

Welcome
to
Ernest Hemingway STEAM School



Parent & Student Handbook
Grades PreK-8
2020/2021

*Ernest Hemingway STEAM School
P. O. Box 298
111 Eighth Street West
Ketchum, Idaho 83340
208-578-5050*

*Members of the Board of Trustees
Blaine County School District #61*

*Keith Roark - Chair
Lara Stone - Vice Chair
Amber Larna - Trustee
Dan Turner - Trustee
Gretchen Gorham- Trustee*

*Superintendent of Schools: Fritz Peters
Principal: Patricia Short
Assistant Principal: Stephanie Wallace
Secretaries: Sarah Stavros & Kathy Agnew*

School Hours

*Kindergarten - 8th Grade 8:00 am to 2:30 pm
Preschool 8:00 am to 11:00 am*

Important Telephone Numbers

*School Office 208-578-5050
Social Worker 208-578-5052
Bus Shop 208-578-5420*

*District Website: www.blaineschools.org
School Website: www.hemingwayschool.org*

STEAM EDUCATION

STEAM is a philosophy of teaching and learning

Science is a way of finding evidence to support answers to questions

Technology is any tool used to solve a problem

Engineering is a means of designing and testing solutions to problems

Art is the application of human creativity and imagination

Math is the computational language of measurement, pattern, formation and relationships

STEAM is an integrated approach to learning in which science, technology, engineering, art and math are infused into all lessons across the curriculum. Throughout the school year, teachers at Hemingway develop new and exciting projects for the students. Students in grades Pre K through 5th Grade are engaged in monthly STEAM Exploration Days and cross-grade level weekly 'STEAM Buddy' collaboration time. In the Middle School grades, Art and Engineering is a core class and elective offerings also have a STEAM focus.

The focus throughout the school is to teach through the lens of STEAM with an emphasis on the 21st century skills of Critical Thinking, Creativity, Collaboration and Communication.

Outdoor education is a gem in our curriculum as it has inspired our connection with the local community and environment. We incorporate the outdoors as much as possible. We are within walking distance to the Big Wood River, The Environmental Resource Center, and the Sun Valley Center for the Arts. The Sawtooth Botanical Gardens is a bike ride away and the SNRA is a short bus ride away making it very easy for us to access these wonderful 'STEAM' resources as well. All 6th graders will be going on a 4-night trip to the McCall Outdoor Science School. 5th graders hike up to Baker Lake and will go on a 2 night camping trip to the BASE Camp, 4th graders participate in Wagon's Ho, 3rd graders go to Craters of the Moon, 2nd graders explore Ketchum and frequently visit the Community Library. Kindergarten and 1st graders do a number of 'Wonder Wander' nature walks observing the outdoors and visit the Botanical Garden.

All students in 1st-8th grade participate in our Winter Sports Program by either alpine skiing, snowshoeing, nordic skiing or ice skating at the Sun Valley ice rink. All students keep track of their STEAM learning in a STEAM journal.

GENERAL PROGRAMS

Classrooms at Ernest Hemingway STEAM School are self-contained. Teachers in grades four and five often specialize in science or social studies. Students alternate among the grade level teachers based on study units. Art, Engineering & Design, Instructional Technology, Music, PE instruction and Instructional Technology comes from a specialist teacher.

Students identified by school personnel as being in need of additional assistance receive some of their instruction by a trained specialist. Programs available include: Counseling, Gifted and Talented Education (GATE), Special Education, English as a Second Language (ELD) and Speech and Language Instruction. Referrals can be from staff members or parents. If you feel your child should be considered for any of these services, please contact the principal, Ms. Short, or your child's classroom teacher. A Child Study Team recommendation and parent permission is required before these services can begin.

RE-ENTRY OPTIONS FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

Plan A- Reunited

All students at school using healthy and safe practices

Plan B - Strict Social Distancing

Half of students at school and half learning from home.

