



Dear Parents,

With the 2022-2023 school year just around the corner, I want to share some important information to help you and your children prepare for the first day of school on Tuesday, August 23.

1. New and improved security and safety. The security and safety of our children, staff, and guests are our deepest concern, and the district is always reviewing and adjusting our security and safety plans and training.
  - a. Cutting-edge surveillance and access systems are being installed and will be live before the start of the school year.
  - b. All district staff completes ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, & Evacuate) training prior to the start of the school year.
  - c. Given the recent tragedy, I encourage you to enjoy the moments with your children and spend time making memories.
  - d. Updated Emergency Operations Plan that reflects collaboration with law enforcement and other agencies.
  - e. Parents and a community that supports school security and safety.
2. You will use PowerSchool, the new student information system to manage your family account and monitor your child's progress. Last week families were mailed a letter with details on how to create parent access to PowerSchool with step by step instructions for creating your account. Once you have created your PowerSchool account you will be able to access your student's information and complete online registration as of August 1. If you have any questions or need assistance with setup please contact Virginia Harlan or Lindsey Gordy. If you have not received a letter by August 1, please contact Virginia Harlan 641-782-2116 or Lindsey Gordy 641-782-2724.

3. I encourage our families to join the district in teaching and modeling our Boundaries for Success:

**Respect Yourself**

**Respect Others**

**Respect our Schools**

The Boundaries are reinforced at school and creates a culture of respect that is a foundation of our values. I thank you in advance for your support in modeling our Boundaries for Success.

4. Please welcome the following new administrators:
  - a. Elementary school principal, Mr. Tanner
  - b. Middle school principal, Mrs. Downing
  - c. Elementary & middle school dean of students, Mrs. Malmanger
  - d. Food service director, Ms. Clark
5. Please welcome the following [new staff members](#).
6. Parents will resume [payment for their children to receive school meals](#).
  - a. Unfortunately, the federal government ended the free meal program and families will have to pay for school meals or apply for free and reduced meals by completing the online application during the student enrollment process.

- b. To increase safety, efficiency, and minimize errors, the district is transitioning to a cashless payment system. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding.
- 7. Community members successfully secured the signatures and served a petition on the school board calling for a special election to support improved and new school facilities. Please mark your calendars and vote on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, for the General Obligation Bond (GOB). The project reflects the same plan proposed and voted in March and will be altered to fit a budget that reflects the changes in the economy. It is important to note that the proposed GOB will not increase school taxes. If the GOB fails, it becomes increasingly difficult to hold the line on school taxes. Like the March GOB, more information will be provided so the residents of the Creston Community School District can make an informed decision.
- 8. The district will begin a comprehensive strategic planning process this fall that will include all stakeholders and partners in forming the foundation of the vision, goals, and expectations of our school district. More information on the process will be shared in August.
- 9. The Booster Club is selling bricks to help support the construction of a new entrance at the outdoor stadium. This [link](#) will take you to the form to purchase a brick. They are also conducting their membership campaign and more information is available on their Facebook page.

Thank you for supporting children, staff, and our schools making them the **PRIDE** of our community! As always, please contact me at [dstender@crestonschools.org](mailto:dstender@crestonschools.org) or 641-782-7028. Thank **you** for supporting our schools and making them the pride of our communities!

Creston Cares,

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Superintendent