



# The Cub Reporter

The Newsletter of Big Sandy Schools  
August/September 2021

**T**he new school year is about to begin. Students in **grades 6-12** will attend school on **August 17<sup>th</sup>** for a full day. Buses will run on August 17<sup>th</sup> for secondary students. All students, **K-12**, will attend a full day **August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021**.

#### REGULAR DAYS----- TUESDAY-FRIDAY

- **Building is open from 7:47 A.M. to 4:15 P.M.**
- **Classes begin at 7:57 A.M.**
- **Students dismissed at 4 P.M.**

#### SCHOOL CALENDAR

<p><b><u>Full Day August 17<sup>th</sup></u></b></p> <hr/> <p><b><u>Grades 6-12</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Grades K-5</u></b> <b><u>Full Day August 19<sup>th</sup></u></b></p> <p><b><u>Full Day</u></b> <b><u>For All Students</u></b> <b><u>August 19<sup>th</sup></u></b></p>
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*School will be held on six Mondays this year:*

- November 8<sup>th</sup>
- February 14<sup>th</sup>
- February 21<sup>st</sup>
- February 28<sup>th</sup>
- March 7<sup>th</sup>
- May 16<sup>th</sup>

*There will be **no school** on the following Fridays:*

- November 12<sup>th</sup>
- February 18<sup>th</sup>
- February 25<sup>th</sup>
- March 4<sup>th</sup>
- March 11<sup>th</sup>
- May 20<sup>th</sup>

#### *Vacation for 2021:*

Thanksgiving: Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> – Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>

Christmas: Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> - Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>

Spring Break: March 19<sup>th</sup> - March 28<sup>th</sup>

#### **LUNCH**

Hot lunch prices are as follows:

- There will be no charge for student lunches this year, but please, please fill out the Free & Reduced Forms as by doing so will provide over \$100,000 for the school.
- Adult lunch-\$4.05
- Kindergarten milk and other extra milk and juice.....**\$.30 cents**

*The policy and application for free and reduced lunch are included in this mailing.*

#### **SCHOOL CLOSURE AND EARLY DISMISSAL INFORMATION**

Periodically weather and/or other factors necessitate the closing of school. If this is necessary, an announcement will be listed on [www.Flashalert.net](http://www.Flashalert.net) and then we will contact all local radio and television stations. We are also using Shout Point to call everyone within the database in regard to school closure updates.

Big Sandy Schools have a late start schedule that can be used to start school at 10:00 A.M. instead of 7:57 A.M. The decision to close or delay school will generally be made before 6:00 A.M. each school day. We will try to avoid middle of the day dismissals, but on occasion we may have to dismiss early. **We ask that you please make sure you have updated your child's emergency contact and early dismissal information (phone numbers, email, address).** Mud days may vary depending upon the weather.

### **CUB REPORTER**

The CUB REPORTER is our schools' monthly newsletter. We mail this first copy to each school family during the summer. During the school year, we will email the newsletter to you or give it to the youngest student in your home to take home. If by chance you do not receive a copy around the beginning of each month, please talk with your child, call, or come by the school for another copy.

### **FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE**

Margaret (Maggie) Volosin, BSN, RN  
[mvolosin@bigsandy100j.org](mailto:mvolosin@bigsandy100j.org)

As a public school, we will follow the direction and guidelines presented by local public health, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to help keep your children safe as the COVID-19 pandemic continues. With the COVID vaccine readily available, restrictions have been lessened. Guidance for the school setting is still in development, we will continue to closely monitor those guidelines.

As a reminder moving into the 2021-2022 school year, please keep your kids home if they are sick. If you suspect that you or your child may have COVID-19, please contact your child's medical provider as soon and possible for their testing recommendation.

### **General Health:**

It is important to encourage good health and hygiene habits as children grow. Now, more than ever it is important to foster these habits: adequate and consistent sleep (8-9 hours/night), breakfast before school, minimal sweets and sodas, water bottle at school, grooming and hygiene, **frequent** hand washing, and proper attire for the weather. Watch for pest infestation at all times throughout the year; lice and bedbugs appear when you least expect it.

