

# SNOWY RANGE ACADEMY

## *Falcon Flier*

September 2023

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### From the Principal's Desk

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Hello SRA Community,

Welcome to a new year of incredible learning opportunities. It is delightful to be back together with our wonderful students, families and staff. We have much to be thankful for as a school community. SRA's continued growth and success is an example of the positive effects parental involvement and school choice. To our returning families, welcome back and thank you for supporting SRA. To our new members, welcome to SRA. We appreciate your trust in our school community and wish you all the best in the upcoming year. SRA is a special place and I am thankful to share in this important journey.

SRA's Phase 1A expansion is very near completion and we now have occupancy for the new indoor space. This new space will be used for after-school release, indoor recess, assemblies and other school activities. In addition to the new color scheme, new signage will be installed to complete the look. As we continue to adjust to this new space and traffic flow patterns, we ask for your continued patience and cooperation. Currently we are planning to begin Phase 1B of our expansion, which should take place throughout the school year and yield three new Middle School classrooms to include additional bathroom space.

SRA is a special place due to the collective commitments of our stakeholders. This shared responsibility to value and support education defines who we are as a school community. Although this is mentioned often, it is critical that we all reinforce these values daily to ensure they remain an important part of our existence. Parents are first teachers and in the best position to support their child's journey through school. Parental involvement is critical to a student's success in school.

As the school year ramps up, please remember to reinforce routines that support school success. If parents have any concerns about their child, please do not hesitate to ask. Regular communication between school and home helps build positive school relationships and promotes school success. Our new Core Knowledge Language Arts sequence is just that, new. Please be patient as we all adjust to this change and reach out to seek clarification if needed. Please be sure to read grade-level and school-wide newsletters to ensure you and your child(ren) know what to expect.

Thank you again for trusting in SRA. Please know I am always willing to visit with anyone to address any concerns. Have a wonderful school year!

*John Cowper,*  
SRA Principal



- *September 4– NO SCHOOL, Labor Day*
- *September 11– PTA Meeting, 6:30 pm*
- *September 20– SRA Board Mtg, 6:00 pm*
- *September 28– Individual Picture Day*
- *September 28– Midterm*
- *September 28– Board Retreat*
- *September 29– NO SCHOOL, Staff Development*

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## SRA Logo Sweatshirts

### Sweatshirt, Hoodies, and Fleece Vest Sales

Be on the lookout for information to order SRA Logo sweatshirts, hoodies and fleece vests. These items are approved for our dress code. Order forms will be sent home with your child(ren) in the next couple of weeks. Please contact Mrs. Hubenthal if you have any questions.



## Substitutes Wanted

SRA is seeking qualified applicants to serve as substitute teachers and ask that you visit our website at [www.snowyrangeacademy.org](http://www.snowyrangeacademy.org) or call 307-745-9930 for more information. All interested individuals must hold a current Wyoming Substitute Teacher Permit. Please go to the following link <http://wyomingptsb.com/licensure/substitute-teaching/> to learn more about obtaining a permit. We look forward to meeting you!

## What's for Lunch?

The school lunch menu can be found posted on the district website. There is a quick link on the right side of our page, under family Resources.

## Join Us for the Next Board Meeting

**SRA Board Meeting**  
**6:00 pm, September 20, 2023**  
*All are welcome!*

## School Basics

- SRA's normal school day runs from **8:15 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.**
- Dismissal time for ALL half days is 11:15 a.m.
- **No student is to arrive prior to 7:45 a.m.** Doors are locked until that time.
- Our doors open at 3:00 p.m. for Parent Lobby Pick-up. Doors are locked prior to that time.
- Students must be picked up no later than 3:30 p.m.
- Please call or email the **front office** if your child is going to be absent. Calls are expected for each and every day of the absence.
- Please follow parking lot protocol for pick-up, drop-offs, and parking. Staff come and go at all hours of the school day; please respect their reserved areas. Visitor parking areas are clearly marked. A diagram is included in the Student-Parent Handbook, located on the school website.
- Please DO NOT use the Bus Lane, unless directed to pass through during pick up. No parking in the bus lane.
- ALL visitors must sign in and out at the front desk. While visiting, please turn cell phones to vibrate.
- Uniforms must follow SRA's Uniform Code. No exceptions. Uniforms are required every day, unless otherwise instructed. PTA Spirit Wear is **not** part of Dress Code.
- NO GLASS WATER BOTTLES! No glass lunch/snack containers.
- NO toys/balls are to be brought to school.
- Students may not have smartwatches.
- SRA is a GUM-FREE school.
- Please send your child with appropriate outerwear, and remember– always be prepared for weather changes.

