

# MAKE <sup>the</sup> GRADE



## YOUR LOCAL GUIDE

FOR A  
SUCCESSFUL  
SCHOOL YEAR



With

- > SIERRA SANDS
- > PRIVATE, CHARTER
- > TRONA CALENDAR
- > CERRO COSO



+ SPORTS + BUS ROUTES + CALENDARS

# 2016 - 2017 Sierra Sands School District Information

## Coming this year! ParentSquare

### Innovative Parent Communication Platform

ParentSquare is a safe and secure platform for all school-to-home communication. The two-way group messaging, private conversations, district-wide alerts and notices, and simple user interface keeps everyone connected, creating a vibrant school community.



## Back-to-School Night Schedule



2016-2017



Site(s)	Date	Time
Las Flores Richmond	Mon. 8/15	6:30 PM
Gateway Pierce Rand	Tues. 8/16	6:30 PM
Faller Inyokern	Wed. 8/17	6:30 PM
Burroughs	Mon. 8/22	6:30 PM
Monroe Murray	Tues. 8/23	6:30 PM
Mesquite	Wed. 8/24	6:30 PM

## Food Service Department • New For 2016-2017

You can apply online for free or reduced price breakfast and lunch. Complete online application. Computers are available at the school sites if necessary.

Visit [sierrasands.strataapps.com](http://sierrasands.strataapps.com) to begin the application process.

If you have any questions, or need assistance with your online application, please contact the Food Service Office at 760-499-1880, ext 2, Jeff Brown or your school site.







# Sierra Sands School District 2016 - 2017 Bus Route Schedule



Attention All Parents of Students Riding the Bus for the 2016-17 School Year

1. The attached posted times are the estimated pick up and drop times. Adjustment to route times may be made as needed and drivers will notify students of impending changes. Inactive bus stops may be reinstated as needed. Please feel free to call the Transportation Office at 760-499-1874 if you have any questions.

2. If we experience delays, we will be using the autodialer or other communication system to notify you. Please make sure the school site has your correct phone/cell phone/email address for proper notification. This means your student must ride the designated route in order for you to receive notification.

3. **LATE START WEDNESDAYS:** All route times listed will be delayed by thirty (30) minutes on late start Wednesdays. For example: If your normal pick up time is 6:30 AM, your late start Wednesday pick up time will be 7:00 AM. All routes will be delayed by 30 minutes.

4. All students must have their bus pass and be ready to show it to the bus driver by September 6, 2016. Passes will be needed for AM and PM loading onto the bus.

View or download the PDF of the bus route schedules on our district website [www.ssusd.org](http://www.ssusd.org) or our Facebook page.

If you do not see a stop near you, please contact the Transportation Office at 760-499-1874.

