Message from the Superintendent

On behalf of the entire Valley School District staff, I welcome you into the new school year! Secretaries, para-professionals, teachers, administrators, kitchen staff, facilities staff, bus drivers and directors are all looking forward to serving your kids and making a personal connection with them—education begins with relationships!

Over the summer our schools, programs, and departments have been busy improving our campus systems and getting ready to work with your kids. Since June, the facilities crew has maintained the grounds despite the heat and smoke and made many reparative upgrades throughout our buildings. The transportation department serviced buses and the fleet is ready to roll. The budget has been set for the school year, we’ve hired incredible teachers and staff, and installed an upgraded phone system for Columbia Virtual Academy, plus many other improvements. All this preparation is aimed at better serving our students and families, which directly connects to our district purpose, “Improving the Lives of Children and Families.”

One of Valley School District’s operating principles is “Continuous Improvement.” Continuous improvement requires strong commitment to take the steps necessary to be better today than we were yesterday, and is something that is easy to talk about yet a challenge to execute. One of the reasons it’s important for our district to commit to continuous improvement is because we ask our students to improve every day they come to school. Whether students are learning offsite through Columbia Virtual Academy or in our brick and mortar buildings, we ask them to step out of their comfort zones and learn something new. Likewise, as a staff, we look for ways to improve in all aspects of our positions, which always requires us to also get out of our own comfort zones and explore new methods. I look forward to joining and learning with a team that is committed to continuous improvement!

We are all in this together and must understand that by being a team, we will make a difference for all of our students. Every student in our district deserves our very best every day.

It’s going to be a great year!
New GPS Technology Onboard

Have you ever been running late in the morning and wonder if the kids have missed the bus? Need to pick up the kids after a field trip and want to know exactly when the bus will arrive?

Valley School District’s new school bus tracking technology and fleet management system, UbicaBus, is now onboard VL Transport Center buses to assist families with information about their student’s bus route, stops and expected time of arrival.

Steve Templeton, Transportation Supervisor at VL Transport Center, is anticipating improvements in route management and efficiency, and staff and parent satisfaction with use of the UbicaBus technology.

Each of the seven Valley and four Loon Lake route buses have been equipped with a UbicaBus Location Messaging Unit (LMS), which is a GPS tracking and diagnostic device that transmits each bus’s current location and updates every five seconds.

Once VLTC staff become well-versed with the UbicaBus operating system this fall, families will be notified to access the user-friendly Parent App on their Android and iOS devices to view the route map and track their bus’s travel progress in real-time. Parent accounts may be customized to receive arrival and delay alerts, and school notifications about inclement weather delays, cancellations or emergencies that may be affecting regular service.

Mr. Templeton is using the UbicaBus route planning tools to tailor each route for optimal travel time and distances, stop locations and order, helping to minimize student wait and travel times. Routes will be easier to alter in response to periodic new student pick-ups, road construction or bad weather. Historical data and information will allow Steve to review and compare new routes with previous routes and then adapt them based on ridership rates and fluctuations in student enrollment.

The UbicaBus platform also supports data management of route, driver, student, and parent information, allowing easy updates throughout the year.

Fleet management reports provide current and historical data on route performance and deviations, bus speed and idle time, delays and mileage. The on-board diagnostic system can analyze the vehicle’s overall run time, miles traveled and months of service to detect potential issues and track repairs during its usable lifespan. VL staff can remotely monitor a bus’s mechanical performance and set alerts and reminders for maintenance tasks such as oil and fluid refills and changes, and tire rotations.

Oh, the wonders of technology! Valley School District, VL Transport Center and its partners are working diligently to improve transportation services for our area student and families.

All aboard UbicaBus!

VSD Board Meeting Notice

Upcoming VSD Board meetings are September 19th, October 17th and November 21st at 6:30 p.m.

School Board
Bill Wilson (President)
Doug Elledge
Paul Voelker
Crystal Hubert
Nancy Cocroft
Superintendent
Ben Ferney

Non-Discrimination Statement

Valley School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained guide dog or service animal by a person with a disability in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees of the Valley School District at 3030 Huffman Rd., Valley, WA 99181 are designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Danielle Turek, Title IX Liaison; Janet Williams, Section 504/ADA Coordinator; Ben Ferney, Compliance Coordinator for State Law (RCW 28A.640/28A.642). A complaint regarding alleged discrimination may be made by e-mail to: compliance@valleysd.org, or by calling the district office at 509-937-2791.
Welcome
Students & Families!