THANK YOU!



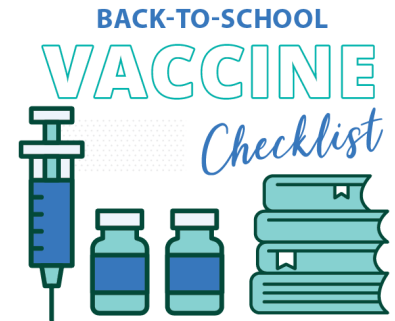
# Notes from the Nurse



Happy Fall (almost). I hope everyone had a fun and restful summer.

## Immunizations:

Per Wyoming State Law, all students must have a **current** immunization record or exemption on file within 30 days of school starting. Students missing required vaccinations after the 30 days (September 22<sup>nd</sup>) will be excluded from school and activities. Please ensure that your child(ren) are current on all required immunizations. **All 7<sup>th</sup> graders are required to have a Tdap vaccine for school.** Most medical providers offer this at the 11 or 12-year physical. If you are not sure if your child has had their Tdap vaccine required for 7<sup>th</sup> grade, please check with your medical provider.



## Medications:

Per school policy the nurse cannot give any prescription or over the counter medications to students without written permission. **All prescription and over the counter medicines must be in the original container and must not be expired.** All medications (including cough drops) must be kept in the nurse's office while at school.

## Illness:



If your child is sick, please keep them home. Per school policy they can return to school once they are fever free for 24 hours (without the use of fever reducing medicine), or vomiting/diarrhea free for 24 hours.

Thank you!

Lori Smith, RN

# Office Notes & Reminders

- ◇ **ASSEMBLIES:** we hold all-school assemblies every Wednesday morning, beginning promptly at 8:20. Please see our calendar for the recitation schedule on the website. Visitors are always welcome, so please join us!
- ◇ **ATTENDANCE:** please make sure you notify the office each time your student is absent. You may phone in, 307-745-9930, or email Mrs. Hubenthal at [chubenthal@acsd1.org](mailto:chubenthal@acsd1.org)
- ◇ **STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK:** We encourage all families to read through the student-parent handbook found on our website. This helpful document covers all school policies, and includes information on dress code, discipline procedure, and homework guidelines.
- ◇ **CHECK-IN MADE EASY WITH KEY FOBs:** We issue bar-code key fobs for parents who frequently visit school. This makes your computer check in/out **fast** and **easy**. Please fill out **this form** to request a fob. Key fobs are name-specific and are assigned to you for the duration of your child being enrolled at SRA, so please hang onto them! Kindly notify the office if your fob is lost or damaged. Thank you.
- ◇ **MESSAGES TO STUDENTS:** Parents requesting messages to be sent to their student (ex: change of plans for parent pick-up or riding bus), must notify the office no later than 2:45 pm. Beyond that time, we cannot guarantee your child will receive the message. Thank you for your understanding.



## Meet Our New Staff

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**Mrs. Megan Armstrong, Office Assistant:** Megan Armstrong grew up in Colorado and moved to Laramie in 2018. She has been married for 18 years and has 4 kids. After being a gymnastics coach then stay-at-home mom for 13 years, she was first introduced to SRA as the lunch lady. It was immediately obvious that SRA was special and different than any other school she had visited and she's very happy to call SRA her new home!

**Ms. Megan Butters, Grade 1A:** Megan Butters was born and raised in Fort Collins, Colorado. She graduated from the University of Wyoming in May of 2023 with her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and Special Education. Megan enjoys being outside camping, off-roading, fishing, and walking her dog. She also loves spending time with family and friends. Megan looks forward to getting to know you all.

**Mr. Keith Gross, Grade 5B:** Mr. Gross grew up in Colorado Springs, Colorado and moved to Laramie in 2014. He graduated from the University of Wyoming with his BA in elementary education after student teaching at Snowy Range Academy in 2020. Following graduation, Mr. Gross moved to Douglas, Wyoming where he taught fifth grade for three years. He began teaching fifth grade at SRA in 2023. Mr. Gross is an assistant coach for the University of Wyoming's Mens Rugby team, a father of three children and an aspiring craftsman.

