

Dear Students and Parents:

Welcome to Three Peaks Elementary!

Below are some items that will hopefully help you become acquainted with Three Peaks Elementary for the 2015-2016 school year;

School Hours and Early Out

Class will begin each morning at 8:55, with dismissal at 3:30 for grades one through five. Morning kindergarten will hold class from 8:55 to 11:40 and afternoon kindergarten will be from 12:45 to 3:30. Every Wednesday is early out day for all elementary schools in the district. This gives teachers some time to prepare lessons, collaborate their efforts, and obtain valuable training to serve students' needs. On early-out Wednesdays; students in grades one through five are dismissed at 1:30. Morning kindergarten will be in session from 8:45 to 10:45, and afternoon kindergarten from 11:30 to 1:30. Please try to ensure that your child arrives at school every day and on time. **Students are not to arrive at school before 8:30 AM due to supervision and safety constraints.**

Bus Transportation

Proper behavior on the bus is required for the safety of all children riding the bus. Students are to remain seated, keep their hands, feet, and other objects to themselves, avoid abusive behavior and teasing, and follow all directions from the driver. The driver may write citations if there is a problem. Three Peaks Elementary does not have jurisdiction over bus drivers or bus drivers' discipline. Parent concerns need to be directed to Danny Cowan, ICSD Bus Supervisor. Children are not allowed to ride a bus that they are not assigned to. Friends are not allowed to ride the bus home with other friends assigned to a different bus. You do not need to register your student to ride the bus; however, if you have questions or concerns about bus routes, bus numbers, etc. please call the bus garage at 435-586-2864.

Student Delivery and Pickup

Buses will pick up and drop off students in the circular driveway on the south side of the school along Midvalley Road. Parents and staff must never park or drive through the bus loading zone. **Please do not park, pick up or drop off students in the red zone in front of the school!** If you need to leave your car unattended, use the parking spaces. Do not park along the front curb (red or yellow zone)! Please be considerate of handicapped citizens and do not park in designated handicapped spaces without a permit.

Walking/Riding to School Safely

Students may ride bicycles or scooters to school and park them outside the building in the bike rack. Locks and helmets are strongly recommended. Students should dismount and walk onto the school grounds when arriving at school or leaving for the day. Bikes or scooters are not to be ridden during recess or break times.

Emergency Numbers

Please inform the school of your work telephone and/or emergency numbers in case your child becomes ill or injured at school and requires that we contact you. Please remember to notify the school of any change of address, telephone number, or emergency contact information.

Student Attendance

Consistent attendance is crucial to success in school. For this reason we strongly urge parents to encourage good attendance at school for their children. A direct correlation can be drawn between success in school and consistent attendance. Children who are ill should stay at home to recover and avoid the spread of disease to other students. Do not send your child to school if they have a fever, vomiting, or coughing and /or congestion that keep the child awake much of the night. In like manner, we urge all parents to avoid keeping their children out of school for sports events, visits to relatives, vacations, etc.

If a student begins to show poor attendance patterns, the school will take the following steps, as needed:

1. Phone call from the teacher.
2. A letter from the principal.
3. A second phone call from the teacher.
4. A parent conference with the teacher and the principal.
5. A letter from the district attorney that outlines parent responsibilities in regards to a child's school attendance. This letter will also require follow through from the parents.
6. Possible referral to the Utah Division of Child and Family Services for educational neglect.

Please help us ensure the best education possible for your children by getting them to school consistently and promptly.

School Community Council

Our community council is comprised of representation from school staff and parents. The committee deals with school improvement, budget items, planning, and acts as a liaison between our school and community. Our school community council has met and developed a school improvement plan for 2015-2016. Contact the school office if you are interested in being a part of our community council. Council members are elected each fall when positions are vacant. A copy of the School Land Trust Plan can be viewed in the main office.

PTA

Three Peaks Elementary is a school dedicated to children. Becoming involved in PTA provides an opportunity to contribute to the educational program. Throughout the year, many enjoyable and educational activities will take place. Please be involved. The cost of membership is \$5.00. If you are interested in volunteering for a committee, please email the school secretary @ betty-jo.white@ironmail.org.