VALLEY K-8 SCHOOL
Principal: Todd Smith
Phone: (509) 937-2413
Toll Free: (888) 284-5719
First day of school: Tues., Aug. 28th
First day of Kindergarten: Aug. 31st
Breakfast: 8:10-8:35 a.m.
First bell: 8:35 a.m.; classes begin 8:40
Lunch:
  K-1 11:10-11:45 | 2-3 11:20-11:55
  4-5 11:30-12:05 | 6-8 11:40-12:15
Dismissal: 3:10 p.m. for all grades
MONDAY LATE START: 9:40 a.m. - all

PAIDEIA HIGH SCHOOL
Principal: Matt Cox
Phone: (509) 937-2655
First day of school: Tues., Aug. 28th
Classes begin: 8:35 a.m.
Lunch: 12:10-12:40 p.m.
Dismissal time: 3:15 p.m.

EARLY LEARNING CENTER
Director: Candace Harris
Phone: (509) 937-2638
Childcare Hours: 7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Preschool Hours: 8:20 a.m.-3:20 p.m.
Breakfast: 11:45 a.m. | Snack: 2:30 p.m.

COLUMBIA VIRTUAL ACADEMY
Executive Director: Dennis Killmer
Principal: Dave Vail
Assistant Principal: Eldon Palmer
Phone: Toll Free (855) 525-2270
Hours: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

VL TRANSPORT CENTER
Supervisor: Steve Templeton
Phone: (509) 937-4021
Hours: 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

K-8 FALL SPORTS
Athletic Director: Josh Clemmer
Football
Coach: Jim Pallidin
First Practice: Tues., Aug. 28th
Volleyball
Coach: Rhea Ross
First Practice: Tues., Aug. 28th

---

School Board Appoints New Director
Superintendent Ben Ferney administered the oath of office on August 15th to Nancy Cocroft, who was appointed Director, Position 5. The board position became vacant with the resignation of Renae Fitzgerald. We extend our gratitude to Nancy for her willingness to serve our district. Please give her a warm “Valley” welcome when you meet her!

Valley School Board members, left to right: Bill Wilson, Ben Ferney, Nancy Cocroft, Doug Elledge and Paul Voelker (Not present: Crystal Hubert)

New Daily School Schedules
The daily school start and release times have been slightly adjusted for the 2018-19 term, which impacts bus pick-up and drop-off times for all students.

Valley School Principal Todd Smith advised that all K-8 grades and classes will begin at 8:40 a.m., with students being released at 3:10 p.m. Monday Late Starts will continue, with classes beginning one hour later at 9:40 a.m.

Additionally, lunch break times have been adjusted (see grade band meal schedules, at left), and all students will take a short recess just prior to eating midday.

Paideia High School has reduced the length of the regular school day by 10 minutes. Classes begin at 8:35 a.m. and students are released at 3:15 p.m. daily.

At Valley Early Learning Center, the preschool schedule remains the same, from 8:20 a.m.-3:20 p.m. However, the revised bus schedules will impact young students riding the bus. Please contact your child’s school office or consult Student-Parent Handbooks for complete information.

---

2018-19 Meal Prices
Breakfast and lunch are served daily and available to all students. Application forms for free or reduced price meals are available in the school office or online at www.valleysd.org under Nutrition or in the Student Registration packets.

**BREAKFAST:**
- Students Grades K-5 = $1.35
- Students Grades 6-8 = $1.65
- Students Grades 9-12 = $1.70

**LUNCH:**
- Students Grades K-5 = $2.25
- Students Grades 6-8 = $2.55
- Students Grades 9-12 = $2.65

Reduced rate = No charge for K-12 breakfast or K-3 lunch
Reduced rate lunch for 4-12 = $.40

---

www.valleysd.org/community-resources
New Teachers Join Valley School Programs

The start of a school year always signals bright beginnings, new classes and friends, gleaming school supplies, and fresh, smiling faces. Returning students and newcomers will be greeted by both recently-hired and familiar staff, some settling into different positions. Everyone’s looking forward to blazing new educational trails with students and families in Valley School District’s various programs.

VALLEY SCHOOL

Valley is pleased to welcome home Sky Griepp, who grew up in the Valley area and was a Valley Eagle his kindergarten through 5th grade years. Sky shared that he and his wife, Rachael, and young family are “looking to contribute to all the great things the Valley community has to offer.”

Sky will be teaching 6th–8th grade math, a subject and position in which he experienced success at Wellpinit School District over the last four years. “I’m excited to build on what I have learned in my previous position and to help create a math program here at Valley that is second to none. I am excited to be working with such a passionate, hard-working staff and lucky to have the opportunity to make a positive impact in the lives of our students.”

