



August 2021 Newsletter

Hello again White Pine,

With the start of school on the horizon it's my pleasure to say - you've still got a bit more vacation left before we start! I hope you make the most of it.

As the new school year approaches and I reflect on all of the work the faculty, staff, and administration have been doing to prepare, I take this opportunity to recenter on those things we hold dear as professional educators - the pillars of formation that serve as the grounding of our vision, mission, and pedagogy.



The Foundational Pillars of White Pine

INTELLECTUAL - WP promotes and supports through quality educational experiences a challenging, engaging, and rigorous curriculum intended to provide students with the knowledge necessary to contribute to the larger community and with an eye toward post-secondary preparation.

SOCIAL - WP promotes and expects its students to respect, tolerate, and positively engage with others both within the bounds of the school as well as in their communities on their own time.

EMOTIONAL - WP understands that emotional development is distinct and personal and integral to the development of confident and successful students.

PHYSICAL - WP supports the importance of a healthy and substance free lifestyle.

With these pillars in place we also understand that the education of young people takes a relationship between the home and school. [Our Hopes for Partnership](#) is intended to guide the connection between the home and school in order to best accomplish the goals of whole student formation and better than adequate preparation for next steps by defining a healthy relationship between parents, students, and school. I appreciate your commitment in electing and trusting White Pine as your school as well as your pledge to [partnership](#).

With the start of this new school year it is our intention, based on current information, to return to something "normal" and as such a number of COVID-19 restrictions are planned to be relaxed. However, as we are all familiar with the uncertainty of the pandemic our [COVID-19 Plan](#) allows us the flexibility to adapt as needed to best protect our students and faculty/staff.

Please refer to the [Eastern Idaho Public Health COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#) for current information as well as data and trends on infection rates and transmission.

Again, as the summer begins to wind down I invite you again to enjoy these last days but I also invite you to look forward to a fresh school year where many great things will happen.

Best and see you soon!

Ron Cote, Director of Schools

Monthly Message - White Pine Administration



Greetings Parents:

It is with great excitement that I await the first day of school. As we look forward to the opening bell, I would like to share with you the philosophy that I bring to this job. I have worked with youth for the better part of my life; when I was 12 years old I became a camp counselor and haven't looked back since. Through my education and experience, I have developed my three, personal core values:

- **Honesty**
- **Understanding**
- **Growth**

Honesty is more than simply "not lying." It is being open about who you are and recognizing your strengths and weaknesses. Honesty is about taking responsibility for your missteps and keeping your commitments.

Understanding is the way that we honor honesty in others. If we want our students to have the tools to be successful, we need to take note of what our students, colleagues, and fellow citizens are facing on a day-to-day basis. We must remember that everybody has something beneath the surface.

Finally, these both lead to **growth**. While we must acknowledge where we are, we also need to acknowledge that we are not prisoners of our limitations! In fact, limitations are generally what compels us to



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2021/22 school year! What a summer it's been for me, as I've accepted this position as principal for White Pine STEM Academy. I grew up in Idaho Falls but moved to Alaska after marrying my wife, who I met at BYU. We lived in a Yu'pik eskimo village where I taught everything from 5th to 12th grade in a small school, similar to WPSA. The past nineteen years, I've enjoyed many incredible opportunities teaching both high school and college students in Bakersfield, California. I return "home" now much more enriched and excited to continue the cause of education.

We have much to do! We've experienced one of the hardest years with regards to the pandemic and other challenges. I look forward to working with you all in achieving our goals and reaching our potential. Everyone has an important role to play at White Pine and will help determine the future of where and how we will reach new heights.

I hope you have high expectations. Nothing of value happens without working hard and sacrificing our time and talents towards a worthy purpose. Your children are worth our best efforts, and I can promise you I will do everything I can to help them succeed.

