



Berenda Elementary

January 2022

From the Principal

Welcome to 2022!

This is the time of year when people make their New Year's Resolutions. A resolution is defined as a decision to do or not to do something. We've all made New Year's Resolutions. We may have decided to exercise more, take a daily walk, eat less sugar, or spend less time on our phone. The focus of our resolution is always to make us healthier, smarter, better, etc.

In school, we do something similar. **We have students set goals** for sight words, for reading levels, for math facts, etc. We focus on basic skills that will help students be successful in school...knowing that if students are successful in school they will be able to choose what they want to do in life.

But, we also know that our students are young and need support to meet their goals. This is where the school and families work together! At school we help students find a focus. We discuss ways they can meet their goals. Many students will come up with some great ideas: Practice my math facts every day, read each night for 20 minutes, watch less TV, spend less time on social media, be on time for school, focus in class, do my homework, etc. Our students, your children, really do know what it will take for them to meet their goals!

With this in mind, ask your child what their goals are.

Long term: What do you want to be when you grow up?

Short term: What reading level are you shooting for? What level are you trying to reach next in your math facts? What score are you trying to get on your next NWEA Math or ELA test?

First, ask your child if they are doing the things they need to do to meet those goals. And then ask them if there is anything you, as their parent, can do to help them meet their goals.

When your child knows you are ready to support them in doing whatever it takes for them to meet their goals...it will make a tremendous difference!

Together, we can make sure that each of our Broncos has the tools they need to be successful in life.

My wish is that each of us has a fabulous 2022.

Be Safe, Give Grace, and Thrive!

Mr. Christiansen

Important News

We often talk about 'student attendance'. But, there is another component of attendance when we are talking about schools. There is also 'parent attendance'. In school, everyone is focused on providing a safe environment where learning can thrive. This takes teamwork - both the school and the home. When you attend **Parent/Teacher conferences**, you are making a statement to your child that their education is important! When you meet with your child's teacher, you build bonds that help to strengthen your child's education. Conference week is Jan 18-24.

Students will begin NWEA testing when we return to school. Please make sure they are back on school sleep schedule so they are getting a good night's sleep and arriving to school on time. Being on time is one of the best ways to start your day. They can either eat breakfast at home with you or in our cafeteria. Remember, our doors open at 7:15 with breakfast being served from 7:20-7:50. The first bell for school to start rings at 7:55. After 8:00...students will need to stop by the office for a late pass. I am always amazed at the line of students who need passes daily. We know there is traffic...so leave a few minutes earlier and you will help your child to be on time.

If your child rides the bus, they will be receiving a **Traversa Ride 360 Student ID Card**. We are going to have students connect the lanyard with the card to their backpack. With this card, you will be able to monitor your child while they are on the bus. More info to follow.

Our next sport is Football. If your 5th or 6th grader is interested in playing football, have them watch for the permission slip that will be announced during lunch one day.

Event Highlights

Last month we partnered with Matilda Torres High School to **collect non-perishable food items** to support the Madera Rescue Mission. Your generous support was amazing. We collected 1,700 items! As a thank you...Matilda Torres Leadership Class will come one day to host some games and activities for our students during their lunch time. This is going to be a lot of fun for everyone.

We had a great time at our annual **Jingle Bell Jog**. It was wonderful to see our students exercising their bodies and having so much fun at the same time.

Kids Craft Day was a huge success! This is always a fun activity for our kids and families.

Upcoming Events - Mark your calendar.

January 11 - First day back to school in 2022. (7:55 first bell rings...and class starts at 8:00)

January 17 - No School - In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. B-day

January 18 - 3:30 **Berenda Parent Club meeting**. Via Zoom. <https://maderausd.zoom.us/j/86042099959>
6:00 Girl Scout recruitment meeting in cafeteria.

January 18-24 (Tuesday-Monday) - Conference Week. 1:10 exit.

January 26 - 3:05 School Site Council meeting via Zoom <https://maderausd.zoom.us/j/88274705436>

Student Health & Wellness

Please read this message from the department of School Culture and Climate at MUSD. It contains some fun activities that you can do with your kids.

Winter is the most magical of seasons. Between frosty days, winter break, and the holidays, it can be a joyous time. But it also can bring stress, loneliness, and unhappiness for some. One way you can support your children during winter break is by practicing social and emotional learning (SEL) while they are home for the holidays.

Social and emotional learning (SEL) includes skills that help students:

Stay focused and engaged in learning

Work through strong emotions

Remain connected with others at school and home

Achieve academic success

Linked here is a challenge of SEL activities developed by Aperture Education that your family can practice during break. The challenge is like bingo and can be completed many ways - straight across, diagonally, or complete every task for a "blackout." See how many challenges your children can do, and make it a whole-family activity. Take time with loved ones to relax and recharge during the winter break and create some joy!

((https://drive.google.com/file/d/1upY7z9n-wL3l2A5_8k7NU66AHNHbRsCt/view))