Time	Location	School	Route #	Time	Location	School	Route #	Time	Location	School	Route #	Time	Location	School	Route #
<b>BHS and Mesquite HS</b>				3:56	N Brown/Solo	BHS	54	6:07	Ward/Calvert	Murray Only	53	<b>Inyokern Elementary</b>			
5:58	2544 Brown Rd	BHS & Mesquite	54	6:24	N Brown/Wilcox	BHS & Mesquite	54	3:25	Ward/Calvert	Murray Only	53	6:45	724 Atkins Sch Choice	Inyokern	56
3:22	2544 Brown Rd	BHS	54	3:54	N Brown/Wilcox	BHS	54	6:18	Ward/Guam	Murray Only	53	3:35	725 Atkins Sch Choice	Inyokern	56
6:01	Athel/Crestview	BHS & Mesquite	54	6:29	Nancy/College Hts (Apts)	BHS & Mesquite	51	3:40	Ward/Guam	Murray Only	53	7:18	2544 Brown Rd	Inyokern	56
3:32	Athel/Crestview	BHS	54	2:46	Nancy/College Hts (Apts)	BHS	55	6:24	Ward/Mtn View	Murray Only	53	2:36	2544 Brown Rd	Inyokern	56
6:45	Bowman/County Line	BHS & Mesquite	51	1:24	Nancy/College Hts (Apts)	Mesquite Only	51	2:45	Ward/Mtn View	Murray Only	53	***	Athel/Tumbleweed	Inyokern	56
3:16	Bowman/County Line	BHS	55	6:15	Ridgecrest Blvd/Primavera	BHS	51	6:10	Ward/Pinto	Murray Only	53	7:09	Chaparral/Saguaro	Inyokern	56
1:29	Bowman/Richmond	Mesquite Only	51	3:15	Ridgecrest Blvd/Primavera	BHS	51	6:22	Ward/Pinto	Murray Only	53	3:13	Chaparral/Saguaro	Inyokern	56
6:30	China Lake/Guam	BHS	69	5:56	The Rand/Buluwago	BHS & Mesquite	69	2:43	Ward/Sierra View	Murray Only	53	7:25	Hwy 395/Neal Ranch	Inyokern	56
3:25	China Lake/Guam	BHS	51	3:50	The Rand/Buluwago	BHS	51	6:04	Ward/Strecker	Murray Only	53	2:47	Hwy 395/Neal Ranch	Inyokern	56
6:25	China Lake/Treat	BHS & Mesquite	69	5:59	The Rand/Hwy 395	BHS & Mesquite	69	3:20	Ward/Strecker	Murray Only	53	7:38	N Brown/Athel	Inyokern	56
3:26	China Lake/Treat	BHS	51	3:48	The Rand/Hwy 395	BHS	51	<b>Unless otherwise noted: Middle School Stops below may serve BHS and Mesquite HS</b>				3:06	N Brown/Athel	Inyokern	56
6:33	College Hts/Franklin	BHS & Mesquite	51	6:07	Ward/Calvert	BHS & Mesquite	53	5:58	2544 Brown Rd	Murray	54	7:32	N Brown/Coyote Trail	Inyokern	56
2:53	College Hts/Franklin	BHS	55	3:25	Ward/Calvert	BHS	53	3:22	2544 Brown Rd	Murray	54	2:54	N Brown/Coyote Trail	Inyokern	56
6:30	College Hts/Nancy	BHS & Mesquite	51	1:08	Ward/Calvert	Mesquite Only	51	6:01	Athel/Crestview	Murray	54	***	N Brown/Hazen	Inyokern	56
2:50	College Hts/Nancy	BHS	55	6:18	Ward/Guam	BHS & Mesquite	53	3:32	Athel/Crestview	Murray	54	***	N Brown/Hazen	Inyokern	56
6:35	College Hts/Springer	BHS & Mesquite	51	3:40	Ward/Guam	BHS	53	3:16	Bowman/County Line	Murray	55	7:34	N Brown/Neal Ranch	Inyokern	56
2:54	College Hts/Springer	BHS	55	6:10	Ward/Pinto	BHS & Mesquite	53	2:53	College Hts/Franklin	Murray	55	2:57	N Brown/Neal Ranch	Inyokern	56
6:35	College Hts/Kendall	BHS & Mesquite	51	3:30	Ward/Pinto	BHS	53	2:50	College Hts/Nancy	Murray	55	7:36	N Brown/Solo	Inyokern	56
2:57	College Hts/Kendall	BHS	55	6:04	Ward/Strecker	BHS & Mesquite	53	2:46	Nancy/College Hts (Apts)	Murray	55	3:03	N Brown/Solo	Inyokern	56
6:25	Dolphin/Downs	BHS & Mesquite	51	3:20	Ward/Strecker	BHS	53	3:21	E Church/Richmond	Murray	55	7:35	N Brown/Wilcox	Inyokern	56
3:20	Dolphin/Downs	BHS	51	1:05	Ward/Strecker	Mesquite Only	51	3:10	Gateway/Dolphin	Murray	55	3:00	N Brown/Wilcox	Inyokern	56
1:20	Dolphin/Downs	Mesquite Only	51	<b>Monroe stops may also carry high school students.</b>				6:08	Hwy 395/Neal Ranch	Murray	54	7:01	Ward/Calvert	Inyokern	56
6:51	E Church/Richmond	BHS & Mesquite	51	6:30	China Lake/Guam	Monroe	51	3:37	Hwy 395/Neal Ranch	Murray	54	3:21	Ward/Calvert Dbl Stop	Inyokern	56
3:21	E Church/Richmond	BHS	55	3:25	China Lake/Guam	Monroe	51	5:57	Inyokern/Comet	Murray	54	6:48	Ward/Guam Sch Choice	Inyokern	56
6:44	Gateway/Dolphin	BHS & Mesquite	51	6:25	China Lake/Treat	Monroe	69	4:05	Inyokern/Comet	Murray	54	3:30	Ward/Guam Sch Choice	Inyokern	56
3:10	Gateway/Dolphin	BHS	55	3:26	China Lake/Treat	Monroe	51	6:00	Inyokern/Saguaro	Murray	54	6:58	Ward/Pinto	Inyokern	56
5:48	Hwy 395 NB/Big Dirt Lot	BHS & Mesquite	69	6:25	Dolphin/Downs	Monroe	51	3:23	Inyokern/Saguaro	Murray	54	7:04	Ward/Strecker	Inyokern	56
3:55	Hwy 395 NB/Big Dirt Lot	BHS	51	3:20	Dolphin/Downs	Monroe	51	3:18	Ward/Strecker	Murray	56	<b>Las Flores Elementary</b>			
6:08	Hwy 395/Neal Ranch	BHS & Mesquite	54	5:48	Hwy 395 NB/Big Dirt Lot	Monroe	69	5:48	Hwy 395 NB/Big Dirt Lot	Murray	54	5:48	Hwy 395 NB/Big Dirt Lot	Las Flores	69
3:37	Hwy 395/Neal Ranch	BHS	54	3:55	Hwy 395 NB/Big Dirt Lot	Monroe	51	3:55	Hwy 395 NB/Big Dirt Lot	Murray	54	3:55	Hwy 395 NB/Big Dirt Lot	Las Flores	51
5:45	Hwy 395/Red Mtn Sign	BHS & Mesquite	69	5:45	Hwy 395/Red Mtn Sign	Monroe	69	6:35	N Brown/3 Pines	Murray	54	5:45	Hwy 395/Red Mtn Sign	Las Flores	69
3:55	Hwy 395/Red Mtn Sign	BHS	51	3:55	Hwy 395/Red Mtn Sign	Monroe	51	6:34	N Brown/Athel	Murray	54	3:56	Hwy 395/Red Mtn Sign	Las Flores	51
5:47	Hwy 395/St Elmo	BHS & Mesquite	69	5:59	Hwy 395/The Rand	Monroe	69	5:37	N Brown/Athel	Murray	54	5:47	Hwy 395/St Elmo	Las Flores	69
4:00	Hwy 395/St Elmo	BHS	51	3:48	Hwy 395/The Rand	Monroe	51	6:32	N Brown/Buckel	Murray	54	4:00	Hwy 395/St Elmo	Las Flores	51
5:59	Hwy 395/The Rand	BHS & Mesquite	69	6:15	Hwy 395/Tor Road	Monroe	69	4:00	N Brown/Buckel	Murray	54	6:25	Hwy 395/The Rand	Las Flores	69
3:48	Hwy 395/The Rand	BHS	51	3:32	Hwy 395/Tor Road	Monroe	51	6:17	N Brown/Coyote Trail	Murray	54	3:48	Hwy 395/The Rand	Las Flores	51
6:15	Hwy 395/Tor Road	BHS & Mesquite	69	6:13	Las Flores/Brady	Monroe	51	3:49	N Brown/Coyote Trail	Murray	54	6:35	Hwy 395/Tor Road	Las Flores	69
3:32	Hwy 395/Tor Road	BHS	51	3:09	Las Flores/Brady	Monroe	51	3:32	N Brown/Heather	Murray	54	3:32	Hwy 395/Tor Road	Las Flores	51
5:50	Inyokern School	BHS & Mesquite	54	2:59	Monroe Math drop	Monroe	51	5:56	N Brown/Heather	Murray	54	5:56	The Rand /Buluwago	Las Flores	69
3:20	S Brown/Plains	BHS	54	6:15	Ridgecrest Blvd/Primavera	Monroe	51	6:25	N Brown/Leliter	Murray	54	3:50	The Rand /Buluwago	Las Flores	51
5:57	Inyokern/Comet	BHS & Mesquite	54	3:15	Ridgecrest Blvd/Primavera	Monroe	51	<b>Murray only, buses will not go into BHS or Mesquite.</b>				<b>Pierce Elementary</b>			
4:05	Inyokern/Comet	BHS	54	5:56	The Rand /Buluwago	Monroe	69	6:22	N Brown/Neal Ranch	Murray	54	8:14	Alvord/Upjohn	Pierce	55
6:00	Inyokern/Saguaro	BHS & Mesquite	54	3:50	The Rand /Buluwago	Monroe	51	3:52	N Brown/Neal Ranch	Murray	54	4:00	Alvord/Upjohn	Pierce	55
4:07	Inyokern/Saguaro	BHS	54	<b>Murray only, buses will not go into BHS or Mesquite.</b>				6:28	N Brown/Solo	Murray	54	8:27	Bowman/County Line	Pierce	55
1:00	Inyokern/Saguaro	Mesquite Only	51	6:20	Alene/Erwin	Murray Only	53	3:56	N Brown/Solo	Murray	54	4:22	Bowman/County Line	Pierce	55
6:35	Kendall/College Hts	BHS & Mesquite	51	2:34	Alene/Erwin	Murray Only	54	6:24	N Brown/Wilcox	Murray	54	8:34	Cottonwood/Sunland	Pierce	55
2:57	Kendall/College Hts	BHS	55	6:24	Bowman/County Line	Murray Only	55	3:54	N Brown/Wilcox	Murray	54	4:08	Cottonwood/Sunland	Pierce	55
6:38	Kendall/Gateway	BHS & Mesquite	51	3:16	Bowman/County Line	Murray Only	55	6:27	N Brown/Selbenthal	Murray	54	8:21	Gateway/Springer	Pierce	55
2:59	Kendall/Gateway	BHS	55	6:19	College Hts/Franklin	Murray Only	55	3:55	N Brown/Selbenthal	Murray	54	4:20	Gateway/Springer	Pierce	55
6:13	Las Flores/Brady	BHS	51	2:53	College Hts/Franklin	Murray Only	55	<b>Faller Elementary</b>				8:10	Radar/Sanders	Pierce	55
3:09	Las Flores/Brady	BHS	51	6:30	College Hts/Nancy	Murray Only	55	7:23	220 Robertson	Faller	52	4:00	Radar/Sanders	Pierce	55
7:00	Murray MS - Base Students to BHS & Mesq		53	2:50	College Hts/Nancy	Murray Only	55	2:41	220 Robertson	Faller	52	<b>Richmond Elementary</b>			
3:15	Murray Loading Zone Drop	BHS	53	6:19	E Church/Richmond	Murray Only	55	7:31	417 Sunset St	Faller	52	8:19	724 Atkins	Richmond	53
6:35	N Brown/3 Pines	BHS & Mesquite	54	3:21	E Church/Richmond	Murray Only	55	2:50	417 Sunset St	Faller	52	3:48	724 Atkins	Richmond	55
3:28	N Brown/3 Pines	BHS	54	6:29	Gateway/Dolphin	Murray Only	55	2:46	Church/Sunset Pl	Faller	52	8:21	Alene/Erwin	Richmond	55
6:34	N Brown/Athel	BHS & Mesquite	54	3:10	Gateway/Dolphin	Murray Only	55	***	College Hts/Kendall	Faller	52	3:50	Alene/Erwin	Richmond	55
3:27	N Brown/Athel	BHS	54	6:28	Graaf/Wayne	Murray Only	56	***	College Hts/Kendall	Faller	52	8:28	Graaf/Wayne	Richmond	51
6:32	N Brown/Buckel	BHS & Mesquite	54	2:40	Graaf/Wayne	Murray Only	56	7:10	Dolphin/Ranger	Faller	52	3:40	Graaf/Wayne	Richmond	52
4:00	N Brown/Buckel	BHS	54	6:35	Kendall/College Hts	Murray Only	55	2:25	Dolphin/Ranger	Faller	52	8:16	Sierra View/Bennett	Richmond	53
6:31	N Brown/Casper	BHS & Mesquite	54	2:57	Kendall/College Hts	Murray Only	55	7:13	Franklin/Sims	Faller	52	3:45	Sierra View/Bennett	Richmond	53
3:58	N Brown/Casper	BHS	54	6:38	Kendall/Gateway	Murray Only	55	2:30	Franklin/Sims	Faller	52	8:24	Ward/Inyo	Richmond	51
6:17	N Brown/Coyote Trail	BHS & Mesquite	54	3:00	Kendall/Gateway	Murray Only	55	7:26	Robertson/Helena	Faller	52	3:54	Ward/Inyo	Richmond	53
3:49	N Brown/Coyote Trail	BHS	54	6:45	Gold Cyn / Kashmir (Dirt)	Murray Only	55	2:43	Robertson/Helena	Faller	52	8:30	Ward/Mtn View	Richmond	51
6:20	N Brown/Heather	BHS & Mesquite	54	2:50	La Mirage Tennis courts	Murray Only	51	7:20	Upjohn/Norma	Faller	52	3:40	Ward/Mtn View	Richmond	52
3:51	N Brown/Heather	BHS	54	6:13	Nancy/College Hts (Apts)	Murray Only	55	6:45	Ward/Guam	Faller	52	8:33	Ward/Palo Verde	Richmond	51
6:25	N Brown/Leliter	BHS & Mesquite	54	2:46	Nancy/College Hts (Apts)	Murray Only	55	3:35	Ward/Guam	Faller	52	3:43	Ward/Palo Verde	Richmond	52
3:43	N Brown/Leliter	BHS	54	6:40	Radar/China Lake	Murray Only	55	3:35	Ward/Strecker	Murray Only	53	8:26	Ward/Sierra View	Richmond	53
6:22	N Brown/Neal Ranch	BHS & Mesquite	54	2:40	Radar/China Lake	Murray Only	55	<b>Please call Transportation at 760-499-1874 if you have any questions concerning school bus stops.</b>				3:37	Ward/Sierra View	Richmond	52
3:52	N Brown/Neal Ranch	BHS	54	6:15	Ridgecrest Blvd/Sunland	Murray Only	55								
6:27	N Brown/Siebenthal	BHS & Mesquite	54	2:38	Ridgecrest Blvd/Sunland	Murray Only	55								
3:55	N Brown/Siebenthal	BHS	54	6:55	Sierra View/Bennett	Murray Only	53								
6:28	N Brown/Solo	BHS & Mesquite	54	2:50	Sierra View/Bennett	Murray Only	53								