Field Trips

Throughout the year, classes will be involved in educational field trips. A permission slip for field trips will be signed for each trip. Teachers are to inform parents of all field trips ahead of time. If the field trip will continue through lunchtime, a school sack lunch may be ordered. Cost for the lunch is the same as eating in the lunchroom.

Breakfast and Lunch Information

Applications for free or reduced meals are available in the office. We encourage students to support our school lunch program. The quality, variety, and quantity of food is excellent. The daily breakfast and lunch prices are as follows: Breakfast-- \$1.50 (\$.30 reduced) for students and \$2.00 for guests and adults. Breakfast is served from 8:30 to 8:50. Lunch --\$2.25 (\$.40 reduced) for students and \$4.00 for guests and adults. Sorry, our lunch system will not accept credit or debit cards to pay for meals. Meals may be paid daily, weekly, monthly, or yearly. Please make checks payable to: Iron County School District. Meals can also be paid online @ myschoolbucks.com. The lunch secretary will call if the account is not current.

PLEASE NOTE: Our school's food service program is subsidized by the federal government and is regulated by federal policies. These policies state that no person may consume any part of a meal served to another person, regardless of the status of the meal (free, reduced, or regular price.) Therefore, we respectfully require that:

1. Parents must not eat any part of their child's meal.
2. No part of the meal can be served to another child, and
3. Food served in the lunchroom cannot be transported out of the serving area.

Parents are welcome to eat breakfast or lunch at Three Peaks and purchase meals at the standard price for themselves or their children who do not attend our school. According to federal law and the U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, there are five meal components for lunch; 1- Meat or Meat Alternative, 2- Grains, 3- Fruit, 4- Vegetables, and 5- Milk. Children are required to choose at least three of the five components and one must be a fruit or vegetable.

Communication

Three Peaks Elementary strives to promote positive interaction and communication between our school and the families of our students. Emails, newsletters, web pages, phone calls, and notes home are just part of our efforts to inform parents of students' progress and activities here at school. **Please check your child's backpack DAILY!** Parent participation in this process is also vital. Please be sure to contact your child's teacher or the school office with questions, concerns, and suggestions. ICSD offers an automated Parent Notification System to those parents signed up on PowerSchool for this service. This process can be completed by setting up a PowerSchool account @ irondistrict.org listed under "Parents and Students", select: PowerSchool and create an account.

Student Birthdays

When desired, a store-purchased birthday treat may be sent to the school with your child on his/her birthday. The health department requires that no homemade treats be brought to school. Party invitations may be sent to school to be passed out to students **ONLY** if **EVERY** child in the class receives one. If only a few students are to be invited to the party, arrangements must be made at home.

Immunizations and Health

According to Utah state law, all students must have full immunizations before they are allowed to enter school. For parents who, for religious or other reasons, do not want their child to receive immunizations, waivers are available at the State Health Department Office located at 260 East DL Sargent Drive. The cost of the waiver is \$25.00. Please contact the health dept. at (435) 586-2437 for more information. Our school also offers an optional fluoride rinse program under the direction of our school nurse and PTA. This service has a yearly cost of \$5.00 and a consent form must be signed. If you have health questions, please check with the school and we can give you contact information for our school nurse.

Physical Education

Physical fitness is offered to all elementary students in grades K-5. If a student's participation has some limitations, it will be necessary to submit a written note to the teacher to be excused from physical education activities. Regular school clothing is satisfactory for physical education activities. Shoes should provide support and be safe for physical sports. Dresses and skirts for female students are discouraged on PE days. Students will be challenged to improve their individual fitness levels.

Student Appearance

Iron County student dress code states that student clothing and appearance cannot interfere with educational processes at our school. Please see attached copy of Student Dress Standards or view the ICSD website Policy Code JFCA.