Sky also shared one of his favorite quotes from Albert Einstein: “Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think.”

Ashli Stroyan is ecstatic to be a part of the Valley team as Valley School’s new third grade teacher! She earned a BA in Elementary Education at Washington State University and, this past year, completed her first year teaching in kindergarten with Colville School District.

Ashli shared that she has always had a passion for children and helping them learn. Coaching gymnastics helped Ashli discover a true love for teaching; she explained, “There is no greater reward than watching the joy and excitement of students when they achieve something new and reach their goals.”

Ashli was born and raised in Colville and is the youngest of five siblings. She enjoys spending time with her friends and family, skiing in winter and playing in Waitts Lake in the summer. Ashli is excited to be back in this area and ready to share her kind heart, knowledge, and love for teaching with the youth of the community.

K-8 Position Changes

As larger student classes advance up a grade, teachers shift positions to best serve larger or smaller groups. This year, Kristynne Cranford moves from 5th grade to 4th grade, and Sydney Lee has moved from teaching first grade into a second kindergarten class.

COLUMBIA VIRTUAL ACADEMY

The last seven of Kimber Rolfe’s twelve years in teaching have been with the Sultan School District on the west side of the state for CVA-Sultan. She gained experience as an ALE and classroom teacher in both Sultan and Monroe School Districts.

Kimber shared that she has felt privileged to work with K-8th students and families and stated, “I am excited to have the opportunity to continue teaching in partnership with students, parents, and my CVA colleagues.”

Moving to Stevens County seems to have been an easy decision for Kimber and her husband Mark. As a child, Kimber’s family spent many summers around Kettle Falls camping and boating while visiting great grandparents. “Spending summers exploring the beautiful Columbia River area created fond childhood memories for me. To continue building family memories, we brought our two children (now adults) to boat and camp along the Columbia and Lake Roosevelt each summer. Mark and I decided that we would come back to this area someday. It is said that home is where you hang your heart. This feels like home to me!”

Susan Harrison is extremely excited to be a CVA teacher! After moving from Seattle to the Loon Lake area three years ago, she has been substitute teaching for local school districts, including CVA-Valley. Susan explained that she has been looking for not “just a job” but for a career and to be a part of a great team. She knows CVA is that place and looks forward to working with families and students. She has been impressed with the dedicated staff in CVA and “loves the encouragement students get to be a part of their own learning journey by allowing them the ability to incorporate their own interests.”

Continued on next page
New Staff — continued from pg. 4
Gaining experience by teaching in South Korea, United Arab Emirates, and Iraq, Susan found she enjoys students from various cultural backgrounds. As a Guatemalan American born and raised in Eastern Washington and a fluent Spanish speaker, she worked alongside her immigrant farmer parents during summers, where she learned how to work hard and be responsible.

Susan and her husband Michael have two daughters, Chanel (7) and MaKayla (4). Susan is passionate about videography and makes movies of her pictures and short video clips of family and friends.

David Smith brings over 35 years of elementary-level teaching experience to the CVA-Valley team. The past 29 years included leading classes in grades 4-7 in traditional classrooms and grades K-12 online with CVA in Onalaska School District in southwest Washington. During those years, he and his wife also taught their own four children at home.

Commenting on his extensive experience (and showing his playful side), David shared, “I am a teacher my students look up to, since I stand 6’4” tall; and yes, I do play basketball and bump my head all too often.”

David grew up in Seattle (really up!) and earned his teaching degree at Western Washington University. About moving to the east side, David shared, “Although I grew up in Washington’s biggest city, I enjoy the pace of life in rural communities like Valley and look forward to this next chapter in my life.”

Mary Howell is excited to bring her love of learning to the district and CVA families. Mary hails from Colville School District which, she explained, “was my professional home for 29 years,” as an elementary teacher and, during the last 18 years, where she taught technology at Fort Colville Elementary School.

“I am energized by the opportunity to work with CVA! As much as I loved the staff and students I worked with in Colville, I am ready for new challenges.”

Mary is a native to the Kettle Falls and Colville area, and she and her husband, Chris, love the outdoors and take advantage of the beauty of northeastern Washington every chance they get.

April Beck-Friends has 25 years of teaching experience, both internationally and locally with Mead School District in elementary education and K-12 STEM, special education and art.

CVA is pleased to welcome back teacher Lynette Franks, who transferred from Paideia High School after four years working there with students in English and the arts.

VSD’s new special education teacher, Jessica LeDoux, will be working in both CVA and Paideia High School. She is a graduate of Gonzaga University, earning a B.A. in English Literature and her Master’s degree in Special Education. Jessica previously taught at St. Charles Catholic School, Mead School District, and most recently at Rogers High School with Spokane Public Schools.

