

December 2019

SOUTH UMPQUA SCHOOL DISTRICT

# CONNECTIONS

## *Community Newsletter*



### MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



It is hard to believe that we are already entering our fourth month of school this year. I have enjoyed visiting classrooms and seeing our students immersed in the fun of working together and sharing the excitement of learning new things!

Staff around the district are working hard to provide safety and security upgrades at school sites, host student and community listening sessions, and find innovative ways to support our diverse student body.

The winter season is an exciting time for our students, as new opportunities present themselves -- winter sports, music & drama programs, and new elective course offerings become available at the middle and high schools. Students are preparing for holiday concerts and events, and hoping for snow!

As we enter the winter months, we are preparing to battle inclement weather and cold/flu viruses. I encourage you to update your contact information with your child's school so they can reach you quickly, if necessary, and to watch the district website for any weather related closures or schedule changes.

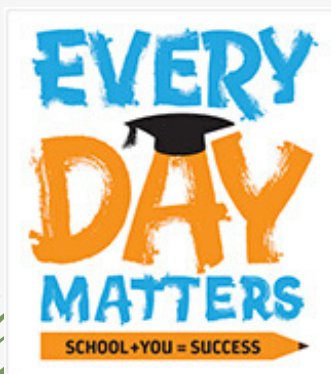
Sincerely,  
Kate McLaughlin

### DID YOU KNOW?



There's a very strong correlation between good attendance and success in school. On the other hand, students who regularly miss school are also more likely to struggle in school.

Missed days add up quickly: Just two days a month puts a child's success in jeopardy because students fall behind and disconnect. By third grade, it gets much more difficult to catch up. Students who regularly miss school can quickly feel hopeless, and returning becomes harder and harder.





## STUDENT SUCCESS ACT COMMUNITY TOWN HALL SESSIONS

Thank you to the many community members who participated in our Community Town Hall Sessions! We are compiling all of the information gathered, and will be sharing out the trends and plans with all stakeholders this spring.

## "LIKE" US ON FACEBOOK!

Stay up to date on fun events happening around the district and community by "liking" our page on Facebook.

**South Umpqua School District #19**



## School Board Goals

Each year the School Board sets overarching goals for the district. Our Board goals this year are:

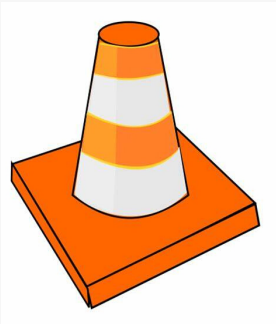
Academic Achievement  
Communication  
Equitable Access and Opportunity  
Fiscal Responsibility

The district Continuous Improvement Plan and each School Improvement Plan include goals that align with the School Board goals. This year, the district and school improvement plans focus on mathematics, attendance, and graduation rates. The district plan will be posted on the district website, and school plans will be available on each of the school websites in December, after approval by the Oregon Department of Education.

### **Canyonville South Umpqua Fire Dept**

South Umpqua School District  
Community Partner of the Month - November  
Thank you, CVSUFD!





# SAFETY UPGRADES IN PROGRESS

## **SEISMIC SAFETY UPGRADES at Myrtle Creek Elementary School**

South Umpqua School District has received a grant to upgrade Myrtle Creek Elementary School for safety, in the event of seismic activity. We had hoped to have all work take place over the summer months while the building was unoccupied, but have been told portions of the project will begin in the spring, and likely extend into the fall of 2020. In preparation for the work, crews will be drilling for soil samples around the school the first week of December. This will impact the parking lot and traffic flows for two days. Crews will be working closely with the school to provide updates to families throughout the construction process.

## **SECURITY UPGRADES AT ALL SCHOOL CAMPUSES**

Work is also beginning at multiple school campuses to provide increased security. Workers have begun the process of installing new doors and electronically controlled door access units. Additional security cameras are also being installed at multiple sites.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Dec. 4th:** School Board Business Meeting, 6:00PM, District Office, Portable A

**Dec. 9th:** Tri City Elementary K-2 Holiday Program, 6:00PM

**Dec. 10th:** Tri City Elementary 3-5 Holiday Program, 6:00PM

**Dec. 12th:** SU High School Band/Choir Concert, 7:00PM

**Dec. 17th:** Myrtle Creek Elementary PreK-2 Holiday Program, 5:30PM

**Dec. 18th:** Myrtle Creek Elementary 3-5 Holiday Program, 5:30PM

**Dec. 18th:** School Board Work Session, 6:00PM, District Office, Portable A

**Dec. 19th:** Canyonville School Holiday Concert, 5:00PM

**Dec. 19th:** Coffenberry Middle School Band Concert, 7:00PM

**Winter Break, Dec. 23rd - Jan. 3rd**