



# Sisters Middle School

“Home of the Outlaws”

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Principal

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Dear SMS Parents/Students,

Now that we have settled back into the school routine from Spring Break, I want to take a moment to share some important dates and information with you regarding the Spring Trimester. With the weather turning for the better it can become more of a challenge for middle school students to remain focused on school work. However, this is the time of year when the academic expectations begin to move to a higher level as students move closer to the next grade, and as we begin to administer the annual state tests. With that said, we are also working to continue to provide our students with some fun and engaging events and activities.

### **State Testing:**

We have completed some of our annual state tests, with the 5<sup>th</sup> grade finished, and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade completing the first attempt on the OAKS test for Science. Our next challenge is to administer the Math and Language Arts Assessments to all four grade levels.

This year we will be running a special Testing Schedule for the school as we administer the Smarter Balanced tests in Mathematics and Language Arts. Our intent is to set a positive, quiet tone school-wide that will allow our students to be focused and free from distraction during these two part tests. The bulk of the assessments will occur in the morning, before lunch. Parents you can help us by ensuring your student is in school and on time during these test sessions. We also recommend an earlier bedtime with no electronics the night before testing, as students perform better when well rested. Our testing dates are:

**May 15-16: Math Testing gr. 5-8**

**May 22-23: Lang. Arts gr. 5-8**

### **Upcoming Dates/Activities:**

Below is a list of events and activities that apply to the entire school or an entire grade level. There may be other events that are particular to a class or group that are not included. Information regarding those events will be provided by teachers. You may also visit the calendar on the District or School Website for dates and times.

**Author Visit:** 4/25 & 4/26 April is National Poetry month. In honor of that, and with the support of The Roundhouse Foundation, Sisters Middle School will be hosting Children's Poet Laureate Kenn Nesbitt. Kenn will be holding assemblies with all of our students on Tuesday, then coming back to work with our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders in a Writer's Workshop on Wednesday. He will also be holding a Parent Presentation, 6 pm Tuesday night at the Deschutes Public Library-Sisters Branch.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip:** 5/5/17 Smith Rock State Park.

**Outdoor School:** 5/8-5/10/17 5<sup>th</sup> Grade will be going to Camp Tamarack.  
5/17-5/19/17 6<sup>th</sup> Grade will be going to Camp Tadmor.

**Civil War Reenactment:** 5/19/17 8<sup>th</sup> Grade to Camp Sherman.

**Ashland Trip:** 5/31-6/1/17 8<sup>th</sup> Grade trip to Shakespearean Festival and SOU.

**Student Led Conferences:** 6/1-6/2/17 5-7<sup>th</sup> Grade. Evening conferences 6/1. Morning conferences 6/2. Teachers will be scheduling these with parents.

**No School:** 6/2/17

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion:** 6/14/17 Ceremony and Party 5:30-8:30pm

**Last Day of School:** 6/16/17

Thank you and Happy Spring!

Marshall Jackson