

August 10, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Greetings and welcome back! For those of you I have not yet met, my name is August Deshais and I have the great honor of being the principal of Ridgewood School, and this will be my 15th year in the Cutten School District, having spent 12 years teaching kindergarten here at Ridgewood and the last two years serving as the principal at Cutten School. I am excited to return to Ridgewood School and look forward to (re)meeting you all!

As we prepare to begin a *more typical* looking school year, I want to thank you in advance for your patience and support as our staff work tirelessly to fulfill our district mission of *creating a joyful, student-centered, and consistent learning environment rich in the arts and sciences*. Even after 130 years, the Cutten School District strives for continual improvement, and I encourage you to contact me with suggestions to make Ridgewood School even better tomorrow than it already is today!

To help your family best prepare for the upcoming school year, here is some important information and safety protocols:

- Cutten and Ridgewood Schools will be open Monday through Friday, full days, for all students. Information regarding how to request long-term independent study (which is replacing our distance learning model) in an email to follow.
- All students, staff, and campus visitors must wear well fitted facial coverings over their nose and mouth indoors and outdoors unless eating, drinking, or during outdoor “mask breaks”.
- Stable groupings and 3’ physical distancing will be maintained to the greatest extent possible.
- During snack and meal times, students will distance and eat outdoors to the greatest extent possible.
- Bus service is available throughout the district boundaries before and after school.
- Although volunteering in the classroom is not an option at this time, masked parents/guardians may walk students to their classroom door each morning.
- After school programs will be open until 5:30 pm each school day (students must be accepted to attend the after school program).
- Class lists will be posted at both schools on Friday, August 20, at 4pm. The first day of school is Thursday, August 26, and is a *minimum day schedule (Dismissal at 1:05)*.

We are working on an updated Site Specific Safety Plan for the 2021-22 school year, which includes the latest guidance from the California Department of Public Health, Humboldt County Public Health Department, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This plan will be available on the district website and in each school office prior to the first day of school.

Sincerely,

August M. Deshais

Principal, Ridgewood School

## **Transitional Kindergarten & Kindergarten Preview Event**

**Wednesday, August 25, 1pm**

**Tour the classroom! Meet your teacher and classmates! Ride the bus (optional)!**

*Thank you for remembering that all guests over age two must wear a face mask on campus.*