

# The Husky Herald

10 Years of Learning!

2011-2021



Hey! It's our *new* school logo!

August 2021

Happy Friday, Horizon and ATEC West Community!

Summer break is almost over and school is going to be back in session before we know it! I hope that your summers have been enjoyable. We are excited to have our students and interns back in the building this Fall! It's going to be a great year!

This year we are celebrating Horizon School's 10-year school anniversary. Many of the students who were with us from the very beginning are now graduated. Just a handful of staff that were here in the school's opening are still with us (Shoutout to Sue Vera (Head Secretary), Aubrey Webb (Teacher), and Kelli Dean (Paraeducator)). We have come a long way these past 10 years. We have seen many people come and go. We have gone from 6 teachers in 2011 to 10 teachers this year due to all of the growth out west. We're now utilizing every available classroom (including both sides of our trailer in the back). The school mascot began as the Globe at the school's inception to the Husky. Six years ago, the staff created their Mission and Vision statements. When I began as principal last summer, we felt like much had changed and we needed to revisit our purpose and direction as a school. Through those collaborative efforts over the course of a full school year, we redefined our "Why" and added our core values and collective commitments that will help each of us to be the best we can be in our pursuit of high levels of learning and well-being for *every* student at our school.

## OUR MISSION

United as a team, we are committed to the growth of our students, empowering them to be contributing members of the community.

## OUR VISION

We envision a positive, engaging, and collaborative culture, which prepares and inspires our students to meet their maximum potential.

# OUR CORE VALUES



I strongly believe in our **mission**—as we are unitedly committed to our students’ growth and learning, they will be more successful at achieving their IEP goals and be empowered to contribute to their family and community. I love our **vision** of working to create the conditions wherein our staff and students thrive. A positive culture where there are high levels of engagement and collaboration produce great results for students and a great and meaningful place to work for staff. I once heard that school culture eats strategy for breakfast. We can have all of the best initiatives in the world, but if the right culture doesn’t exist, our efforts fall flat and we won’t get to where we want to go. I love our **core values** of **H**igh Expectations, **O**neeness, **R**espect, **I**ndependence, **Z**eal for Learning, **O**pen Mindedness, and **N**urturing Environment. As we as a community commit to these values, it’s amazing what can happen in the life of every one of these students. We will spend time throughout the year gaining deeper understanding of these values so we can best have clarity on how to continue moving forward in a positive direction.

Each of our students *can* learn and make progress. That process may take some time, but let us always remember that what we do makes a difference in the life of every student. The effectiveness we have as staff will largely be based in our beliefs of what students are capable. We are so honored to teach and support our students and interns.

Let’s have a great year! Go Huskies!

Sincerely,

Dan Heaps, Principal

## *Important Items*

### *School Schedules:*

- Horizon classes: 9:15-3:30 (Monday-Friday)
- ATEC West classes: 7:45-1:45 (Monday-Friday)

*Class/Teacher Assignments:* Students have been assigned to a teacher for the upcoming school year. Please check Skyward to see their teacher and class assignments. Teachers will be reaching out to you before school starts.

*Open House:* We will hold our annual open house from 2-4pm on Monday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. Feel free to come and meet your teacher for a few minutes and see the school! You’re also welcome to set up a google meet virtual appointment directly with your teacher if coming in person is tough.

*School Community Council:* Our school community council is made up of parents and a few staff. They work together and meet each month to determine how to use certain funds to benefit student learning in our school. If you are interested in serving as a parent member of the SCC, please let me know within the first 2 weeks of school. If there is enough

interest, we will hold SCC elections to determine who would serve on the council. It's a great opportunity to be involved with the school and be a part of the great work we do.

*Parent Group:* We also have a parent group who help out with feeding faculty at parent teacher conferences and give of their time to help in other ways as well (i.e. appreciation days). If you are interested in volunteering to help out our parent group, please contact Hillary Clark (801-592-3327).

*Dropping off or picking up students:* If at any time you bring your son/daughter late to school or check them out early during school hours, you must check in at the front desk. At that point, the front desk personnel will notify the classroom staff to come and meet the student to take them to class, or prepare the student to be checked out early.

*Covid:* As of right now, masks won't be required at school for staff or students. However, our new superintendent mentioned in a recent meeting that he would be getting information from the health department and other leaders to see if there will be any changes. This is subject to change based on the legislature and guidance from our leaders. If you are comfortable with your son/daughter coming to school due to health reasons and covid, please reach out to your child's teacher to discuss options.

*Sick Policy:* We ask that if your son/daughter is sick with any cold or COVID symptoms that they stay home until they are symptom free for at least 24 hours. We will strictly follow this sick policy due to the significant number of high-risk students that attend our school. If a student comes with any illness symptoms, parents will be required to come pick them up from school. If your son/daughter tests positive for Covid-19, please call the school to notify the principal or nurse so we can determine potential spread. Safety is one of our top priorities and we want to keep our students healthy!

*Paraeducators:* We are currently still in need of hiring 7 paraeducators for the upcoming year. If you know anyone who might have interest and/or would be a great fit to help our students, please send them this link:  
<https://www.applitrack.com/alpineschools/onlineapp/JobPostings/view.asp?FromAdmin=true&AppliTrackJobId=1970>

*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](http://www.ess.com/alpine)

*School Facebook Page:* We use social media at our school to post about important dates, highlight what's happening at our school, and more! It's a private page to protect confidentiality. Please consider requesting to be a member of our page! Link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/289655102455482>

#### *Dates to Remember*

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| August 16   | Open House @ 2-4pm   |
| August 17   | First Day of School for students in grades 1 <sup>st</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> (and ATEC-West adult students) |
| August 24   | First Day of School for Pre-K and Kindergarten students  |
| August 30   | Picture Day (Picture packets will come home in your son/daughter's bag in the first week of school)          |
| September 6 | Labor Day (No School)  |