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dents to learn to walk in a way that would be honorable to God.”

Older students are given the responsibility of caring for the rescued llamas and mini-horses stabled at the school; the younger children help maintain the school's organic garden.

Students also are learning sign language, Spanish, German and some Hebrew and are being introduced to some old Hebrew traditions, such as blowing the shofar.

“Our school is very, very, very much into dance,” Benedict adds, saying the students are introduced to a variety of dance styles, from square dance to West Coast swing. This year the school plans on emphasizing hula dancing. The school also has a strong gymnastics program.

For the 2019-2020 school year, classes are quickly filling up. However, there continues to be a few openings in all grades.

Classes start Sept. 10.

The school is at 8880 Williams Highway in Murphy. Tuition is \$275 per month for all grades, plus a \$65 registration fee and a \$125 arts and book fee. Scholarships and sibling discounts are available on a case-by-case basis.

Contact Benedict at 541-660-9188 (cell) or 541-659-9095 (school).

**GRANTS PASS SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST SCHOOL** is a private Christian school that uses an Adventist curriculum for students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

The school has scaled back its classes, and is no longer offering 9th and 10th grades, but it did add preschool options for children who are 3 to 5 years old.

“We were told there was a need for preschool and day care in the area,” said Alana Murphy, the school secretary. “We’re trying to add day care too but we need to finish the certification process.”

Classes start Aug. 27. Registration is still open.

The school is at 2250 N.W. Heidi Lane in Grants Pass. The principal is Richard Rasmussen.

For kindergarten through sixth grade, tuition is \$425 per month, with a \$425 entrance fee; for seventh and eighth grades, tuition is \$466 per month, plus a \$466 entrance fee.

Discounts are available for families with more than one child enrolled. Scholarships are available.

Preschool rates depend on whether parents use the two, three, or five day option. Tuition ranges from \$175 to \$325 a month and runs from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Call 541-479-2293 or visit grantspassschool.com.

**NEW HOPE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL** is the largest private school in Josephine County, with about 175 students enrolled for the 2019-2020 school year, from preschool through 12th grade.

Last year the school established a music program for grades 7-12 with a worship band.

Athletics still cover cross country, track and field, volleyball and basketball.

The school recently installed new air conditioning systems in its classrooms and gym.

Classes start Sept. 3.

Annual tuition is between \$1,820 and \$5,865, depending on grade level, plus materials and book fees. Sibling discounts, alumni discounts and financial aid are available.

The school is at 5961 New Hope Road in Grants Pass. Call 541-476-4588 or visit newhopechristian.net.

**ST. ANNE CATHOLIC SCHOOL** was founded as a satellite campus of Medford's Sacred Heart School, and offers classes for preschool to fifth grade.

The school recently installed a new playground, and boasts a science program with lots of hands on experiments.

In addition to basic academic classes, the school offers Spanish, theater, P.E. and electronics for fifth graders.

About 80 students are enrolled for the 2019-2020 school year.

“We have a few spaces left in each class still,” said Office Manager Shawna Prestianni.

Classes start Sept. 3.

For kindergarten through fifth grade, basic tuition is \$5,000 plus a \$200 registration fee per family and a \$200 book and supply fee. Tuition assistance and sibling discounts are available.

Early childhood education, for ages 3 and older, ranges from \$1,250 to \$5,000 annually.

The school is at 1131 N.E. 10th St. in Grants Pass. Call 541-479-1582 or visit stannegp.com.

**VINEYARD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL** is a ministry of Vineyard Christian Fellowship, teaching core Christian values to students in prekindergarten through eighth grade.

It has a well-rounded curriculum with a focus on character and character development guided by spirituality.

The school accommodates 70-80 students. Core subjects are offered as well as creative art, drama and music.

School staff believe that God is creative, so they love to see these kids get a chance to express themselves.

Classes start Sept. 4.

The school is at 275 Potts Way, near Merlin.

The school year's tuition is \$1,500 for preschool, \$1,500-\$2,750 for prekindergarten, and \$2,750 for kindergarten-eighth grade, plus a registration fee of \$110-\$135. Sibling discounts are available.

Call 541-479-9649 or go to vineyardchristianschool-gp.com.

**MADRONE ADVENTIST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** is a Christian school offering classes for prekindergarten to eighth grade, based on the North American division curriculum provided by the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The school can accommodate up to 30 students. Space is available in all grades.

