



Cedar River Elementary

September 8, 2023

What You Otter Know

Principal's Letter

Hello Otter Families!

Our Kindergarten students began school this week. They are such fun, positive, and happy learners. Seeing their smiling faces, their eagerness to learn, and their desire to follow the O3's warms my heart. We feel complete now that we have all our Otters on campus. We look forward to welcoming our Otter families to school on September 21st, from 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM. for the Open House. Families will have the opportunity to meet teachers, visit classrooms, and have their child tour them around our school meeting specialists and visiting important locations throughout the campus. We hope to see you there.

Warmly,
Fritz Gere
Cedar River Elementary Principal

Early Release Friday Dismissal is 1:50

PTO NEWS

Our PTO is excited about the first PTO meeting on September 11th at 7 pm in the school's library. We would love to have all of our families at this meeting to learn about the PTO and the start of the school year. Mr. Gere will be at this meeting to talk with families about the school year and answer questions.

If you are unable to attend this meeting in person you can join us with this link-

September General Meeting link

Monday, September 11 · 7:00 – 8:00pm

Time zone: America/Los Angeles

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/utt-xpvo-xhk>

Or dial: (US) +1 208-495-6659 PIN: 606 048 417#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/utt-xpvo-xhk?pin=7359838647533>

Thank you,

Rebecca Banasky-Jones & Elizabeth Erickson

PTO CO-President & PTO President

Popcorn

**Dates are coming.
Keep an eye out
for the sign-ups**

Need an O.A.R. Form?

The September O.A.R. Form is attached to the same email the news-letter came in.

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ART SPECIALIST NEWS

We are off to a great start in art! Students are designing their portfolio cover and learning art room routines. It's been a joy to see returning students and meet new ones. If you are new to Cedar River, I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Mrs. Henninger, and I am the art specialist at Cedar River. I also teach coding (K-4), and robotics (5th), starting at the end of January. This is my seventh-year teaching for Tahoma.

I see each class once a week. As we make art together, we explore the seven elements of art: line, shape, form, texture, color, value and space. Students use a variety of mediums including watercolors, tempera paint, oil and chalk pastels, as well as other dry mediums.

Students are graded on participation in art. Participation includes trying the projects, putting forth their best effort, listening and following directions, and showing the O3's (making good decisions, solving problems, and showing respect.) Art projects are saved in student portfolios here at school. Students bring their art portfolio home at the end of the semester, before we dive into coding and robotics.

I am so excited for the year ahead and look forward to starting our first project next week! Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Henninger
THenning@TahomaSD.US

Are you interested in volunteering?

Adults who volunteer in the classroom, chaperone field trips, sign up as WatchDogs, help with field day or work directly with students in any way, are required to complete an online registration process. Once your online application is complete, your information will be reviewed. Persons may only volunteer after they have received confirmation of approval from the office of the Volunteer Coordinator.

[Click here to start the process of getting cleared.](#)

Counselor's Corner

Hello Otter families!

I am so excited for this school year! *After Lunch-Bunch* will be starting for grades 1-5 soon. Each class will have two passes. Teachers rotate who attends so everyone can have a turn if they like. I will meet students outside the lunchroom doors when they are finished eating. We will then go to my office to play games, color, and chat during recess time. This is all about building community and meeting new friends from other classes.

This week I started teaching Second Step lessons in all 1st grade classrooms. Second Step is the district social emotional curriculum. We will have a great time this year learning about getting along with others, empathy, problem solving, skills for learning and singing some songs.

Please contact me if you have questions, need resources, scholarships, support or would like me to check in with your child. Check out the Tahoma wellness page for some great information and resources:

<https://sites.google.com/tahomasd.us/tsdcounseling/home>

Warmly,
Kalei McKittrick
CRES Counselor

What's happening in STEM?

Hello Cedar River Otters! Welcome back to another wonderful year of STEM with Mrs. Lichtenberger where we will again continue to focus on Engineering. Semester 1 I will see every third, fourth and fifth grade class each and EVERY week.

Semester 2 I will see all of the TK, kindergarten, first and second grade classes each and every week.

I am looking to another great year of solving problems by working our way through an Engineering Design Process.

Mrs. Lichtenberger
STEM Specialist