**Ms. Hannah LaBuda, SPED:** Hannah LaBuda graduated from the University of Wyoming in 2023 with a dual major in special education and elementary education. She is working at Snowy Range Academy as a special education teacher in the resource room and works with children between kindergarten and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. She has a passion for working with children and enjoys teaching mathematics and reading fluency. Outside of school, Ms. LaBuda enjoys hiking in the Snowy Range, golfing at Jacoby, and skiing throughout Wyoming.

**Mrs. Laura Palmer, PE:** After earning her bachelor's degree in Exercise Science at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in 2008, Laura Palmer worked as a strength and conditioning coach and youth counselor in Turlock, California. She then moved back to her hometown of Lafayette Louisiana to open Whole New You, LLC, providing personal training and health education for families while employed with the University of Louisiana at Lafayette as an adjunct instructor in the Kinesiology department. In 2014 she earned her K-12 Physical Education teaching certification in the state of Louisiana and went on to found LASOAR, the Louisiana Association of Sports, Outdoor Adventure, and Recreation, a non-profit organization based in Lafayette, Louisiana promoting the power of play and reconnecting families to the natural world, serving as chief executive officer for six years. Laura earned her Master of Science degree in Physical Education Teacher Education from the University of Wyoming in 2023 and became licensed to teach Physical Education in the state of Wyoming. She was thrilled to be hired as the Physical Education Teacher at Snowy Range Academy shortly after her graduation. When not at SRA, Laura can often be found hiking at Happy Jack, paddleboarding at Curt Gowdy, gardening, or cooking Cajun southern soul food in her kitchen.

**Mrs. Connie Klements, SPED:** Connie Klements has been a special education teacher in Laramie, Wy for the past 23 years. She enjoys helping students with reading fluency, writing structured paragraphs and learning math facts. Outside of school Ms. Klements enjoys hiking in the Snowy's and visiting her grandchildren.



## Accessing CANVAS

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The school district has put together a comprehensive easy-to-use site on how to access Canvas as a parent and become an observer.

Click [HERE](#) to find a step-by-step process of signing up and visiting your child/children's Canvas account to view and access lesson plans, assignments, videos, resources, web links, documents, discussions, and possibly entire curriculum bundles as placed on Canvas by your child/children's teachers.



# Board Notes

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Greeting from the SRA Board of Directors!

The Snowy Range Academy Board of Directors meets at 6 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at the school. We encourage everyone in the SRA community to attend in person or online via Zoom. An agenda and Zoom link for each meeting will be posted on a program called BoardDocs, which you can access through the Board of Directors page on the SRA website. You'll also find archived meeting materials and minutes on BoardDocs.

We welcome public comment at the beginning of each meeting, and there's no need to sign up ahead of time.

During the August meeting, the board approved this year's student-parent handbook, discussed the progress of the expansion project and discussed potential future playground upgrades, among other business.

During the July meeting, the board approved installation of a sink in the art room and acoustic panels in the music room. The board also approved the design and installation of a new sign for the corner of Grand Avenue and Boulder Drive.

During the June meeting, the board appointed officers for the 2023-24 school year and approved adoption of the Core Knowledge Language Arts Curriculum.

Board member email addresses can be found on the SRA website, so please feel free to reach out to the board with any questions or concerns. We look forward to hearing from you!

Best,  
Eve Newman  
Snowy Range Academy Board Chairman

## PTA News

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### Meeting Schedule

The PTA would like to announce the monthly meetings for 2023-2024 school year will be held the second Mondays of the month, 6:30 PM at Snowy Range Academy. That said, the next meeting is scheduled for September 11, at 6:30 PM. Please consider attending in person, however a Zoom option will be available. At the meeting, we'd love to discuss opportunities for members to organize events for the school year! The more, the merrier!