**SUMMER 2016**

The Daily Independent

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## COLLEGE

# Cerro Coso excited for students' return

**T**here is an air of excitement around the Cerro Coso campus as preparations take place for the return of students on August 22.

"The only thing better than having the students back on campus is the anticipation and excitement we feel when we're getting close," said President Jill Board. "You can start to feel the community and campus coming to life."

Summer is a great time for college students to refresh and rekindle time with family and friends and catch up and get ahead on their school work. College faculty and administrators often use the time attending and presenting at academic conferences, gaining knowledge, presenting research and best practices, and staying current in their professions. And the staff work hard at preparing facilities, updating technologies, and getting students ready for the new term.

Cerro Coso is rolling out two new state approved programs of study this fall, an Associate of Science Degree in Cyber Security, and a Data Analyst Certification, along with an updated program in Computer Information Systems that can help students seek careers as computer technicians, network administrators, systems analysts, and a variety of other technical support specialties.

For online students a new, simple, user-friendly Learning Management Systems (LMS) named Canvas is making great strides in replacing the existing Moodle system and will better support online student engagement activities through a robust learning repository of course content, assignments, discussion



PHOTOS BY NATALIE DORRELL/CERRO COSO COLLEGE

**Sam Kelley, Megann Schultz, Emily Wood, Jenna Daugherty, Kirstie Wittendorfer, and Theodore Valdez are ready for the start of classes.**

boards, messaging, assessment, grades, and communications between instructors and students.

For those attending classes on campus the new semester will bring fresh faces and returning friends. For many of these students it will be the first time they have attended classes at the college and for others it will be a familiar routine, but all along the way there will be staff and students to welcome them, help them locate classes, and share the many resources available to help them reach their goals.

Welcome Week scheduled for August 15 – 18 will add to the bustle of activity around campus as students make the fun and smooth transition to college life. These activities are designed to help students connect with the many opportunities, offices, resources, and people on campus, and have some fun. "We are very excited about the events we have planned for Welcome Week," said Pam Campbell, Director of Student Activities and Outreach. "This is a great chance for students to get connected right away, before classes start. This year our Student Government has a lot of events planned to help students get immersed into the college experience."

Full Welcome Week details available on the college website at [www.cerrocso.edu](http://www.cerrocso.edu).

There will be no shortage of activities at



**Megann Schultz and Gillian Brannon.**

the college this fall, and with them comes the addition of two new sports, women's softball and men's basketball, and the return of women's soccer.

"I invite all of our students to take advantage of the full college experience at Cerro Coso – fully engage in your studies and explore all the extracurricular opportunities available. You will meet amazing new people and have wonderful experiences that will make your time at Cerro Coso unforgettable," said Board.

Students bring excitement and energy back to the college campus and with them comes a promise for a better future. This fall is no exception. "I hope they had a great summer, because the coming semester is shaping up to be a busy and productive one," concluded President Board.



# DERMATOLOGY

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# Private, charter school prepare for new year

By Jessica Weston  
CITY EDITOR

As the Sierra Sands Unified School District gears up to resume classes Aug. 9, local private and charter schools are also preparing for the new year.

St. Ann School resumes August 15, kicking off the new year with “back to school” night August 23 at for their 100 K-8 students.

Curriculum this year will be as usual, “art, music, STEM, a normal curriculum,” said Cathy Haugen. “Because we are a private school we also offer religion,” she added.

New this year are staff and faculty changes. A new principal, Asteria Galacio, will be taking charge. Also

new are several new teachers: Laura Lopez, Tina Rockdale, Rebecca Thomas, Laurie Harrison, Belia Chavez, David Verdugo, Denali St. Amand, Gina Silong, Deb Veit, and Julie Black.

Immanuel Christian School also resumes August 15, according to principal Lisa Waddill. The school, which has 110 K-12 students will be holding “Back to School” night Thursday August 11.

According to Waddill, ICS is branching out. “What’s new for us is we’re doing AP [advanced placement] classes.” AP classes in Calculus and English will be offered at the High School level.

SEE PRIVATE, A8



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAINT ANN SCHOOL

Saint Ann School teaching staff is ready for the new school year to begin. Front Row: Laura Lopez (fourth grade), Tina Rockdale (second/third grade), Rebecca Thomas (kindergarten), Laurie Harrison (fifth/sixth grade). Back Row: Belia Chavez (first grade/co-teacher), David Verdugo (seventh grade homeroom), Denali St. Amand (eighth grade homeroom), Rev. Denis Sskannyo (Parish Administrator), Asteria Galacio (Principal), Gina Silong (first grade/co-teacher), Deb Veit (Music), Julie Black (Art). School starts on August 15.

