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Summer School for Elementary Students in Crook County Proves so Popular, School District Forced to Cap Enrollment

Over 600 students in grades K-5 will take part in the five-week Summer Blast program

(Prineville, Oregon) – There’s just under two months left in the current school year, but that hasn’t stopped parents from signing up students for Crook County School District’s new summer school program for all K-12 students. Enrollment first opened for the elementary level in early April, and due to its popularity, classes filled up within a few weeks. Enrollment is now estimated at 630 students.

“This is absolutely incredible. We anticipated at least a few hundred students, but the numbers exceeded our expectations. The demand is so great, we’ve had to cap enrollment to match the number of staff members we have available,” explained Summer School Administrator Michelle Zistel.

The elementary Summer Blast program will be held at Barnes Butte Elementary School and include a variety of fun and engaging activities that will also be educational. Students will work on improving reading, writing, and math skills that are focused on STEM education, which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Classes will occur three days per week from 8:30am-1:30pm from June 29th through July 29th.

“Every week we’ll have a science-based theme with a focus on chemistry, biology, physics, or engineering. We want this program to feel like a true summer camp, so we’ll start the day with a tribal challenge and end with tribal council to build unity and community with the student tribes,” said Activities Director Jonathan Oelkers.

Plans are still being developed for summer school programs at Crook County Middle School and Crook County High School. Enrollment for those programs will open up in early May.

Superintendent Dr. Sara Johnson said summer school became a priority for district leaders and the school board to regain lost educational opportunities during COVID-19 and create additional face-to-face time with teachers and staff. The goal is to ensure students are caught up by next school year.

“The basics of reading, writing, math, and vocabulary remain key to future success for our students, so we reached out to our staff who came up with some amazing ideas to both recapture learning and make it a fun and memorable experience for students,” said Superintendent Dr. Sara Johnson.

Nutrition Services will provide breakfast and lunch for students each day, and families requiring transportation for summer school are asked to contact the district's transportation department and sign up for bus service.

CCSD Transportation Department

(541) 447-7789

About Crook County School District

Crook County School District is a thriving, rural, growing district in Central Oregon, serving more than 3,000 students from all across Crook County. It is an organization with integrity, a model for educational success, and a recognized leader for excellence in helping students dream, learn, and succeed.

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