She shared, “I had the good fortune to be a special education teacher in the behavior intervention program as well as a resource room teacher and inclusion co-teacher. While I absolutely loved my co-workers and students there, I knew last year that I was getting ready for something new and different.”

Continued on page 7

Parent & Family Engagement Contributes to Student Achievement

The Board of Directors views the education of students as a cooperative effort among schools, families and the community. Parent and family engagement in learning activities contributes to student achievement.

The Valley K-8 School participates in the federally-funded Title I program and state-funded Learning Assistance Program (LAP), both designed to serve the unique academic needs of students through customized instruction and support. As part of the Title I, Part A program, the district and Valley School encourage the involvement of parents and guardians in its related Parent & Family Engagement activities, plan and policy development. Additionally, parents are encouraged to participate in the Family Engagement Committee throughout the year.

Information about Title I/LAP support services and district policies are provided to families throughout the year and upon request by calling the Valley School Office, (509) 937-2413.

In compliance with Title I, Part A school requirements under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Valley School District would like to inform parents or guardians that they may request information about the professional qualifications of a student’s classroom teacher(s) or instructional paraprofessional(s). For information, please contact the district administrative office at (509) 937-2791.
For Your Information...

**VELC Preschool**
Families will be scheduled for beginning conferences August 30th and 31st in preparation for the first day of class on September 10th. Preschool is Monday-Thursday 8:20 a.m.-3:20 p.m. Parents with additional questions are encouraged to contact Director Candace Harris at (509) 937-2638.

**Kindergarten Registration**
Valley School is still accepting registration for students turning five years old before September 1. For information, call the school office at (509) 937-2413.

**Daily Summer Activities Reward**
Participating students can bring their booklets and/or work to the Valley School Open House on Thursday, Sept. 13th at 5:30 p.m. to collect their final reward coupon. For more information, call the Valley School office at (509) 937-2413.

**Child Find**
Valley School District offers many academic programs and services for all children residing within district boundaries, including developmental screenings and comprehensive assessments for those suspected of having a disability which could adversely affect their success in school. Early identification and intervention helps children become more independent and achieve at higher levels.

Schools provide educational support programs such as Title I, Learning Assistance Program (LAP), special education and speech, physical and occupational therapy. Families experiencing homelessness or with low-income, foster children, and/or children with developmental delay or disability, including speech difficulties, may qualify for preschool services (ages 3-5) at no cost. If you have concerns about your child’s development, contact the school to arrange a free screening for speech, hearing, language, motor, social and learning skills. Individuals from birth to twenty-one (21) years of age may be screened and eligible for district services. For more information or to arrange an appointment, please contact the Special Services Director at (509) 937-2859, or the district administrative office at (509) 937-2791.

**Healthcare Reminder**
Parents: Before the first day of school, be sure to have your child’s immunization form ready and, if applicable, prepare the physician’s orders form and medication administration form plus any medications that will be brought to school.

**Management of Student Information**
Student records contain information which is collected and maintained by the school on a routine basis for educational or operational purposes. Student records are considered confidential and, generally, personally identifiable information may not be disclosed to an individual or agency (“third party”) without written parent/guardian consent, unless there exists a legitimate educational interest or other exception as allowed by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). One such exception is the transfer of student records and information to an official of another school or institution where the student has enrolled or intends to enroll.

Accessibility to student records is guided by Valley School District policy in accordance with state and federal laws. Parents, guardians and adult students have the right to: inspect and review their child’s record, and seek to amend information if they believe the record is inaccurate or misleading; consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent; and to file a complaint with the U.S. Dept. of Education.

**Student Directory Information** is the portion of the education record that generally would not be considered private information and which may be included in district or community publications such as newsletters, theatrical playbills, yearbooks, honor roll or award lists and sports programs.

Directory information may be released publically without parental consent, though a parent/guardian has the option of restricting the release of such information without prior consent by providing written notice to the district administrative office within ten (10) business days of enrollment or first day of school.

Additionally, secondary schools must provide military recruiters and postsecondary educational institutions, upon request, with student names, addresses and telephone numbers, unless a parent/guardian “opts out” in writing of the release of this information.

Valley School District identifies the following as directory information:
- Student name, address, phone number
- Photograph

**The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act**
Assisting Children in Need

If your family lost permanent housing and now live in a temporary shelter, inadequate housing, and/or lack a fixed, regular nighttime residence, your children might be able to receive help through a federal law called the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act.

