

Tuesday Talk

June 7, 2022

Q: My child has mentioned that the hike paths have been destroyed with the new construction happening. I am wondering if hikes will still be planned for next year or if there is a different plan in place to meet the physical education component for the students. I know they do enjoy the hikes but realize that may be out of your control if landscaping changes.

A: *We will be clarifying which hiking trails will be inaccessible next year, as well as working on putting in new hiking trails to the north where construction has not begun. The master plan for the subdivision shows several hiking paths remaining after the homes are built.*

Q: I was wanting information about the plan for the playground for the next school year

A: *Students will have access to the playground next school year. The construction fencing will be moved back to the new building, allowing for a full playground. We will be working on the installation of the slides as soon as possible. Our multipurpose room will also have a basketball/volleyball court and 4 square courts for indoor play opportunities as well.*

Q: With the new dismissal times for next year, will that mean the start times will be different to make up for it? Or will recess times be affected?

A: *The new dismissal times will not affect the start time or recesses.*

Q: Do you have an idea what electives will be offered for 6th grade next year?

A: *Sixth grade is a part of our middle school. The complete list of electives is still in the works as we finalize our hiring of our MS team. We anticipate offering courses such as: choir, strings, various art classes, various STEM classes, American Sign Language and more.*

Q: Will cross country be offered again next year? Are there any other sports/activities that will be offered next year?

A: *We are currently looking for a volunteer to run our cross country club. We are always looking for talented individuals to volunteer for after school clubs. Additionally, we have a few staff members who may be interested in running after school clubs. More information will be sent out in our July newsletter.*

Q: Is there a chance that choir concerts could be held on Thursdays and at a later time for next year?

A: *This year the only option was to hold the concerts on Tuesdays due to the availability of the venue. Next year we will have our multipurpose room and will be able to hold these events on site, which will allow us to hold them on Thursday nights.*

Q: For the 2022-2023 school year pick up plan, what is recommended for parents who have children in more than one pick up time slot? Will younger kids be held back and be released with older siblings or will parents need to go through line multiple times?

A: *Parents will need to pick up their children at their assigned dismissal times. We will have an expanded parking lot, which will allow space for parents to wait if needed. The July newsletter will have additional information on the drop-off/pick-up process next year.*

Q: Is there a discussion of having an active officer on campus during school hours?

A: *We have contacted the Kootenai County Sheriff's office to look into the cost of a SRO. The board of directors will be looking into options as they conduct their annual review of our safety plan.*

Q: Is there a possibility for school lunches to ever be provided?

A: *As of now there are no plans for cafeteria lunches due to the cost of purchasing the commercial kitchen appliances and hiring a full kitchen staff to prepare up to 528 lunches. This is not to say we aren't pursuing grants and other funding sources for the future. In the meantime, we are looking at the logistics of possibly having pizza Thursdays next year.*

Q: What will the start and dismissal times be for the upcoming school year?

A: *Start time will be 8:00 AM for all grades, with dismissals being: 3:20pm K-2, 3:40pm 3-5, 4:00 pm 6-8.*

Q: Are there strict safety protocols for a potential school shooter? Like ALL locked doors when school is on lockdown. Automatic locking doors. Only one way in multiple exits?

A: *We have a safety plan that has been reviewed and approved by the Kootenai County Sheriff. All exterior doors are locked (they lock automatically) **at all times**. All classroom doors are always in the locked position. Doors have magnets on the latches to keep them from locking when closed, when there is a lockdown the magnets are quickly removed to enable the doors to lock. The entrance is at the front of the school and all visitors must be buzzed in then a background check is run before being buzzed in through the second set of doors. There is a video camera in the entry as well as throughout the halls of the school and by exterior exits.*

Q: Why was diversity a part of the parent survey? Is there going to be a limitation put on a certain number of students that can be allowed in if they are of a certain background?

A: *The survey was put out by the BLUUM foundation as a requirement for the federal grant we received for start-up funds for HCC. HCC does not discriminate. There will never be limitations in place in regards to the students we serve.*

Q: Why are so many families deciding not to continue to stay at HCC and switching to a regular crowded public school in the area?

A: *As this is a school of choice and parent choices are personal, I am not able to fully answer that question. An expeditionary learning environment is not always a good fit for everyone. We currently have 528 seats filled for next year with 242 students on a waiting list.*

Q: Would maybe a bake sale or sock hop be possible fundraisers? Or a father daughter dance? Why was the gala canceled? Could it ever be changed to the fairgrounds and a local food vendor donating food for the event so other families who wouldn't normally afford to go are able to go and possibly buy items at the auction? Or reaching out to the chamber of commerce to spread the word of the event or posting on community bulletin boards?

A: *These events are run by the HCC Foundation and Parent Crew as a sub-committee of the foundation. Parent Crew is currently looking for a Fundraiser Lead. Please consider becoming involved or reaching out to them with your suggestions.*