



# Sac News You Can Use

## OCT. 2018

Visit our Website

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## Calendar of Events

**October 10 - PSAT for 8th graders**

**October 12** - Learning Improvement Day ~ No School for students.

**October 15-19 - Spirit week**

October 16 - Vision and Hearing Screening

October 17 - Flu Shot Clinic 9:30 - 11:30 am

October 18 - Healthy Youth Survey today in Social Studies. [Click here for more info.](#)

October 19 - Fund Run TODAY

October 26 - Peer Professional Learning Day - Early Release @2:15

**October 31 - Halloween and Picture Re-Take Day.**

**November 2 - End of 1st Quarter**

**November 6 - Veteran's Day Concert @ 7:00 pm**

**November 8 - Veteran's Day Con**

November 9 - Peer Professional Learning Day - Early Release @2:15

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## Message from the Principal



Oct. 2018

As you walk the halls of Sacajawea Middle School, you may notice signs posted throughout our school representing the **SAC** Way. The **SAC** Way is a mantra we share with students and staff highlighting and repeating what we believe and expect. **Show Respect, Accept Responsibility and Commit to Success.** As our students and staff share in our learning community, this small phrase helps us to continue to prepare for the future.

Sacajawea has been recognized as an academic leader by the State of Washington. Recently we committed to a few high performing indicators that align with the College Board and ensure our school is developmentally responsive, culturally relevant and socially equitable. The indicators are Fostering Academic Behaviors, Creating an Environment of Learning, Providing Academic Press and Promoting a Culture of Success. Our leadership team uses these indicators to begin our school year and align all of our day-to-day practices with the notion of "Excellence for Everyone".

I am proud of our professional staff as they continue to seek promising teaching strategies, plan purposefully, and lead from the front. As a quick check, we recently pulled our failure rates and compared them with the last four years. I am happy to share that we have the fewest number of failed classes we have had in recent history. Over 88% of our students are passing classes. This reinforces the belief in the **SAC** Way.

While you read **Sacajawea News You Can Use**, please look for little details that help you to understand what makes our school so special. This month you will notice two small requests from our community to help us to continue to offer a world-class middle school experience:

1. **Support the Sacajawea Fund Run-** Students were presented detailed Fund Run information outlining our sole fundraiser for the year. The money our students raise during our Fund Run supports clubs, organizations, music, arts, athletics, and more. Every student in our school is a beneficiary of our Fund Run. As an example, money raised last year funded uniforms, our Sacajawea Theatre performance, Talent Show, reward activity days, after-school activities and more. If every student raises \$30.00 in donations we can meet our goal of \$20,000.

2. **Benevolence Fund-** We have a small Benevolence fund we use to ensure every student eats every day. If students or families are not able to cover the cost of a lunch, we cover the cost and make sure we always feed our students. Please consider making a small donation to our Benevolence fund by stopping by the business office or writing a check to Sacajawea Benevolence fund. All money donated will go directly to supporting student's basic needs.

As always, we are so thankful to our families for providing our school with such wonderful students and people. Our partnership with each of you is key to continued student success and something we value deeply. Please continue to check PowerSchool, talk with your children and seek clear communication with our school and our staff.

Yours truly,

Jeremy Ochse  
Principal, Sacajawea Middle School

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## News/Info

### On Wednesday Oct. 10th all of our 8th graders will take the PSAT 8 test.

Designed for 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders the Preliminary SAT 8/9 assesses the same knowledge and skills as the SAT.

- Emphasis on reasoning alongside a clearer, stronger focus on the knowledge and skills that are most successful for college and career readiness and success.
- Emphasis on the meaning of word in a variety of contexts and how word choice shapes meaning, tone and impact.
- Focus on math that matters most, including problem solving, data analysis, algebra and advanced mathematical concepts.
- **Multiple exposure to the PSAT and SAT statistically results in higher and higher scores.**

Students will need to bring #2 pencils and a calculator.

Please visit the link below for more information.

