

Dear Big Sky Families,

It is hard to believe that school starts in less than a month! Below are important announcements and information regarding the start of the school year. I will begin emailing families weekly starting August 24th - emails go out on Sundays. The purpose of these emails is to inform you of upcoming events and reminders. If you have any questions do not hesitate to reach out.

**Counseling & Schedule Changes** - Counselors are available on the 19th, 20th and 21st for walk in's between 12:15-2:30pm. Students are only allowed to change their schedule 1 time, so please remind them if they make a change during walk-in's they will not be able to make any additional changes.

**Pictures** - On August 19th and 20th pictures will be taken in the wrestling room between 8:00-2:30. You do not need to have an appointment. If your child misses pictures, retakes will be on 9/4.

**Big Sky Booster Club** - will be selling gear during picture and counseling days, they will be located in front of the main office.

**Fall Activities Meeting - August 6th:** Football, Soccer, Volleyball, Cheer, Golf & Cross Country. This meeting is an important time to get information from the Activities Director as well as the Head Coach. All necessary paperwork will be available and is required to be submitted before your child can participate. Fall sports begin 8/16 (Golf 8/15). Booster Club will also be at this meeting taking applications for new members! They will also have Big Sky gear for purchase.

**9th Grade Students** - If your child will be a 9th grader, remember they start on Wednesday 8/28, all 10th-12th grade students start on Thursday 8/29. On 8/28, students will meet with each of their teachers for a shortened class period (schedule will be sent directly to 9th grade families by 8/15). In their English class they will meet several Support Staff and learn about resources in the building if they need academic or social/emotional support. In HPE they will log on to their student accounts and learn how to access the Big Sky Library. In Science of Integrated 1 they will have a visit from an Assistant Principal or Dean of Students to understand the importance of attending school EVERYDAY and understand the student handbook. 9th grade students should plan to bring only a notebook or planner and something to write with. They will not need any additional materials for this day, their teachers will let them know if there are any class specific items needed.

**Lockers** - Lockers will not be assigned to each student. This year if your child wants to have a locker they will need to see Deb in Records to sign out a locker. She will be available on the Counseling & Picture days to check out lockers or the first week of school in the Counseling Center.

**Yearbooks** - will be on sale during pictures on August 19th & 20th from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Secure your yearbooks early, as prices go up September 7th. Please bring \$65 cash or checks made out to Big Sky High School to order your yearbooks at this time.

**Seniors - Senior pictures** are due by October 31st. Seniors may submit a digital photo via e-mail to [jkeintz@mcps.k12.mt.us](mailto:jkeintz@mcps.k12.mt.us) or [jkeintz@mcpsmt.org](mailto:jkeintz@mcpsmt.org). Photos should be approximately 2.5 inches wide x 3.5 inches high with at least a 300 resolution. Please note, if you send a horizontal photo, it will still be cropped vertically. Color or black and white photos are accepted. Hard copies and flash drives are also accepted and can be dropped off in room 40 during the school year. Also note, hard copies will not print as well as most digital prints.

If you have questions about yearbooks or senior photos, please email Jenn Keintz at [jkeintz@mcps.k12.mt.us](mailto:jkeintz@mcps.k12.mt.us). Information will be coming soon about senior baby ads.

**Free & Reduced Lunch Forms** - The 2019-2020 Free and Reduced lunch forms will be handed out in your first day school packet. Our goal this year is no student goes without eating and that no student carries a negative balance on their account. To meet this goal, all 9th grade students will be taught how to go through the lunch line, and filling out this form will ensure that all students that qualify will receive free and reduced lunch! You will receive lots of messages about these forms as they also support many programs at Big Sky and without this funding we wouldn't be able to run all of these great programs!

**Q Parent Portal** - The Q Parent Connection is available to parents/guardians of elementary, middle school and high school students. This system provides direct access to a student's grades, assignments, standards, transcripts, attendance and other information via the Internet. Each Q ParentConnection user is assigned a unique PIN number and password that enables viewing of student information, for log in information you need to contact Deb Pengelly, Records Clerk @ [dpengelly@mcps.k12.mt.us](mailto:dpengelly@mcps.k12.mt.us).

**Family Engagement Nights** - We will have several activities throughout the school year that all families are invited to!

**Open House - September 12th**- 6-7:30pm, this is an opportunity to meet your child's teachers and tour the building. During this time we will have tours of the construction project available.

**Voluntary Insurance** - MCPS has an option of voluntary student accident insurance. This is an individual policy that parents/guardians of students may elect coverage for students participating in school activities. Parents/guardians are responsible for paying all premiums due and working with Special Markets in the event of a claim. If you are interested in more information please go to: <http://www.k12specialmarkets.com/>.

**Student Parking Lot/Parking Permit** - We require all students to have a parking permit hang tag on their vehicle at all times. **Students that do not already have a tag** can come in during counseling days (19th and 20th - between 8-3pm) and pick up their tag. If your child had a tag and it was lost over the summer, there will be a \$5 fee to get a new tag. All students parking in the lot will be expected to have their tag visible by 9/3/19. Any student in violation: no tag visible, parked in the staff/visitors lot or F lot, or illegally parked will receive 1 warning. The 2nd violation will result in a \$10 parking fine paid to Big Sky High School, and the 3rd violation will be a referral to the School Resource Officer for a Missoula City parking ticket.

**Cell Phone Protocol** - Each classroom will have a cell phone storage system, and there will be clear expectations for student use. Information regarding the cell phone policy can be found in the student handbook.

**Construction Update** - There has been significant progress with the construction at Big Sky! There are still many areas of the building that will be closed off to students & staff including the cafeteria. Students will have the option to eat near the kitchen or in the main hall. Our hope is to have the cafeteria/commons area & auditorium by Spring Break!

I look forward to seeing you all very soon for the 19-20' school year. If you have any questions do not hesitate to reach out or call the main office at 728-2401.

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