## Back to School Special



We offer complementary  
Safety Inspections with  
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road worthy for your  
student's transportation

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# KEEP IT POSITIVE

Help your child deal with school year changes

**By Melissa Erickson**  
More Content Now

**C**hange is hard for everyone. Entering a new school is one of the biggest changes a child may

encounter in his young life.

Parents can help smooth the transition and make it less traumatic.

"A lot of parents may feel anxiety about a change of school, but they

should be careful not to project those feelings on their kids. Their child may not be feeling the same thing," said parenting expert, blogger and author

**SEE POSITIVE, 14**

## More advice

Here are some more tips:

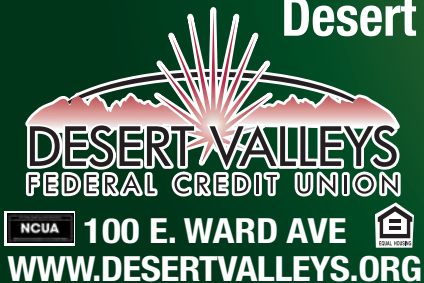
- Visit the school's website. Take a virtual tour and download a map of the school if possible. Check the school calendar and read the school rules and dress codes.
- If possible, visit the school and talk to the teacher or an administrator before classes begin.
- Practice your introductions. Have your child come up with a short conversation-starter: "Hi! My name is Mike. I just moved here from Baltimore and I play baseball." That way they'll be ready with something to say to new acquaintances.
- Remind your child that it's normal to feel anxious and let them know you're there for them if they have questions.
- If your child is concerned about riding the bus, brief your child on safety rules and visit the bus stop in advance. Point out familiar landmarks and reassure your child that an adult will be on hand when they disembark at the school.
- Parents can contact the school's parent teacher organization, which can provide information about the new school. Volunteering is a great way to become a part of a new community and make new friends for both parent and child.
- No matter how anxious you are when dropping off a child at a new school, don't linger. Borba said. That will only increase their anxiety.

## Teaching Our Youth Financial Responsibility

Desert Teens is a program to encourage teens to learn how to manage a checking account.

We Provide:

- Debit card for high school students as young as 14
- Annual incentive programs for saving.
- Annual "Bite of Reality" Financial Seminar





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MAKE THE GRADE ~ 7



Also new this year at ICS is third grade teacher Janelle Gregory.

A program that remains popular is ICS's robotics program. According to Waddill, the program is similar to those offered at Murray Middle School and Burroughs High School.

Middle and High School aged students take an elective class during the school day and "then one night a week, after school they meet with mentors, engineers from the base to work on their robots," she said.

The program involves weekend competitions, usually around once a month.

The robots are smaller than two feet she said, and each year's competition is a little bit different. "This year they have to design a robot that will throw an object. Last year's competition, they had to shoot a ball into a net; this year they have to be able to pick up a ball and throw it."

Waddill said students won awards last year.

The group is also part of Robotics for STEM, which ICS takes part in along with Murray and Burroughs. The schools have friendly "scrimmages" with each other, Waddill said.

"We share supplies, we are kind of like one big happy robotics family," he added.

Adventist Christian School resumes August 22. Starting in October, students will have Flex Fridays off, according to Principal Bethany Rubino.

Also new this year are more academic options for Adventist School's K-8 students, Rubino said.

"We're opening up German for the whole school and we have our lego-robotics which we will be opening up to grades four through 8," she said. Rubino added that German, robotics and band participation are also open to homeschoolers.

Other plans for this year include "California history trips" to the state capital for 4th through 8th graders and a continuation of the STEM program started last year, including gardening.

By the time you read this, the Ridgecrest Charter School will be back in session. They resume classes August 8.

"We've having new teachers and we've undergone some construction changes on the campus this summer," business manager Chevonne Perry said.

The Charter School will be having "a lot of staff changes," according to Perry. Among these will be a new director, Steven Martinez. Perry said there are "no new programs" but the school is expanding nonetheless. "We have added additional classrooms, we have grown."

Asked if there is anything else she would like people to know, Perry did not hesitate. "Our volleyball try-outs begin the first week of school!"

We're having new teachers and we've undergone some construction changes on the campus this summer.

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PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER LIVINGSTON/DAILY INDEPENDENT  
**Burroughs girls tennis and Immanuel Christian girls volleyball are two sports affected by the new playoff format announced by the CIF Southern Section.**

# Equity for all: CIF-SS announces new playoff grouping format

**By CHRISTOPHER LIVINGSTON**  
 SPORTS EDITOR  
 clivingston@ridgecrestca.com

**A**s the fall sports draw near, eyes are on the postseason, as the CIF Southern Section announced a new way to group teams. The groupings — known as Com-

petitive Equity — come as the result of a 74-10 vote by league representatives last January.

Competitive equity evaluates a team's regular-season record, strength of schedule and Southern Section playoff performance over two years.

The new format replaces the old format in which playoff divisions

were chosen by student enrollment. This means that a small school could wind up facing a school double its size because of a team's strength.

Each team is given point values for its performance in the 2014 and 2015 seasons. Based on wins and losses, a team is grouped in a specific tier and are awarded points for each win or loss in that tier.

The values are then added and divided by two for the final ranking. The higher the points, the higher the division.

There is a total of 13 divisions for 11-man football, 10 for girls volleyball and five for girls tennis.

**SEE CIF, 10**

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For the Eastern Division, Tier 1 wins earned 41 points, and a loss tallied 35. Tier 2 teams got 38 points for a win and 32 for a loss. Tier 3 earned 35 for wins and 29 for losses. Tier 4 tallied 32 points for a win and 26 for a loss.

In playoff play, teams earned points based on rounds. First-round teams earned 40 points for a win and 10 points for a loss. Second through Finals teams didn't earn points for losses; instead, they earned 50 (second), 60 (semifinal) and 70 (final) for each win.

Burroughs, at 302.47 points, is in Division 9. Out of the Mojave River League (MRL) teams, the Burros are third, reflecting their 2015 league standing. Oak Hills (449.60) and Serrano (446.86) are the top representatives of the MRL, both in Division 3.

Hesperia (285.37, also in Division 9), Apple Valley (269.69, Division 10) and Sultana (198, Division 11) round

out the league schools.

Burroughs head coach Todd Mather applauded the new format but said that it has no effect on the way he's running the program.

"Some head coaches are upset, and some are happy," he said. "It doesn't matter to me, I like the challenge."

Half of the Burros schedule is against teams that are in higher divisions: Palmdale and Paraclete are in Division 6, and Rancho Verde, Serrano and Oak Hills are in Division 3.

"I look at it and say, 'It's the playoffs, we gotta get there first,'" Mather said. "We have to beat two Division 3 teams (in league play) to get there. I think it's going to benefit us when we do make it to the playoffs."

As for potentially facing a school with a larger enrollment, Mather pointed to the MRL as an example of how the Burros are already in that predicament.

"It's always that way; look at our league," Mather said. "We have 1,360 students, and we're playing schools that have 1,500 more students than us."

I want to get my team to where we'll line up against anyone, anywhere."

The groupings have an interesting scenario: Barstow, at 265.10, is in Division 10, meaning that there is no chance for a Burroughs-Barstow play-off rivalry match. (The two squads will face off in the regular season, however.)

In the most recent postseason meeting, the Burros beat their longtime rivals in the first-round of the 2015 playoffs 32-28.

"We've played (Barstow) for 69 years," Mather said. "We're going to play them at least once a year in pre-season. I thought it was great last year: they were undefeated, and we were the only blemish. But I believe we are a division higher than Barstow."

#### Girls tennis

For girls tennis, a "2-year weighted power point total" is used: 67 percent for 2015 contests and 33 percent for 2014 matches. Automatic bids are provided, based on a 2-year average of

39.8 per division.

