

# **PLENTYWOOD SCHOOLS**

**100 EAST LAUREL AVENUE**  
**PLENTYWOOD, MONTANA 59254**

**Phone # (406) 765-1803**

**Fax # (406) 765-1195**

**Website: [plentywood.k12.mt.us](http://plentywood.k12.mt.us)**

**Rob Pedersen, Superintendent**

**Rob Nyby, K-12 Principal**

**Sara Marsh, K-12 Asst. Principal/A.D.**

Dear Parents and Students;

Welcome Back! The new school year is here. Classes will begin on August 24th for students. I would like to welcome our returning students and parents as well as offer a special greeting to students and their families who are enrolling in our school district for the first time. Plentywood is a challenging academic setting with a professional group of staff members. We look forward to having a productive year of school.

## **Changes:**

1. Gr. 5-12 Band/Choir Teacher – Our new teacher in the area of music is Mr. Donald Dugan who hails from Oregon where he attended Oregon State and also has taught music for the past few years in the Umatilla School district. Mr. Dugan has a wife, Sierra, and three children, Elina, Donnie, James, and are expecting a new baby addition any day now! We are excited to have them join our community and school!
2. Gr. 6-12 Special Education Teacher – We are delighted to welcome to our school Mr. David Donnelly who will be joining us as the HS/MS Special Education teacher. Mr. Donnelly, who obtained his degree at Carroll College, hails from the southeastern U.S. and has a passion working with students in need. We are excited to have him join our ranks!
3. HS Math Teacher – Our new HS mathematics instructor is Ms. Wendy Connelley who has taught in various schools, the most recent was the past seven years in the Wolf Point school district. Wendy, who hails from the Belgrade area, will also be helping to coach our Speech and Drama teams. We are delighted to welcome Wendy to our school and to Plentywood!
4. HS English/Title I Teacher – Erin Rasmussen will be our new teacher for HS Title I and also will be instructing our Gr. 9-10 in English/Language Arts! Erin and her husband Blake farm in the area and have three children, Bennett, Natalie, and Owen who attend school in Plentywood. Welcome to our team, Erin!
5. Mrs. Ronni Anderson student taught in our elementary this past year and now has been hired to teach one of our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classrooms! Ronni and her husband, Anthony, reside in Plentywood and have three boys, Brandt, Leo and Ryan. We are excited that Ronni chose to start her teaching career in our school!

6. Administration – We are very excited to have two new principals leading our education and adding to our administration team here at Plentywood Schools! Mr. Rob Nyby, a PHS alumni, will be our new K-12 principal. He has recently taught elementary in Shepherd and served as the HS principal in Baker. He and his wife, Brit (Harris), are a great addition to our school and community! Rob earned his Master’s in School Administration at Rocky Mountain College. Miss Sara Marsh, who has taught in Plentywood Schools for the past twelve years is transitioning to the Assistant K-12 principal position along with her A.D. duties. Sara earned her Master’s in School Administration at the University of Montana. We are very fortunate to have two hard working, enthusiastic and caring school leaders!
  
7. Old Faces, New Positions ☺ - We have staff members who have made a change in title to pursue new passions. Mrs. Dona Osksa is moving to grades 7-12 Family & Consumer Science teaching position after a long career teaching in the elementary ranks. She brings a strong background in this content area to share with our MS/HS students! Mrs. Ellen Sedgwick has had a long passion for mathematics so has decided to make the transition from elementary to our open MS math teaching position. She is looking forward to this new challenge as are we! Miss Stefanie Knipfer is moving from 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and will bring a wealth of instructional skills to this position! Mrs. Val Thompson has been a long time paraprofessional in our school system and she has accepted the new challenge of teaching! She is very excited to take over duties teaching MS science and has always had an interest in this content area!
  
8. New Classified Staff – We have hired two new classified staff, one in the kitchen and one in the custodial/maintenance area. Amanda Sandoval is joining our culinary staff after a few years as a substitute cook/server/dishwasher. Jordan Vazquez has joined our district also as a custodian and has been working all summer so far. We are excited to have these two former alumni join us as employees! We are in the process of hiring some new paraprofessionals as well but they won’t be approved by the school board until the August school board meeting.
  
