

Back to School News!

A Message from Linda Chapman, Superintendent

Summer in Estes Park has been busy, and we are fortunate that so many people still value the beauty and hospitality of the community as they choose to visit us, even during difficult economic times. Our students and families have worked hard over the summer months, and it is, once again, time to start thinking about the upcoming school year. The 2009-10 school year is shaping up to be a spectacular one! School will start in August this year now that the construction phase is over. I would like to invite each member of the community to tour our schools when time allows – they are beautiful and modern, and we are very proud of them!

The administrative staff, teachers, and support staff have been preparing throughout the summer for the return of the students, and it is our desire to help every child grow and achieve at the highest level possible. Our motto, “*Excellent Education for Every Student in Every Classroom Every Day*” (E⁵) describes the type of experience we strive to offer all of our Estes Valley children. The district has been working on a five-year strategic plan, and opportunities for the community to have input will take place over the next month in the form of “focus groups.”

The strategic plan, district improvement plan and school improvement plans will be in strict alignment this year, and our goal is to help parents, staff and students all focus on the personal learning of every student. The Board of Education has adopted new End Results for Students that include application, knowledge and participation skills. The district will strengthen and hone its use of the *Professional Learning Community* protocols, in conjunction with the *Response to Intervention* model of attending to the individual needs of students. Students, teachers and families will be meeting to determine the specific goals for achieving the Ends, and a personal learning plan and portfolio system of measuring the achievement of goals will be implemented.

The Board of Education, District and School Administration, and the District and Building Accountability Committees invite the community’s input and ask that you consider serving on one of the district’s many committees. Also, please visit our website, www.estesschools.org, where many updates are appearing on an almost daily basis. There you will find our school calendar, Board meeting minutes and agendas, budgets, curriculum maps and more. The *Infinite Campus* parent portal is accessible from our website. Information on how to log on will be shared with families as soon as school starts.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to welcome you back to school! I am enthusiastic about the Estes Park Schools’ 126th year, and I see it as a year in which we can all “*Get Hooked on Excellence!*” Again, please consider being involved in the schools by serving on a committee, providing input into the strategic plan or volunteering your time in any way that you can. Thank you for your continued support of our youth and their education. I hope you find the information contained in this flyer useful. Please do not hesitate to contact the district or building offices if you have questions, suggestions, concerns or even to volunteer in some way. I look forward to seeing you in “Bobcat Country” this fall.