At the end of the school year I provided information to ensure we have all the needed paperwork and information to return to in-person learning. If you received a letter and health care plan for your child in May, those need to be completed by your child's medical provider and returned to the school at the start of the school year. If you have lost or misplaced those forms you may find all of the current medical forms needed on the Big Sandy website: [www.bigsandy100j.com/school-nurse](http://www.bigsandy100j.com/school-nurse) If your child requires accommodation for health-related interventions, such as medication administration or special procedure, please contact school administration or nurse to coordinate the needed services. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out via email at any time.

### **Medical Resources:**

If you need assistance with a medical referral or access to health care for your child, please reach out. Vision coupons are available if you need assistance to obtain eye exam and/or corrective lenses for your child.

### **Medication administration:**

Medication administration by school staff requires the following.

- Signed authorization from medical provider and parent/guardian **AND** medication provided in the original pharmacy labeled bottle.

*\*\*Over-the-counter medications must have intact labeling, be unopened, and the dosage on the bottle must match the dosage on the medical provider's signed authorization.*

- Students in grades 6-12 may carry a metered dose inhaler for self-treatment of respiratory symptoms or an epi-pen, **IF signed authorization from medical**

provider and parent/guardian AND properly labeled medication is provided to the school.

\*\*A parent/guardian needing to administer medication to his/her own child is asked to do so in the school office.

### **Immunizations:**

#### **Required and recommended vaccines**

• Colorado law requires students who attend a public, private, or parochial kindergarten - 12th grade school to be vaccinated against many of the diseases vaccines can prevent, unless an exemption is filed. For more information, visit [colorado.gov/cdphe/schoolrequiredvaccines](http://colorado.gov/cdphe/schoolrequiredvaccines) (or [cdphe.colorado.gov/schoolrequiredvaccines](http://cdphe.colorado.gov/schoolrequiredvaccines)).

Your student must be vaccinated against:

- o diphtheria, tetanus & pertussis (DTaP, DTP, Tdap)
- o polio (IPV)
- o measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)
- o hepatitis B (HepB)
- o varicella (chickenpox)

• Colorado follows recommendations set by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Students entering kindergarten must receive their final doses of DTaP, IPV, MMR and varicella. Students entering 6th grade must receive one dose of Tdap vaccine, even if they are under 11 years of age. You can view recommended vaccine schedules for children 0-6 years of age at [cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/downloads/parent-ver-sch-0-6yrs.pdf](http://cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/downloads/parent-ver-sch-0-6yrs.pdf) and preteens/teens 7 - 18 years of age at [cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/teen/parent-version-schedule-7-18yrs.pdf](http://cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/teen/parent-version-schedule-7-18yrs.pdf).

• Vaccines are recommended for hepatitis A, influenza, meningococcal disease and human papillomavirus, but are not required.

#### **Exclusion from school:**

- Your student may be excluded from school if your school does not have an up-to-date vaccine record, exemption, or in-process plan for your student on file.
- If someone gets sick with a vaccine-preventable disease or there is an outbreak at your student's school and your student has not received the vaccine for that disease, they may be excluded from school activities. That could mean lost learning time for them and lost work and wages for you. For example, if your student has not received a measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, they may be excluded from school for 21 days after someone gets sick with measles. (<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/school-resources>)

**For the full 2021-2022 parent letter from CDPHE go to:** <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1y8cjUQ3sCZf8R9QDFTNvmMWs86y5yGK0/view>

### **New Immunization Exemption Process:**

*From 2021-2022 CDPHE parent letter:*

- If your student cannot get vaccines because of medical reasons, you must submit a *Certificate of Medical Exemption* to your school, signed by a health care provider licensed to give vaccines. You only need to submit this certificate once, unless your student's information or school changes. You can get the form at [cdphe.colorado.gov/vaccine-exemptions](http://cdphe.colorado.gov/vaccine-exemptions).
- If you choose not to have your student vaccinated according to the current recommended schedule because of personal belief or religious reasons, you must submit a *Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption* to your school.

