



Banks School District  
12950 NW Main St.  
Banks, OR 97106

September 2014

Bob Huston, Superintendent  
503-324-8591

# NEWSLETTER

*Our Mission: To provide the best facilities, most challenging curriculum, highest qualified, dedicated staff and broadest variety of opportunities.*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Greetings Parents, Guardians and Patrons,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well and your children enjoying the start of this 2014-15 school year.

I am beginning my 42<sup>nd</sup> year in public education and have enjoyed my work in the Banks School District as your elementary school principal for six years and superintendent the past two years. However, I have decided it is time for me to retire, therefore, I have submitted my resignation to the Board indicating this will be my last year as Superintendent. I know I will miss the students, staff, parents and the many friends I have made in the community. With that said, I have much work to do this school year. I remain committed to working hard with our staff and Board members to do the best we can for our students. I appreciate your continuing support.

This school year our District will serve approximately 1,130, students in grades K-12, spread over 450 square miles within our District's attendance boundaries. We have enrolled approximately 460 elementary school students in grades K-5, 300 middle school students and 360 high school students. We have a five member Board of Directors dedicated to developing and maintaining school policy, in the best interest of students and their learning, within a safe and secure learning environment.

Thanks to many community members, staff, and past and present Board of Directors who worked with our Facilities Planning Committee since 2006 to propose a construction bond for our school district. The \$10.5 M bond passed in May of 2012. This resulted in the District building a new middle school which opened in April of 2014; a remodeled science classroom; a new fire alarm system at the High School; seismic and HVAC work at the High School and grandstand; an emergency access road at the Elementary School; parking lot repairs; a new restroom and plaza at the High School grandstand and numerous maintenance projects. The District is proud of the amount of work completed and the high quality of the work purchased with the bond proceeds, all while staying within budget. I have appreciated the positive comments from parents, students and other community members about the bond projects. There was an obvious sense of pride expressed over the success of all of these projects.

We are finally on the road to budgetary recovery after enduring six years of budget cuts, staff layoffs and furlough days since the recession of 2008. We now have a full school year (189 days) and have restored many teaching positions and programs. We rolled out iPads at all three schools this fall and will review and plan for appropriate device expansion. We also upgraded our WIFI infrastructure. We are looking forward to our next steps to provide students with access to instructional technology learning opportunities. The future is looking bright!

I will keep you informed this school year regarding the new state tests (Smarter Balanced) our students in grades 3-9 will be taking this spring. I will provide updates on our website and will be sending information home with students. Our teachers are preparing to help students meet the challenge of these more demanding assessments. Our District is focused on providing high quality learning experiences for all students. I am proud of our teaching staff, support staff and administrators. Our employees are committed to assuring success for all students and are willing to go the extra mile to get this done. We boast one of the highest graduation rates in the state and are striving to have our students graduate from high school being college, career and work ready. I am very appreciative to be working in a community with a parent base that fully supports our efforts. State school funding, though improved, remains inadequate for allowing our District to do all that we would like to do for our students and their learning. However, we will make no excuses. We may not be able to do everything we want to do; however, we will thoughtfully prioritize and define what we can do, and do it extraordinarily well. This will make our school district a great place for kids.

In June of 2015, our District is expecting to receive a facility grant of about \$250,000 from the state. This grant is based the square footage of the new middle school. The grant has restrictions relative to the use of the money. Basically, it may be used for technology and expenditures for items within the walls of the buildings. It may not be used for staffing or general maintenance projects. The Bond Core Management Team and our Board will review and prioritize needs to determine how this money will be allocated.

Yes, much has been accomplished with our bond work. However, I believe our District is faced with some unfinished business. As you drive down Main Street, you see our beautiful elementary school and then you see our new middle school...and then there is our high school. Even though the bond allowed the District to do some remodeling to take care of the comfort control and some safety issues, the high school comes up short within the vision of providing high quality facilities for all students. Therefore, it is my hope the Board and the Banks community will unite to pass a bond for a new high school after the elementary school is off the tax roll on July 1, 2018. This would make our District complete. This would give our community and its students the high school building they deserve. I look forward to the day this happens in Banks and will smile broadly when it does.

