

August 20, 2021

Dear Colton Wildcat Families:

We have missed our Wildcat students all summer and look forward to seeing them back in our classrooms on Monday, August 30th. Things have been hopping around the school campus and the State.

Our floors are waxed. Our classrooms are set up for students. The concrete is poured on our new entryway in front of the school. Books have arrived and teachers are busily putting last-minute touches on classrooms. Our school is thankful to have had a full year of in-person instruction for every student last year. We look forward to another year as successful as the last.

Although we recognize the inconvenience of masks being required of everyone entering the school and vaccines being required of all the adults working or volunteering in the school, we appreciate the opportunity to do all we can to keep our students safe. As we learn more about vaccine requirements for adults, we will be sure to forward this information to those affected.

If you have concerns about these mandates, only two offices in Washington State have the authority to alter them - The Governor's Office and the Department of Health. Colton School District employees and the Colton School District Board of Directors have no authority to act outside of these laws or any others. It is the start of a new school year so our entire focus is on providing a safe, welcoming place of learning for our Colton Wildcats. We are so excited for a new year of learning!

Our back-to-school night will take place Thursday, August 26th from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Because of continued public-health guidelines, this event will be scaled down from how it has occurred in the past. We do, however, hope you'll pick up an ice cream sandwich from Mr. Casey or Mr. Clark before you head home. You should expect more details about this event early next week.

Our kids are going to love their teachers this year. We have several returning faces and a few new ones as well. Ms. Grote is our transitional kindergarten teacher. Mrs. Druffel is our 4th/5th-grade teacher. Mr. Haven is our middle and high-school science teacher. Mr. Rockenbach is our school counselor. We have a new music teacher as well whom I will introduce next week. Every teacher I have spoken with this summer shared their excitement for another great year with their students. We are a special community.

Parents, you kept us in school all last year. We are so thankful for your diligence in making school a reality for our Wildcats from age three to eighteen. Our community came together for our kids, largely because you made that happen. Colton School thanks you!

Give me a call at school at 229-3385 or shoot me an email at pclark@colton.k12.wa.us if something is on your mind. I might not have the answer you want to hear but we are part of a great community and a big part of that is listening to each other. Thank you for continuing to allow Colton School to be a part of your child's educational journey.

Respectfully,

Paul Clark
Superintendent/High School Principal