

Summit News



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Summit Calendar

September

September 1	Back to School Night, 6:30 pm, Cafeteria
September 5	Labor Day—No school
September 8, 9, 12	Student Council Elections
September 12	Late start—Collaboration meetings
September 14	New Principal Candidate on Campus
September 15	Helping Your Child Succeed at Summit, 6:30 pm, Library New Principal Candidate on Campus
September 16	1/2 day for students—Professional Development Meetings
September 19	New Principal Candidate on Campus
September 20	New Principal Candidate on Campus
September 26	Late start—Collaboration meetings
September 30	State Pupil Count day

October

October 4	Picture retakes, 3:10—3:45 pm,
October 10	Late start—Collaboration meetings
October 12	Parent/Teacher Conferences, 1:30-6:30 pm, A-K
October 13	Parent/Teacher Conferences, 1:30-6:30 pm, L-Z
October 14	Summit Day—no school
October 18	Vision and Hearing screening
October 19	1st quarter ends
October 24	Late start—Collaboration meetings
October 29-30	Homework “free” and family weekend

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Principal Search Update

As most of you already know, last May Mr. Finell announced that he would be stepping down as Principal at the end of the 2011-2012 school year. At that time, the Summit Board retained an educational search and consulting firm, Educators' Collaborative (EC), specializing in both public and private school leadership recruitment, to conduct a national search for Summit's new Principal. The Board began the search process without delay, and appointed a Search Committee made up of five board members and two teachers, to work with EC to interview and evaluate candidates, and make a recommendation to the Board.

The Board also wants to ensure input from all of our community - administration, staff, faculty and parents, in this important process. Soon after school started, we sent out an invitation asking for volunteers to serve on an Advisory Committee, the members of which will interview each candidate and provide feedback directly to the Search Committee. The Committee, headed by our counselor, Elizabeth Burrows, includes two administrators, four teachers, and seven parents.

All of you are invited to provide input as well. We have four candidates scheduled to visit Summit this September on the 14th, 15th, 19th and 20th. For each candidate, there will be an "Open House" from 8:30 - 9:15 a.m. in the Library where parents are invited to meet with and ask questions of the candidates. Those parents who attend will be asked to complete a follow-up survey evaluating the candidate with whom they met. I encourage all of you to attend. The same process will be repeated when we narrow down to two to three finalists, likely at the end of September/beginning of October.

For your convenience, beginning today we will be posting updates on the Principal search on our website, including the dates and times of candidate visits. There will be a direct link in the Announcements Box, and information will also be posted under the Employment Tab.

We are grateful to Mr. Finell for letting us know his intentions a year ahead of time and giving us time to find the best candidate. Summit stands on a firm foundation of strong core values with innovative educators, motivated students, and a solid record of success. We are both confident and excited about the highly-qualified candidates from whom we have already received applications for the leadership position. Together we will strive to take Summit to new levels of distinction.

We owe a great deal of thanks to Mr. Finell for all that he has done for Summit, and look forward to celebrating with him in the spring.



New Staff At Summit

Adam Galvin, Assistant Principal

It is a great honor and pleasure to join Summit as Assistant Principal. I am very much looking forward to getting to know everyone and I am thankful for the warm welcome. On behalf of my family and myself, I want to express how excited we are to join the Summit community.

I have greatly enjoyed educating students and leading schools for nearly twenty years. I was inspired to become a teacher and administrator by the excellent education I received and through my experience leading outdoor education adventures. My career as an educator began in Bozeman, Montana in 1994. From 1994 to 1998, I worked as an educator and technology coordinator at two public K-8 schools. From 1998-2000, I was a founding teacher, outdoor education director and technology coordinator of a unique private school program serving at-risk youth from across the nation. During this time, I completed an internship at Eagle Rock School in Estes Park, Colorado. From 2000 to 2005, I served at two public charter schools in northern California; as a founding teacher and technology coordinator of Redwood Academy, a 7-12 California Distinguished School and as Co-Director of Accelerated Achievement Academy, grades 4-12. A team of dedicated educators including myself founded both schools led by Dr. Kimberly Logan. In 2005, I completed a Master's degree in Education Administration at Sonoma State University. From 2005 to 2009, I served as Superintendent/Principal of Arrowhead School, K-8, in Livingston, Montana. From 2009 to 2011, I served as Principal with Superintendent duties of Amsterdam School, K-6, near Bozeman, Montana.