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-8-9/inside-the-test>

**The schedule for 8th grade is below. Please help by NOT scheduling appointments on this date and making sure that students are here on time. The rules around this test are very strict, unfortunately students who arrive after the start time will miss this opportunity and not be allowed to test.**

9:00 – 9:20 Homebase

9:24 – 9:50 Organize students and read test instructions aloud.

**9:50 – 1:08 TESTING**

1:08 – 1:38 LUNCH

1:42 – 2:34 5<sup>th</sup> period

2:38 – 3:30 6<sup>th</sup> period



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**Our Fund Run is HERE....**The annual SAC Fund Run kick off was on Thursday September 27th. The Fund Run benefits 8th grade fun day, athletics, band, orchestra, choir, and other ASB approved clubs such as Cyber Patriots, Robotics, etc.

Oct 15-19 is **SPIRIT WEEK** with a themed dress up day each day culminating on Friday Oct. 19th with our actual Fund Run in the afternoon (send good thoughts for nice weather!!)

Monday Oct. 15 - Dress like your favorite movie snack.

Tuesday Oct. 16 - Dress like you are going to a movie slumber party.

Wednesday Oct. 17 - Dress like you are walking the red carpet.

Thursday Oct. 18 - Dress like your favorite movie character.

Friday Oct. 18 - Wear your assigned Home Base colors.

**Remember all school dress code rules apply!!!! You can find the dress code in our school planner or [click here to view.](#)**



**Halloween reminder....**we don't allow costumes, face paint or other props at school.

We wish you a **safe** and happy Halloween!!

**Studies show that students involved in after school activities are happier, healthier and get better grades!!**

[Click here to see all the great sport and club opportunities that are available.](#)

**GET INVOLVED!**

**Chess Club** is starting up at SAC!!!

Wednesdays from 3:30-4:30 in room 188.

Registration forms for Chess Club can be picked up in the bookroom. There is a fee but scholarships are available to take care of the cost. Please join us!!!

## A message from our Counselors....

Students miss school for a variety of reasons. However, a day missed means six classes missed. So here are some things that will help when school is missed.

### For Parents/guardian:

Contact the school as soon as you know your student will be absent or tardy. This can be through a phone call (24 hour attendance line: 354-5515) day of, or send a note (signed and dated by parents/guardians) with your student explaining the reason for the absence.

If checking a student out mid-day, please call first thing in the morning to help us expedite all the steps involved to check out a student from school. District policy states that you must come in and check out your child, advance calling helps us get you out of here and on your way faster.

### For Students:

If ONE day is missed, please talk to each teacher the next day as you move from period to period to gather what you may have missed. DO NOT assume they will just give you what you need. You must ask them.

If 2-3 days are missed please follow the "One day missed" procedure and contact your counselor if you feel you need assistance with finding the time to make up past work while staying up with the current work upon your return.

Upon the third consecutive day missed: please have parents contact the grade level counselor or office to start a homework collection packet. This can be picked up in the office at a preset



## MISS SCHOOL - MISS OUT!!

**The Consequences are severe and devastating.**

### Did you know?

- **Chronic absence - just 18 days a year or approx. 1.5 days a month - increases the chance that your child will not read or master math at the same level as their peers.**
- **Being late to school may lead to poor attendance. (Ditching and skipping school in High School!)**
- **By 6th grade absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.**
- **By 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a BETTER predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.**
- **Attendance is an important life skill that will help your child graduate from**

determined time (usually the end of the day) by student or any designated person. We can also provide time at school during the day to assist with making up work in our intervention room. We have found that designating time to do make up work speeds up the process and gets students back to speed sooner.

Pre-arranged absences can be set up ahead of time by contacting your grade level counselor or the main office. This might be a vacation, medical procedure or family care. We have a form students can pick up in the office and take around to teachers to inform them of the future missed days and get any work ahead of time that will assist them in staying current while the student is out of school. Contact your grade level counselor to assist with this process.

college and keep a job.

