

# **Crazy Horse School**

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Dear Parents, Grandparents, Guardians and Community Members,

The 2022-23 school year has ended and summer school has already entered Week 2. The year seemed to go so quickly, even though the winter weather and continuing pandemic issues challenged us all along the way. I wanted to share all the following summer events and upcoming school year news with you. As you'll see, we've been busy planning for the next school year!

**Summer School Is in Full Swing!** Summer school for Grades K-6 is a Project-Based Summer School. This means students will be learning through multiple hands-on activities that are being provided by their teachers. Each project must include Math, Reading, and Oceti Sakowin Standards that can be learned and measured. MS/HS students are working on intervention courses & finishing credit recovery classes so they can stay on track to graduate with their peers.

**New Teaching Staff at Crazy Horse School!** We are excited to announce that all of our teaching positions for the 2023-24 school year are filled with qualified and certified teachers. New staff are Mr. Dennis Brown, HS Social Studies; Ms. Sarah Schaeffer, HS English; Mr. Freddie Dee, K-12 PE/Health; and Ms. Stephanie Joyner, HS Science (Ms. Joyner actually joined us mid-year this past school year). Current employees who are moving into teaching positions are Ms. Valene Pretends Eagle, Elementary; Ms. Cynthia Plenty Bull, MS Math/Science; and Ms. Caroline Bettelyoun, MS English/Reading.

**New MS/HS Principal!** I'm happy to announce that the new principal for the Middle/High School will be Mr. James Bagwell. James has served as the Dean of Students and will be a positive and caring member of the school's administrative team. James knows our students well and has been a part of Crazy Horse School as teacher and coach for a number of years. He has a long history of caring about the children we serve and I look forward to working with him. He will also continue as the Boys' Head Basketball Coach. Go Chiefs!

**Playground is Finished!** I'm excited to let you know the playground is now finished and ready for action! It's been fun listening to children in the evening as they're playing on the equipment while older students and young adults are playing basketball on the courts. Come see the new equipment and join them for the fun!

**The Swimming Pool is Opening!** The next exciting news is that we're ready to open the swimming pool! Our plan for the month of June is to open it on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 p.m to 8:00 p.m., beginning Thursday, June 8. The pool is available from 1:00-2:30 for summer school students only and open to the public from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Other dates and times for July and August will be decided once summer school has ended. Rules and policies from prior years are still required and will be posted accordingly.

**New High School Courses!** We are proud to announce we are offering three Career Technical classes for high school students this year, including Health Science, Construction & Architecture, and Human Sciences (home-ec, child development, etc) We also asked high school teachers to create new and different courses for students to offer them a wider selection of classes from which to choose from for the 2023-24 school year. We want to include more hands-on learning opportunities in all areas. Students will be contacted in the near future to determine their new schedules for next year.

**CHS Yearbooks are Here!** The 2022-23 Yearbooks are available! Dow Souksavath was the Yearbook Advisor and he will be posting how they can be ordered on our Facebook page and our website. The yearbook has captured magic moments from the 2022-23 school year and is a great keepsake. Copies will be purchased for the graduating seniors by the CHS School Board and the graduates will be notified as soon as they arrive. Dow did an amazing job on this edition and I know you'll enjoy it.

**Parent-School Network Implementation!** Starting a Parent-School Network is at the top of our list for implementation this summer. This is something I wanted to start this school year and never was able to get it done. Our goal is to increase communication between home and school by providing a means for all voices to be heard. Research continues to show that children thrive and succeed when families are engaged in the educational process. This Parent-School Network will serve as a way to work together to share information between home and school, provide training opportunities for parents and staff, ensure integration of Cultural Lifeways within the day-to-day work of Tasunke Witko Owayawa for students and staff, and address other activities and concerns as needs arise. Please watch for forthcoming information regarding the formation of this group and join as we build a strong and effective school/family/community partnership.

**BARR Program (Building Assets/Reducing Risks)!** We are excited to announce the implementation of the BARR program across all grades next year. The BARR system uses 8 strategies that build intentional relationships and utilizes real-time data to enable schools to achieve concrete academic, social and emotional outcomes for each and every student. BARR stands by the belief that all students are capable and have unlimited potential. This is a belief we all must embrace if we want to see all of the students be successful at Crazy Horse School.

**PASS Program (Positive Alternatives to Student Suspension)!** As a veteran teacher and administrator, having to suspend students has always bothered me. Next year, we are also implementing a program to limit student suspensions. The PASS program works to minimize the academic loss of instruction of out-of-school suspensions by providing a supervised alternative. Students receive help with assignments, as well as social and life skills coaching and counseling. PASS students do not lose valuable instructional time nor fall behind in their assignments due to being suspended. Through PASS, suspension is the last resort and only if the offense is classified as the highest level of misbehavior or endangers the student, other students, or staff.

**New Grants for Student Wellness & Career Development!** We have filled all but one of the 12 new positions of the two new grants that we received. The remaining position is a second Cultural Mentor for the Project AWARE grant and we're actively seeking applicants. Both grants are aligned with the District's School Improvement Goals but include additional resources to help Native students become qualified teachers, increase student access to school-based and culturally informed mental and behavioral health services and provide extensive training to decrease student suicides, frequency of substance abuse and incidents of disruptive behavior. Both of these grants include multiple activities and efforts to integrate the Lakota lifeways across the curriculum at all grade levels and the counseling supports are connected closely with the PASS Program.

**School Board Initiative to Enhance Workplace Environment!** The Board is making a concerted effort to enhance the workplace environment so CHS becomes a healthy place to work and learn. A survey was recently sent to all employees and shared with an outside consultant to assess the current workplace environment and work with us to create a plan to address identified areas of concern that we can approach as a schoolwide team.

**Improved Communication Efforts!** I am especially interested in improving and enhancing communication efforts among the school, families and the community and am committed to putting forth my personal and concerted effort to do so. If you have any questions or concerns about Crazy Horse School or suggestions for improvement, please do not hesitate to contact me. My door is always open and the coffee pot is on so stop in for a visit when you can. Your input, expertise, and ideas are greatly appreciated. I look forward to getting to know more of the community members, parents, grandparents and guardians of the students we serve. I'm a firm believer that "none of us are as smart as all of us"! Here's hoping you all have a great summer!