The MRL is split into three divisions for girls tennis. Burroughs (8.9708) is in Division 4 along with Oak Hills. Serrano (12.3525) is the only MRL representative in Division 3, while Hesperia, Apple Valley and Sultana are in Division 5.

#### Girls volleyball

Girls volleyball uses a similar scale as girls tennis: 75 percent for 2015 contests and 25 percent for 2014 matches. Regular-season matches are based on strength of opponents, with playoff contests earning bonus points.

Burroughs and Hesperia share a spot in Division 6. Oak Hills and Sultana are in Division 5, Apple Valley has a Division 4 spot, and Serrano is in Division 3.

Barstow is in Division 6 as well, making it the only sport in which Burroughs and Barstow are in the same division.

Every Hi-Lo League team (Immanuel Christian, Trona, Lee Vining, Big Pine and Baker) is in Division 10.



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# Benefits of School Sports

Joining an athletic team is a great way for student-athletes to build relationships with others and confidence in themselves. From football and basketball to volleyball and golf, there is a sport for every season depending on the size and location of your child's school.

Parents play a key role in encouraging their children to join an athletic team without being overly pushy. If your child shows an interest in a sport, there are various things you can do to make sure it is an enjoyable experience.

## SET REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

Sports aren't solely about game day. There is extensive work required during practices and camps that may not be on your child's radar just yet. Before signing your child up to play a competitive sport in middle school or high school, be sure he or she understands the commitment that will go into being a member of the team.

Encourage your child to talk with the team's coach to get an idea of the amount of time associated with the schedule. Check this time requirement against other activities — both school and family-related — in which your child is currently involved. This kind of research can be a big help in making your decision as a family.



## POTENTIAL BENEFITS

Playing sports is not only fun but can have a big impact on your child's fitness levels. According to a report from the National Federation of State High School Associations, a study found girls had a healthier weight and body mass when they were given more opportunities to participate in high

school athletics.

Studies also suggest that student-athletes are less likely to participate in risky behavior when they are part of an athletic team. The more a child is engaged in something productive that requires both mental and physical commitment, the more likely they are to stick to healthy life decisions.

Other potential benefits, according to research by national organizations, include higher grade point averages, better attendance, stronger social relationships and enhanced skills in leadership, time management, creativity and concentration.

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JOHN D. BENNETT/DAILY INDEPENDENT

The quad area at Burroughs High School is just one area to feature improvements and upgrades, improvements will continue through 2017.

# Burroughs High School in midst of makeover

By **JOHN D. BENNETT**  
EDITOR

jbenett@ridgecrestca.com

Burroughs High School students are returning to a familiar, yet dramatically improved campus for the new school year. The first phase of a two-year Department of Defense funded improvement program is now underway.

In a report to the Sierra Sands Unified

School District Board in June, the scope of the project was explained as: "Complete renovation of the permanent instructional spaces throughout the campus along with the addition of a new Administration Building to reorient the front of the campus to the southwest and a new Concessions/Restroom Building adjacent to the existing stadium. Work will include refurbishment of all finishes, replacement of all existing HVAC and lighting systems, site paving improvements, a new

and enlarged student parking lot, and modern audio visual and technology infrastructure."

The quad area has been stripped down to bare earth and completely resurfaced, with existing trees and other features remaining in place. New drainage to mitigate flooding and additional improvements were also made to the quad area.

"If you remember, the old quad was really a hodgepodge of different materials," said Sierra Sands Unified School District Super-

intendent Ernie Bell during a recent tour of the project.

"All the trees will stay and we'll be constructing seat benches around each tree," said David Hall, senior project manager for MAAS Companies.

Significant rehabilitation is also being carried out on the original masonry block classroom buildings. M wing was first to be un-

SEE BURROUGHS, 22

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**Above:** The library is stripped to bare studs prior to a full makeover. **Left:** Improvements in M Wing include electrical, insulation, roofing and other construction. **Right:** Sierra Sands Unified School District Superintendent Ernie Bell receives an update on progress from David Hall, senior project manager for MAAS Companies.

JOHN D. BENNETT/  
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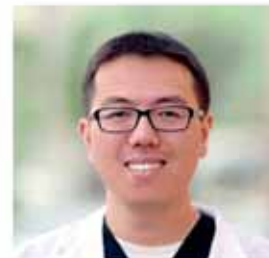
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# POSITIVE

Continued from 6

Richard Greenberg, who shares an analogy: "If you got in a taxi and said to the driver, 'Take me to the airport' and he said, 'I don't know how to get there,' you wouldn't feel too good about it. Kids are in the back of our cab. The key is to project confidence."

Put yourself in their shoes and try and remember how it felt to be a kid in a new situation, he added.

"Let them know you're part of the process. Project that this is going to be great. They're going to have fun. Change is a part of life. It's a part of growing up. Tell them that you're proud of them. Use the power of positive thinking," Greenberg said.

## Make a friend early

"Friends play an enormous

part of success in school," said educational psychologist and parenting, bullying and character expert Dr. Michele Borba, author of "Unselfie." "Friends keep kids happy. They make a child want to go to school. They are a support system."

If you can connect your child with one friendly face before school starts, it can ease the process of changing schools.

"Walking into a new school without knowing someone is stressful," Borba said. "The goal is to make your child feel secure in dozens of ways. Whatever you can learn and discuss ahead of time will reduce their anxiety."

Look for opportunities for your child to meet neighbors and potential classmates over the summer. Check out library and park district programs and the local newspaper to see what's happening in your area.

## SIERRA SANDS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Academic Calendar for 2016-17

July 2016	4 5 6 7 8 July 4 - Independence Day
August 2016	1 2 3 4 5 August 5 - Optional Teacher Work Day 8 9 10 11 12 August 8 - First Teacher Work Day 15 16 17 18 19 August 9 - 1st Day of Instruction 22 23 24 25 26 29 30 31
September 2016	5 6 7 8 9 September 5 - Labor Day 12 13 14 15 16 19 20 21 22 23 26 27 28 29 30
October 2016	3 4 5 6 7 October 7 - End of 1st Quarter 10 11 12 13 14 October 10 - Columbus Day 17 18 19 20 21 October 11 - 14 - Non School Days 24 25 26 27 28 31
November 2016	1 2 3 4 November 4 - End of 1st Trimester 7 8 9 10 11 November 11 - Veteran's Day 14 15 16 17 18 November 21 - 23 - Non School Days 21 22 23 24 25 November 24-25 - Thanksgiving 28 29 30
December 2016	5 6 7 8 9 December 16 - End of 1st Semester 12 13 14 15 16 December 19 - 30 - Winter Recess 19 20 21 22 23 December 23, 26 - Classified Holidays 26 27 28 29 30

First/Last Day of Instruction  
Quarter End  
Trimester End  
Non-school Days  
Legal Holiday  
Winter/Spring Recess  
Late Start Wednesdays

PURPLE  
ORANGE  
BLUE  
GREEN  
RED  
Yellow Highlighted

MINIMUM DAY SCHEDULE		
Elementary School	Middle School	High School
November 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 December 16 March 14, 15, 16, 17 May 26, 30, 31, June 1	December 14, 15, 16 May 30, 31, June 1	December 14, 15, 16 May 30, 31, June 1
LATE START WEDNESDAYS SCHOOL START TIMES		
Burroughs 8:00 a.m.	Las Flores 8:30 a.m.	
Faller 8:30 a.m.	Murray 7:55 a.m.	
Gateway 8:30 a.m.	Pierce 9:30 a.m.	
Inyokem 8:45 a.m.	Richmond 9:30 a.m.	
Monroe 7:55 a.m.		

