

# Focus on Schools

## Back-to-School Information

Volume 19, Issue 1

August, 2018

### Board of Directors

David Nails, Chair  
Brian Becker  
Jennifer Hauser  
Terry Huber  
Robert Smith

### District Office

509-397-3042  
Jerry Pugh  
Superintendent

### Jennings

#### Elementary School

509-397-2181  
Travis Howell  
Principal

### Colfax Junior/Senior High School

509-397-4368  
Carrie Lipe  
Principal

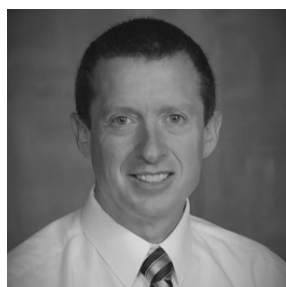
### Transportation Dept.

509-397-2292  
Craig McCully  
Supervisor

### Absence Hotline:

397-2924

## *A Message from the Superintendent...*



Welcome to a new school year that promises to be a great year for learning, performing, competing and adapting. I use the word adapt-

ing because by the end of the 2018-19 school year, we will all be working around the renovation of the junior/senior high school, as well as Jennings Elementary School, and adapting as each phase of the project advances.

The planning for the renovation of our buildings in the Colfax School District continues to progress. The schematic layout of the junior/senior high school shows new placement of the science rooms, counseling center, art room and some general education classrooms. A creative design for the gym in the junior/senior high school building is being considered that will make the space more flexible to the needs of education, sports and community groups, who all use the facility. At each step in the process, we have met with staff and interested community members to seek input and feedback. If you would like to know more about where we are in the planning process, please contact the district office. I would be happy to spend some time going over the designs and answering questions you may have.

Following this spring's resignations and retirements, the building principals and staff were extremely busy interviewing and hiring eight new staff members to fill those vacancies. Everyone is encouraged to attend our building open houses to meet those new members of our team and help me welcome them to Colfax.

An important focus of the district is to review and upgrade curriculum as necessary, to ensure we are teaching to the required learning standards with viable curriculum and materials. A committee of teachers and administrators from both buildings worked hard last year researching and sampling new social studies curriculum. When school begins in the fall, students in all grade levels will be using the new social studies curriculum that was approved for adoption. During the 2018/19 school year, a team will be looking at K-5 science curriculum, as well as Career and Technical Education (Vocational) curriculum.

Another change parents and guardians will notice when school begins is regarding our procedures in loading and unloading students from buses. More detailed information will be coming to parents and guardians from the building principals prior to the start of school. In short, requests to change buses for students at the end of the school day will be tracked through the building offices, not classroom teachers, and supervision for loading at the end of the day will be increased to ensure our younger students are getting on the right bus.

Thank you for your trust in us to take care of your students during the day and to give them a world class education. All of us in the Colfax School District know and understand the importance of the work we do in teaching your children in a safe, caring and rigorous learning environment.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry Pugh". The signature is written in a cursive style.

## Colfax School District Hires New Teachers

The Colfax School District is pleased to announce and welcome new teachers to the district and Colfax community.

**Kiran Dhillon** has been hired to teach 7-12 grade science and math. Kiran graduated from Colfax High School and received her bachelor's degree from WSU and master's degree from Gonzaga University. Kiran comes to us with 12 years of teaching experience in the Granger, Union Gap and Sunnyside School Districts.

**Jordan Magrath** is a WSU graduate with six years of teaching experience in the Yelm School District. He is the recipient of a "Born to Teach" award and has experience facilitating student leadership (ASB) and coaching four different sports. Jordan will be teaching English Language Arts at the junior/senior high school.

**Molly McNeil** has been hired to teach social studies and English Language Arts at the junior/senior high school, as well as coach high school volleyball. Molly is a WSU graduate with eleven years of teaching and coaching experience in Tillamook and Okanogan School Districts.

**Stephanie McNeilly** earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Eastern Washington University. Stephanie lives in Colfax and completed her student teaching at Jennings Elementary before being hired by the St. John School District in 2002, where she's been employed since. Stephanie will be teaching 5th grade at JES.

**Andrew Penwell** is a WSU graduate certified in English Language Arts, social studies and health/fitness, who has eleven years of teaching experience in the Grandview School District. He is nationally board certified and has taken leadership roles in curriculum adoption and integrating technology in the classroom. Andrew will be teaching grades 7—12 social studies.

