CUSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT #15

NOVEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

www.custerschools.org



THANKSGIVING VACATION

We will dismiss school on Tuesday, November 24 at 3:40 p.m. for our Thanksgiving break. Our buses will transport our students home at that time. There will be no school Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. School will resume on Monday, November 30. Have a great Thanksgiving weekend!

PARENT/TEACHERS CONFERENCES

Parent/Teachers Conference was held Monday, October 26 from 4-7 pm. A meal was served for our visitors. We had a great turnout!

BPA NEWS

Our BPA organization will be selling wreaths, pastries and cutlery. These orders will be delivered the first week of December. We are getting ready for our first competition Monday, December 7th in Colstrip (Regionals).
I am looking forward to great things from our students. If you have any changes to the calendar, please let us know as soon as possible.

NOVEMBER MUSIC NEWS

Tri-County Honor Band Try-Outs are November 2nd in Joliet. After the live auditions, a select group of students will be chosen to practice and go on tour with the 2027 Tri-County Honor Band. This year the group will be traveling to Seattle. Many fun adventures are planned for the trip including college visits and tourist destinations. Being involved in Tri-County has been a privilege that Custer musicians have been involved with since the 1970s. What an amazing opportunity!

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Please join us on Monday, December 21 at 6:00 pm for our Winter Music Concert.
This event will include K-6 grades and preschool. A special guest will be there as well, as long as nobody is on the naughty list! Ho Ho Ho!!



HALLOWEEN PARTY

This year's Halloween party will be **Wednesday, October 28**. The party will begin at 2:00 to 2:15 for preschool and kindergarten students. The other grades will join us in intervals of 10-15 minutes. So, mark your calendars and join us for the Halloween fun!

THANK YOU

We would like to thank those people for taking care of the chains and down box for our home football games and for our line judges at all of our home volleyball games. Also, we thank everyone who took gate tickets during the season. You are so much appreciated for everything you do for our school. We appreciate all of the different organizations that helped with the concessions at all of our home games.

A **big thank you** goes out to our parents and fans for supporting and encouraging our young people this season in volleyball and football. Your support of our students and school is greatly appreciated.

SCHOOL VISITORS

ALL PARENTS and VISITORS to the Custer School **must** sign in at the front office desk each time they enter the school building. We are making every attempt to protect our students from any unknown visitor and to prevent interruption of the classes.

PHONE CALLS

School telephones are business phones and should be used as such. Children will be permitted to use the phone **only when necessary**. Plans for after school activities should be made at home, before the child comes to school for the day. Parents may call the school anytime and messages will be delivered to the child or the teacher. Please do not ask teachers or children to come to the phone during the time that school is in session as this disrupts the learning process.

ATHLETIC GAME CHANGES

Rebel athletic schedules are always changing. A great way to check our announcements everyday is by going into our website and looking under announcements or under athletics in our weekly bus schedule. There you will find out information better about what is happening everyday in our school. Our website is: www.custerschools.org There you can also find other news and sports schedules.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

On November 1, remember to change your clocks back one hour.

COLD WEATHER DRESS

As we get later into the fall and the temperatures begin to drop, parents need to make sure their children are adequately dressed to travel on our buses. Students should have a coat, gloves/mittens and boots when riding our route and activity buses. It is also a good idea for our student athletes to carry a blanket with them when they travel on activity trips. We want to make sure our students are adequately prepared as they travel on our buses. Although we hope it never happens, should a bus become inoperable, they cool very quickly.

SMORGASBORD DINNER AND BAZAAR

The Custer Congregational Church Smorgasbord Dinner and Bazaar will be on November 15 from 12-4pm. There will be a quilt raffle and prices are $13 for adults and $7 for 6-12 and 5 and under is free. Please come join us for a wonderful meal.

RHBI Mental Wellness Screening

On November 3, students in Grades 6–12 will have the opportunity to participate in a mental wellness screening through the Rural Behavioral Health Institute (RBHI). The screening is designed to help identify students who may benefit from additional support and is a proactive part of promoting student well-being.

The screening takes approximately 5–15 minutes and is completed confidentially using a secure platform. Students will be reminded that participation is voluntary and that they may stop at any time.

An opt-out form will be included with report cards. Parents/guardians who do not want their student to participate should complete and return the opt-out form to the school.