On behalf of our employees and Board of Directors, thank you for allowing us to educate and care for your children. It is important to me to receive your feedback. I fully understand that many of you are working during our regular school hours and unable to call at that time. Therefore, please feel free to contact me via email (bobh@banks.k12.or.us) or call me at home (920-242-7172).

Bob Huston  
Superintendent of Schools



### Late Start

Remember: Late start every Wednesday. School starts at 9:10 AM. Please see the calendar on the web page for more information.

## DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Directory Information is released only to those persons or organizations that have legitimate educational interest in the information, such as universities and others who use the information to inform parents about school-related matters.

In the Banks School District, the following information is considered as directory information:

- The student's name;
  - The student's address;
  - The student's telephone listing;
  - The student's electronic address;
  - The student's photograph;
  - The student's date and place of birth;
  - The student's major field of study;
  - The student's participation in officially recognized sports and activities;
  - The weight and height of athletic team members;
  - The student's degrees or awards received;
  - The student's most recent previous school or program attended.
- Directory information shall be released only with administrative direction.
- Directory information considered by the district to be detrimental will not be released.
- Information will not be given over the telephone except in health and safety emergencies.
- At no point will a student's Social Security Number or student identification number be considered directory information.

Parents may prevent the release of any directory information by notifying the school in writing that they do not want it released.

## Child Abuse Prevention Training/Sexual Misconduct

The 2007 Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill 379, entitled "Child Abuse Prevention Training for School Employees, Parent and Students", which says that schools and ESD's in Oregon must provide, and track, annual child abuse prevention and identification training for all employees.

A consortium of state ESD's have created an online resource for that training. In addition, the training is provided each year to parents and legal guardians of students.

In compliance with Oregon BH2062, our school board has adopted policies and procedures to help prevent child abuse and sexual conduct by district employees.

These policies and procedures are :

Applicable to all staff, and stipulates that

The district will not tolerate child abuse and sexual conduct by school employees.

Annual training on HB2062 is available to parents and legal guardians of students.

Log on to: [www.banks.k12.or.us](http://www.banks.k12.or.us)

### Resources

→ Health and Safety

⇒ Review our Staff Training

The training takes approximately one hour.

## Notification of Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

PPRA affords parents certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

\*Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas ("protected information survey") if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (ED) -

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

\*Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of -

1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.

\*Inspect, upon request and before administration or use -

1. Protected information surveys of students;
2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

These rights transfer from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law.

**Banks School District** will develop and adopt policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. **Banks School District** will directly notify parents of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. **Banks School District** will also directly notify, such as through U.S. mail or email, parents of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys noted below and will provide an opportunity for the parent to opt his or her child out of participation of the specific activity or survey. **Banks School District** will make this notification to parents at the beginning of the school year if the District has identified the specific or approximate dates of the activities or surveys at that time. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys listed below and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out of such activities and surveys. Parents will also be provided an opportunity to review any pertinent surveys. Following is a list of the specific activities and surveys covered under this requirement:

- Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales or other distribution.
- Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by ED.
- Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above.

Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202-5920

## **Identification of Disabled Students**

The Banks School District is seeking assistance in locating children with disabilities, birth through 21 years of age, who have not graduated from high school and are not attending or receiving other special services from the public school system.

Educational services for children with disabilities are mandated by Oregon and federal law. The Banks School District provides educational programs and services for eligible children from kindergarten through high school.

NWRES D provides educational services for eligible children from birth to kindergarten. All services are provided appropriate to each child's disability.

Anyone who has a child with a disability or knows a child with a disability, ages 5 through 21 not currently receiving educational services is asked to notify Shelley Mitchell, Student Services Director at 503-324-5151.

For children younger than kindergarten, call the Northwest Regional ESD at 503-514-1251.

