

Sherman County School District

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It is an honor to open the 2012-13 school year as Superintendent of the Sherman County School District. The District staff, School Board members and many volunteers have paved the way for another successful year for every SCSD student. Everyone associated with the SCSD is proud to serve the students and parents in the communities of Biggs, Grass Valley, Kent, Moro, Rufus and Wasco.

Each new year brings excitement and unique challenges. Due to State revenue shortfalls and declining enrollment in the SCSD, the School Board, District Budget Committee, staff and administration have worked diligently to develop a budget that will effectively and efficiently use the limited resources we have for the new school year. Our primary effort this year, as always, is to provide the best education possible for each of our students. In addition, our focus continues to be led with creativity and proficiency in order to maintain the high quality education programs that we are known for, all while we remain focused on our core values, beliefs and priorities. I would like to share the priorities and points of emphasis that the School Board recently adopted for the 2012-13 school year:

- ❖ Student achievement is at the core of all District priorities. The School Board will support all staff in the development of curriculum guidelines and the alignment of teaching strategies K-12. This will also include the implementation of Common Core State Standards in Language Arts and Mathematics, K-12.
- ❖ Support the design of additional educational opportunities through virtual/on-line course options for students.
- ❖ By November 20, 2012, the Sherman County School Board will make a decision whether to develop a comprehensive plan to consolidate the District to one campus in Moro and report these findings to the Sherman County Community or to continue with current configuration. These findings might also include specific triggers.
- ❖ Create a transparent picture of Strategic Investment Funds and what they mean to the Sherman County School District.
 - Where we would be without the wind dollars.
 - More precise picture and evaluation of expenditure of wind dollars.
- ❖ Build trust and support healing between the Sherman County School District Board and school staff, administrators, families, residents and community leaders by acknowledging current challenges and building on strengths.
- ❖ Create authentic, good, honest relations within the school community by developing effective communication and engagement opportunities for all residents of Sherman County.
- ❖ Work in a collaborative effort with Sherman County residents to foster an outstanding environment for the success of all Sherman County students. Create a Partnership and Destination School District.
- ❖ Investigate ways to increase grant writing to support programs at the elementary and secondary level.

The Sherman County School District has maintained high quality education programs primarily because of our hard-working staff, dedicated School Board and also because our businesses, community agencies, parents and volunteers consistently support our schools. This is also a perfect time to thank Sherman County for the financial support through Strategic Investment Program agreements that have been so vital in our ability to continue exceptional academic programs.

I look forward to the 2012-13 school year with conviction and a commitment to continue to improve our services. Our ability to improve is dependent on your comments, suggestions and constructive criticism. Please call me at 541-565-3500, send an e-mail message to wowens@sherman.k12.or.us or come by the District Office at Sherman Jr./Sr. High School. Our doors are open daily, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The trust that you place in the Sherman County School District employees and School Board members to develop our students' potential and prepare them for their life after high school is never taken for granted and is greatly appreciated.

Best wishes for your child(ren) and our students' success in 2012-13.

Sincerely,

Wes Owens