For more information about the screening, families can visit rbhi.org or contact the school office.

Special Guest Author Visit: Raymond Keith

Mark your calendars for an exciting event! On Thursday, November 12th at 1:15 P.M., local author Raymond Keith will be visiting the Old Gym at Custer Schools. Parents and community members are welcome to join!

All community members are invited to join us as Raymond shares his journey into the world of storytelling and fantasy. Raised in Pennsylvania, exploring the outdoors in search of magic and nature, Raymond now serves as a state park manager in southeast Montana. Inspired by his faith and love for creation, he crafts rich fantasy worlds filled with noble rangers, lawful knights, magic, and fantastical creatures in his setting of *Veardalan*.

Copies of his books will be available for purchase at the event, including:

- ***The Inn at the Forest's Edge*** ($4.99)
- ***Ranger's Calling: The Fires of Wynchell*** ($12.99)
- ***Ranger's Calling: The Towers of Renweard*** ($14.99)

Don't miss this opportunity to meet the author, grab signed copies of his books, and celebrate local literature! You can learn more about his work beforehand by visiting authorraymondkeith.com.

Senior Updates: FAFSA & Montana College Applications

Our high school seniors have been working hard to take big steps toward their futures! Students have already begun filling out their FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and applying to Montana colleges and universities.

To wrap up these important milestones, we need help from both students and parents on the following next steps:

- **Parents – Create Your FSA ID:** To finalize and submit the FAFSA, a parent or legal guardian must create an account at studentaid.gov (an FSA ID) and link it to the student's application.
- **Students – Finish Your College Applications:** Double-check your application portals to ensure you've completed all college submissions and required documents and sent them to your chosen Montana schools.

Completing both steps early helps ensure your student is eligible for maximum financial aid, grants, and priority college admission.

If you have questions, need help with your FSA ID, or want to double-check application statuses, please contact Mrs. Torralba.

BUS TRANSPORTATION RULES & REGULATIONS

Drivers are not to text or talk on the phone while driving the school bus. Please don't attempt while drivers are on duty. Thank you.

Prior to Boarding the School Bus

1. Be on time and waiting for the bus at the approved school bus stop.
2. Stay out of the road while waiting for the bus.
3. Do not participate in horseplay or destroy surrounding property.
4. Wait for the school bus to come to a complete stop before attempting to board the bus.
5. Do not run toward the bus in an effort to be the first to board the bus.

While Riding the School Bus

1. The driver is in full charge of the bus and students. Students will comply Promptly and cheerfully, with any request make by the driver.
2. At the discretion of the driver, students will observe classroom conduct while on the bus.
3. Students must be on time. The bus cannot wait for those who are tardy.
4. Unnecessary conversation with the driver is prohibited.
5. Outside of ordinary conversation, students will observe classroom conduct while on the bus.
6. Students will not throw waste paper or other debris on the floor of the bus.
7. Arms or heads will not be extended out of bus windows at any time.
8. Students will not get on or off, or move about within the bus while it is in motion.
9. Any damage to the bus will be reported to the driver at once.
10. Students may not reserve seats.
11. Students will adjust windows only when instructed to do so by the bus driver.
12. Students must be absolutely quiet while the bus is stopped at a railroad crossing.
13. Students may not board or depart the bus at a stop other than their own without parental permission.
14. Students will not eat any food or snacks or drink beverages on the bus unless permitted to do so by the driver. There will be no sunflower seeds at any time.
15. Students will not exit from the emergency exits.

After Leaving the School Bus

1. Do not rush or push while unloading from the bus.
2. When crossing in front of the bus, always watch for the driver to give the "all clear" signal before crossing.
3. Students should go directly from their bus stop to their home.

What Can Parents Do?

The interest and assistance of each parent is a valued asset to the Transportation Program. Your interest on safety and your emphasis on proper behavior while riding a school bus are appreciated by your school bus driver. The following suggestions are ways in which you can assist the Transportation Program.