#### What can you do:

1. Make attendance a priority.
2. Talk about the importance of showing up to school everyday. Make that the expectation.
3. Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing home work and getting a good night's sleep.
4. Try not to schedule dental and medical appointments during the school day.
5. Don't let your child stay home unless truly sick.
6. Stay on top of academic progress and seek help from teachers or tutors if necessary. Make sure teachers know how to contact you.
7. Check on your child's attendance to make sure absences aren't piling up. **(See the article below on PowerSchool Parent access - call us if you need help with passwords and/or log in information.)**

**SACAJAWEA is committed to ensuring EVERY DOOR is open to our students....ATTENDANCE MATTERS.**



## Music Notes

The Month of October finds Sac musicians involved in Link Activities with L.C.H.S.

On October 11, Sac's 8<sup>th</sup> grade Bands will be guests of L.C.'s Football Pep Band at Joe Albi Stadium for a game. This shared experience will serve to inform our 8<sup>th</sup> graders about High School and the fun of Pep Band.

On October 18, Sac's 8<sup>th</sup> grade Choir students will perform in concert at L.C. in the annual Feeder School Concert



## You Are Invited:

**Veterans and Active Duty family members. Let us show you our gratitude and respect.**

On November 6th at 7:00 pm we have our annual **Veteran's Day Concert** featuring our Band, Orchestra and Choir students.

We will have a **Veteran's Day Assembly** at 9:00 am on November 8, 2018.

Please mark your calendar!!

## PTG Corner

**Get Involved.** Please join the Sacajawea PTG. This parent group helps support Sacajawea students and staff. Honor Roll Celebrations, supporting needy students, 8th grade fun day, and more are all examples of the way our PTG supports our learning community. **Our next meeting will be Oct. 17th.**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR and plan to attend Scheduled Meetings for 2018/19...**



Oct 17  
Nov 21  
Jan 16  
Feb 20  
Mar 20  
Apr 17  
May 15

\* all meeting start at 1:45 pm in Room 124 at SAC.

### Donate.

We strive to provide the BEST middle school experience for your child. Many of the activities we offer here at SAC are unfunded and don't happen at other middle schools. This is because of YOUR PTG. Sacajawea PTG is solely funded by your direct donation. Parents tell us that they don't want to sell cookie dough, wrapping paper, chocolates, etc..... If every parent donated a minimum of 20.00 our PTG would net 16000.00 to support student activities and events. Funds are getting low....[CLICK HERE and donate today!!!](#) Or pick up an envelope in the main office. Please make checks payable to Sacajawea PTG.

Volunteers are needed. Please volunteer your time. Contact our office to get in touch with our volunteer coordinator at 509-354-5500.



### CAN YOU HELP?

The **Thunderbird Closet** is up and running. The goal is to create a resource for students who might need clothing or other personal care items. Students grow so much at this age it is often difficult for families to keep up financially.

**Donations of gently used or new clothes (all sizes) for teens and LAUNDRY SOAP!! can be dropped off in the main office. A big thank you to Mrs. Cole-Way's class and Erika**

**Leland for managing the operation of Thunderbird Closet and everyone who has donated and offered to volunteer their time. We REALLY appreciate it!**

*Overheard in the hall....."Thank you Sacajawea...Thank you for my clothes."*

\*\*\*Our counselors and teachers will help identify and connect students to this resource.

Our **Benevolent Fund** is getting very low....this fund ensures that no student goes hungry.

**Please consider donating to either one of these necessary programs that help so many of our kids!! Thank you.**

### LOST AND FOUND

Our lost and found shelf (outside of the business office) is overflowing. Stop by and check it out....especially if you are missing something!! Items not claimed will be donated at the end of each month to a local charity.



**Changes to asthma requirements:** Starting this fall, all asthma will be considered a life-threatening health condition. For students who have a diagnosis of asthma, state law requires them to have a signed Asthma Care Plan and Medication Orders on file, updated by a health care provider each year.

