Vera C. O'Leary Middle School

2350 Elizabeth Blvd. • Twin Falls, Idaho 83301 • 208-733-2155 • Fax 208-733-8666

Excellence: Everybody, Every Day, Every Minute — No Exceptions

O'Leary Back-to-School Family Newsletter

2026-2027 School Year

Jul 27, 2026

Dear O'Leary Families,

We hope you are as excited as we are for the upcoming school year! Our teachers have been busy preparing classrooms and planning exciting lessons, eagerly awaiting the return of our students.

As we gear up for fall sports and school registration, we want to express my gratitude to all parents for their continued support in their child's education. We are committed to ensuring effective communication with our O'Leary students and families through various platforms such as PowerSchool, our school website (https://ol.tfsd.org/), the OMS Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/OMSCubs), and the SchoolMessenger App. Keeping your contact information updated in PowerSchool, especially your email address, will ensure you receive timely updates, grade reports, and important communication throughout the year.

Our school day will start at the same time this year, with the first bell at 8:35 a.m. and the tardy bell at 8:40 a.m. (*Students should not be on campus before 8:00 in the morning – we do not have supervision in place*). On Mondays (our Staff Collaboration Days), school will dismiss at 2:50 p.m., and buses will depart shortly afterward; please arrange for student pick-up by 3:00 p.m. if you provide transportation. Tuesday through Friday, the school day ends at 3:51 p.m. If you provide transportation, please arrange to pick up your student by 4:00 p.m. Breakfast will be available in the cafeteria starting at 8:05 a.m. for $1.90, and student lunches are $3.25. For families needing assistance with meal costs, please consider filling out the free and reduced-price meal application (Free and Reduced Application). Meals can be prepaid online at https://www.mymealtime.com/signin.aspx or in person.

To ensure safety during drop-off and pick-up, please use the designated striped area in the circle driveway for drop-offs/pick-ups only. Kindly refrain from parking in this area and waiting for your student; if you arrive early, please circle around until your child is ready. Please do not block the ramp that allows those with disabilities to access the office.

If your child will be utilizing bus services, please register them through the district webpage (https://twinfallssdid.sites.thrillshare.com/page/transportation-services) to help create efficient bus routes. For bus-related inquiries, please contact Mid-Columbia Bus Company at 733-8003.

As we begin the new school year, we want to remind you of our policy regarding personal electronic communication devices. To foster a focused learning environment, cell phones, smartwatches, smart glasses, and similar devices must remain silenced, out of sight, and stored away during school hours. Electronic devices, including school-issued Chromebooks, will not be used during lunch or breakfast; we would like our students to enjoy each other's company at lunch without a screen between them. This year, we will not check out Chromebooks to each individual student. Instead, we will provide Chromebooks for classroom use. We encourage you to review the policy details, including exceptions and disciplinary procedures, on our Personal Electronic Communication Device Policy page (https://www.tfsd.org/page/cell-phone-policy).

To improve safety and reduce classroom clutter, students may use backpacks to carry materials between home and school; however, all backpacks must be stored in student lockers by the first tardy bell. Backpacks may not be taken to classrooms, the library, the cafeteria, or other areas of campus during the school day and should remain in lockers until dismissal. All students will be provided a locker at no charge. Personal hygiene items may be stored in a student's locker or kept in a small pouch inside their binder. This change is intended to reduce trip-and-fall hazards and help prevent injuries associated with carrying overly heavy backpacks throughout the day.

In accordance with a new Idaho state law, all TFSD schools will implement a 60-second moment of silence at the start of each school day. In alignment with this legislation, classroom teachers will not provide instruction or guidance regarding the purpose or use of this time. We ask that parents and caregivers take the lead in having conversations with their children about how your family would like them to utilize this quiet moment to prepare for the school day.

This year, we are holding a Parent Back-to-School Night where parents can attend mini-classes of their choice to gather essential information for a successful school year. Classes will cover topics such as PowerSchool, Schoology, AR, organization, and more. Join us on Wednesday, Aug 26, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Feel free to drop in at any time during the hour and choose the sessions most relevant to you.