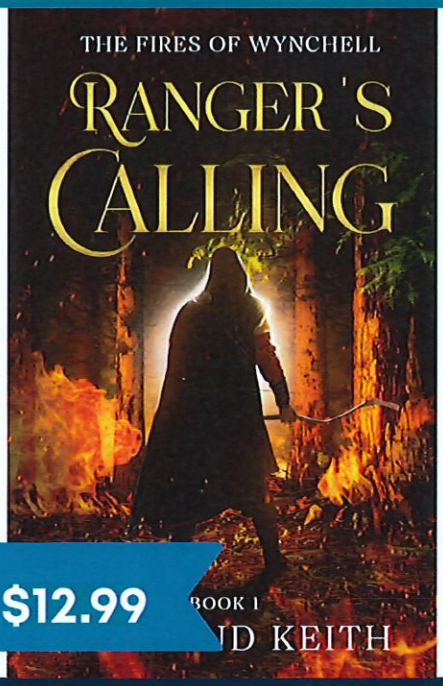
1. Assist your student in planning a route to and from the bus stop, what the student should do at the stop until the bus arrives, and what to do if the bus does not arrive.
2. Be sure that your student is at the bus stop five minutes before the bus arrives and appropriately dressed for weather conditions. Consider severe weather conditions if the bus is stalled or delayed.
3. Inform the school personnel if you plan to pick up your student at school or wish to have your student leave the bus at a point other that the regular stop.
4. Encourage your students to go directly to the bus stop and come home immediately after getting off the bus. An unusual delay should be immediately investigated with a phone call to the person in charge of school transportation.
5. Encourage your student to behave properly on the bus and respect the driver; begin by knowing the driver. The driver of the bus is knowledgeable and skilled in bus operation. Safe bus operation is dependent on the behavior of those being transported.
6. In case of illness of your student, the driver or school official will notify you

AUTHOR VISIT RAYMOND KEITH

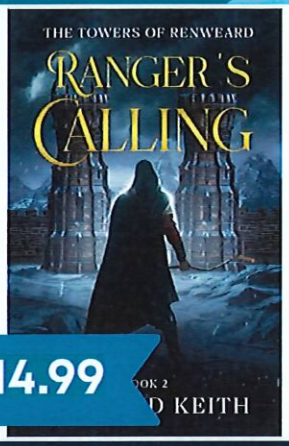
Public Welcome!



$4.99



$12.99



$14.99

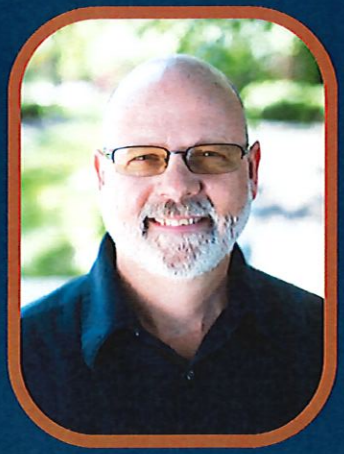
WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF VEARDALAN. A PLACE OF NOBLE RANGERS, LAWFUL KNIGHTS, DARK ENEMIES, BEAUTY, MAGIC, AND FANTASTICAL CREATURES.

Thursday, November 12th 1:15 P.M.

Old Gym
Custer Schools

Raymond grew up wandering the woods and fields of Pennsylvania looking for elves, goblins and dragons. He is fascinated with all of God's creation, both the natural and supernatural, talking to every animal he meets. To rest from reality, he would create stories for himself, but now shares them with others. As a servant of the True King, Christ, Raymond is currently assigned as a state park manager in southeast Montana. He lives with his enchanting bride and has been given an amazing daughter.

https://authorraymondkeith.com/



SPOTS

Student Planning, Organization, and Time Management Scale

*Researchers at **Seattle Children's, Children's National, and Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center** are developing a new measure of student strengths and weaknesses in organization, time management, and planning skills.*

Who?

Participants must be in **6th-12th grade** at a school in the U.S.

What?

Complete a brief **(5-10 minute) online survey** about academic strategies and have **an adult** who is willing to complete the same questionnaire about the student.

Compensation

Each person who completes the survey will receive **$35.** Opt in to extra surveys for an additional **$110** per family.

How to Participate

After a **parent/caregiver completes the following interest form,** a study staff member will reach out with your surveys.