Plan C - Distance Learning

Blaine County School District will open schools on September 8th with Plan B. ALL students whose last names begin with A-L will be attending school in person on Mondays and Wednesdays. ALL students whose last name begins with M-Z will attend school in person on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Fridays will be a day for virtual class meetings, interventions, small work groups etc.

Blaine County School District will open K-5 schools on February 8th with Plan A. Middle school students will continue to follow Plan B until further notice.

On the 'in person' days students will have a regular schedule with specials, intervention/enrichment time, recess, lunch and incorporation of STEAM learning throughout the day.

On the 'off days' students will have assignments to complete virtually as well as an opportunity to watch live streaming in their classroom. We plan to have daily meetings that students can participate in either 'in person' or virtually.

MEET AND GREET

Hemingway STEAM School will hold a Meet and Greet for families on Thursday, September 3rd from 1-3pm. Students with the last names beginning with A-L will attend from 1-2pm. Students with the last names beginning with M-Z will attend from 2-3pm. Families must enter the classroom by using the outside classroom doors.

SUPPLY LISTS

Classroom supply lists can be found by going to the Hemingway website. [CLICK HERE.](#)

CHROMEBOOKS

Blaine County School District will provide Chromebooks for all students. For students who received a chromebook in the spring we ask that you bring it back on the first day of school. 3rd and 6th grade students will be issued new chromebooks.

CHROMEBOOK INSURANCE

Parents will have the option to purchase \$25 Chromebook insurance for the year. Please note, if you choose not to purchase insurance families will be responsible for replacing broken or lost equipment.

COMMUNICATION

In addition to daily and weekly teacher communication, the school will send out monthly newsletters to parents via Constant Contact. Emergency information, school notices etc. will be sent out via Skyward emails and radio announcements on local radio stations; KECH (95.3), KSKI (103.7) and KYSK (107.5). Emergency communications and school closures are also sent out through Skylert via *Txtwire*.

SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Please watch the short video by Principal Short outlining the safety protocols for this school year. [WATCH HERE.](#)

MASKS

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 to our community and in accordance with Blaine County Ordinance and CDC recommendations, Blaine County School District is requiring that all staff and students 5 years of age and older wear a face mask covering at school (inside and outside) unless one of the following applies:

- inability to remove their own face covering, or
- those whom have a medical diagnosis precluding them from wearing a face-covering

We ask that students either wear a :

- securely attached cloth face-covering which covers their nose and mouth,
- securely attached medical grade paper covering which covers their nose and mouth, OR
- clear face-shield which wraps around the student's face and extends below their chin.

Each child will be given a washable mask. Please make sure you label your child's mask.

If your child's healthcare provider has determined that he/she should not wear these face coverings, please call the school to request an exemption form, and have your healthcare provider complete and return it to school.

For additional information regarding COVID-19 policies and procedures, please go to the School Nursing and Student Health Portion on the district website. [CLICK HERE.](#)

NO TOLERANCE FOR ILLNESS

Please do not send sick children to school. This is very important in our current health climate. If your child is sick, we will ask that you take them home.

SCHOOL HOURS

Warning bell rings at 7:55 am

School begins at 8:00 am and dismisses at 2:30 pm

Preschool begins at 8:00 am and dismisses at 11:00 am

NEW PROTOCOL FOR STUDENT DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Students will enter and exit their classrooms through their exterior classroom doors. For students who have 3rd grade teacher Heather Guy and 4th grade teacher Emma Wilander they will enter and exit the building through the west end entrance to the school. There will be no parent parking in the north parking lot.

Students are asked not to arrive at school before 7:30 am. Adult supervision will begin at 7:30 am and end at 7:55 am when the students will enter the building to begin their school day. It is important that children are in class for the start of the school day. Please take the morning traffic into consideration.

TARDIES

Students who arrive at school after 8am need to enter the building through the front door by ringing the doorbell and check in with the office to receive a tardy slip.