#### **Nonmedical exemptions must be submitted annually at every new school year (July 1 through June 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year).**

- There are two ways to file a nonmedical exemption.
- o File the *Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption* WITH a signature from an immunizing provider, OR
  - o File the *Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption* received upon the completion of our online education module.

*Downloadable certificates and our online education module are available at [cdphe.colorado.gov/vaccine-exemptions](http://cdphe.colorado.gov/vaccine-exemptions).*

### **PARKING**

Parking is provided in the lots east of the school. When dropping off or picking up children, please use the "roundabout-drop and go" area in the main entrance, in front of the elementary wing or in front of the gymnasium. Never leave a running car unattended. Cars can be parked only in designated parking areas. **The area immediately to the southeast of the building is designated for bus loading and unloading.** Please observe this no parking restriction for the safety of our students. The overflow parking area may be used on occasion when we host big events.

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for the third Wednesday of each month starting at 7:00 P.M. All board meetings are open to the public.

## **Superintendent/Board Notes**

### **Steve Wilson**

Welcome Back to Big Sandy Schools!

We are looking forward to the start of a great school year!

I hope everyone has had a refreshing summer and are ready to start a very profitable school year. We are largely ready to move on from the Covid-19 Virus state mandates and hope to locally be able to make reasonable decisions for the health, safety and what is in the best interest of our students/staff. We continue to have some additional work, but our goals remain the same in providing a safe environment where we can achieve a high level of student learning. We desire to have as normal of a school year as possible; we will modify and adjust as needed if new situations arise.

We would like to welcome new staff members that come to us highly recommended. We welcome back Mikayla Toscano who will be our preschool director. We welcome Kristen George who will be teaching 2<sup>nd</sup> graders and Cera Creel who will be teaching 4<sup>th</sup> graders. We welcome Abigail Collopy who will be teaching JH English and Jennifer Pinnell who will be teaching HS math. We welcome back Debbie Molner who will be one of our cooks. We welcome Jamie Gentzel, Sharon Reynolds and Taralynn Nusbaum who will be working as paraprofessionals. My number one goal

continues to be to keep and hire quality people; we have a great returning staff and the above mentioned individuals are going to be quality people for our children.

We have had a good summer working on projects and doing maintenance on the buildings. We have had our roofs upgraded along with some painting projects. Our fields were top-dressed, we had our parking lots refinished and installed a new C & C router for our Industrial Arts program.

Thank you to Lane Hamacher, Chris Hamacher, Oscar Tatman, Rod Webb and Jerry Dole for the work they have done throughout the summer (along with many others)!

Thank you to each school board member for their service to our community and school. Our school board members are Chad Maranville, President; Greg Mitchell, Vice-President; Nancy Sotomayor, Secretary/Treasurer; Tika Ethridge, Director; and Kevin Braun, Director.

We will be having school board elections in November for two seats.

The CUB REPORTER is our school's monthly newsletter. We will mail a copy to each family at the beginning of the school year. During the school year, we will give this newsletter to the students to take home or send it to you via email. If you do not receive a copy around the beginning of each month, please talk to your child, call to set up delivery through email, or come by the school for a copy.

Every student will be receiving a Student Handbook. Please review the information and policies printed within it.

We annually apply to the State to continue to have a 4-day school week. Part of this application is the statement that we encourage students and staff to schedule doctor and dentist appointments on

Mondays so that when we are in session we have great attendance to benefit student learning. Please make it a point to try and schedule appointments and errands on the days that we do not have school... thank you!

We will again be able to provide free lunches for all students this year. Although very positive for the students and school, it comes with a big concern. We still need everyone that qualifies or are close to qualifying for Free and Reduced Lunches to apply as we get over \$1000 for each student that qualifies. **Please, please fill out these forms.** With the recent economic down turns, some families may qualify for Free and Reduced Lunches whereas they have not qualified in the past.