### Scholastic Dollars Raffle

\*\*Reminder, SRA families still have time to pay their dues to enter the raffle for their chance to win \$100 in Scholastic Dollars. **The deadline to enter the raffle will be September 11, at 6:30 PM.** The PTA will be drawing at the first meeting on September 11. \*\*

### Spirit Wear

PTA is excited to provide the SRA community another opportunity to purchase spirit gear to show your support for our school. Please check out the attached flyer to place an online order. We are selling T-shirts, hoodies and drawstring backpacks in three different colors and designs. The deadline to place an order is midnight on September 11. Visit this link to place your order. <https://srafall2023.itemorder.com/> There are both pick up and shipping options. All completed pick up orders will be available at Rocky Mountain Shirtworks at 408 E. University Avenue in Laramie. Join us in showing our SRA pride while supporting PTA!

\*Please NOTE: These items are a fundraiser for PTA. They are NOT approved to be worn in place of SRA uniforms.

# Specials



Elementary and Middle school students will continue to participate in social and emotional learning (SEL) and team-building, cooperative activities throughout the month of September to develop CASEL competencies such as self-awareness, social awareness, responsible decision-making, self-management, and relationship skills and establish a respectful classroom environment to support learning. For more information on the Collaborative for Academic and Social and Emotional Learning competencies visit [www.casel.org](http://www.casel.org). In addition, K-5 will begin to explore creative and rhythmic movements as well as participate in a variety of tossing, throwing, rolling, and catching stations. Educational Gymnastics will begin for all K-8 students on September 11th.



Kindergarten- Finish Brown Bear Unit: Colors and Animals

First- Hola Niños: Unit 3: Food and start Unit on Mexico

Second- Hola Niños: Unit 4: The Body and start Esperanza Rising with Immigration

Third- Unit 6 of Hola Niños: El Viaje- The Trip and start Pronunciation Training

Fourth- Unit 7 of Hola Niños: El Tiempo- The Weather and Units 1-8 Review

Fifth- the Spanish novel, "Pobre Ana" by Blaine Ray



For the month of September, we will be focusing on the traits of Respect and Responsibility.

Respect is "treating others with honor and dignity." Everyone has worth and dignity as a human being, whether they are young or old, rich or poor, male or female, or any other difference. This is why you should treat others with honor, dignity, and courtesy.

At home, please practice talking about what respect and responsibility look like in different environments and places and encourage your students to practice the respectful super sayings shared in Character First Education.

Character First Education. <https://characterfirsteducation.com/> (2023)  
Monique Vidal, K-12 School Counselor

## Super Sayings

– I Will Show Respect! –

- "Have a good day!"
- "You're doing great!"
- "Thank you so much!"
- "Super job!"
- "You're a great friend!"
- "Keep up the good work!"
- "Nice to see you."
- "We're behind you all the way!"
- "Let me know if I can help."



**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade- Elements of Art (review):** Look at and discuss elements of art (line, shape, color, etc). Recognize lines as horizontal, vertical, or diagonal.

Featured Art: *Mother and Child, The Great Wave, A Man Playing the Hula Hoop, My Hometown*

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade- Art of the Renaissance:** Discuss the shift in world view from medieval to Renaissance art, a new emphasis on humanity and the natural world. Explore the development of linear perspective during the Italian Renaissance.

Featured Art: *The Birth of Venus, The proportions of man, Mona Lisa, the Last Supper, The Marriage of the Virgin, Madonna and child with the infant st. John, the Alba Madonna, a small Cowper Madonna*

## Welcome back!

**Kindergarten- Fine Motor Skills & Lines:** Identify and use different lines: straight, zigzag, curved, wavy, thick, thin

Featured Art: *Sleeping Woman and Child*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade- Light/Value:** Observe how artists use light and shadow

Featured Art: *Ruby Green Singing, Milkmaid, El Jaleo, Florida Mexicana*

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade- Elements of Art (review):** Look at and discuss elements of art (line, shape, color, texture, etc)

Featured Art: *Piñata, Arrangement in Black and Grey, Tulips in Holland*

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade- Art of the Middle Ages in Europe:** Become familiar with features of Gothic architecture and famous cathedrals.

