

July 20, 2023

Canyon Lake Shooting Stars,

I am so excited to start year 2 as Canyon Lake Principal. A little bit about me... I have 19 years of experience in education, 18 of those years have been in Rapid City Area Schools. I started 5 years in 2nd grade at Corral Drive, 3 years in 5th grade at South Park, 5 years as an Instructional Coach at Rapid Valley, and 4 years as Assistant Principal at Knollwood Elementary. The wide variety of experiences I have had throughout the community is something I truly value about my career. My husband and I have two amazing kids who are both students at Steven's High School. My other three four legged "kids" bring me so much joy, Tuuk(labradoodle), Bauer(goldendoodle), and Olive(bernedoodle). My husband says I am running a "Dood" ranch.

2023-2024 School Year

Canyon Lake will again be operating a split campus. Our K-1 will be in the Canyon Lake East building, 2-3 will be in the annexes, and 4-5 will be in Canyon Lake West. This year, we will only have 1 office housed at Canyon Lake East. To maintain the safest campus possible, please check in at the office first with Sheila or Teresa for a tardy slip or visitor's pass. Our Dean, Mrs. Jessica Russo, will have her office in Canyon Lake East.

Start and End Times:

First day of School: The first day of school for 1st through 5th grade students is Tuesday, August 22.

The first week of kindergarten will be a little different schedule, we will come in small groups on August 22, August 23, and August 24. All Kindergarteners will come on Friday, August 25th.

Kindergarten Small Groups:

Tuesday, August 22nd: Student Last Names A-H

Wednesday, August 23rd: Student Last Names I – Q

Thursday, August 24th: Student Last Name R-Z

Friday, August 25th: All Kindergarten Students

School start time is 7:55(a line-up bell will ring at 7:53) and the dismissal bell will ring at 2:55.

Friday Early Release:

This school year we will have Early Release on the first Friday of the month at 1pm. Those dates will be:

September 1st, October 6th, November 3rd, December 1st, February 2nd, March 1st, April 5th, May 3rd

On Early Release days lunch will run as usual and busing starts at 1pm.

Busing

Buses will drop off in the bus lane on the south side of Canyon Lake West. Buses will pick up in front of Canyon Lake East and then in the bus lane at Canyon Lake West. For the safety of our students, we ask that families do not use the bus lane before or after school. Busing is provided for students who live more than 2.5 miles from school. Buses will run beginning Tuesday, August 22nd. For further information, contact the RCAS Transportation department at 605-355-3707.

This year we will be enforcing the bus rules strictly to ensure the safety and well-being of both our bus drivers and our students riding the bus. If rules are not followed on the bus, we will suspend bus privileges.

Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast is provided in the gym at Canyon Lake West from 7:40 – 7:55 at the cost of \$2:35. We serve lunch at both East and West Campus. Lunch price is \$3.10. I encourage every family to complete the free and reduced cost lunch application, it helps our school in various ways to have every family apply. Online applications are available via Family Access and paper applications are available in the office.

Lunch Times: K- 10:55, 1st 11:15, 2nd- 10:55, 3rd- 11:15, 4th- 10:55, 5th- 11:15

Canyon Lake Chant

Last year we worked hard as a team to be able to memorize, say in cadence, and apply meaning to our school chant. This year we want to include our whole school community, so there will be more to come on this. But I wanted to put the words here, so you had them and could get started on your homework 😊 .

Good, Better, Best

Never Let it Rest.

Until our Good is Better,

And our Better is Best!

If you have a returning student to Canyon Lake, ask them and they can teach you!

Communication and Input

We will communicate promptly through Classroom Dojo, Facebook, and our phone messaging system. My #1 goal as a building leader at Canyon Lake is to connect with the students, families, and staff that I am serving so I can make the most informed decisions I can for Canyon Lake. In the words of someone who inspires me greatly, Brene Brown, “Connection is why we’re here; it is what gives purpose and meaning to our lives.”

Ways to stay connected with Canyon Lake:

- Classroom Dojo, an invite will be coming from your child’s classroom teacher
- Like us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/canyonlakeschool)
- Text Messaging: Text “Yes” to 67587 for district announcements

My door is open to you as we get ready for this new school year and throughout the school year. If you would like to meet with me, I would welcome that! Please call the school office to schedule a time. I believe in truthful, transparent discussions that lead to collaboration. I look forward to meeting or reconnecting with so many of you at our Back-to-School Open House on Thursday, August 17th from 4-6pm.

See you so very soon,

Hollie Hoffman, Canyon Lake Principal