Under this Act, children and unaccompanied youth in homeless situations have the right to receive a free, appropriate education and immediate enrollment in the school of choice (even if they are missing a permanent address, required records or documents); to receive free meals at school and transportation assistance; to access the same academic program and school services for which he/she qualifies as available to non-homeless students.

For assistance and more information about how you and the school can work together to provide the support your child needs to be successful, contact the Valley School District homeless liaison, Natalee Reid at (509) 937-2696 or visit www.valleysd.org/forms-and-notices/.

**Want School Notices?**
If you would like to receive phone call notices from Valley School District about school activities, events and important emergency information, just let us know! Contact (509) 937-2413 and we will add your name to the auto-call list.

**Family Policy Compliance Office**
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

www.valleysd.org
New Staff —continued from pg. 5

Jessica and her husband and son recently moved to Deer Lake, and she found that fresh start in Valley. “I feel incredibly blessed to be joining CVA as well as Paideia High School in special education. I am so excited to be a part of your community. The beautiful setting and friendly people are exactly what really drew me here and I look forward to getting to know each one of you. Thank you for the opportunity to serve your children.”

CVA Position Changes

Teacher Hillary Noe is now serving as the Academic Advisor for CVA families, a position held by Eldon Palmer for several years. Eldon is now working full-time as Assistant Principal in CVA-Valley.

Paideia High School

Paideia High School welcomes JaLynne Winters to their staff, who will be teaching Math. She and her family relocated from the Ephrata/Soap Lake area, where she taught Math at Soap Lake High School. “We moved to Deer Park last September for my husband’s new job at Mary Walker School District. We have lived in Zillah, St. John, and Soap Lake, and are thrilled to be experiencing this new area and be a part of this great community.”

JaLynne also shared that her family includes four children, one of which is married. “We just became Grandparents in June—we are super excited!”

Nicole May joins Paideia High School as a para-educator, replacing David Bergman, who left the district. Nicole shared that she grew up in Deer Park, and has lived in the Chewelah area for five years. “I started as a substitute para at Valley school in 2011 and got a full time position starting in the 2012-13 term. I had my son in January 2014 and have been a stay-at-home mom since then. I am very excited to get back to work and join the team at Paideia High School.” Nicole enjoys being outdoors and spending time with her family.

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

VELC’s new Special Services Aide is Josie Brown, who is a 2014 graduate from Mary Walker High School and lives in Loon Lake. Before joining VELC as a long term substitute in 2017, she worked as a nanny for a local family, spending four years assisting the large household of eleven. Josie shared that these experiences helped her gain knowledge about children with learning disabilities and early developmental trauma.

“I am looking forward to using these skills. The Valley schools do an amazing job reaching out to better our community. Their drive is to make education positive and enjoyable for students. I am beyond excited to be a part of such an amazing program where I can further my knowledge in early education. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your family!”

VELC also welcomes Callie Larson, who will be serving as a full-time assistant teacher this year. She worked as substitute staff previously in VELC, and enjoys working with “an amazing team of teachers.” She aims to continue supporting the success of students and helping them make new discoveries.

Citizen Complaints Concerning Federal Programs

Anyone may file a citizen complaint concerning special service programs against a school district or school service provider. A complaint is a written statement that alleges a violation of a federal rule, law or regulation or state regulation that applies to certain categorical federal programs. For more information about the citizen complaint process, call the district administrative office at (509) 937-2791 to request guidance; and/or visit the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction website at www.k12.wa.us/TitleI/CitizenComplaint.aspx; or call (360) 725-6100.
Be Sure to Attend Valley School’s

Open House!

ALL FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO THE BACK-TO-SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE ON THURSDAY, SEPT. 13TH AT 5:30-7:00 P.M.

This annual tradition offers students and their parents/guardians an opportunity to connect with staff and teachers and learn about anticipated learning activities this year.

Principal Todd Smith will discuss the Student-Parent-Teacher Compact For Achievement and how parents can help their child with goal setting.

Parents can visit their child’s classroom and collect library cards, What Your “Nth” Grader Needs to Know books, Skyward Family Access logins, plus useful information about Renaissance Home Connect, WIN Time and other programs. Watch for more information, or call the school office at (509) 937-2413. We look forward to seeing you!

COMING IN NOVEMBER!

The Valley School Drama Club invites you to experience a magical tale set deep in the jungle about a baby boy, lost and abandoned and raised by wolves. The young boy, Mowgli, finds friendship among the other jungle creatures, but can they save him from the clutches of mischievous monkeys and the powerful tiger, Shere Kahn?

Join us Thursday and Friday, November 15th and 16th at 2:00 and 6:30 p.m. for an adventure you won’t want to miss!