:** Student iPads will no longer travel home each day. At school, students will continue to have access to iPads loaded with curriculum resources and the Canvas education platform. We are committed to providing homework options that do not require students to have their school-issued device at home. In addition, we will establish clear guidelines for the rare occasions when a student may need to check out an iPad to complete a specific assignment or project outside of school.
- **Grades 9-12 YouTube Use:** This fall, YouTube use will be restricted to videos that are critical for learning as determined by the classroom teacher. This will

allow students to access the videos they need without receiving pushed, algorithm-curated videos or ads when the content concludes.

Family Communications

In the fall, we will be using ParentSquare, a new platform to communicate with families. This tool has been piloted in our La Pine and Sunriver schools since spring break and is used by many school districts across the country. We look forward to more streamlined communication that this platform will provide for our families and educators.

We understand these changes will be welcomed by some families and questioned by others. Change often brings a variety of perspectives, and we value the partnership and feedback of our school community. Thank you for your continued support as we work together to provide the best possible educational experience for our students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lisa Birk

Deputy Superintendent, Bend-La Pine Schools