CHEHALIS
SCHOOL DISTRICT

FRIDAY CONNECT

Sept. 8, 2023

Welcome Back Chehalis!

The 2023-2024 school year has officially begun. This week's Friday Connect brings you some scenes from the first days of school for students.

Big Bearcat Welcomes at W.F. West

Primrose Hill
LONDON
EXIT

W.F. West High School students were greeted Sept. 5 by a row of cheerleaders ushering them through the doors of the school, where they were greeted by teachers and administrators, who have been eagerly awaiting their return. Principal Bob Walters said the first week of high school started with an assembly planned by ASB members and ended with club meetings, allowing students to learn about and join the many clubs, organizations and sports available at W.F. West.

"There is energy and excitement in our hallways," Walters said. "Our staff members have worked hard to prepare for the year ahead and it's evident in every classroom."

Freshman ready to start their high school career.

Principal Bob Walters greets students.

Looking for a teacher but found a friend.

Freshman say they're nervous but excited.

Cheerleaders encouraging their fellow students

Waiting in the commons for the bell to ring.

Wildcats Begin Year of Hope and Belonging

For students in grades 6-8 at Chehalis Middle School, the first day of school was a chance to learn about this year's theme of Unwavering Hope, which teachers have been been working on integrating throughout the building since before students arrived. Themes of the science of hope as well as hope and belonging will be woven throughout the year for the middle school community.

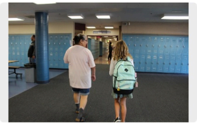
"I love the first day of school," Principal Chris Simpson said. "The prep and lead up can be stressful every year, but as soon as we open the doors and we get to start high fiving, handshaking and seeing smiles as we greet every single student as they enter the building, it makes it all worthwhile and validates why we do what we do."

Principal Chris Simpson greets students.

Busses are back on the streets.

Assistant Principal Heidi Fagerness welcomes students.

Officer Troy Thornburg talks with students before class



Helping new 6th graders find their classrooms.

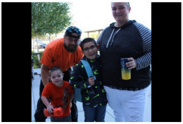
Principal Chris Simpson asking about a student's summer.

Cougars Come Home at Orin Smith

Sept. 5 at Orin Smith Elementary was a flurry of excitement as many students rushed to the playground to find their friends, while others enjoyed waffles in the cafeteria before the bell rang. Principal Rachel Dorsey predicted wonderful things for students and staff in her building this year. "Students came in with positive energy and mindsets," Dorsey said. "We are off to a great start as students continue to learn and review procedures and protocols at Orin Smith Elementary."

A proud 5th grader and her family.

Crossing guards keeping students safe.



Big brother started Tuesday, little brother started Friday.

A little cougar encouragement on the way to class.

Trying out one of the most popular OSE playground pieces.

Friends arriving at school together.

Bobcats Return To James Lintott Elementary

First and second graders walked back through the doors of James W. Lintott Elementary on Wednesday, Sept. 6 while Kindergarteners started on Friday, Sept. 8. Principal Brenda Pohlman said when she asked some of her students what the best part of the first day of school was, she got answers like "It was the best day ever today"; "My favorite part of my day was seeing my teacher and friends"; "I was so excited to practice my Math"; and "My teacher read a story and we learned all about her."

"For me, the start of the school year begins when the teachers return before students as they plan and prepare for a new school year! Their dedication to ensure all students start off in a caring environment to learn is evident in their classrooms and collaboration with other colleagues," Pohlman said. "My favorite part of the first day and everyday of school is seeing the excitement in student's faces and the energy they bring to Lintott."

Getting ready to head into the building.

Tammy Tibbits greets students at the playground.

One last family hug before school starts.

Friends find each other on the playground.

A first grader heads into class.

Friends happy to see one another.

Career
Ready

W. Lintott Elementa

New kindergartener can't hide her smile for first day.

Elena Jensen walks students in from the bus.

Big sister walks little brother in for his first day of kindergarten.

Mark Your Calendars

- Sept. 13 - First Professional Academic Work for Success half day. W.F. West releases at 12:40 p.m., Chehalis Middle School releases at 12:50, Orin Smith Releases at 1:50 p.m. and Lintott releases at 2 p.m. Check the District Calendar for a full list of Wednesday half days.
- Sept. 15 - School Picture Retake Day at W.F. West High School
- Sept. 18 - Fall Picture Day at James Lintott Elementary
- Sept. 19 - Fall Picture Day at Chehalis Middle School
- Sept. 19 - Open House at W.F. West 6-7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 20 - Chehalis Middle School fall fund-raiser begins
- Sept. 21 - Fall Picture Day at Orin Smith Elementary
- Sept. 22 - W.F. West Varsity Football home game 7 p.m.
- Oct. 5 - Chehalis Middle School open house

Back to School Info For Parents

- View your student and family information on Skyward. Make sure to update your contact information if it has changed so that your student's school can reach you
- Sign up for the Remind App, the Chehalis School District's primary communication tool for timely information such as school closures, bus route changes and emergency information
- View the 2023-2024 school year calendar including half days, holidays and school day schedules HERE
- Fill out a volunteer clearance form HERE. Forms need to be renewed every two years
- View school lunch menus, add money to your child's school lunch account or fill out paperwork to apply for free or reduced lunch HERE
- Make any other payments besides school lunch accounts (ASB card, sports fees) HERE
- Read district news, sign up for newsletters and find out how to follow us on social media HERE

Get On The Bus

SCHOOL BUS
EMERGENCY DOOR
UNLAWFUL TO PASS WHEN RED LIGHTS FLASH
25

Have you ever thought about driving a school bus? The Chehalis School District is now hiring bus drivers. Paid training, CDL certification testing fees covered, competitive wages and benefits. For more information about becoming a bus driver, go to chehalisschools.org/transportation/.

Notice of Non-discrimination
Anti-bullying Policy and Procedure

Chehalis School District

Subscribe to Chehalis