As we look forward to the beginning of the 2021/2022 school year, we can take this opportunity to set high goals for a prosperous and successful student learning experience.

To all of the new families within our community and to all of the returning families here, welcome to a great 2021/2022 school year at Big Sandy Schools! Our biggest goal is to maximize student learning. With great families, good attendance and a great staff, we can achieve this goal together!

Finally, thank you for your support. The support you provide your children to value education is the most important factor in their success. Without all of you, we would not be successful. Thank you to those who attend the many activities of the school; for families that attend a lot of athletic events, the school sells Family Passes which may be a very good investment. Your support is appreciated by our students. Most importantly, help me thank our students because we have some of the brightest and most respectful students around.

Let's make 2021/2022 our best year yet!

Welcome Back to Big Sandy Schools!



### **JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH PRINCIPAL AND COUNSELOR NOTES**

The 2021-2022 school year is almost here! It is our hope that you have had a wonderful summer and that you are ready for school to begin. We are looking forward to another awesome school year and we are excited about the school staff that will be working with our students.

We will be welcoming some new teachers to the Big Sandy Secondary Staff this year. Mrs. Jennifer Pinnell will be joining the secondary staff and teaching high school math. Miss Abby Collopy will be teaching junior high English/Language Arts. We are very excited for these two ladies joining the secondary team at Big Sandy!

We are so excited to start this new school year! Our goal is to set students up for success! As we get more information from the state concerning COVID precautions we will relay them to families. We are ready to set up a school year as normal as possible for students and families.

Parents and students, please pay close attention to the following information:

### **ALL STUDENTS MEET IN MR. TUCKER'S COMPUTER LAB AT THE FOLLOWING TIMES:**

#### Thursday, August 5th

Seniors	9:00 a.m.
Juniors	10:30 a.m.
Sophomores	1:00 p.m.
Freshman	2:30 p.m.

#### Friday, August 6th



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8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	9:00 a.m.	7:57 – 8:40	Assembly - in the big gym
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	10:30 a.m.		
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	1:00 p.m.	8:43 – 9:36	1 <sup>st</sup> Period

Tuesday, August 10th

New J.H. and H.S. students - by appointment--call 541-2291 to schedule your time.

*\*\*If you are involved in the Elbert County Fair, Mr. Thieman will be glad to meet with you on Monday, August 9th at 9 a.m. in Mr. Tucker's lab.*

If you are unable to meet at any of the above times, please contact Mr. Thieman to set up an appointment.

**IMPORTANT!!!** The above dates and times are set for all students to:

1. Review class schedules, ask questions, and make any necessary changes.
2. Select academic lockers.
3. Receive secondary back-to-school information.

Your attendance confirms that you are planning to attend when school resumes and that your schedule is ready to go.

**Industrial Arts** has an additional fee. This information will be included in the course syllabi at the beginning of the year.

*We will be asking students, teachers, and parents to work together with an emphasis on our math, reading, and writing curriculum at home and at school. We encourage parents to ask questions pertaining to homework and expectations. If questions or concerns arise, **parents are encouraged to contact the teacher.** Teacher contact information will be available on each course syllabus.*

Junior/Senior high students (grades 6-12) will have their **first day of school on Tuesday, August 17th for a full day of school.** The following is the schedule for the day:

9:39 – 10:32	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period
10:35 – 11:28	3 <sup>rd</sup> Period
11:31-12:24	4 <sup>th</sup> Period HS
12:04-12:57	4 <sup>th</sup> Period JH
1:01-1:54	5 <sup>th</sup> Period
1:57 – 2:50	6 <sup>th</sup> Period
2:53 – 4:00	7 <sup>th</sup> Period

*We plan to be passing out "day timers" again to students and staff. These attractive, calendar books also include our school's important handbook pages. Students will receive these books on their first day of school. We will be requiring students to take the handbook home and for parents to review it with their child.*