Prior to making Montana my home, I was born and raised in Andover, Massachusetts where I attended Phillips Academy, Andover. Subsequently, I earned a BA in psychology at Colby College in Waterville, Maine. Away from school I enjoy a variety of outdoor activities including skiing, rock climbing, and mountain biking. I love music and have taught African drumming to students for over a decade, but mostly I enjoy spending time with my wife and children.

Degrees:

Sonoma State University, Santa Rosa, CA; Masters of Education Administration 2005
Colby College, Waterville, ME; BA Psychology, Minor: Education 1994
Phillips Academy, Andover, MA; Diploma 1990

Credentials:

K-12 Superintendent, Principal, Secondary & Elementary Teaching Endorsements

Lena Rabinovich, English II

After studying English and philosophy at CU-Boulder, Ms. Rabinovich traveled to Boston and received her Masters of Arts in Teaching degree from Boston College. She has spent the past five years teaching middle school Language Arts at a private school in Brookline and working with college-aged ESL students from all over the world. Spending six years in Boston has been a wonderful experience. From symphony concerts at Tanglewood to Shakespeare on the Common, from days on Cape Cod to ice cream at JP Licks, spending time in this bustling, humid, loud, magical city has been a treat. However, as the Russian proverb says, "It is good to be a guest, but to be at home is even better." And Colorado is her home; a place where she grew up and where her parents live. She is happy to be back, delighted to join the Summit community, and so excited to share her love of literature and language with her new students.

Ambassador Program

For the first time at Summit, we have an Ambassador *Mentor* Program. This year's Student Ambassadors chose to initiate this program, recognizing that the transition to middle school can present unique challenges. The Ambassadors intend to share what they have learned with the sixth grade class at Summit, and support our new students in a number of ways.

First, the Student Ambassadors recognize (and remember) that incoming students are concerned with making friends. The Ambassadors will be leading games, activities and discussion groups at lunch during the first month of school. There will be an effort to "mix it up," in the words of one student, to help students meet people with similar and different interests and from different sending schools. Summit students have several additional middle school challenges in that they are not attending middle school with the majority of their elementary school peers. The Ambassadors have reflected on what has helped them in developing strong and respectful friendships at Summit and they plan to share these experiences with your children. Each incoming student will have a mentor who will meet with him/her on a regular basis during the first quarter of school.

Secondly, Ambassadors recognize that middle school requires a set of study skills and habits that promote learning and doing one's best. The transition from class to class, the need to better manage one's time, and the organizing of books, notebooks and papers are natural skills for many and ones that require development for others. The Ambassadors will be leading small group discussions on Summit's Skills for Success and talking with our incoming class about the common concerns that students share. They will also impart what they have learned, and hopefully make a positive difference for your child.

Finally, the Ambassadors want to promote a positive school culture. They want to support our incoming students' focus on doing one's personal best, rather than on grades. They want to encourage every student to include and respect every student, rather than exclude and disrespect. They want to be role models and trusted people in your child's life.

Parents of sixth graders, we need your help. Please do encourage your child to seek out his/her mentor with questions or for any kind of support. If this is uncomfortable, please feel free to contact me at elizabeth.burrows@bvsd.org and I will help to connect your child with his/her mentor. Best wishes for a wonderful year of learning.

State Pupil Count Period

Summit's state funding is dependent on the number of children attending Summit during the school year. This year, the pupil count period will be from September 23 to October 7. Please avoid scheduling anything that would take your child out of school during this time (appointments, trips, etc.) **In particular, please avoid having your healthy child miss school on the official count day, Friday, September 30.** Every student counts!

School Supplies and More

If your family is experiencing economic hardship and is in need of school supplies, please contact Elizabeth Burrows at elizabeth.burrows@bvsd.org. Summit participates in the "Crayons to Calculators" program and we want to ensure everyone has what they need.