A wise man once said the future is as bright as our faith and that the best is yet to come. I see great things for us here at White Pine STEM Academy. There is nothing we

grow. For instance, I always assumed I was bad at math. I'm not. In truth, I just didn't like math. There were certain aspects of math that were deeply challenging for me. Once I was able, to be honest with myself about those challenges--namely attention to detail and organization--and was able to address them head-on--I actually found that I am quite good at math.

As we anticipate this next year of school, I want to acknowledge that I am a new principal, and for some of you, not the one you expected. To all White Pine stakeholders, I make the following commitment: **I enter this journey with honesty, understanding, and a clear focus on growth.** All I ask is that you receive me with the same. If you have questions or concerns, I urge you to reach me so that we can discuss them openly and honestly. If you find something confusing or concerning, bring it to my attention! While I can promise you these things, I cannot and will not promise you that I will not make mistakes. I can only promise you that I will own my mistakes and that I will look at them as opportunities for growth.

In your service,

Geoff Stubbs
Principal
White Pine Charter School

Greetings White Pine families,

As we venture into this new school year I find myself reflecting on the previous years and the obstacles we have endured. I celebrate the struggles because I have grown in strength and increased my resilience.

This will be my 16th year working in the teaching field and my first year as a principal. As a seasoned teacher I have learned one important lesson, every year I am a new teacher. Each group of students that walk through my classroom door is unique in experience, strengths, passions, and struggles. The thing that remains constant is our commitment to supporting our students and our passion for learning. I can assure you that I share in this school community's commitment to caring for your children each and every day while providing

cannot accomplish if we work together. Shakespeare wrote, "Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none." Profound words to live by and up to! I wish you all a wonderful start to a promising academic experience at our school.

All the best,

Mark Olsen
Principal
White Pine STEM Academy

Hello White Pine Family!

Welcome to the 2021-2022 School Year!

Like most of you, I am coming into this year with many different emotions. I want to acknowledge your uncertainty and let you know that I am continuously working hard to make this year a success. I am excited for many new things to come to the STEM Academy and to work with Mark Olsen, the principal. I have seen in him a genuine kindness and concern for the students and staff that doesn't come from many individuals.

As we begin our new year, I ask you all to reflect on the document, White Pine- Hope for our Partnership. Educating children and molding them into smart, successful, productive members of society can be difficult. Sometimes even working together and seeing other perspectives can be difficult as well. Keeping these principles and understandings in mind will allow us to go further and create a more positive and rewarding environment for these kids.

Please know that my door is always open. I want to hear from you and work together to make White Pine great. We are a community full of smart and capable people. This is only the beginning of White Pine can do.

Be great,
Alysa Trust, Assistant Principal
White Pine STEM Academy

them a world-class learning environment.

My desire is to continue the tradition of excellence here at White Pine by focusing on the following three areas. My first goal is to provide an environment of collaboration and constant communication. This begins with helping to create a shared vision for students, staff and community members. I will take the time to gather input and knowledge from as many stakeholders as possible. Next, I will have high expectations for students, staff and myself. I will help to empower others to take control of their own learning and development by establishing an environment built on accountability and responsibility. The third piece is that I will base every decision I make on what is best for students. It is difficult to not get caught up in everything that is going on, but I will make every effort to put students and their needs first.

To our students, I cannot wait to see you all and meet our new families! I anticipate that you have been busy enjoying your summer playing and reading tons of books. It is going to be a fun year learning together!

In closing, please know that my door is always open to you. I welcome your conversation and positive input throughout this year. Let us always keep our students the primary focus of our work. I look forward to celebrating our collective successes this school year.

Enjoy the remaining days of summer!

Mrs. Lisa Russell
Vice Principal
White Pine Charter School
russelli@wpcscougars.org
(208) 522-4432

Board Bulletin

Greetings White Pine Community!

Welcome to our new Board Bulletin designed to enhance communications. Here you will find a more streamlined

process for Board communications as well as a process for inquiries and feedback.

Beginning with this White Pine Newsletter and Board Bulletin:

The board will post general communications through a bulletin that is kept in the White Pine monthly newsletter. Communications may include but are not limited to: meeting minutes, announcements, news, etc.

