



Butte Elementary School

Joshua J. Rockey, Principal



Mission: Mat-Su Borough School District prepares students for success

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Greetings Butte Elementary Families,

It has been a wild, even rough, start to our year. While COVID threw us a tremendous curveball to start out, things are slowing down a little with cases and there are many good things to look forward to in the near future. We will find our footing and we will make it a good year 😊. It's hard to believe that we are already halfway through the first quarter of school.

We have a large number of events and activities taking place currently, and in the near future. XC Running is taking place Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:45-5:00. (Next week there is a different schedule; Wed/Fri Practice and optional meet on Thurs at CHS @ 5:00PM. You would need to transport to the meet.) This season ends with the Elementary XC District meet on 9/29 @ PHS beginning at 3PM. Butte Art Club is taking place before school from 8:15-9:00 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Studio Art Club is taking place after school from 3:45-5:30 on Wednesdays. Both of these Art Clubs are currently full, but we are adding students to the wait list if you are still interested. Picture Day will be next Friday, 9/24. Our first Title I Parent Engagement Event is 9/30 from 5:30 to 7:00. It will be a scavenger hunt. There will be no school for Professional Development on Friday, 10/1. Look for further information on additional activities in the future.

While cases have slowed down, we continue to have quite a few compared to other schools. We are into the high 60s in total as I write this letter. While COVID may not go away in the near future, it will eventually be gone. In the meantime, the toughest part is figuring out how to teach the students as we battle absences of both students and staff. Keeping the school open means keeping cases down. The best thing you can do is to keep your student home if they have symptoms, and communicate with your teacher about work that can be done. This is unbelievably obnoxious as a parent, but with fewer cases, the building stays open. The other problem we are combatting is staffing. Unfortunately, COVID impacts staff with the same timelines that it does students. While it is not your problem, if you are willing to sign up as a substitute, this would be a tremendous help. We are doing everything that we can (people teaching out of position and covering when there is not a sub for an absence, including myself nearly every day for the last 2 weeks) to keep these positions filled, but if we got to a point that we had more staff out than we could cover, then that could potentially shut the building down as well, just like if we had another wave of cases. The school board just raised the sub pay, and it would be a great way for you to be involved in the building 😊. Learn all about being a substitute here: <https://www.matsuk12.us/Page/26504>. We will continue to work our hardest to educate students and keep the building open. Thank you for your help.

I look forward to many more positive communications and reports about the wonderful things that your students are engaging in here at Butte Elementary. Keep up the great work!

Educationally,

Joshua Rockey

Joshua Rockey – Butte Elementary School, Principal

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