There is also support available for free/reduced lunch. The application is available in the Front Office and information about the lunch program can be found at <http://www.bvsd.org/food/Pages/FreeReducedLunch.aspx>. Participation in this program is confidential. To get a lunch, all students simply input their student ID code, regardless of how payment is made.

Teacher Office Hours—Restructured

Student and parent surveys have given us input that there are times when a student wants to go to office hours for more than one teacher but that sometimes office hours for different subjects are held at the same time which of course makes this difficult. Because of this input, as well as some related feedback from teachers, we have made two changes in the way office hours are held this year. While I do not expect these changes will solve the problem some students occasionally have accessing teacher help during office hours, I am hopeful that these changes will at least ameliorate the problem.



First, we have divided up the days of the week as follows:

- Math office hours are being offered on Mondays. Math is traditionally the highest demand subject in terms of office hours so we gave it its own day.
- English and Science office hours are being offered on Wednesdays.
- Social Studies and World Language office hours are being offered on Thursdays.

We do not offer office hours on Tuesdays because of faculty meetings being held after school. In a similar fashion office hours are not offered on Fridays as people are heading out for the weekend and it is not an ideal time to ask students to stay after school for help.

Teachers may choose to offer special office hours on other days as well in addition to these days.

Finally, lunch office hours are now by teacher invitation only so that the short amount of time that we have at lunch can be used to maximum effect for a targeted number of students. Office hours after school will continue to be on an open/drop-in basis.

Office hours are a wonderful support that is offered at Summit and I hope these changes make this time even more productive for our students and for our teachers.

David Finell, Principal



From the Summit Middle School Health Room: Guidelines for Keeping Your Student Home

The beginning of any infectious illness is usually the time it is most likely to spread to others. This is also the time your student is probably feeling unable to participate in class. In order to keep everyone healthy, we ask that you observe the following guidelines and keep your student home if s/he exhibits any of the following:

- **Fever, vomiting, or diarrhea:** Your student should remain home for **24 hours after symptoms end** without the use of fever-reducing medication.
- **Colds / respiratory viruses:** Keep your student home at the beginning of a cold. This is also the time when one is most infectious and least likely to feel well enough to participate in class. When s/he feels better and no longer has frequent sneezing and cough, it is permissible to return to school.
- **Strep throat:** Your student may return to school **after taking the antibiotic for 24 hours**, and feeling better.
- **Chicken pox:** Your student should stay home until there are no new lesions and all existing lesions have scabbed over.
- **Eye:** Bacterial and some viral eye infections must be treated by a health care provider before the student returns to school. If antibiotic therapy is prescribed, the student must remain home for **at least 24 hours after treatment has begun**.
- **Open sores on skin:** All skin lesions must be covered by a bandage or clothing during the school day. This may include impetigo, ring worm, scabies, and other fungal, bacterial or viral skin infections.
- **Generalized skin rash:** Any student with an undiagnosed skin rash must consult a health care provider for diagnosis and/or treatment before returning to school with a note from the health care provider.
- **Head lice:** Your student may return to school only after following lice treatment protocol.

A student will be sent home from school if s/he has any of the above conditions and/or has a temperature of 100°F or more taken orally or 99° if taken axillary (under arm), forehead or temple.



From the Summit Middle School Staff: Top Ten Wellness Tips

1. "Learning is not a competitive sport. We are here to learn *together*." Alex Garcia
2. "Talk about what you are reading at the dinner table." Pauline Sukiennicki
3. "Read your textbook." Valerie Keeney
4. "Keep a sense of humor." Elizabeth Drozda-Freeman
5. "Collaborate; it's fun! Study with a buddy." Michelle Laub
6. "Bring your planner to *every* class." Cheryle Kapsak
7. "Get a lot of rest. Rest. Rest. Rest." Sara Thompson
8. "Drink water. A hydrated brain is a functioning brain." Adam Galvin
9. "Mix it up at lunch. Meet new people." Jessica Spangler and
"Say hi to someone new every day." Shelly Hendrick
10. "Ask questions. Ask for help." Elizabeth Burrows

Summit Middle School Carpools 2011- 2012



We are partnering with RideArrangers' Schoolpool service to assist families that are interested in carpooling or would like to have their student(s) bike, walk or ride the RTD bus to and from school with other families. RideArrangers is a program of the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) that has been successfully helping families in the region form school-related carpools for over 15 years. RideArrangers' Schoolpool service is **free** and there is no obligation to participate.

