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Developing in our students: Respect, Excellence, and Discipline

Grace School District

#148 Highlights

Volume 3 Issue 1

August 9, 2013

Welcome Back!

Superintendent's Letter

Dear Patrons-

We are excited to be starting a new school year! There is much to make you aware of this year as we celebrate success and launch new initiatives that will help us get even better. We are getting back into the swing of things and our teachers and students are excited for the opportunity to improve.

The Idaho Star rating system is in its second year, and I am pleased to report that our schools did exceptionally well. Grace High School and Jr. High received a 5 star rating, and Thatcher and Grace Elementary Schools received a 4 star rating only missing a 5 star rating by a narrow margin. This ranks our district overall among the best in the state. We are fortunate to have great students and staff in our district, and want to congratulate them for the excellence they have demonstrated.

Grace School District will host a district wide back to school night on August 19th at 6:00 pm. Activities will be held in the Gem Valley Performing Arts Center as well as the surrounding areas associated with Grace High School. The purpose of this meeting will be to familiarize parents and students with the districts mission and vision, as well as provide information to help students be safe and successful at school. There will be representatives from the District

Food Services, Transportation, and Administration to answer any questions. We have also invited representatives from the Fire Department, Community Library, Hospital, Health Department, Sheriff's Office, Monsanto, Potato Growers, United Way, and the Idaho Dairy Council. We invite all community members to attend. For information please contact the Grace School District office.

We are going to focus our attention this year as teachers on using questioning to assess understanding. We will be receiving training on August 19th from Dr. Ivan Hannel who will be teaching us "A Pedagogy for Asking Better Questions." We hope to be able to better assess student understanding and target areas of our practice that could be improved.

We have placed a link to class lists on the main page of our website. We will be making class lists available on the webpage from now on. Please take a moment and visit our website and friend us on our new District 148 facebook page.

Relationships are important in the Grace School District. Our students, parents and patrons are the reason we are here. Please feel free to visit with your teachers regarding concerns you may have so we can better serve your student and help them

succeed.

This year we will continue to use a parent advisory committee that meets the third Tuesday of the month at 1:00 in the superintendent's office. If you would like to serve on that committee please contact the district office.

I appreciate all you do as patrons for the students and staff of this district. We are excited to be developing Respect, Excellence, and Discipline, through Rigor, and Relevance and Relationships.

Go big R.E.D.,



Jamie Holyoak
Superintendent of Schools
Grace School District #148

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then, is not an act, but a habit." — Aristotle

District Back-to-School Night

August 19, 2013 6:00—8:00 P.M.

Grace High School

- *Entire community is invited!*
- *All three schools will be there!*
- *Children's games!*
- *Powerschool, PLATO, and Accelerated Reader information*
- *Booths from CCMH, Caribou County Sheriff's Office, EMT's, Grace Fire Department, the United Way and more!*
- *Come explore Big Red and the new travel bus, as well as an ambulance and the fire truck!*



Worth the Fight!

Welcome Back, Grace High School! Our student council has been hard at work to bring you what may be the best year ever at GHS! Check out our incredible **Welcome Week** activities:

Monday, August 19th: **District “Back to School Night”!** For the first time ever, all three schools in the district are holding their “Back to School” nights together in the same location at the high school. Festivities go from **6 to 8 p.m.** and include games for the kids, fire truck, ambulance, Big Red, the new travel Bus, booths from organizations representing both Caribou County and the State of Idaho, and lots of information for parents and students about Thatcher Elementary, Grace Elementary, and of course, GHS!

Wednesday, Aug. 20th: Our **Opening Assembly** will introduce this year’s theme and host new games that will win GHS students **FREE** tickets to Thursday night’s incredible “Battle of the Bands”.

7 to 9 pm: Get ready for our **“COLD BUNS AND HOT DOGS”** activity! Come ready to do some serious **ICE BLOCKING** and roast a Hot Dog by the fire!

