



The Husky Herald

September 2020

Good Afternoon, Horizon and ATEC West Parents and Guardians!

We have really enjoyed having so many of your sons and daughters join us for these first 2 weeks of school. It's been great to get to know these amazing students! I feel incredibly fortunate to work with and learn from them. As we have adjusted back into in-person school, our students have been able to transition back into our classroom routines and procedures. We continue to distance as much as possible and sanitize frequently to encourage health and safety. We appreciate the trust that you place in us to nurture, educate, and care for your children!

I found this quote by a woman named Karen Clay that I found moving: "The severity of one's disability does not determine their level of potential. The greatest barriers that persons with disabilities have to overcome are not steps or curbs, it's expectations." I believe that setting high and attainable expectations for students is crucial. I have found that throughout my career as a special educator, my students typically have risen to the expectations our teams have set for them. Our core belief of what our students can learn and achieve is one of the most significant factors for students making meaningful growth. That perception and attitude influences every second of work we put in to their education—both positively and negatively. Our faculty at Horizon believe in our students. We strive to help each student achieve their maximum potential. No matter the severity of the disability, every student can learn and progress. We thank you for your tiring efforts to work together with us to support our students. Together we make a great team! We're excited for a great month of learning!

Upcoming Dates

September 4: Last day to order school spirit wear (link provided below)

September 7: Labor Day- No school

September 11: Picture Day

September 16: School Community Council (SCC) Meeting

October 7: Parent/Teacher Conferences (4-7pm)

Important Items

Amendments and Exemptions: By now all of our teachers have attempted to contact you over the phone to finalize the IEP amendments and face covering exemptions. We were asked to amend IEPs due to the district's plan to decrease school time by one hour every day. If you have questions regarding either of these items, please reach out to your son/daughter's teacher.

School Website: We have been updating our school website over the past week. We now have a school calendar on the bottom of the main page, updated school schedules, link to our Facebook page, additional items in the Information tab (i.e. Principal's message, copies of the Husky Herald that we will add to, etc.).

School Website Link: <https://horizon.alpineschools.org/>

Facebook Group: We started a private Facebook group for our school! We encourage any and all parents, guardians, and staff to join. We use this Facebook page to send out reminders, information, upcoming events, faculty spotlights, highlights from classes, and more.

Facebook Link:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/289655102455482/?multi_permalink=305455714208754¬if_id=1598468796536556¬if_t=group_activity&ref=notif

School Spirit Wear: The printing business that made our new faculty shirts has created an online store where faculty or families can purchase spirit wear. We will be taking orders until Friday, September 4th. At that point we will fulfill the orders and get those items delivered to the school to disburse them to those who ordered. Feel free to go to the website and order! We'd love to have some students sporting our school gear!

Link for store: <https://mojoprintinganddesign.com/shop/ols/categories/horizon-atec-west?fbclid=IwAR1WJSIzHtBpsWej2I9eOrIQ8P3veD6MaoeD6cNx26Z1PQ8CZv7v6ObHB4A>

Substitutes: The district is in need of substitute teachers. Feel free to go to or share the following link to get set up for substituting: www.ess.com/alpine. If you know of someone who is specifically interested in subbing at Horizon, please let us know so we can put them on our preferred sub list.

Reminders of how we are addressing COVID-19 at Horizon

Masks: All faculty and students are required to wear masks. Students who have a mask exemption due to their disability are NOT required to wear them all day (we have done these exemptions over the phone as we call for IEP service minute amendments). However, students who don't have an exemption in place are required to wear face coverings while at school. All visitors (including parents/guardians) are also required to wear masks while in the building. We ask that masks cover the student's mouth and nose.

Temperature Checks: We are checking every student's temperature when they come into the school. We ask that you monitor your son/daughter's temperature before they get on the bus to avoid infection on the bus or at school.

Cleaning: We clean and sanitize regularly—in the classrooms, bathrooms, and around the school in common areas. At the end of every day we deeply disinfect classrooms and high touch surfaces.

Classroom Set Up: Teachers have done their best to space students at their desks or tables. Unfortunately, we aren't able to guarantee 6 feet of distance between students due to class sizes and space in the classroom. I've asked teachers to clear as much space as they can to provide as much distance as possible between student desks/tables.

Sick Policy: We ask that if your son/daughter is sick with any cold, flu or COVID symptoms that they stay home. We follow the Utah County Health Department school sick policy. Especially due to the significant number of high-risk students that attend our school, we want to take as many precautions as we can. If a student comes to school with symptoms, parents will be contacted to come pick them up from school and they will be placed in a separate sick-room to minimize spread while we wait for parents to come. Those students would not be permitted to ride the bus home. Attached is also a chart that lists symptoms of COVID-19. Attached is the newest sick policy information from the Utah County Health Department.

Positive COVID-19 Cases: If a student tests positive for COVID-19, I will work with the nurse and health department to determine what level of quarantine will need to happen within that student's classroom or school-wide. With many of our students not wearing masks, we will likely need to have more extensive quarantine precautions if a student tests positive in a classroom (i.e. quarantining an entire class instead of just a few students).

Lunch: We are eating grab-n-go lunches this year. We are grateful that they still get to eat a hot option so it's not just deli sandwiches every day! We have been spacing classes and students the best we can to prevent spread of illness.

Learning supplies: Students aren't sharing learning supplies. Every student has their own set of manipulatives and learning materials to prevent spread of illness. If an item (i.e. sensory equipment) is shared, we sanitize in between uses.