



Clarkston

SCHOOL DISTRICT

Experience. Learning. Together.

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✓ Dates to Remember:

September - October

- **Sept. 7:** NO SCHOOL - Labor Day
- **Sept. 17:** CHS Blood Drive from 8:30 AM to 2 PM
- **Oct. 2:** NO SCHOOL - Professional Development Day
- **Oct. 5-9:** Elementary Conferences, Elementary students dismissed at 12:25 PM
- **Oct. 26-30:** CHS Homecoming Week
- **Oct. 29:** CHS Homecoming Bonfire
- **Oct. 31:** CHS Homecoming Dance

November

- **Nov. 5:** Middle school Conferences, LMS students dismissed at 12:25 PM
- **Nov. 11:** NO SCHOOL - Veterans' Day
- **Nov. 20:** Early Release (K-6) Grade Prep, Elementary students dismissed at 12:00 PM
- **Nov. 24:** Mr. CHS Contest, 7 PM
- **Nov. 25:** Early Release
- **Nov. 26-27:** NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break

December - January

- **Dec. 18:** Early Release
- **Dec. 21-Jan. 1:** NO SCHOOL - Winter Break
- **Jan. 15:** Golden Throne Spirit Games at LCSC, 6 PM
- **Jan. 18:** NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King Day

SCAN ME!



Clarkston calendar online

Make sure to visit the CSD website for a detailed calendar and a full listing of school and district events at www.csdk12.org.

Inside Clarkston Schools

with Superintendent Tim Winter

We enter another school year with an excitement and enthusiasm to serve the students of the Clarkston School District. I am always amazed at how the stores begin stocking school supplies right after the Fourth of July. It is as if the shelves get stocked and the clock starts moving faster toward the end of summer. We see the same things with holiday decorations and displays. Apparently, it is never too early to be prepared.

When I stop and think about it, we have a similar pattern of preparation in our school systems. It is sometime in early July that we transition from reflecting on the recently completed school year and start preparing for the one that will begin in late August. We are thankful to our outstanding people who have been working tirelessly this summer to provide our students with an amazing experience in our schools in the upcoming year.

With learning always at the forefront of our work, we continue to implement systems and strategies to support student achievement. We are proud to support our students and staff with programs like AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination), Ready for Kindergarten, Advanced Placement courses and PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) to prepare them for a great future after high school graduation.

As I often say, the strength of our district lies in the strength of our community, and the strength of our community lies in the strength of our district. We work well together to provide the city of Clarkston and the entire Valley with a school system of which we can be proud.

As final preparations are put in place, we enthusiastically welcome back students, parents and staff to our schools and look forward to the opportunity to experience learning together in 2015-2016.





Read more at
www.csd12.org/news

Experience.

Summer Preparations Enhance Clarkston's Learning Environment

Enhancing the learning environment has been the vision for the summer in the Clarkston School District. With over 30 projects completed, our maintenance and custodial crews have been busy doing great work that will enhance the experience for students, staff and parents in the upcoming school year.

Last spring, we created a facilities needs assessment at each building and prioritized in a five-year plan when those needs would be met. The pencil was sharpened as we began crossing completed projects off the list. Some of the noticeable highlights include a fresh coat of paint on Lincoln Middle School, the portable at Highland Elementary and the East wing of Clarkston High School. We also put a new roof surface on the west wing of the high school that will keep the water out of the hallways. Sprinkler systems were updated and asphalt surfaces were repaired. Gym floors were all refinished, kitchen work was done and carpet was replaced in specific classrooms.

Our technology department was also busy preparing for the new school year. Additional Wi-Fi access points were installed in all buildings, which will allow staff and students a better online experience in their learning. Each school also received an additional computer lab as well as portable lab on a cart to support student achievement.

We also did some work on school safety by assessing our intercom systems district-wide so that we can have working communication in all areas of all buildings. Clarkston High School will have a new security camera system installed in September, which is phase one of a district-wide plan to eventually update all buildings.

All of the summer work points to an improved learning experience for our students. We are thankful for the hard work this summer and for the upgrades to our school district.

Learning.

Clarkston School District Reinvests in PLCs

The world of education is filled with acronyms, but PLC is more than just that, especially in the Clarkston School District. The acronym, standing for **Professional Learning Communities (PLC)**, is how the Clarkston School District believes is the best way to operate. Since the early 1960's, research has shown that when teachers collaborate with one another there's a greater positive impact on student learning. In 1998 when Rick DuFour and Robert Eaker published *Professional Learning Communities at Work™: Best Practices for Enhancing Student Achievement*, it used the earlier research to provide schools with a guide of how to do this work. Clarkston is placing added emphasis on this work in 2015-16 to re-focus time, resources, and training on quality teacher collaboration that will ensure success for ALL students.

We know that in order to create this kind of success for students, teachers cannot work in silos; rather, they must participate in teams with a focus on digging into student data to discover what is working and what is not for each student. Weekly PLC times are reserved across the district for each team of teachers to spend time focusing on student data, student work, and student outcomes. Following the research-based best practices creates an efficient means for working together and is the key component of PLCs. A PLC is not your ordinary, run of the mill management meeting, but a deep dive into student learning.

In 2015-16, Clarkston teachers will continue to utilize the following four questions to guide our PLC work:

- 1) What is it we expect our students to learn?
- 2) How will we know when they have learned it?
- 3) How will we respond when some students do not learn?
- 4) How will we respond when some students already know it?

Grantham Mural

Students and staff at Grantham Elementary had a surprise in store when they came back to school...

New Website

The CSD website received a facelift this summer! Learn more about the process and check out our new site...

Fall Sports

Ready to show your Bantam pride? Clear your calendars for fall sports...

ThoughtExchange

Find out the latest updates on Clarkston's online *ThoughtExchange*...

In the Headlines...

Want to read more? Visit our website at www.csd12.org/news to view full stories, or contact our Communications Department at 509.544.5787 to request a copy of an article.

Together.

Investing In Parents as Children's Most Influential Teachers



Clarkston School District is working to assure that each child enters kindergarten ready to succeed. For the 2015-16 school year, the District is proud to team with our Asotin County ECEAP (Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program) in an effort to partner with up to 20 qualifying families to teach and provide learning tools to promote purposeful play in literacy, mathematics and social emotional skills. The **Ready for Kindergarten** program focuses on birth to age 5; builds relationships between the parents, child, family and school; and instills children with a joy and zest for learning that lasts a lifetime.

Data shows that from birth to age 5, a child learns faster than at any other time in his or her life. Those early learning experiences influence success in school and beyond. Data also shows that students who start school behind, stay behind. Learn what you can do to nurture a child's development in their earliest years, preparing their minds for all future learning. To find out more about **Ready for Kindergarten**, please visit www.readyforkindergarten.org.

Our goal is to give the parents and future students the skills necessary to enter into the Clarkston School District Kindergarten READY!