- *In order to have a consistent start to our school year, in regard to dress code, please review the dress code section of the day timer and help us enforce it each day by purchasing clothes this year that comply with the school dress code.*
- *One of our district goals calls for a 95% attendance rate. With that being said--please keep your child home if they are running a fever, or are potentially showing any other signs of sickness or COVID. We will have systems in place this year for absences and getting caught up on work. Please monitor your child each day for sickness.*

**Sports**--If your child is planning on playing any sport this year they will need to have a sports physical and athletic packet turned in before they can practice. August 2nd will be the start of high school football practices and August 9 will start high school volleyball practices. If you would like more information on participating in a sport at Simla please call the main office, 541-2291 or email Athletic Director, Sammi Swennes at [sswennes@bigsandy100j.org](mailto:sswennes@bigsandy100j.org).

**Senior Parent Orientation** - Parents of seniors are asked to attend an orientation on **Wednesday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** in Mr. Tucker's lab. Mr. Thieman will go over the details of the Senior Seminar class and will also answer questions pertaining to college preparation and the Senior Year. Parents who have experienced the senior year and college preparation are asked to share their advice as well.

Concurrent enrollment courses are offered for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who may earn both high school and college credits. The school will split the cost of these courses 50/50 with you. If you do not pass the course with at least a college D or if you drop the course after the drop date, then you will owe the school the 50% paid on your behalf. Your high school grade is increased by 1 letter grade at the end of the term so if you earn a B for the college grade then your high school transcript grade will be an A. We offer English Composition taught by Mrs. Montague and a variety of Morgan Community College and Adams State University courses taught online. **Your portion of the tuition for the 1st semester is due by August 27th.** See Mr. Thieman for more details.

Online Courses are available for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. **The up-front cost is \$100 which is due by August 27th.** If the student passes the course, the tuition will be reimbursed at the end of the semester. Online courses are not for everyone! You must be self-motivated and able to work independently. We will be using Colorado DLS as our online provider. You may look at fall course options at: [www.coloradodls.org](http://www.coloradodls.org).

We also offer the ability to take all courses from home using the Colorado DLS online provider. Contact Mr. Thieman for more details at [c Thieman@bigsandy100j.org](mailto:c Thieman@bigsandy100j.org).

Enjoy the rest of your summer! We are excited to welcome you back to continue the **tradition of excellence** Big Sandy Schools has experienced in the years past. We are looking forward to getting to know each of you and helping you in any way possible. Feel free to call the school, if you need further information, at 541-2291.

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**TUCKER TIDBITS FROM THE ELEMENTARY  
KATHY TUCKER-ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL**

We are beyond excited to welcome all Bear Cubs back to school for the 2021-2022 school year! New challenges, new opportunities, new friendships and new beginnings await us all as we begin another incredible year. As always, Big Sandy Elementary strives to provide a quality education for all students while enabling them to achieve success by reaching beyond any limitations or obstacles. The sky's the limit!

It is a pleasure to announce some additions to our staff. To begin with, Mrs. Cera Creel will be joining our elementary team in teaching language arts and social studies to our fourth graders. Students will appreciate her passion for learning. In second grade, Mrs. Kristen George will be teaching a classroom of eager students. She will bring much energy and excitement to our school. In addition, Mrs. Sharon Reynolds and Ms. Jamie Gentzel will be working with our students as paraprofessionals. We are excited to have all of these newcomers join our amazing team!

**Safety First...**Our goal and desire at Big Sandy Elementary is to have students at school, learning from their teachers. In order to maintain a safe, healthy environment in which to do so, the following will continue to be implemented:

- Students will enter/dismiss from the building through 3 separate entrances/exits: K/1- main elem. entrance, 2/3 - side playground door, 4/5- back playground door.
- Each classroom will be equipped with disinfectant, and teachers will frequently clean desks, knobs, equipment etc.
- Sanitary hand washing will occur frequently.

