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*We are always learning to make
each tomorrow better.*

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Dear Crow-Applegate-Lorane Community,

As we move toward the spring season, I hope you all are able to enjoy some sunny afternoons and take in the beauty of the Pacific Northwest.

Thank you for your feedback: Our entire subcommittee would like to thank you for providing your thoughts and perspectives as alternative school calendars are considered. So far we have 153 responses with feedback that clearly shows the thoughtfulness of our school community. As one would likely imagine, there are different preferences and varying points of view. Our subcommittee will meet tomorrow to review survey results and consider next steps. The goal remains to have a 24-25 adopted school calendar by our April 18th board meeting.

Spring athletics: Spring sports have begun and we are thrilled to report that not only do we have middle and high school track teams, we also have both a high school softball team and a high school baseball team! We look forward to some sunny days coming up to cheer on our student-athletes. Baseball's first home game is March 22; Softball's is April 10; home middle school track is April 23 and home high school track is April 24. Full sports schedules can be found on our district website and for high school at OSAA.org.

Preparing the 2024-25 budget and investing in our priorities: This is the time of year that our budget committee assembles to review plans for the 2024-25 school year. CAL School District is in a good position. Our student enrollment has increased by 24% over the last three years and we have added a preschool. Additionally, Crow High School currently has the highest graduation rate in Lane County.

There is also room for improvement. Our 2022-23 state data reports that only 64% of our students attended school regularly (at least 90% of the time). While that is an 8% increase from the prior year, our goal is to be at 85% or better. Additionally, state testing reports only 29% of our third grade students demonstrating proficiency in English Language Arts and just 24% of our eighth graders are proficient in math. We believe that we can and must do better.

While we are excited about the growth, we recognize the need to prioritize small class sizes to ensure every student is getting what they need to be successful in school - especially during the early years of school.

With clear priorities, we head into the budgeting process excited to add more teachers to our elementary school and maintain systems and structures at every level that ensure all students feel welcome and safe at school.



Preparing for incoming students and additional staff: Hiring processes are underway and new instructional spaces are being prepped for next year. It is our plan to have two teachers at every grade level K-5, with the exception of 3rd grade, which is a small cohort. Grade level caps set by the Board will ensure class sizes are small as we continue to see growth.

Incoming 24-25 Kindergarten students and families are invited to come inside the school building and register their student on Wednesday, April 10th at 2:00pm. A separate flier will be sent out with more detailed information about Kindergarten registration.

Additionally, any new student coming to any grade in the 24-25 school year is asked to come to the school office to pick up paperwork and ensure your students' name is on our list. It is likely that grades will have waiting lists next year, so the sooner the better.

State testing: During the months of April and May, students in grades 3-8 and 11 will be taking state tests. This is an opportunity for students to show what they know. It also gives our district leadership team a high level picture of how we're doing. Please help set students up to be as successful as possible by encouraging them to do their very best. If parents would like to opt their student out of testing, [here](#) is the 23-24 opt-out form to be completed and turned in to the school office. Forms can also be found on our district website.

There is excitement in growth. Adding preschool, growing to two classrooms per grade at the elementary, and watching more and more athletic participation brings energy and new opportunities. As we face this season of excitement and change, I'm reminded of Henry Ford saying, "Coming together is the beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success." I am confident that the success of our district will continue as we move forward together with grace and unity.

Warmly,
Heidi Brown, Superintendent