SCHOOL DRESS

Children are encouraged to wear clothing appropriate for school activities. Outside recesses are held nearly every day and parents are reminded that the playground can be cold or muddy. Please try to **label** all clothes and masks. Check zippers and buttons to see that they work properly. If possible, try to arrange for an extra pair of old footwear to be left at school in case feet get wet. Children are prohibited from wearing any clothing that is disruptive, distracting, has inappropriate slogans or promotes tobacco, alcohol or any controlled substances.

ABSENCES

We encourage perfect attendance. If your child is sick please keep him/her home to help prevent spreading any illness. If your child is going to be absent, please telephone

the school office by 8:30 am on the day of the absence. Please indicate with school staff if your child is home due to COVID-19. Additional follow-up by school staff will be required. If an absence due to illness extends past 3 days, you will need to provide a medical excuse signed by a physician.

EXCESSIVE ABSENCES

The laws of Idaho require students to attend school regularly. Blaine County School District defines this as missing no more than 10% of the days school is in session. Excessive unexcused absences may result in a referral to *Attendance Court* in the judicial system. To access more information regarding student attendance please go to the Blaine County website. [CLICK HERE.](#)

EXTENDED ABSENCES

Extended absences interrupt and reduce the continuity of the student's learning. These absences should be avoided whenever possible. The school recognizes that circumstances can arise when the absences occur. If this is known to parents/guardians in advance, the school should be notified five (5) days prior to the absences. This will give the teacher an opportunity to gather homework for such absences. It should be noted that teachers can only give general curriculum area assignments. This is due to the fact that instruction speed is governed by the rate students gain mastery in the classroom. Parents will be expected to set aside time each day for students to complete their schoolwork. Students who will be out of school more than 10 consecutive days will automatically be un-enrolled and will need to be re-activated upon their return.

SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

School lunch is free for the 2020-2021 school year.

Students will continue to eat lunch in the cafeteria. Hot lunch will be given to students in prepackaged containers. We ask that parents or guests do not accompany students during their lunch time.

SNACKS

Please check with your child's teacher to see if snack time will be a part of the program. In school we prefer nutritious snacks such as; fruits, vegetables, unsweetened juices, etc.

NUT ALLERGIES

Please be aware that we have several students in our School with SEVERE Nut Allergies. We ask your cooperation in not sending nuts or nut products to school. Please be alert to any notices teachers may send home.

MEDICATION

Students who need to take prescription or nonprescription medication during school hours may do so only with a signed Medical Release. This form is available online. [CLICK HERE](#). Medication must come to school in the original container with the label identifying the medication and dosage. Medication will be stored in the office and administered by our school secretaries Sarah Stavros, Kathy Agnew or unless otherwise noted.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

This year, each student will be issued a 'Smart Tag'. This bus pass will allow administration to track students on busses in real time. Please be mindful of these passes to avoid losing them. Students will also be assigned seats for the 2020-2021 school year in order to practice social distancing.

Parents wanting information about bus routes or general bus safety should contact the Bus Shop at 208-578-5420. Bus routes are posted on the Blaine County School District website. [CLICK HERE](#). Students are not able to ride school buses other than their assigned bus. Parents concerned about student behavior on the buses are encouraged to contact the Bus Shop or Principal Short.

VISITORS, VOLUNTEERS AND MESSAGES TO STUDENTS

Due to COVID-19 Hemingway is asking parents to limit their visits to the office. Volunteers will be permitted on campus on a case by case basis. While we realize situations come up that your child may need to be made aware of, we would greatly appreciate your limiting your visits and calls/messages. The Office delivers messages, forgotten lunches, etc., at 10:00 and 2:00 each day.

SCHOOL BOARD

The Board of Trustees has a regularly scheduled meeting at the Community Campus, the second Tuesday of each month. These meetings are open to the public and all are welcome. For more information [CLICK HERE](#).