Revised and Adopted 5-19-2016

January 2017	2 3 4 5 6 January 2 - New Year's Day 9 10 11 12 13 16 17 18 19 20 January 16 - Martin Luther King Jr Birthday 23 24 25 26 27 30 31
February 2017	6 7 8 9 10 February 17 - Lincoln's Birthday 13 14 15 16 17 February 20 - Washington's Birthday 20 21 22 23 24 February 24 - End of 2nd Trimester 27 28
March 2017	6 7 8 9 10 13 14 15 16 17 March 17 - End of 3rd Quarter 20 21 22 23 24 March 20-24 - Spring Recess 27 28 29 30 31
April 2017	3 4 5 6 7 10 11 12 13 14 April 14 - In Lieu of Admission Day 17 18 19 20 21 24 25 26 27 28
May 2017	1 2 3 4 5 8 9 10 11 12 15 16 17 18 19 22 23 24 25 26 May 29 - Memorial Day 29 30 31
June 2017	5 6 7 8 9 June 1 - Last Day of Instruction 12 13 14 15 16 June 2 - Optional Teacher Work Day 19 20 21 22 23 26 27 28 29 30

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# SELFIE WORTHY

Get an on-trend  
back-to-school look

**By Melissa Erickson**  
More Content Now

If you look good you feel good, but figuring out what's on trend, finding the right fit and sticking to a budget can be a challenge. Head back to school in style with help from fashion experts.

Back to school is all about authenticity, said Elizabeth Melley, vice president of kids design, trend and product development for JCPenney.

"The simplicity of a great pair of jeans,

classic vintage tees and iconic styling are the base of personal style. The mix of athletic wear with oversized cozy classics brings an update to the typical back-to-school wardrobe seen in outdoor trends for Arizona Boys and '70s boho trends for Arizona Girls," Melley said, referring to Penney's exclusive clothing brand.

Kids want to be "comfortable while still expressing themselves and their unique personalities," said Angie Thompson, Target spokeswoman. That means many will be reaching for graphic

tees and colorful printed leggings, she said.

"2016 back-to-school trends will continue to push forward some of the key themes from last season with a new twist. Last year we saw a strong focus on galactic, preppy, '70s and '90s themes, which we see continuing," said Erin Rechner, senior editor, kidswear for trend forecaster WGSN. "Some key items you will spot this season are the bomber jacket, straight leg jean, and jogger (pant) alongside print-driven two-

piece sweat sets for the more fashion-forward brands."

"The perfect denim jacket or vest are essential to every closet," Melley said.

## Trends by age

Similarities exist from elementary to high school, but each age stands out.

"Younger kids are fearless when styling their clothing, with a great graphic tee or a mix of colorful patterns; there are no rules for kids' fashion."

SEE TRENDS, 22



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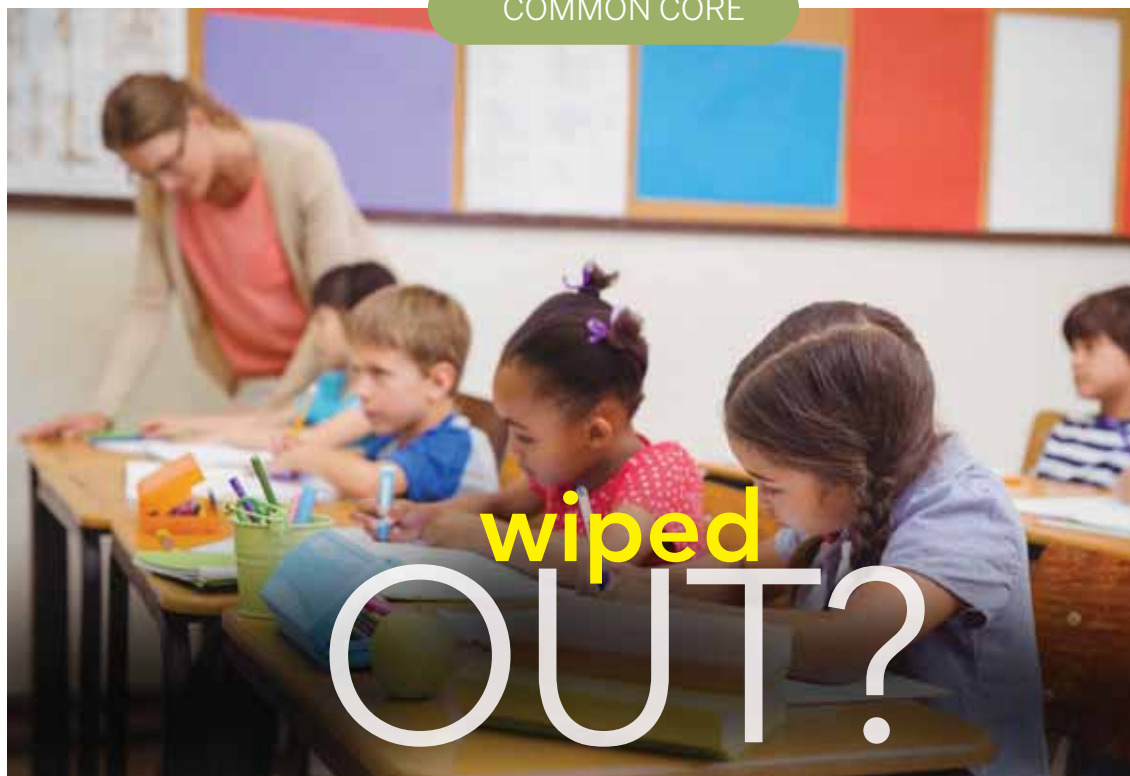


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**By Melissa Erickson**  
More Content Now

**A**cross the nation, parents, teachers and children are objecting to the educational reform of the Common Core, creating a trend of opting out and raising serious questions about its future.

The Common Core is a set of ambitious standards, the knowledge and skills that students will need to master by the end of a given school year, said Jonathan Supovitz, professor of leadership and public policy and co-director of the Consortium for Policy Research in Education at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education.

The goal of Common Core is for students to master what they will need to know so they will be able to attend college without taking any remedial classes, said Mindy Kornhaber, associate professor of education in educational theory and policy at Penn State College of Education.

#### A brief history

Adopted in 2010, Common

Core peaked initially with 46 out of 50 states jumping on board but went downhill after that. Early adopter Indiana along with South Carolina and Oklahoma repealed the standards in 2014 and replaced them with new ones, Supovitz said.

Only 32 percent of public school students live in states that are using the federally funded tests (called PARCC or Smarter Balanced) statewide, a drop from 46 percent a year ago, according to Education Week.

In spring 2015, when the first Common Core “tests were applied, opting out was a big phenomenon. There was a big outpouring of parents who chose to withhold their children” from testing, he said.

#### Why people opt out

The trend of opting out was triggered by a combination of reasons, both educators said.

First, many people think education should be a local issue, Supovitz said. They feel that the government is strong-arming local school districts into adopting national educational standards.

#### What's next for the Common Core

**“There was not enough bandwidth to give all students the tests.”**

Mindy Kornhaber, associate professor of education in educational theory and policy at Penn State College of Education

It became a political issue with people on both the right and left finding fault. The Right felt it was government overreach, while the Left felt wary of the foundations and private people that were contributing to public policy without any oversight, Kornhaber said.

“The Common Core has turned into a political hot potato,” Supovitz said. “It became a proxy issue for people who were opposed to educational reform.”

Others objected to the testing itself. Common Core’s “high-stakes testing” is testing with consequence, Kornhaber said, and some people object to having their teachers evaluated this way. If too many students opt out, a school’s state report card could go down, and it might not be eligible for federal grant money.

“Testing is the linchpin of this entire system,” Kornhaber said.

Others find fault with the technology. When the first tests were administered in 2015, many school districts had infrastructure problems.

“There was not enough bandwidth to give all students the

tests,” Kornhaber said. Plus there are “technical equity issues,” Supovitz said. Poorer school districts may not have the technology available to them and some children may not have regular access to the technology at home, he said.