Thursday, Aug. 21st: **8 pm: BATTLE OF THE BANDS:** Bands from Logan, Utah will be traveling to Grace to compete for the title of “Best Band”. We are inviting the entire community of Grace as well as the surrounding communities of North Gem, Soda Springs, Preston, Westside, Bear Lake. Cost is \$3 per person or \$10 per family.

NEW STAFF: Mr. Eli Hubbard is a Grace High School Alumni and is also our new GHS Science Teacher. In his spare time, he will be directing this year’s Spring Musical. Our excitement about Mr. Hubbard is equaled only by our enthusiasm for our new music teacher, Mrs. Elizabeth Buxton. Beth was trained in the mid-West and brings a new excitement that will extend from Elementary Band to this year’s Serendipity Tour! We welcome these two great teachers!

DUAL-CREDIT CLASSES:

Parents and students need to be aware that six dual credit classes will be offered **first semester** for juniors and seniors. Earn high school and college credit at the same time!

Dual credit Calculus taught by Dr. Millward second hour

Dual credit Statistics taught by Dr. Millward sixth hour

English 101 taught over the IEN first hour

Sociology 101 taught over the IEN third hour:

Psychology 101 taught over the IEN fourth hour

Political Science 101 taught over the IEN fifth hour

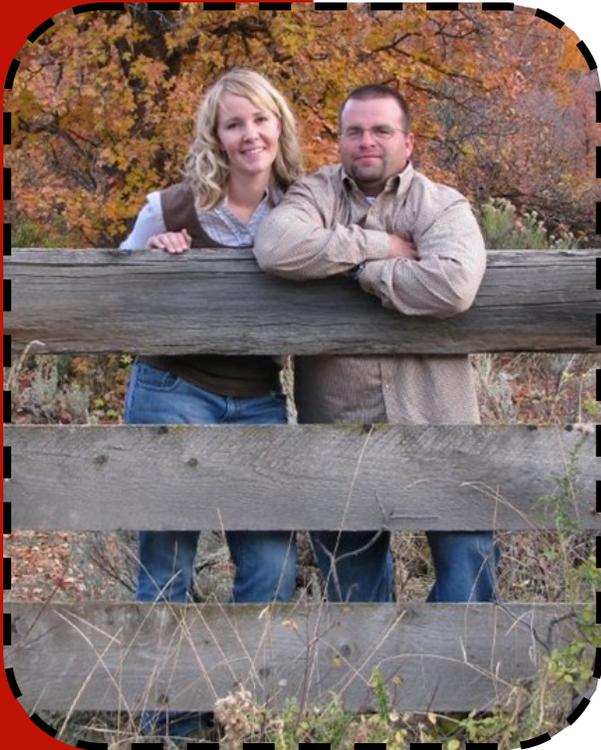
Thatcher Elementary Gearing Up

Thatcher School is geared up and excited for the 2013-2014 school year! We will be hosting a Back-to-School Open House on Tuesday, August 20, from noon until 2:00

p.m. Students (and parents) can come to the school, find their classrooms, and meet their teachers. Students may bring their school supplies on this day if they would like

to. Thatcher P.T.O. will also be at the school to welcome the students and provide treats!

New Teacher at Thatcher Elementary



Betsy Despain grew up in West Point, Utah as the fifth child of eight. She attended Clearfield High School and later went to Utah State University where she met her husband, Travis. They now have four awesome kids, two girls and two boys. They moved to Preston in 2003 and fell in love with the area. She loves athletics, especially volleyball and basketball and watching wrestling. She also enjoys swimming with her kids, going on walks, bike rides, and being with her

family. She is passionate about teaching, especially the younger ages. She knows these grades affect the success of a child's future school experiences. She is excited to teach at Thatcher Elementary. "Every person I have talked to who has had any experience with Thatcher Elementary tells me it is one amazing place," says Betsy.