All students who have asthma will be required to have an Asthma Care Plan and Medication Orders AND an inhaler at school prior to the first day of school or they will be excluded. Please

contact Becky Doughty, director of Health Services, at 354-7298 with any questions.

**RCW 28A.210:** Life-threatening health conditions: Prior to attendance at school, each child with a potentially life-threatening health condition shall present a medication or treatment order addressing the condition. A life threatening health condition means a condition that will put the child in danger of death during the school day if a medication or treatment order is not in place. Needing to keep asthma medications at school is considered a potentially life threatening health condition.



**END of 1st QUARTER is coming up on NOVEMBER 2.**

Please check your students grades this week. Call us if you need help logging on. Throughout the year you can use PowerSchool to check grades and attendance. You can even set PowerSchool to email you real time progress reports on a daily or weekly basis to help you stay connected to what is happening at school.

**If you have questions about your child's grade, your first step is to contact the teacher directly as soon as you have a concern so they can partner with you to help your child be successful.**

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**Digital Library Cards:** The Spokane Public Library is introducing Digital Access Library Cards for all middle and high school students. These specialized library cards give students online access to most of the library's digital learning resources that are ideal for research. How to access: go to [www.spokaneschools.org/students](http://www.spokaneschools.org/students). Click the 'Clever' button and log in like normal. Click the Spokane Public Library icon, where you'll see your library card number and pin displayed at the top of the page.



**FREE Microsoft 365 Office Suite Software for Home Use:** All SAC students have access to the full suite of Microsoft Office's newest software both online and for home download. This \$99/year value is free for all of our students. Visit:

<http://www.spokaneschools.org/Page/23164> to learn how to log in and download your software.

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## Congratulations/Good News/Celebrations

**Congratulations:** Share your good news with us! We love to feature the incredible things our students are doing inside and outside of school. If you have good news to share, please send it to Tracey Leyde ([traceyl@spokaneschools.org](mailto:traceyl@spokaneschools.org)) to be included in the SacNYCU

### Community Service and Involvement IN ACTION!!!!

**Mrs. Taylor's 8th grade Advanced Engineering**

students received an award from the Spokane Guild School. Sacajawea students worked with the Guild school to design, create, build and develop tools and toys the teachers could use with students to develop fine motor skills, communication skills, sensory awareness, visual and auditory skills. The students met multiple times and then finally presented to the board members and teachers. All things students

built were donated to the school.



**Aiva Guillery**, an 8th grader at Sac MS, placed 3rd (out of 83 contestants) in the Junior American Indian Beauty Pageant at the Pendleton Roundup in Oregon. It's a major annual rodeo that Aiva's family has participated in for the past 100 years.

Great job Aiva!!!



**Thank you** to all families who have donated school supplies, backpacks, binders, etc... It's wonderful to see students have the tools they need to have a successful start to the school year.

## Community Partners

About our Community Partner's Program..... We would appreciate you partnering with us in supporting the PBIS program at Sacajawea.

There are 2 ways to participate and help the Sacajawea community.

1. We ask that businesses pick one month of the school year to sponsor our PBIS program, with a suggested donation of \$75. When your business sponsors a month of PBIS, it will be recognized in Sacajawea "News You Can Use" email with a link to your businesses' website. This email gives your business exposure to the families of the 800+ students enrolled at Sacajawea. We will also advertise your business for the entire month on our brand new Sacajawea Middle School electronic reader board, located on Grand Blvd. at 32nd Ave.
2. Other businesses provide us with rewards and tangible goods for students and staff.

If you are a business owner and would like to partner with us by contributing to our Sacajawea family with donations of time or resources please email [hollyki@spokaneschools.org](mailto:hollyki@spokaneschools.org)





STAY CONNECTED

Sacajawea Middle School | 509-354-5500 | 509-354-5505 | [traceyl@spokaneschools.org](mailto:traceyl@spokaneschools.org)  
[www.sacthunderbirds.com](http://www.sacthunderbirds.com)