ALL inquiries/comments/feedback from stakeholders to the board will be submitted through the [Board Clerk](#) who will collate and forward to the Board. The Board will address inquiries at the next scheduled Board meeting provided they are received at least 48 hours prior.

Responses to general inquiries not requiring open discussion will be provided through the Board Clerk.

Dallin Poulter, Board Clerk
boardclerk@wpcscougars.org



We are actively accepting applications for those interested in serving on the board!

- Please submit a resume and cover letter/biography to the board clerk at boardclerk@wpcscougars.org
- These applicants will be interviewed at our next regular board meeting on Tuesday, August 31st.

Board Meeting Updates

- You can view any of the board meeting agendas and minutes [here](#).
- [August 3rd Regular Board Meeting Recap](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Kindergarten Roundup

- August 11th
- See details below

Back to School Event

- Tuesday, August 17th - 5-8PM
- Details below

Back to School Night

- Tuesday, August 24th
 - WPCS: 4-6PM
 - WPSA: 5-7PM
- Admin will be available for questions. Details will be sent in an email the day before.

Virtual Town Hall with Admin Team via Zoom

- Monday, August 23rd - 6PM
 - Link to be sent out in Back to School Email

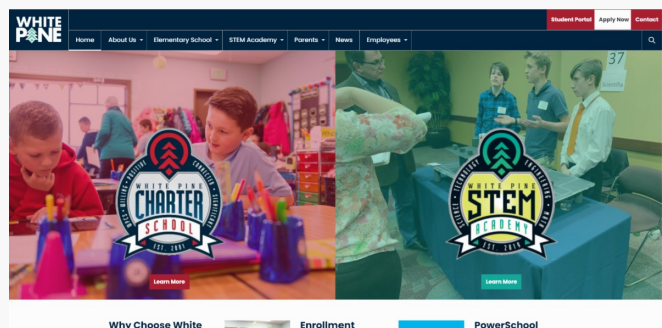
Regular Board Meeting

- Tuesday, August 31st - 6PM

New Website Launch! August - Before School Starts!

We are excited about the progress we have made with the new website!

We have been working with Manwaring and we are pushing to have the site done before school starts!



PFA Update

Useful Links

Hello White Pine Charter School Families,
The PFA is excited to invite you to a fun back to school party. August 17th from 5 to 8pm, we have shelter #2 at McCowin Park in Ammon reserved. We have Grit league with their course there set up for the kids to run through. We also have Taco Amigos and Thunder Italian Ice available for food purchases. Culvers will be there as well to scoop some ice cream! They are willing to donate part of their proceeds to the school at the end of the night.

We also have a fun social for the high schoolers grade 9 through 11 at Ammon pool from 7 to 830 come make a big splash to start the school year out right. The playground and splash pad are also available for the kids to use.
We look forward to seeing you there,
Your 2021-2022 PFA Presidency

PFA SIGN UP LINK

WPCS Student Handbook

WPCS Academic Calendar

WPSA Student Handbook

WPSA Academic Calendar

White Pine 2021-2022 COVID Plan

White Pine - Hopes For Our Partnership

Back to School Information

- Registration Process
 - Registration will be online
 - The link will be sent out on August 10th
 - Contact the front office if you have any questions
- Class Lists
 - Returning Students - will receive class lists on August 9th
 - New Students - will receive class lists after registration
- STEM Academy Student Schedules
 - After registration, students will receive an email to sign up for electives. They will need to check their student accounts.
 - Schedules will be given out during Back to School Night

Kindergarten Roundup

- August 11th
- Class assignments and links have been sent out (check email)
- Sign Up links are also below
- Please click your student's teacher link below. Then select a timeslot to bring your student to our kindergarten roundup!

Ms. Ashley's Full Day Class

Mrs. Brower's AM Class

Mrs. Christensen's PM Class



SUCCESS FOR EVERY STUDENT