Additionally, the “test materials were rolled out too quickly, and teachers didn’t have good professional development,” Kornhaber said. “Teachers were required to start teaching things that they would be judged on before they were ready to.”

#### What's next

Some states are balking at the cost associated with administering standardized testing. “Billions were spent on No Child Left Behind, but we saw minimal educational gains,” Kornhaber said.

“The opt-out movement was a wake-up call,” said Supovitz. “It’s clearly a signal that the system has prioritized testing too much. We have to reposition testing. It has value but we need to recalibrate and find its appropriate role.”

“Whether Common Core could have done better, I don’t think we’ll ever know because the system was never really implemented the way it was supposed to be,” Kornhaber said. “Common Core hasn’t been wiped out, but it’s severely injured.”

# Starting a new school

**M**aking the leap to a new school can be downright difficult for a kid at any age. There are new friends to make, teachers to meet and new routines to settle into. It's important to realize this challenge as parents, especially since we are likely going through difficulties of our own in adjusting to the new location.

Even in the midst of your own stresses, be sure to take the time to connect with your child to prepare them for the transition and then check in on the progress throughout the school year. If you don't, you may find later that your child has been struggling socially and academically long before you involve yourself in the process.

## Choosing A School

If you're moving to a completely new area for work or family changes, choosing a school should be one of the first steps. If there are multiple options, how do you choose the one that's right for your child? It all comes down to research.

There are many online resources that track statewide performance in standardized testing. You also can set up appointments with administrators from each school to get a sense of what each has to offer. Location, staff and size of the school should all be factors in your decision. Encourage your child to offer an opinion on the choice before making a final decision.

## Avoiding Stress

Teens across the country — 27 percent in fact — report feeling extreme stress during the school year, according to new research from the American

Psychological Association. Other findings included 34 percent of teens expecting stress to increase in the coming year.

Changing schools can be one of the most stressful situations for a student to experience. That's why it's so important to stay positive during this period of great change. As the school year approaches, be open with your child about what to expect. Reassure your child that a new school means new opportunities to learn and make friends. Try your best to understand and empathize with your child's feelings of stress instead of simply brushing them under the rug.

## Early Involvement

It's important to take every opportunity to familiarize yourself and your child with the new school environment. Take some time before the start of school to talk about safe routes to school or find the bus stop she'll be using.

If the school hosts any type of new student orientation, take advantage. These are great ways to meet new teachers, administrators, parents and peers. Be ready to involve yourself in whatever functions you can at the school to help your child feel like you are an active participant in the process.



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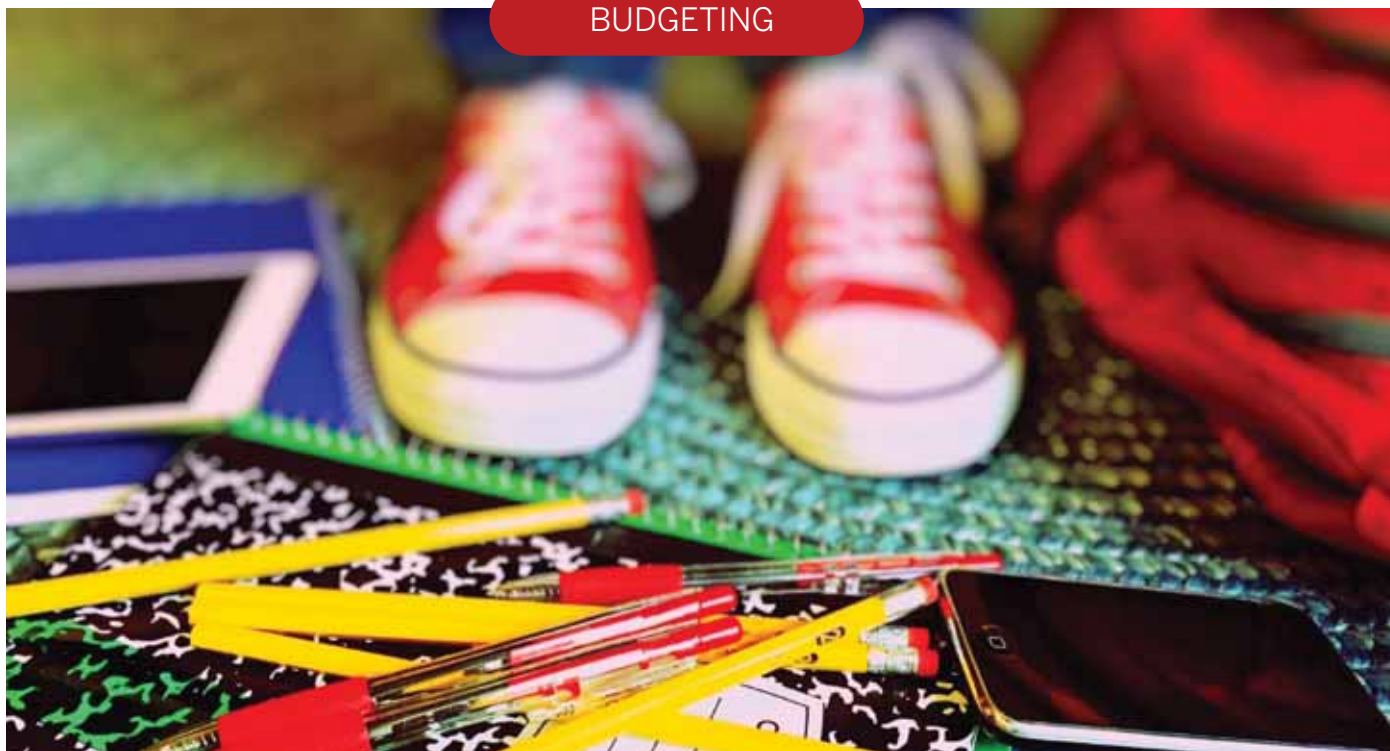
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# MONEYSMART

How to budget for school expenses

**By Melissa Erickson**  
More Content Now

**B**ack-to-school shopping is expensive, but budgeting on backpacks and school supplies can make your dollars go farther.

After peaking in 2014, back-to-school spending dipped a bit last year. The National Retail Federation estimated that families with students in kindergarten through high school spent \$630 per child in 2015, down from \$669 in 2014, for a grand total of \$29 billion.

“Every family needs to budget for back-to-school spending no matter what their financial outlook,” said personal finance expert Rachel Cruze, author of “Smart Money Smart Kids.”

From trendy school clothes to nifty pencil bags and binders, it’s

easy for parents to overspend.

“Budgeting is key. If you don’t have a plan, you’ll end up spending too much,” Cruze said.

Some people “hear the word ‘budget’ and cringe, but a budget doesn’t limit freedom, it increases your freedom so you can control what you spend,” Cruze said.

Budgeting has to be intentional, and back-to-school spending needs to be a part of the household budget, Cruze said.

“List all the categories your money is going to: bills, mortgage, rent. That’s your household budget. What’s left after bills can be saved or set aside for things like back-to-school spending. You know school is coming. Plan ahead and you’ll have a nice little fund for shopping,” Cruze said.

Here are some more tips from Cruze, whose new book, “Love Your Life, Not Theirs,” will be

available in October:

## Plan it

Start smart by making a list of everything you’ll need so you can budget the money you have to cover your expenses. Without a list, you’ll spend blindly and spend too much. Don’t shop without your list.

## Think ahead

Some states have tax-free shopping days before school starts. Comparison-shop and look online to find the best prices. Take advantage of retailers who slash prices at the end of the season.

## Make sure you need it

Check what you already have. Does last year’s school uniform still fit? Is there an extra box of pencils that can be used? You might already have essentials such as rulers, scissors, pencils

and paper on hand.