LOST AND FOUND

If your child is missing an article of clothing or another important possession, you may check the *Lost & Found* area. Please be aware that items NOT claimed by the end of each semester will be donated to *The Gold Mine* in Ketchum.

PARENT AUXILIARY

Our Parent Auxiliary has regular meetings. Dates/times are posted in our newsletter and on the web. Please consider becoming involved with this important organization. If interested, please email pshort@blaineschools.org.

USE OF FACILITIES

Fee schedules and regulations governing the use of Hemingway facilities are established by the School Board of Blaine County and are available from the District Buildings and Grounds office. Groups or persons interested in scheduling the use of school facilities should contact 208-578-5460 x1113.

BICYCLES, ROLLER BLADES, SKATEBOARDS, SCOOTERS

Students must walk their bicycles, scooters and skateboards off the school grounds to the Bike Path before they begin riding. Students are not allowed to rollerblade or skate on school grounds.

CELL PHONE POLICY FOR STUDENTS

Put Them Away for the Day – The Board of Trustees has adopted a policy for Electronic Communication Devices, also known as cell phones, or the mini computers in our pockets. The goal of the policy is to increase the focus on learning and lessen the distractions at school. The bottom line is that students are not allowed to use their cell phones during the school day, except for high school students during their official lunch period. What are the consequences?

First Incident:

Students must give their phones to a staff member upon request. The first time a phone is confiscated, a parent or the student can pick it up in the school office.

Second Incident:

The second time a phone is confiscated, a parent must pick up the phone no earlier than the next day or end of the school week.

Third Incident:

The third time a phone is confiscated, the parents/guardians and student meet with an administrator and decide on disciplinary action.

HARASSMENT AND BULLYING POLICY

Physical, verbal, and emotional abuse toward students is not tolerated in Blaine County schools. If any student feels they are being bullied, threatened, harassed, or injured in any way please contact one of the following staff at our school:

- Classroom Teacher
- Social Worker
- Principal

CODE OF CONDUCT

Our *Code of Conduct* was designed by the Hemingway Staff with input from the student body to enhance the learning opportunities for all students.

- *We will maintain a quality learning atmosphere.
- *We will show concern for the rights and safety of ourselves and others.
- *We will show respect for school and personal property.
- *We will respect adult decisions.
- *We will use polite language and good manners.

These items were designed to help students translate the *Code* into specific responsibilities. Within the building, our *Code of Conduct* requires:

Walking in a quiet, orderly manner
Using a quiet voice while working in the hall
Keeping hands to oneself
Leaving class only with permission
Proper use of Restrooms

In the cafeteria, our *Code of Conduct* requires:

Using “please” and “thank you”
Using restaurant table manners
Speaking in a 12 inch whisper voice
Not sharing food (for health reasons)
Standing in line quietly
Selecting a seat and remaining there for the period
Cleaning the eating area before being excused
Receiving permission to be excused

On the playground, our *Code of Conduct* will not permit:

Rough play
Rude language and swearing
Throwing snowballs
Misuse of playground equipment
Uncooperative behavior
Injuring students with objects
Leaving boundaries
Closing games to other students when using school equipment

Weapons

Blaine County School District has a “Zero Tolerance” policy concerning students bringing any weapons on to school grounds. This policy includes pocket knives and will result in the student being suspended or expelled from school.

Policy on the use of alcohol, tobacco and other controlled substances.

It is the policy of the Blaine County School District #61 to prevent and prohibit the possession, use, sale, distribution, and/or intent to distribute tobacco or any illegal or controlled mood-altering chemical, or abused chemical on school property, at

school-sponsored events and possession of or distributing such chemicals on school property, at school-sponsored events, or on school buses shall be in violation of this policy. This applies to student vehicles on school property as well. The principal of each school will be responsible for the development of procedures unique to his/her building and community within the parameters of the District wide policies and procedures.