Tuition is \$290 per month, plus a supply fee of \$195. Income-based scholarships are available and there's a financial aid mentoring program.

The fall term begins Aug. 23 for student assessments before classes start.

The school is at 4300 Holland Loop Road in Cave Junction.

Call 541-592-3330 or visit madrone22.adventistschool-connect.org, though the website is not up to date.

**COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY** is affiliated with Community Bible Church and uses Accelerated Christian Education curriculum for students in preschool through 12th grade.

The principal is Michelle Harris.

Updated information was not available at press time.

The school is at 113 S. Caves Ave., Cave Junction. Call 541-592-3896.

**THE DOME SCHOOL** is a private school for prekindergarten through middle school. Curriculum covers basic academics, with additional subjects determined by individual teachers and student interest.

“There's art and music and foreign languages, our kindergarten does sign language, drama, nature studies with hikes and campouts,” says Susan Gustafson, co-administrator. “We keep it a varied curriculum.”

The other co-administrators are Jessica Stein and Ryan Forsythe.

Last year, the school opened two new classrooms — giving the early elementary students their own private classroom — plus a library and new bathrooms, an expansion that was in the works for a long time.

“This has been decades in the making,” Gustafson says.

All classes are full, with waiting lists. Classes start Sept. 10.

Tuition is \$180 per month for prekindergarten, \$275 per month for kindergarten and \$375 per month for elementary and secondary school.

Sibling discounts, scholarships and work credits are available.

The school is at 9367 Takilma Road in Takilma. Call 541-592-3911 or visit domeschool.org.

Reach reporter Jason McMillen at 541-474-3718 or jmcmlen@thedailycourier.com

# New principals, curriculum coming this school year

When classes resume this fall, students, parents and staff will see a variety of new principals at local schools with a few changes to curriculum as well.

## District 7

Robert Lingo will take over as the assistant principal at South Middle School after 20 years as a teacher at Grants Pass High School. Lingo is the only new administrator in the Grants Pass District.

## Story and

## photo by

## Casey Crowley

This year will be Lingo's first time serving as an administrator. He recently earned his master's degree at Southern Oregon University before receiving his Oregon Administration

Certification.

Lingo will join Barret Sale, who has been the principal at South for a year. In his new role, Lingo will be heavily involved in athletics, discipline, attendance, alternative education placement and the safety committee.

“I know I'll miss teaching,” Lingo said. “I'm hoping not to lose touch too much.”

He added that he hopes to play an active role in the lives of students and increase the number of students participating in sports at South Middle School. Lingo has lived in Grants Pass most of his life except for a few years when he attended college.

“I'm really excited to be here and it's a real blessing to be here and have this opportunity,” Lingo said.

This summer, the district retrofit at Highland Elementary to make the school more resilient to seismic activity. The upgrades are funded by a grant from Business Oregon. District 7 has previously upgraded other schools around the district including Riverside Elementary and South.

In other district news, the school board plans to put a bond on the Nov. 5 ballot. The bond, if approved by voters, would replace North Middle School, add air conditioning to some of the district's schools, improve security district wide and possibly more.

The only new curriculum at District 7 is math for elementary and middle school students. The district has adopted new math textbooks that are in line with the Oregon common core standards.

The two new textbooks are “ReadyClassroom” for elementary school students and “Core Focus on Math” for middle school students.

Director of Secondary Education Trisha Evans said teachers have been supportive of the choice for the new textbooks.

“They appreciated how the program was laid out for students,” Evans said.

## Three Rivers

Hidden Valley High School is the only school in the Three Rivers School District with a new principal for the upcoming school year.

Damian Crowson started his education career 23 years ago at South Middle School and has held a number of different roles from teacher to principal. Crowson has previously worked as the principal of Lorna Byrne and Lincoln Savage middle schools in the Three Rivers School District.

“I'm looking forward to everything. I'm looking to continuing the tradition of excellence here,” said Crowson.

Crowson said he has some ideas about how he will approach the role, but is also excited to collaborate with the administrative team at Hidden Valley.

“We want to do what is best for kids,” Crowson said.

District Superintendent Dave Valenzuela said the district isn't adding any programs or making notable changes to district facilities because of the budgetary issues the district is