Safe Schools Policy

Iron County School District has adopted a safe schools policy. Students are required to have a signed safe schools document on file each year. This policy states that students who disrupt their own education or the education of others may be removed from school for up to one year. As part of this effort, the school district has employed an officer from the Cedar City Police Department to act as a school resource officer (SRO). As a district employee, the SRO may be called upon by the school administration to investigate when there is a reasonable suspicion that a student has violated the Safe School Policy. Parents may review the entire Safe Schools Policy on the Iron County School District web site, or obtain a paper copy from the school office.

Utah Core Curriculum

The Utah Core Curriculum in reading and math is an exciting opportunity for teachers and students to “raise the bar” and learn skills, both academic and social, that will prepare children for the global community of the 21st century. The curriculum is rigorous and was developed solely by the individual states without input or influence from the federal government.

Discipline

All students can behave appropriately while at school. No student will be allowed to stop the teacher from teaching or prevent other students from learning. Each classroom establishes rules, rewards, and consequences. Harmful, violent, abusive, or non-compliant behavior may require removal from the classroom to practice appropriate behavior with the skill building coach. Inappropriate playground behavior will be addressed during lunch recess. Fighting is an automatic referral to skills. School personnel will only contact parents for serious infractions. Students may be asked to visit the skills room to complete homework, to decompress or to calm down.

School Volunteers, Visitation, and Safety

We love parents to visit our school and actively participate in the education of their children. For the protection of students, the outside doors will be kept locked during the school day. *The main doors by the flagpole are the only doors that will be unlocked during the school day.* **Whenever parents/visitors enter our school, they are required to check in at the office and sign the Parent/Visitor Log. A school-provided badge is required of all adults who wish to continue past to hallways or classrooms.** Adults who frequent the school have been instructed to challenge any visitor that does not have ID.

Telephone Usage

The school telephone is for business calls and emergencies only. Necessary plans for after school activities should be made with children before they leave home in the morning. If you wish to speak to a teacher, please email the teacher or leave a message with the office and he/she will return your call as soon as possible. If you have an important message for your child, the office will be happy to deliver it to your child as well. Please do not call the school and ask that your child be dismissed from class to answer the phone. This disrupts the learning environment for your child and all others in the class. If you need to leave a message with your child, please call before 2:30 (Wednesdays before 12:30). Anyone needing to give a child a message, medication, homework, lunch money, or supplies must check with the office. Interrupting class hinders valuable instruction time. Students that need to leave before school is out must provide their teacher with a note from their parent. They should come to the office at the appointed time, where an adult may sign them out. *Special Note Regarding Cell Phone Usage: Cell phones can be useful tools but can also be a great distraction in class. Students who use cell phones during class or in*

other ways that disrupt the educational process are hereby notified that their cell phone may be confiscated and held in the office until a parent can pick it up.

Lost and Found

Each year our lost and found reaches monumental proportions. Please label clothing and other items brought to the school. Unlabeled or unclaimed property is donated to a welfare agency at the end of each month.

Legal Guardianship

If the parent is not present to register the student, legal guardianship in the state of Utah must be provided. The Iron County School District charges a substantial tuition to provide services to out of state students who stay with relatives or friends that do not have legal guardianship. Students will not be able to register or attend school until tuition is paid or legal guardianship papers are provided.

The Division of Child and Family Services

The Division of Child and Family Services occasionally send representatives to the school to talk with children of families who have been referred to DCFS. By law, investigators are authorized to conduct interviews with children.

Requests to Deny Student Access to Certain Individuals

Requests to deny certain people access to your child must be supported with legal documentation (i.e.—restraining or protective orders). Please provide the secretary with copies of these documents.

We are proud of our school, our students, and the tremendous parental support we enjoy. We eagerly look forward to helping your child reach his/her full potential. We invite all parents to take an active role in their child's education by volunteering in the classroom, joining the PTA, helping with homework, and keeping in touch with their child's teacher. When home and school work together, great things happen in the life of a child! If you have any questions or comments that relate to our school, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Paula Burgoyne
Principal