



YOUR FIVE STAR School of Choice in Eastern Idaho

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Hello Parents,

Welcome to a new school year at White Pine Charter School! As the school's new chair for the Board of Directors, I extend my sincere hope that you feel at home here. Please know the school's Board of Directors and our Administration team have been working hard this summer in preparation for your arrival.

The Board of Directors would like to applaud the Administrative staff and faculty for their work in developing a safe, rewarding and joyful school environment. They are passionate about academic excellence and success for every student. The Board is pleased to work with them in support of the school, and we couldn't be more excited for our school's future.

The Board is eager to share a few announcements for the 2017-2018 school year, and we anticipate making several more exciting announcements in the near future.

Our new kitchen: Our students will enjoy new aromas and delicious new flavors from White Pine's brand-new kitchen. Since we had a serving area rather than a full kitchen, the school had to pay District 93 to bring in student lunches daily. Now that we've invested in a kitchen with top-of-the-line appliances, we'll be doing all of the cooking! We expect the quality, flavor and freshness of our meals to substantially improve. In the coming weeks, our menus will evolve and become more diverse. Prices will remain at \$3.10 for a student lunch.

Breakfast: Since breakfast is the most important meal of the day, White Pine will now offer it. Our cafeteria will open every morning from 8:00-8:30 a.m. for students to enjoy a healthy breakfast. We anticipate this will help many students concentrate even better in the classroom. Studies show that children who do not eat *breakfast* at home or at school are less able to learn. What's more, hunger can lead to lower math scores, attention problems and behavior or emotional problems. Therefore, we're excited to roll out breakfast!

Teaching with Technology: The school doubled the number of Google Chromebooks for our students by purchasing 90 devices (three new classroom carts) this summer. We now have six technology carts and 196 portable devices. The Board is considering the immediate purchase of two more Google Chrome carts (60 devices) during its Aug. 28 meeting. The goal is for every middle school student to have a dedicated device assigned to them, rather than spending time each period to check them out. It also means the elementary students will have more access to technology than ever before. The faculty believes this will accelerate student learning. Naturally, we monitor all devices to ensure they are in compliance with our Internet safety policies.

Improving Parent-Teacher Communications: Our last survey revealed that parents would like more frequent communication with teachers. Done! Parents can expect all White Pine teachers to send a weekly update via email. Equally important, all teachers have committed to updating Powerschool on a weekly basis, so you should know how your student is performing in real time. Although these commitments are time consuming for our teachers, we expect it will be extremely valuable. By regularly reviewing your student's reports, you will be in a position to reinforce concepts taught in the classroom, engage with your student and be an active participant.

Free Academic Coaching/Tutoring: The Board and the Administrative team are organizing a free before- and after-school program that offers academic coaching and tutoring services to our students. Students can use this service to receive extra help on a subject or prepare for what's coming. We are optimistic this will be well received and fully utilized. A referral will most likely be required for participation. More details will be shared in the near future.

New Clubs: The Board and the Administrative team expect to announce the formation of a few new after-school clubs that will enrich our students' lives. Our Administrative team will roll them out when they are staffed and ready. For our existing clubs, as budget allows, the Board intends to ensure they have adequate resources to accomplish their mission.

Beautifying our School: You'll find our school's gymnasium received a makeover this summer. With brighter lighting and a refinished floor, it looks better than ever. Outside the building, the landscaping along the east side of the driveway has a new look. Our Principal and one of our Board members bulldozed several unsightly bushes before replacing them with a rock pathway. Eighth grade student Jayden Barfus performed his Eagle Scout project by painting both portables. And a local high school student improved the metal ramp and railings.

New Sidewalks & Concrete: The school replaced all of the sidewalks and concrete in the front of the building this summer. Although it wasn't the most glamorous project, it was done for the safety of our students, parents and staff. The concrete had deteriorated to the point where it needed to be replaced. As you can imagine, this came with a hefty price tag. On the bright side, we used the opportunity to fix drainage problems, so we'll have fewer muddy puddles around the building. Rest assured that we'll repaint the concrete with a map of the United States (or other sidewalk mural) once our contractor gives us the green light.

Thank you for trusting White Pine Charter School with the responsibility of nurturing and teaching your child. The members of the school's Board of Directors and our Administrative team are excited to have you as part of our school family!

Sincerely,

Tony Lima

Board Chair, White Pine Charter School