

Crazy Horse School

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Dear Families,

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I welcome you and your children back to Tasunke Witko Owayawa for the 2023-24 school year. Being able to start my second year as your superintendent is indeed a privilege. My commitment to each of you is that I will do everything I can to ensure your child is provided with a positive, healthy, safe, and quality environment in which to learn and grow.

Recognizing many schools across the nation are scrambling for qualified teachers, we are thrilled to tell you that we have been able to fill all of the certified teaching positions at Crazy Horse School with quality, certified staff for the coming school year. It's an honor to recognize new teaching staff this year, including newly-graduated local educators: Ms. Cynthia Plenty Bull, Middle School Math/Science and Ms. Valene Pretends Eagle, Elementary and returning veteran teacher, Ms. Caroline Bettelyoun, Middle School Language Arts and Reading. New staff members joining us from other areas are Ms. Sara Schaefer, High School English; Mr. Dennis Brown, High School Social Studies; and Mr. Freddie Dee, K-12 PE/Health. Additionally, Ms. Stephanie Joyner, High School Science joined us mid-year last year and has returned for 2023-24.

Our highly-qualified and dedicated staff will be working hard to provide rewarding learning experiences for all of our students. You can be assured your children will be supported and cared for by the entire Tasunke Witko Owayawa team. The staff and I are looking forward to building a strong relationship among our families, the community and the school to help your children achieve their highest potential.

We were fortunate to receive two new grants this year that provide us with resources to initiate additional programs to serve your children. The Wanblee Futures Grant works with students in Grades 6-12 to assist them in deciding future career and higher learning pathways. The new Project AWARE Grant is designated to provide social-emotional support and cultural guidance for all Grade K-12 students. Staff from these two grants will be providing direct classroom instruction, counseling support, and cultural mentorship for all students. Of utmost importance, is ensuring that Lakota lifeways is integrated and embedded into all areas of the curriculum and day to day life at Crazy Horse School.

Attached with this letter is the updated 2023-24 school calendar. Please note that students will begin school on Monday, August 21, 2023. Time for Parent Nights, parent-teacher conferences, professional development, and holiday breaks are also built into the calendar. **Please note that our first Parent Night is set for Thursday, August 24.** We're anxious for you to meet our new staff, showcase our new program initiatives, and receive input from you on ways to improve the services we provide your children.

Thank you all for the support you continue to show for the staff and the students we serve. Helping prepare your children for the new school year helps create a smooth transition from busy summer fun to a successful school year. Your commitment and dedication are greatly appreciated. If, at any time, you have questions or concerns regarding your child's needs or services, please do not hesitate to contact us. I invite you to continually check our website and Facebook pages for information and activities. Additionally, our regular board meetings are held the first Wednesday and financial meetings are held the last Wednesday of each month and are open to public. We welcome you to join us anytime. We look forward to seeing your children on their first day of school on August 21 and you for Parent Night on the 24th. Please take time to stop in and say hello anytime---the coffee pot is always on!