

Sweet Home School District No. 55  
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August 10, 2023

Greetings, and welcome to the 2023-24 school year. We are celebrating the “Best year of our lives,” and encourage you to celebrate with us. With the Jamboree just over, Hermiston watermelons available in town, life is truly sweet in Sweet Home. Life brings us challenges daily, but through it all, join us in choosing to be happy. We are all as happy as we choose to be, and in Sweet Home School District #55, we are choosing to be happy with Spark, the orange frog!

The start of a new school year is such a joyous time! Friends get back in contact with one another; students and teachers are reunited, and another school year will be underway! I appreciate the work and dedication by each of our employees as we give it our all to do what is best for our students. We truly want this to be our best year ever. As our mission statement says, we want to “Give each child, every chance to achieve their potential.”

We are working to get back on track after several disruptive years, and we have ground to make up. Joining together with our parents and community, we are focusing on helping and cheering students on to celebrate their graduation. Thank you for your support, and reflect how fortunate we all are to work and live in such a beautiful and supportive city.

Attached you will find our in-service schedule, but here is our first day information:

We are holding our district wide in-service on **Monday, August 28, at the Junior High School**. We will have a light breakfast at 8:00, and roll right into our district admin introductions. This year we are changing it up, and the first day will be a full day for all, certified and classified, and we will be in intense Orange Frog training. In talking with building principals, and getting feedback on the importance of our Happiness 360 program, we are doing a full day training for all. We feel this is not only good for our students, but good for each one of us!

Please park at your site, if you can, and carpool together to the Jr. High. We are getting permission from Hope Church for overflow parking there, like we have done at times in the past. There is a lot of gravel parking past the bus loop behind the school, as well. We are having lunch catered so that we can break bread with one another and have lunch while maximizing our time together for the day. This will be much easier than trying to break and flooding local restaurants with 350 employees all going at the same time.

We have fielded calls about concerns over the first day for students, and supply lists, so we are moving that information to the front page of our website. We want the start to be clearly communicated and easy for our parents to find.

I am proud to be superintendent for Sweet Home School District #55, I enjoy my job, and I am proud of each and every one of our staff. We have incredibly talented and dedicated employees, and our teamwork is top shelf! Enjoy your family and summer events as we run right up to our start! We will see you soon!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry Martin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Terry Martin  
Superintendent  
Sweet Home School District