Being known for setting high expectations, Big Sandy Elem. School will continue our tradition in an effort to challenge and teach students to work hard in an effort to succeed. This will require an incredible work ethic, motivation, and perseverance on the part of each student, parent, and teacher. Teachers will work diligently to equip students with the tools needed for a lifetime of learning. In an effort to do this, extra work or homework, which may include reading daily, research projects, and/or activities, may be assigned. Students must practice skills to become proficient. Please partner with us and encourage your child to read on a daily basis, complete all homework/projects on time, study, learn math facts, attend school regularly, and become the best they can be!

### **Important Information Concerning the Elementary...**

**School Hours/Transportation**-Students, kindergarten through twelfth grade, need to arrive at 7:47 a.m. and be in the classroom prepared to learn when the bell rings. Students are released at 4:00 p.m. Bike riders need to park their bikes upon arrival in the morning. **If you are picking your child up at the school, please use the**

**pickup/drop-off lane located *in front of the school or the elementary wing.* Please do not leave a running car unattended to walk your child into the school.**

If you ride a bus, please be on time, listen to the driver, and follow all the rules. If you have any questions about transportation, contact Jerry Dole at 719-541-2025. If a student cannot control him/herself on the bus, then he/she could lose bus riding privileges for the year.

**Visitors**-All visitors please report to the office. If you would like to visit your child's classroom, please contact your child's teacher.

**Student Handbooks**-Each child will receive a Cub handbook which contains many of our school's rules and policies. **Parents and/or guardians, please review and use as a resource throughout the school year.**

All of the following information is also stated in the Cub handbook.

**Communication**-It is essential to maintain strong communication between the home and school. In an effort to keep parents informed, teachers will communicate through the Cub book (sent home daily), emails, notes, and/or phone calls. Parents of third through fifth graders can sign up for grade updates through Infinite Campus. In addition, a Cub Reporter will be sent home monthly to all students and families via email or hardcopy. The Big Sandy School website, also offers pertinent information concerning the entire district along with staff member's contact information. In the event of an emergency, a Shout Point will be sent out to all students' parents and/or families. **Please ensure that your contact information is always up to date so you will receive these important messages.**



**Student Testing-**All parents and guardians will receive a letter concerning back to school student testing along with important dates for the 2021-2022 school year. During testing, parents and/or guardians will need to fill out a number of forms, update contact information, and sign up to help with parties during the year. This would be a good time for parents to share any pertinent information, regarding their child, with their child's teacher and to learn about the teacher's expectations for the new school year.

**New Student Testing-** All new students to the district will be tested to determine learning ability and placement. This process will be explained when registration takes place in the front office. At that time, an appointment will be scheduled for your child to be tested. Additionally, if our testing indicates that a student is behind, then it may be recommended that he/she be placed in a previous grade. We want to make sure your child has the best placement to experience success in our school. The cut-off date for Big Sandy School District is August 1st. All students must be the appropriate age by this date to enroll in their desired grade. Furthermore, please make us aware of any concerns or special needs regarding your child.

**Preschool-**If you have a 3 or 4 year old and would like him/her to attend preschool, please contact Mrs. Toscano at 541-2291 for information. Preschool meets 3 days a week, Tuesday through Thursday, with the morning session being from 8:00 a.m.-11:20 a.m., and the afternoon session from 12:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m. **There is no charge for this service; however, parents are responsible for transportation.** We have room for 15 students in the morning (the younger class), and 15 students in the afternoon (prekindergarten). Slots are filled on a first come, first serve basis. If slots are filled, a waiting list will be developed. Great

attendance is encouraged, and if we have a student with poor attendance, then we will offer that slot to another student on the waiting list.

**Attendance-**Great attendance provides many educational learning opportunities and ensures success. Please make sure your child is in school unless he/she is ill. If this occurs, please call the school before 9:00 a.m. to let us know your child is going to be absent. Periodically, letters will be sent home to communicate accumulating student absences to parents.

