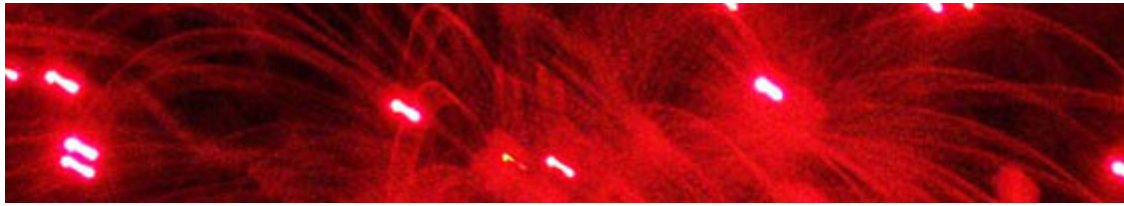


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Oquirrh Mountain Charter School July News

OMCS Community

Back to School

Summer is almost over. The PTO is sponsoring a Back-to-School picnic in the park on Saturday, August 13, from 4:30 - 6:30pm. Families are asked to bring a salad or desert to share. The PTO will provide hot dogs.

The school will sponsor a meet your teacher Back-to-School night on Thursday, August 18th after the second day of school. Parents can bring classroom supplies that evening and meet with each teacher. In order to make the evening as quick and productive as possible we are asking that just parents or parent come. Since our parking is limited, to accommodate everyone we ask that families with a last name beginning with the letters A to H come at 5:00pm. We will provide 15 minute presentation periods so parents can attend each class in which you have a child (junior high teachers will be grouped.) There will be four fifteen minute options followed by 30 minutes so you can visit with an additional teacher or return to try to visit one on one with a teacher.

Families with last names beginning with the letters I to Z will come at 6:30pm and four fifteen minutes exchanges will take place again followed by a 30 minute period for additional needs.

Junior High Curriculum Update

The purpose of Oquirrh Mountain Charter School is to empower students as stewards of great scholarship, citizenship, and moral excellence, who will lead and move the cause of liberty. In order to accomplish this purpose the stated mission of the school is to ensure every student has the opportunity to gain a

strong foundation of knowledge in world and American history, classic literature, science, math and fine arts. A study similar to that of our founding fathers, the study of history and citizenship, should be at the core of an American education so students develop an understanding and appreciation for our nation's heritage and founding principles. The intent of the school is all children should be given access to the same knowledge base that assures equality in learning and future educational success.

To that end, and while the 7th - 9th grades are still developing in numbers, the program that will be provided will not have a lot of electives. The intent of the Charter will be the foremost effort we pursue, i.e., challenging curriculum that develops an understanding of the principles that led good men in the founding of this nation. History will be taught in both 7th and 8th grade. Utah studies will be an additional 7th grade semester class. Geography will be a full year class in 9th grade as Davis School District strongly recommends. Davis School District provides for another social studies elective, currently being called "Current Issues" (previously Civics) for either 8th or 9th grade. A semester course that meets the Davis District Current Issues class will be required of our 9th grade students. The class will be taught in conjunction with a semester course designed for ninth grade students to plan, prepare and present on a topic delineating the student's preparation, accomplished and planned, to lead and move the cause of liberty with a portfolio explaining the student's fulfillment of the principles for which Oquirrh Mountain Charter exists. The presentation will be given to parents, interested friends and staff members. (The portfolio and presentation details are still being developed and a presentation will be given to the school community for input early in the school year.)

The junior high schedule is being finalized and registration information will be sent out next week on Tuesday with registration to follow on Thursday and Friday, August 4th and 5th. The times will be between 2:00 - 6:00pm on the 4th and 10:00am - 2:00pm on the 5th.

Junior High Staffing Update

The junior high has been given a strong developmental emphasis over the summer. The staff will include: Josh Curtis - Social Studies; Stephanie Hatsis - English; Erin Martin - English/History; Stephen Niedzwiecki - Science; Christopher Walter - Math; Stephen Brink - Latin/Utah Studies/Classical Literature; Mark Lee - PE/Health; Kate Keeler - Fine Arts; and Chris Winn - CTE/Math. Josh Curtis graduated from the University of Utah; taught English, US History and SAT prep in China; speaks Russian fluently; taught drama; currently has a role in a Hale Theater production in Orem; and loves to find ways to motivate students. Stephanie Hatsis is a Level 2 teacher who comes with middle school experience including being language arts department chair. She is certified in Language Arts, Reading, Library and Spanish.