**Ronda Penwell** will be teaching English Language Arts at the junior/senior high school. She received her degree from WSU and is certified in English Language Arts and history. Ronda comes to us with six years of experience in the Prosser and Grandview School Districts. Ronda also has advised ASB, Honor Society and Senior Projects and served as head Tennis coach for ten years.

**Maarika Vercamer** has been hired to teach K-12 vocal music. She has lived on the Palouse since she was six years old and is a recent graduate from WSU. While at WSU, she did her advanced practicum with Mr. Cammack here in the Colfax School District. Maarika just recently completed a long-term substitute teaching assignment at Bowdish Middle School in Spokane.



*Colfax Junior/Senior High School received the 2017 WA School of Distinction Award for continuous growth in academic performance over a five year period in English Language Arts and Math. Accepting the award, from left to right, is Superintendent Jerry Pugh, Shawwna Breach (Math), Jennifer Cooper (Special Services), Principal Carrie Lipe, Casey Zander (Math) and Cathy Landers (English).*

# 2018-19 Registration Information

## New Student Registration

Colfax Jr/Sr High School—Tuesday, August 14th

Select one session to attend:

8 a.m.—10 a.m.

10 a.m.—noon

1 p.m.—3 p.m.

Jennings Elementary—Wednesday, August 15th

8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

## Returning Student Registration

**Online Registration opens August 1st.**

Registration for returning students will be completed electronically in Skyward Family Access. Information and instructions will be mailed to parents/guardians prior to August 1st and is available on our website at [www.csd300.com](http://www.csd300.com). Computers will be available for use in the school buildings after August 14th for those who need them to complete the process.

## National School Lunch and Breakfast Program

The Colfax School District participates in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. Free and reduced-price meals are provided for children who qualify according to the Federal Eligibility Standards. Information and applications are available in the school offices, the District Office and on our website.



## FEE SCHEDULE

### JES (grades K-6):

Camp Grizzly fee (**6th grade only**) \$20.00

Camp Grizzly t-shirt (**optional**) \$10.00

JES Annual (optional, must be purchased by October 5th) \$15.00

Party Money (paid to Colfax PTO) \$ 7.00

### CHS (grades 7-12):

ASB card—grades 7-8 \$25.00

ASB card—grades 9-12 \$45.00

JH Yearbook (grades 7-8) August and September \$12.00

October through June \$15.00

HS Yearbook August and September (w/name) \$50.00

October through June (no name) \$60.00

## CLASSROOM SUPPLY LISTS

K-6 Supply List is available on our website at [www.csd300.com](http://www.csd300.com).

7-12 Supply List will be provided to students at the start of the school year.

## Other Important Dates:

August 13: **School Offices Open**

August 16: **Back-to-School Day at JES**  
**For students in grades K-6**  
 School pictures will be taken and fees and PTO party money can be paid.

August 23: **Back-to-School Night at JES**  
 5:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m.  
**Transitions Night for 7th graders at Jr/Sr High School**  
 4:30 p.m.—5:30 p.m.

August 27: **First Day of School—grades 1-12**

August 30: **First Day of Kindergarten**

September 4: **Colfax Junior/Senior High School Open House—grades 7-12**  
 6:00 p.m.—7:30 p.m.



**Keeping you informed...**

**Nondiscrimination Statement:**

The district will provide equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities program without discrimination based on sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, genetic information, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal, or any other basis prohibited by law and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth. District programs will be free from sexual harassment.

**School Report Card:** The annual school report card is available on our web page and the OSPI web page at <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us>.

**Compliance Notifications:** Compliance statements are posted on our web page at [www.colfax.k12.wa.us](http://www.colfax.k12.wa.us) under Parent Resources, labeled "Your Right To Know". If you would like a copy of our compliance statements and do not have access to the web, please contact the district office.

**Questions or Concerns?**  
**Call or e-mail us...**

Superintendent  
Jerry Pugh  
509.397.3042  
[jerry.pugh@csd300.com](mailto:jerry.pugh@csd300.com)

Jennings Elementary Principal  
Travis Howell  
509.397.2181  
[travis.howell@csd300.com](mailto:travis.howell@csd300.com)

Colfax Junior/Senior High School  
Principal  
Carrie Lipe  
509.397.4368  
[carrie.lipe@csd300.com](mailto:carrie.lipe@csd300.com)

Transportation Supervisor  
Craig McCully  
509.397.2292  
[craig.mccully@csd300.com](mailto:craig.mccully@csd300.com)

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Colfax School District, in partnership with families and community, is to prepare students to become responsible citizens who compete successfully in a changing world.

**Focus on Schools**  
Colfax School District No. 300  
1207 N Morton Street  
Colfax, WA 99111

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