Concerning absences, students have one day for each day absent to make up his or her work. In order to help students make up work in a timely fashion, teachers will have them work during recess or specials, such as P.E., to get caught up and to ensure that missed concepts are taught.

If a student develops a pattern and misses an excessive number of days (see attendance policy), then a meeting may be held with the parents, principal, and teacher to develop a plan which could include retention and/or Monday school to make up work. If attendance does not improve after the plan is in place, then Social Services will be contacted and/or the parents will be required to appear before the School Board. Furthermore, if a student has a number of tardies, then missed time will be made up at recess or after school. Great attendance is a habit that all students need to develop in order to become successful, productive members of society.

**Consequently, if your child is sick, please keep him or her at home. If a child is running a fever in the morning or the night before, they should not be sent to school. Additionally, please do not send your child to school with any symptoms of illness.**

**Specials**-Elementary students will attend physical education, music, art, technology, and library classes each week. Fourth and fifth grade students will have technology incorporated into their class time. In P.E., students will need to bring an extra pair of shoes to keep at school that will not scuff the floors. **Specials classes are considered a privilege for students. If misbehavior is a problem, then a student can lose the privilege of attending.**

**Recess**-There are 3 recesses each day for K-3 students while 4th and 5th graders will have 2 daily recesses. The majority of the time, it will be outside, so students need to dress for the weather. Please send your child to school with appropriate attire to keep warm. It would be a good idea for students to have a cap and gloves to keep in their backpack or locker. In order to ensure safety, it is imperative that students follow the rules and listen to the staff on duty. If a student chooses otherwise, consequences will be required. Attending recess is a privilege.

**Snacks**-Snacks are allowed during all recesses. Students are encouraged to bring their own healthy snacks.

**Lost and Found**-A lost and found can is located in the elementary hallway. If your child is missing something, this will be the best place to look. In order to avoid misplaced items, please label everything that your child brings to school including coats, hats, shoes, etc.

**Toys**-Toys are not allowed at school to be played with at recess or at any other time. The only exception to this rule is if the teacher has approved it for show and tell or some other classroom activity. If toys are brought to school, they will be taken, and parents will need to come pick them up.

**Cell Phones**-If your child has a cell phone, please make sure your child's teacher is aware. Cell phones and/or electronic messaging devices are not allowed in the classrooms. Students can keep them in their lockers or in a designated area in the classroom. If a cell phone is a disruption, then it will be taken away for the day and sent home. The second time will result in the phone not being allowed at school. Please note that the school is not responsible for lost or damaged electronic devices, and class time will not be spent looking for lost cell phones.

**Dress Code**-Please make sure your child dresses appropriately, following the dress code. If you have a question about clothing, then I would recommend your child not wear it to school. Guidelines to follow are included in the Cub handbook.

**Discipline**-Big Sandy School provides a safe, nurturing environment with high behavioral expectations. Disrespect will not be tolerated, and consequences will be administered. If a child cannot behave, then a plan will be developed to improve behavior. One child will not be allowed to disrupt the educational process for the rest of a class. Loss of recess time, extra cleaning duties, writing sentences or a reflective paper/letter, and time out of the regular classroom with Mrs. Tucker are some of the methods used for consequences. The majority of discipline issues are handled in the classroom with little disruption. Each classroom teacher has a discipline model, and students are fully aware of what is expected. If both parents and the school have high behavioral and academic expectations, then there will be few discipline problems.

**District Accountability Meeting**- The purpose of this committee is as follows: to monitor academic progress, attendance, and graduation rate, to participate in the accreditation process as needed, to serve as the Vocational Advisory, Title I,

Preschool, Performance Evaluation, Drug Advisory, Safety, Nutritional/Wellness, and Facilities Committees, to review the Safe Schools Plan, and to provide information to the community and receive feedback in an effort to make our school better. The first meeting of the 2020-2021 school year will be on Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 3 p.m. in the boardroom. If you have a student attending Big Sandy Schools and would like to contribute on the District Accountability Committee, please contact the front office or Mrs. Tucker.