Seattle Children's

Children's National

Cincinnati Children's

With any questions, please reach out to research coordinators Elizabeth Kronthal (ekronthal@childrensnational.org) and Lily Leitzinger (lily.leitzinger@cchmc.org)

Parents and Community Members,
Custer Schools will be implementing the pickup procedures that we had in place at the end of the 25/26 school year. Below you will find a sequence of maps that show the way we would like for you to pick up your child after school. We are putting this plan in place so that we can increase the safety of the students after school when the volume of traffic is the highest. These changes will go into effect on November 2nd. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.
Mike Flamm

Custer Public School Pickup Procedure 26

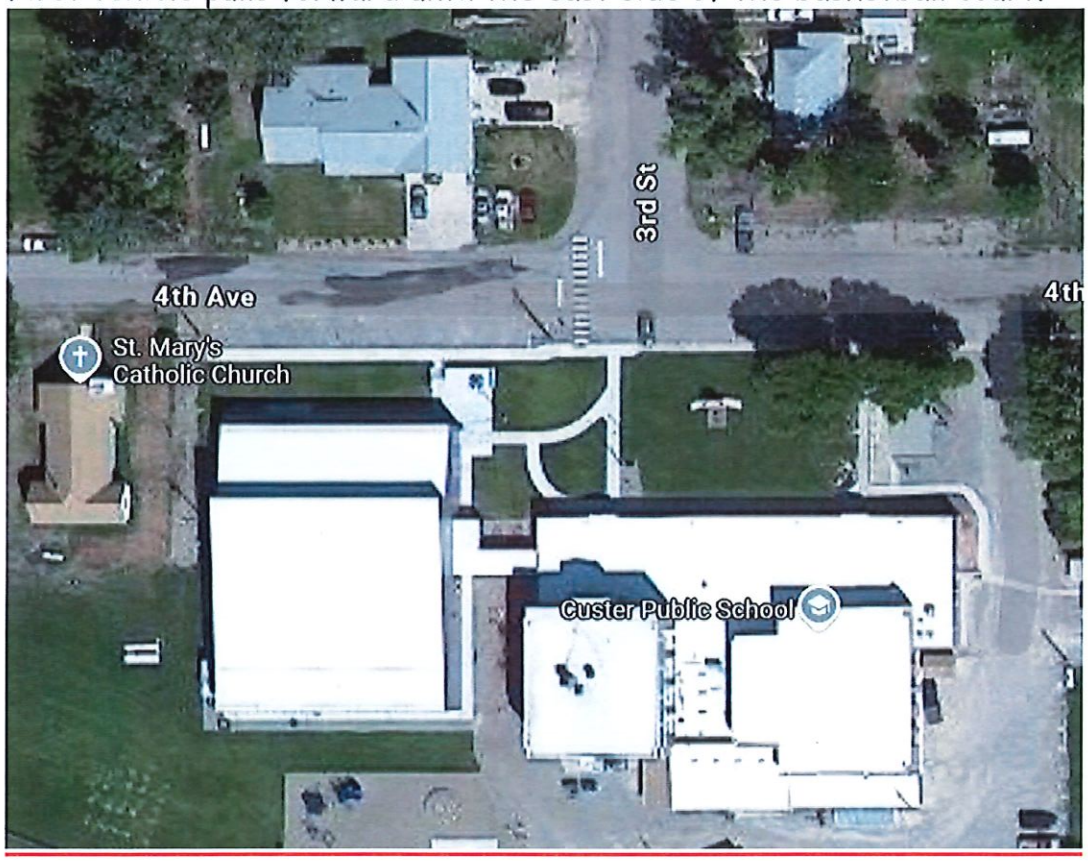
- Vehicles need to access the pickup line by way of 2nd Ave to 2nd St to 4th Ave (see attached map)



- Pick up line begins along the east side of the basketball court – indicated by RED line on map.



- First vehicle pulls forward until the east side of the basketball court.



- Each subsequent vehicle pulls in directly behind the one in front of them.

- The line will extend west on 4th Ave towards the Catholic church.

- Students can only get into vehicles when the vehicle is parked between the east side of the basketball court and side walk to the main office. (As indicated between red lines on map).

- Once students are loaded, vehicles pull out of the line.

- Each subsequent vehicle then pulls forward until they are within the designated loading area.

- Any parents that would like to congregate and allow your students to play in the front yard after school, please park away from the school.