## Needs over wants

Just because you have a coupon for an item doesn’t mean you have to buy it. Stick with what your child needs rather than what your child wants. The required list of school supplies and new gym shoes to fit growing feet are needs. A new backpack is a want if last year’s is still in good shape.

## Let kids help

Back-to-school shopping is an opportunity to teach kids about budgeting. Take an envelope with cash and let kids see the money disappear as it is exchanged for goods. When it’s gone, shopping is over. If a child wants trendy clothing brands or upscale supplies, let them cover the difference themselves.

## Use tools

In addition to paging through weekly circulars and researching deals online, use an app to help with budgeting and couponing such as EveryDollar, SnipSnap, shopkick or YNAB (You Need A Budget) as well as apps from retailers you frequent.

## Think about school-year expenses now

“It’s likely that you’ll have fees due throughout the school year, some expected and some unexpected. Too many parents get caught off guard because they weren’t planning for these fees and don’t have the extra money to pay for them,” Cruze said. “Create a line item in your budget for miscellaneous school expenses and start setting money aside. This will allow you to have the money readily available for when the fees come due and prevent you from going into debt or feeling stressed about not having the money.”



# Watch Out For Bullying

**B**ullying and cyberbullying is either physical or verbal and occurs when a child picks on another child repeatedly. It can happen anywhere at anytime, and isn't restricted to the playground or school bus anymore.

Social media has enabled bullying to happen from afar. There are more avenues than ever before for bullying to infiltrate, making it critical that parents keep a close eye on all communication platforms their children use.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends these tips for keeping your children safe from bullying this school year:

## WHEN YOUR CHILD IS BULLIED

Help your child learn how to respond by teaching your child how to:

- Look the bully in the eye;
- Stand tall and stay calm in a difficult situation; and
- Walk away.

Teach your child how to say in a firm voice:

- "I don't like what you are doing."
- "Please do NOT talk to me like that."
- "Why would you say that?"

Other tips include teaching your child when and how to ask a trusted adult for help and encouraging your child to make friends with other children. You also should be willing to work closely with school teachers and administrators to help monitor the situation when you are unable to be around.



## WHEN YOUR CHILD IS THE BULLY

There may be an occurrence that involves your child participating in bullying behavior. Maybe he got wrapped up in the wrong crowd or is acting

out for some reason. Regardless of the cause, it's up to you to step in. Here are more tips from the AAP:

- Be sure your child knows that bullying is never OK;
- Set firm and consistent lim-

its on your child's aggressive behavior;

- Be a positive role model to show children they can get what they want without teasing, threatening or hurting;
- Use effective, non-physical

discipline, such as loss of privileges; and

- Develop practical solutions with the school principal, teachers, counselors and parents of the children your child has bullied.



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# BURROUGHS

Continued from 12

dergoing improvements, the building was being stripped down to the studs. Crews were installing new ductwork and reframing interior walls and windows.

"What we've done is pulled all the old windows out and framed up new windows," said Hall. "They will all be high windows now with a soffit on the inside." The high set windows will help by allowing light in, but limiting the amount of heat - they will also reduce the amount of outside distractions for students, according to Hall.

New doors and hardware were also being installed as well as additional interior improvements consisting of teaching walls with sliding markerboards and screens.

In the hallway of the buildings, new concrete risers have been constructed. School lockers, currently housed in one of two outdoor areas, will be relocated to the interior of the newly rehabbed buildings.

The work on M wing will continue into the school year. Once completed, another one of the wings will receive the same treatment

until all are upgraded.

Most of the restrooms in the school are also being redone.

"New fixtures, new tile, new floor, new sewer main," said Hall. "They will be completely modernized."

Much of the interior electrical system is being upgraded and improved as well.

The girls' locker room also received a much needed makeover. Most of the ceramic tile is being taken up and a new concrete floor is being poured in some sections. Existing lead-based tile will be removed and replaced.

"A full height wall will create a team room within the existing locker room," said Hall. "Again, a whole new restroom, new sewer main and new concrete floor."

The existing cast iron sewer pipes have been removed as well.

"Cast iron is good for about 40 years and after that it just deteriorates," said Dave. The current cast iron has been in place since more than 50 years, according to Bell.

Outside between the girls' locker room, the existing library area, gymnasium (the Burros Barn) and the boys' locker room some flood mitigation is being performed. Grading of the area and installation of

new drainage system is hoped to ease a flooding problem that has plagued the location for years.

The library was also been stripped to bare walls.

"We'll have all new doors and hardware, the walls will be painted and new carpet tile will be put in," said Hall.

The improvements also include new LED lighting for the library and replacing the air conditioning system.

The woodshop, autoshop and art building are also receiving upgrades and makeovers including the addition of a modular teaching wall system and improved air conditioning. One of the major projects for the art building is the kiln area.

"The old wood shed that surrounds it gets torn out," said Hall. "We'll do a new brick shed around it."

Because of the extent of the work, that portion of improvements will continue into the start of the school year. The kiln area will be blocked off from the main art building while the work continues.

"After we tear down the shed, we have to move this kiln out of here and re do the concrete footings for the new block walls that we're going to put back up," he said. "Probably

by October we'll be able to return this back to the pottery room."

The kitchen area of the multipurpose building is also among the locations being renovated.

"Inside the kitchen, were doing electrical and some fire alarm work," said Hall. "We'll turn it back to school at the start of school, because they need to have it for a serving line. Next summer it gets all new mechanical air conditioning system."

A Department of Defense grant is funding 80 percent of the project with 20 percent matching funds from Sierra Sands for a total of nearly \$32 million.

Construction of a new administration building - to be located near the existing CTE building on the south end of the campus - as well as improvements to the multi-use building and other projects will be completed in phase two of the project. These, along with other improvements are expected before the start of the 2017-2018 school year.

Construction of the new Murray Middle School near BHS continues. There is also a "construction camera" set up at the Murray school site accessible from the district website: [www.ssusd.org](http://www.ssusd.org), click on "Construction Cam" under quick links from the main page.

# TRENDS

Continued from 16

ion this season," said Melley. "For older kids, it is all about personal style and how the individual brings their style to life; texture, pattern, fabric and artistic embellishment make every look feel unique."

The '70s will have a heavy influence on fall fashion with printed boho tops, lace-up tops, crochet tunics, novelty oversized sweaters and textured layers. Pair those with suede button-up A-line skirts, indigo jeggings and jeans with patches, Melley said.

Also on trend are moody florals balanced with youthful easy stripes in knit tops, plaids with shiny Lurex thread and graphic tees in soft textures grounded by denim, Melley said.

For boys, "back to school is all about athleisure, layers, comfort and style," Melley said. Look out for texture check and plaids, blanket stripes and color blocking.

"Preppy will always be a key theme for back to school, and this season we project items to have a more relaxed look with the recent uptick in activewear-inspired pieces," Rechner said.

**Color and embellishments**

Mustard and dusty pink continue to be the must-have colors for kids.

"Dusty pink is finally being accepted into commercial products and is even being treated as a neutral by some girls brands," Rechner said. "Mustard is strong for girls and boys, tapping into that 1970s color palette."

"Neutrals are important for both girls and boys but are all in textured fabrication. Indigo blues and olive are new key neutrals followed by classic black and white," Melley said. Or, go for saturated color with bright pops, she added.

Fashionistas will be putting their feet forward in metallic versions of the Ugg boot, prettified grunge boots, the Chelsea

boot, colorful sneakers and anything with fur trim, Rechner said.

"For accessories, '70s-inspired prints, global craft elements as well as classic nylon backpacks will also be key," she added.

Students can even go a step further and accessorize their school supplies.

"Target partnered with Bethany Mota on a new, exclusive DIY collection so students can personalize their school supplies with fun stickers and accessories. The collection includes a variety of assorted stickers and rub-on transfers, ink pads, stencils, confetti, thread tassels and more," Thompson said.

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