## **FLU SEASON AWARENESS**



**At first**, the flu may seem like a common cold, with symptoms such as a runny nose, sneezing and sore throat, but colds usually develop slowly, whereas the flu tends to come on suddenly. These steps can help you stay healthy, even at the height of flu season:

- **Practice good hand hygiene** by washing your hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. Alcohol-based hand cleansers are also effective.
- **Cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow or shoulder, not into your hands.
- **Stay home if you or your child is sick** for at least 24 hours after there is no longer a fever or signs of a fever (without the use of fever-reducing medicine.)
- **Get your family vaccinated**

## **TOBACCO FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

A law passed by the State of Oregon requires that all school district property be tobacco free. The intent of this measure is to protect students, staff and visitors from the harmful effects of second-hand smoke and to provide an environment that encourages a healthy lifestyle and discourages young people from using tobacco. The Banks School Board adopted a tobacco-free policy effective June 12, 2006 to bring the district into compliance with this law. The law defines "tobacco" is defined as any lighted or unlighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, bidi, clove cigarette and any other smoking product, spit tobacco, known also as smokeless, dip, chew, or snuff in any form, nicotine or nicotine delivering devices, chemicals or devices that produce the physical effect of nicotine substances or any other tobacco substitute (e.g. e-cigarettes).

No student, staff member or school visitor is permitted to smoke, inhale, dip or chew at any time, including non-school hours, on any school grounds, including athletic fields and parking lots.

## **Attendance Calling System**

The attendance calling system is up and running for this school year. This system allows the district to call parents or students who have an unexcused absence during the school day.

The system can also allow for emergency callouts during the times of school closures or delayed openings.

Please notify the building offices to update your personal information if you change your primary contact phone number or email address during the school year.



## **Winter Weather**

The Banks School District covers a wide area with diverse weather and road conditions, there may be times when it is necessary to close or delay school or use limited bus runs and/or snow routes.

Because the District must meet a required minimum number of attendance days, there may be days when school will be in session even though some bus service will not be provided to students who live in a "snow route" area. After road safety checks, decisions on transportation changes will be made jointly by the superintendent and Mid Columbia Bus Company. In all instances, a decision will be made with the safety of the students as the primary consideration.

Every attempt will be made to make the decisions prior to 5:45 AM. At that point the information is called in to the radio and television broadcast network. In addition, the District uses the website [www.flashalert.net](http://www.flashalert.net) which lists up-to-date school closure information.

During adverse weather conditions, buses may run late, so children should be dressed warmly and be prepared for a possible longer wait at the pick-up location.



## **School Based Health Care**

*Located at Forest Grove High School  
Serving all students in the Forest Grove, Banks, and Gaston School Districts.*

Primary care, dental screenings and mental health counseling services are available. Most insurance is accepted. Call 503-359-4057 for more information, or to schedule an appointment.



**BLOOD DRIVE**  
**FRIDAY, November 3, 2014**  
**7:00 AM—4:00 PM**  
**Banks Sports Building**



## **McKinney-Vento Act**

Is your housing uncertain? Are you living some place temporarily? Students who lack fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime shelter have educational rights to remain in their current school despite this uncertainty, and may be eligible for support to maintain their school of origin. If you have questions, please contact Shelley Mitchell, Student Services Director at 503-324-5151.

## **FLASHALERT 2014-15**

FlashAlert notification sign-up has to be renewed every year. To sign up for notifications, please go to: [www.flashalert.net](http://www.flashalert.net) and update your information

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**12950 NW Main St.**  
**Banks, OR 97106**

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
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BANKS, OR.  
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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Kathy Edison, Chair  
Laurie Schlegel, Vice-Chair  
Norie Dimeo-Ediger  
Ron Frame  
Raymond Mott

# PATRON

**SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS:**

Bob Huston, Superintendent  
Mark Everett, High School Principal/Curriculum Director  
Jacob Pence, High School Assistant Principal/Athletic Director  
Shelley Mitchell, Middle School Principal/Student Services Director  
Darla Waite-Larkin, Elementary Principal

## The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."

- Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records. Schools may charge a fee for copies.
- Parents or eligible students have the right to request that a school correct records which they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.
- Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions (34 CFR § 99.31):
  - School officials with legitimate educational interest;
  - Other schools to which a student is transferring;
  - Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
  - Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
  - Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
  - Accrediting organizations;
  - To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
  - Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
  - State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. However, schools must tell parents and eligible students about directory information and allow parents and eligible students a reasonable amount of time to request that the school not disclose directory information about them. Schools must notify parents and eligible students annually of their rights under FERPA. The actual means of notification (special letter, inclusion in a PTA bulletin, student handbook, or newspaper article) is left to the discretion of each school.

For additional information, you may call 1-800-USA-LEARN (1-800-872-5327) (voice). Individuals who use TDD may use the Federal Relay Service.

Or you may contact us at the following address:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202-8520