**Activity Months**-Please have your child turn in their summer activity calendar or note as soon as he or she returns in August. Reading Month will be in October, Math Month in November, and Writing Month in January. Calendars with directions will be sent home before each month. I encourage all parents and students to participate.

**Health/Medication Reminder**-In order to administer medication, the school must have written authorization from the doctor. The medicine must be in a pharmacy bottle labeled with the student's name and medication instructions. **The school cannot give aspirin or Tylenol to a student even with permission from a parent unless the parent provides the school with the medicine and fills out the correct form. This form is available in the office.**

**PARENTS**-You must come to the office to administer medication, even aspirin, to your child. If your child contracts head lice or any other contagious situation, do not hesitate to contact the school. We need to notify other parents of a situation that threatens their child. Names are not used, and no one is at fault. However, we need to correct the situation as soon as possible and proceed with the education of all the children. Do not hesitate to contact myself or the nurse if a health concern arises.

**Special Education**-If you have questions concerning Special Education, feel free to contact Mrs. Lally. Services are designed to help students learn if they are having trouble in the regular classroom. If a child is struggling, we will contact the parent and ask for permission to test his/her child. A child study will also be completed, and a meeting will be set up with the parents to review data and determine what is best for the child. Parents are a major part of these programs and will receive timely updates about student progress.

**Homecoming** is September 17/18, 2021. Please remember that elementary parents build the class float collaboratively, and each grade level will create one. The head room parent will be contacting the rest of the parents as soon as possible. Teachers are not required to participate in float building or to ride on a float.

And so another year begins... I look forward to a memorable year and am excited about the new opportunities for learning and achieving great things. Time on task, responsibility, intrinsic motivation, and academic learning are priorities and expectations for all students. On behalf of the Big Sandy Elementary staff, I want to again welcome you and thank you for being a part of such a great school community. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to nurture and educate your child!

"High achievement always takes place in the framework of high expectation." Charles Ketterin

#### **TRANSPORTATION JERRY DOLE**

Your students' pickup and drop-off times may change from what they have been in the past. We may be changing our bus routes from what they have been. The

approximate times may not be finalized until the week that school starts, but your bus driver will be contacting you before school starts to let you know those times.

It is always best if you call the bus driver the night before, and let them know your student is not riding, but if that is not possible, please call the transportation director at 541-2025. Thank you.

**FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK  
ALISA EASLER**

I am excited to begin a new year with your children at Big Sandy School! If your child is going to be late or absent, **please call the school by 9:00 A.M.** If this is not possible, please send a note when the child returns. Also, if you would like to request homework for your child **please notify me before 9:00 A.M.**

If your child needs to take any medication during school hours, you will need to pick up a new authorization form, have your doctor fill out his portion; you fill out your portion and return the form to the school. This is required before any medication can be distributed.

If you have any changes in your address, phone number and/or emergency contact information etc., please email me at [aeasler@bigsandy100j.org](mailto:aeasler@bigsandy100j.org). If you have any questions please call me at 541-2291. Last, please be sure to check out our website [www.bigsandy100j.com](http://www.bigsandy100j.com) for up to date calendars and other school information.

THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR YOU CAN VIEW THE SCHOOL CALENDAR, LUNCH MENU AND OTHER SCHOOL RELATED TOPICS AT OUR WEBSITE:

**[www.bigsandy100j.com](http://www.bigsandy100j.com)**

unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origins, sex, sexual orientation, religion, ancestry, creed, age, need for special education services or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its educational programs or activities. Inquiries concerning Title VI, Section 504 and ADA may be referred to Steve Wilson, Superintendent, 18091 CR 125, Simla, CO 80835, (719) 541-2292 or to the Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Region VIII, Federal Office Building, 1244 North Speer Blvd., Suite 310, Denver, Colorado 80204, (303) 844-2291.

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**

The Big Sandy School District 100J is an equal opportunity educational institution and does not