Erin Martin comes to us with a bachelor's degree in Family and Consumer Science, work experience in the banking world followed by a further degree in education with endorsements in English and History. She has taught high school honors English and US History. Chris Winn, who will be our CTE teacher, has a Master's degree in Instructional Technology and Bachelor's degree in Accounting and Business Education. His experience includes junior high, DATC and college level in Dubai on the Persian Gulf. He is a Level 2 teacher who has been recognized with several awards for his teaching. Mark Lee will teach our PE and Health courses. He is also certified as a Spanish teacher. He comes from Idaho but taught last year in South Carolina. These new staff members bring knowledge, experience, and expertise not only in their subject areas but most of them bring a wealth of personal experience from around the world that will be a benefit to our students.

Elementary Changes

All of the faces in the elementary will be familiar as they were all working at the school when the previous school year ended. Some teachers have changed assignments and some staff that have moved from being teacher assistants to being teachers, but all were already employees. By the start of the year only two of the elementary teachers will not be licensed by the Utah State Office of Education as Level 1, or higher, teachers.

Staffing Note: It appears that most all of the teachers will be certified and highly qualified by the end of the 2011-12 school year.

Dr. Gregory Cox

Dr. Cox first served as an administrator in a small district in Idaho in 1986. He was the only administrator of a K-12 school district housed on one campus. The school was part of a league that displayed exceptional sportsmanship and the school itself had a great FFA program. Since that time Dr. Cox has worked in similar school districts as well as ones where he was only the district superintendent. For two years he worked with the BYU-Public School Partnership doing training and research in Positive Behavior Support.

Dr. Cox received a BA with a major in History and a minor in Spanish. He was licensed as a teacher in Utah and Idaho. His first teaching assignment was 7th grade social studies (a geography class), Spanish and later he taught World Civilizations, photography and photojournalism taking responsibility for the junior high yearbook. He coached 9th grade football a couple of years. Later, while serving as the district superintendent, he taught a required Consumer Economics class to seniors.

After teaching for five years Dr. Cox returned to the university to pursue a degree in library science. Following a stint taking much of the coursework in building construction he completed an executive Masters of Public Administration degree. Shortly afterwards he began an Ed.D. in educational leadership which he completed in December of 1990. He was hooded, received his doctorate, in the April

convocation in 1991. His doctoral dissertation was a study of the first year implementation of a statewide mentoring program for first year teachers and administrators in Idaho where he was working. One of his fond memories was having his children help in sorting, stuffing and stamping the envelopes for the many surveys that went out to those involved in the study.

Most recently Dr. Cox served as Superintendent for a K-8 school district on the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming. It was while driving back and forth from Fort Washakie, WY to visit family along the Wasatch Front that stimulated the desire to return to this area and to purchase a home in Morgan, Utah. Children and grandchildren are very important to him and his wife. They are delighted to be much closer to them.

Dr. Cox is personally excited to have the opportunity to combine two of his greatest work-related loves, administration and history, to promote and continue the development of Oquirrh Mountain Charter School.

Oquirrh Mountain Musings

There are three organizations from whom you will receive official correspondence, the school - either from your child's teacher directly or from the school administration, from the school board (and most of their correspondence will come through the school), and the PTO. Any other organization or group should be carefully evaluated as to their interest and intent for not working within the typical, approved and recognized organizations.

The Charter is paying for the school building and the initial five years' payments are higher than subsequent ones. That means funding at the school is a little tight but the restrictions are something the school staff is working within.

The staff is working on a solid junior high program which will appeal to those who are interested in a strong academic program tailor fit to the school's American Heritage foundation. This will be implemented in part this year but there will be parent meetings to provide community input.

The decision was made prior to the end of the past school year to go to a seven period day for the junior high. Additionally several of the semester courses in the junior high are going to be taught concurrently, i.e., every other week so the student benefits from the instruction/activity throughout the year not just for the four months a typical semester class is taught.

Ninth grade course offerings are intended to cover required or optional required courses for transfer to Davis School District high schools. The intent of Oquirrh Mountain Charter School is to fill the class schedule with classes that will readily transfer to complete requirements toward graduation.

The original Charter materials show student class sizes to be 24 for the first two years and increasing to 26 for the third and subsequent years. This is the pattern being followed as classes and courses are being finalized for the upcoming third year of Oquirrh Mountain Charter School.

Dr. Gregory Cox's email is gcox@omcharterschool.org. He looks forward to working with parents, staff and students and hopes that parents will always feel welcome in the school and welcome in coming directly to him with concerns. Preparing the next generation to understand the requirements of citizenship and exigencies to

safeguard liberty is not only an endeavor that requires teamwork but is one worthy of the undertaking.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gregory Cox

Oquirrh Mountain Charter School

Forward email