Featured Art: *Notre Dame Cathedral, Chartres Cathedral*

**Middle School- Modern Representational Painting:**

**Regionalism:** Examine characteristics of art from this art movement

Featured Art: *American Gothic (1930), Nighthawks (1942), Christina's World (1948)*

## Mark your calendars...

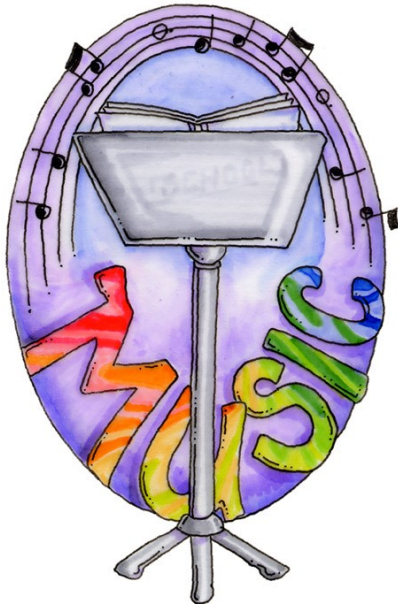
**Elementary 2022 Premier Art Show**

**When: September 30th- November 3rd**

**Where: University of Wyoming Art Museum (Resource Room)**

**Opening Reception: October 19th from 5-6:30**





### **Kindergarten**

- Songs: If You're Happy and You Know it; Row, Row, Row Your Boat; The Wheels on the Bus

### **First Grade:**

- Instruments families
- Songs: Make New Friends; Yankee Doodle; My Country 'Tis of Thee

### **Second Grade:**

- Instrument families
- Songs: This Land is Your Land; The Star Spangled Banner

### **Third Grade:**

- Instrument families
- Songs: Banuwa; America the Beautiful; In the Good Old Summertime; Hey, Ho Nobody Home; Simple Gifts

### **Fourth Grade:**

- Music Elements Review
- Songs: Deep in the Heart of Texas; The Yellow Rose of Texas; U.S. Armed Forces Songs; TAPS

### **Fifth Grade:**

- Music Elements Review
- Songs: Danny Boy; The Happy Wanderer; Que Sera, Sera

### **Middle School:**

- Music Elements
- Instrument Ensembles

## **Student Council**

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Student Council will begin in the month of September. Applications will be given out starting the week of September 11<sup>th</sup>. Applications will be due September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3:15 pm. If the application is given after 3:15 or if the application does not meet the expectations such as providing a speech, the application will not be accepted. Speeches will be given during lunch the week of September 29<sup>th</sup>, and then elections will be held on September 29<sup>th</sup>. Elections for officers will occur in October. Please watch for additional information and applications. Thank you all!

Diane Cook and Sam Johnson  
Student Council



### *Orchestra News*

Beginning Orchestra: SRA's Beginning Orchestra is open to all students in grades 4-8. Beginning orchestra meets on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7:45-8:15 a.m. beginning the week of September 18.

Intermediate/Advanced Orchestra: SRA's Intermediate/Advanced orchestra is open to all students with prior string experience. Intermediate/Advanced orchestra meets on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:15-3:45 p.m. beginning the week of September 18.

Questions? Feel free to email Ms. Cowell [acowell@acsd1.org](mailto:acowell@acsd1.org)



### Do you love to sing?



**Then you would be a great addition to the  
SRA Singing Falcons or Middle School Chorus!**



**SRA Singing Falcons is open to all students in grades 3rd-5th.  
Middle School Chorus is open to all students in grades 6th-9th.  
We sing a variety of songs with performances in December and May.**

Rehearsal Information:

**When:**

- Middle School Chorus meets on Tuesday mornings from 7:45-8:15 a.m.
- Singing Falcons meets on Thursday mornings from 7:45-8:15 a.m.
- Both groups will start meeting the week of September 18.

**Questions:** Please contact Ms. Cowell ([acowell@acsd1.org](mailto:acowell@acsd1.org))


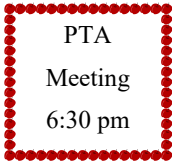


# September 2023

*Respect & Responsibility*

*Star Spangled Banner*

## ASSEMBLY RECITATION SCHEDULE

- \* September 6: Character
- \* September 13: 8th Grade
- \* September 20: 7th Grade
- \* September 27: 6th Grade

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 NO SCHOOL 	5	6	7	8	9
10	11  PTA Meeting 6:30 pm	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 SRA Board Mtg 6:00 pm	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28  PICTURE DAY 	29 NO SCHOOL Staff Development Day	30