9. Plentywood Education & Alumni Foundation Director – Lisa Tryan has retired from the directorship of PEAFF after many productive years in that position. Mrs. Karleen Harris has accepted the responsibility and duties after a long teaching career in PHS! We wish Karleen the best on her new opportunity and we know that she will continue on a path of procuring much needed funding to enhance our educational opportunities for staff and students!
  
10. Breakfast/Lunch Prices – The federal government is not offering free breakfasts and lunches to all students this upcoming school year as they have the past few years due to the pandemic. Here is the pricing for SY 22-23:

Lunch Prices:  
Student - \$3.35  
Adult - \$4.35  
Reduced - \$0.40

Breakfast Prices:  
Student - \$2.00  
Adult - \$2.40  
Reduced - \$0.30

**Enclosed:**

Enclosed in this packet are a number of materials to provide information concerning the policies and procedures of Plentywood Schools. **Please examine all materials carefully.** Handbooks for the Elementary, Junior High, and High School will all be available online at [www.plentywood.k12.mt.us](http://www.plentywood.k12.mt.us).

As a reminder to all parents, the School Board Policies are available for review at the school. We keep a copy in the office and in the library should you have any concerns regarding a school policy throughout the year.

We have the following REQUIRED forms for you to read, sign and return to our school office. Please contact us if you have any concerns. These forms are also on our school website ([www.plentywood.k12.mt.us](http://www.plentywood.k12.mt.us)). Please read, sign and return the following:

1. Free and Reduced Lunch Application – **All parents need to fill this out this year regardless of financial status or situation!** The website link for an online application is: <https://dca.opi.mt.gov/FRAApp?sponsorNum=0828> . **Carefully review the Free and Reduced Meal Application and Guidelines** since participation in this program greatly benefits the student, their families, and the school district. Participation in the program is handled in a confidential manner under exact procedures in our office to protect your privacy. Please review this application to determine if your children qualify for participation. YOUR INFORMATION IS NEVER SHARED. Part of our school funding is based on our Free and Reduced numbers so even if you fill out the forms but do not accept the assistance the school benefits with more funding from the federal government.
2. Parent/Guardian Contact Info Sheet – PLEASE fill out and return to main office. This information is vital in our communications with parents for emergencies and reporting of information.
3. Internet/Technology Use Agreement (Grades K-12) -- your student needs this to be on the school network.
4. School/Home Device Use Agreement (Grades K-12) – your student needs this to have the ability when needed to check out a device for home use and for their use at school.
5. Student Handbook Signoff Sheet – all parents and students need to sign off that they have read and understood our student handbooks.
6. Insurance Verification Form (grades K-12)
7. Emergency Consent Form (grades 5-12) – allows the school to seek medical attention for your child should you not be present. These are for activities, field trips, etc...
8. (OPTIONAL): sign and return form #3600F2, “Student Information Release Notice”, ONLY if you do not want us to share any information publically about your student. This includes things like programs for athletics and activities, and Honor Roll for the paper. WE WILL NOT give out any student or family information to any outside entity without your approval no matter what is signed or not signed.
9. (OPTIONAL): Wildcat Booster Signup Sheet
10. (OPTIONAL): Wildcat Booster Wooden Sign Order Form

**Does your child need to take medication at school?** I would also like to remind parents/guardians that district policy requires that any students who are to receive medication dispensed from the office during the school day must have a prescription and written permission

from the parent/guardian on file in the office prior to any medication being taken during school hours. Forms are available in the office.

Also included in this packet for informational purposes:

1. Wildcat August Newsletter
2. School Calendar
3. Supply List
4. Superintendent Letter

Student activity tickets are still \$100 for the year, adult activity tickets are \$150 for the year, and family activity passes are \$325 for the year.

We will be having an Open House for all interested K-12 parents on Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Feel free to stop in and visit with your child's teacher(s). Please use the main office front entrance.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding any of the material in this packet, please feel free to call the school at 765-1803.

Have a Great Year!!



Rob Pedersen  
Superintendent



Rob Nyby  
K-12 Principal



Sara Marsh  
Asst. K-12 Principal/A.D.

*Plentywood Schools will graduate citizens who value respect, responsibility, honesty, compassion, and courage.*