The service works as follows:

- Using RideArrangers' **secure website**, parents register to find interested families in their area and contact them to make their arrangements. They select if they'd like to share their personal information with others, although addresses are never shared.
- Families are only matched with other Summit families, unless they indicate they want to be matched with nearby families from other participating schools.
- Comments can be added to indicate special requests or preferences (i.e., available for morning drive, after school activities, etc.).
- The service can be used for planning full-time, part-time, special event or emergency trips.
- It is a great resource to meet nearby families for other reasons such as temporary transportation needs, play dates, family potlucks, etc.
- The more families that register, the more likely families will be able to find good matches.

Registration is free and your information is secure. Here's how to register:

Go to www.ridearrangers.org

Click SCHOOLPOOL
Click view participating schools
Select Summit Middle School
Follow the step-by-step registration instructions
Our school enrollment passcode is huskies

* Contact RideArrangers at 303-458-7665 or ridearrangers@drcog.org for assistance.

We assume no responsibility, but provide this information for your use. RideArrangers does not run background checks, confirm valid drivers' licenses or assess insurance coverage on participants. Potential users are advised to screen participants to their personal satisfaction and check their own insurance coverage for carpooling to assure they are covered under these voluntary arrangements. No drivers, vehicles or insurance are provided.

From the Summit Kitchen

If you have lunch money to drop off for your child, please put it in an envelope labeled with student name and ID number before putting it in the mailbox for kitchen (north main hallway near kitchen door). Please see the following link to the BVSD website answering many questions about BVSD Food Services including information on how you may pay online: <http://bvsd.org/food/Pages/default.aspx>

The Summit cafeteria has an awesome salad bar and it costs only \$1.00 to add salad bar to your lunch brought from home. We need more students using the salad bar in order to keep it thriving. Please give it a try!



TO School Program

 BVSD Transportation

Crossing Crew Coming to a Crosswalk Near You!

Walking and cycling to school just got a boost, thanks to a Safe Routes to School federal grant awarded to the City of Boulder/GO Boulder in partnership with the Boulder Valley School District. Using a working title of **Crossing Crew**, the project aims to improve safety around crosswalks by supporting volunteer crossing guard programs and creating a city-wide public awareness campaign.

Watch out for the larger than life mascots, known as the Crossing Crew, hanging out at your favorite crosswalk. The friendly and informative mascots will teach safe crossing techniques and be making public appearances.

This fall, crossing guard support services will be introduced at schools including recruiting parent volunteers and gathering preliminary information through parent surveys and student travel tallies. The public awareness campaign will debut in spring 2012.

We're looking for parent volunteers. If you have an interest in making walking and cycling to school more convenient and safer, and would like to help project staff to create **Crossing Crew**, please call the BVSD TO School office at 720-561-5120, email landon.hilliard@bvsd.org, or visit bvsd.org/transportation/toschool.

Summit News

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Summit News is available at
<http://bvsd.org/schools/summit/newsletters/Pages/default.aspx>

Scharmin Dorostkar, Editor
Please email submissions to
summit.office@bvsd.org.



SUMMIT MISSION STATEMENT

- *To provide a rigorous, academic curriculum that promotes high levels of student effort and academic achievement.*
- *To foster high self-esteem through stimulating intellectual challenge and meaningful academic accomplishment.*
- *To inspire in students a lifelong love of learning, a desire for self-development and good citizenship.*
- *To create a community of peers who value scholarship, academic achievement, and creativity.*
- *To serve as an excellent preparation for students intending to study in rigorous college preparatory high school programs, including International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement.*

ENROLLMENT IN SUMMIT

Summit Middle School is a tuition-free, public charter school in the Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) serving grades 6, 7 and 8 through mixed-age classes grouped by ability, interest, motivation, developmental level and mastery of previous material, and taught by teachers who are specialists in their subject areas. Prospective students register through the District's open enrollment process. Please go to BVSD's Open Enrollment link for more information:

<http://bvsd.org/openenrollment/Pages/default.aspx>

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