

Sweet Home School District No. 55  
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Greetings, and welcome to the 2024-2025 school year. Great things have been happening over the summer at Oak Heights, and we will be hosting a community open house there to show off the “new” school shortly. Stay tuned for more information on this great celebration of the seismic retrofit and facility improvements at Oak Heights!

The start of a new school year is such a joyous time! We are excited to have students return to our buildings, and we are looking forward to a great year. Friends get back in contact with one another, students and teachers are reunited, and another school year will be underway! 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.”

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!

We have greatly increased our students' abilities to take more career-related trade and technical classes as well as earn college credit while attending our high school. We will regain our loss of schooling and continue to strive for gains on all academic fronts. Our high school will be offering both a financial literacy class, and also a new career pathways course as well to help students as they transition into adulthood.

It is important to note that we will be reviewing and updating our strategic plan this year, and we welcome your input. You can drop off or email written feedback to [julie.emmert@sweethome.k12.or.us](mailto:julie.emmert@sweethome.k12.or.us), or write Julie and let her know you would like to be on the committee to review our strategic plan.

Finally, as superintendent it’s important to communicate my fundamental beliefs:

1. I believe in treating everyone with dignity and respect.
2. I believe in honesty and transparency in leadership.
3. I believe students are our greatest asset—they are our future
4. I believe in continuous improvement. I don’t expect perfection on day one, but I do expect we should be better tomorrow than we are today.
5. I believe in teamwork and unity of purpose. Teaching students is our job. Let's focus on that and celebrate our successes. We have the greatest profession on earth.
6. I believe students need to be safe so they can learn. In addition, let’s learn to be kind and encourage and support one another.
7. I believe happiness is a choice, we are all as happy as we choose to be daily. Even in the face of adversity, conflict, hardship, and differences-- from these things we can learn, grow, and demonstrate compassion and strength. And in education, the practice of the positive belief in a student's potential can bring that potential to life. I believe in your student’s potential to be the very best they can be!

**In closing:**

As parents, students, and the community, as we embark on a new year, let us partner for the 2024-25 school year to make it the best year of our lives for our children.

Sincerely,  
Terry Martin  
Sweet Home School District Superintendent