To further engage in your child's education, we encourage parents to join our Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTSO) and Boosters (https://ol.tfsd.org/o/olms/page/ptso). Volunteers are welcome to sign up during registration and Parent Back-to-School Night. Students are also encouraged to participate in sports or extracurricular activities to enrich their school experience and strengthen our school community.

We look forward to a fantastic school year ahead! Please review the following important information regarding registration and upcoming events.

Registration and Important Information

Registration Dates and Times:

- August 4: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. – All Students
- August 5: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. - All Students

Make-up registration dates

- August 10 and 12

During registration, students will receive their class schedules and families may pay applicable fees. If you know a student who is new to the district, please encourage their family to attend. Cafeteria staff will be available August 4 and 5 to accept payments for student meal accounts. Lunch costs $3.25, and breakfast costs $1.90. Free/Reduced meal applications and School Nutrition information: Free and Reduced Application

Optional Registration Fees: Cash and checks will be accepted. Debit and credit card payments available with an additional processing fee. An ATM will also be available. Any outstanding fees or fines should be paid during registration.

Activity Card - required for all athletes (optional for other students — student ID cards are issued at no charge)	$21.20	**Damage to Chromebook**	Charges vary
Yearbook	$45.00 + tax	**Replacement Activity Card**	$11.00
Computer Printing Donation	$5.00	**Replacement Agenda Book**	$5.30
Cub Cash (PBIS) Donation	$10.00	**Replacement Lock**	$15.00

*Yearbooks (optional) will be sold for $45.00 + tax and will be distributed on the last day of school. You may opt to be billed for the yearbook later in the school year. The price will go up to $50 + tax in January.

Supply Lists: They can be found on our website (OMS School Supplies) and are included below

First Day of School: School will begin on Thursday, August 20, at 8:35 a.m. Attendance will be taken on the first day of school.

Attendance and Absences: For student safety, parents or guardians must report each day their child is absent. Please call the school at 208-733-2155 by 9:30 a.m. Messages may be left before the office opens at 8:00 a.m. If an absence has not been verified by 9:30 a.m., school staff will attempt to contact you.

Athletics: Questions about fall sports may be directed to Jade Garcia, OMS Athletic Director, at garciajad@tfsd.org. ***All athletes must have a current physical examination completed after May 1 on file before their first practice. All practices will be held at OMS.*** See the flyer at the bottom of this letter for a low cost Sports Physical that will benefit the school.

OMS Fall Tryout/Start Schedule:

- Football: 7th and 8th grade pad checkout August 10 at 4:30 in the gym. Practice starts August 8 at 4:00 on the practice field
- Volleyball: August 10 and 11 - 7th grade: 4:00-5:00 and 8th grade: 6:00-7:30
- Cross Country: August 20 after school. Meet by the big pine tree near the B-building/A-building area.
- Girls Soccer: Soccer has been moved to the spring semester
- Boys Soccer: Soccer has been moved to the spring semester

Birth Certificate on File: Idaho law requires public schools to maintain a birth certificate on file for each student. If your child's birth certificate is not currently on file, please bring a copy to registration.

Proof of Immunization: The Idaho Code requires that updated immunization records be presented prior to enrollment in public school. Please be sure your child is properly immunized before enrolling in school. While records of immunizations are required for school enrollment, in accordance with Idaho Code 39-4802 parents/guardians may submit a signed statement or complete an immunization exemption form if they do not wish to have their child immunized. Exemption grounds may include medical, religious, and 'other'.

- South Central Public Health will be available August 4 from 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. during registration to provide required 7th grade vaccinations.

Student Insurance: The school district does not provide medical insurance to pay for medical expenses when students are injured at school. This is the responsibility of the parents or legal guardian.

If you have questions, please contact the school office at 208-733-2155

Attendance Matters

Research consistently shows that regular school attendance is directly linked to academic success. Students who miss just a few days of school per month are at a higher risk of falling behind and facing challenges later on. With this in mind, our goal for this school year is for every student to have fewer than 9 absences each semester.

We understand that life can sometimes throw unexpected hurdles, so we want to partner with you to ensure your child's attendance remains strong. Below, you'll find a handy chart to help track your child's absences and a checklist to assist in determining when they may be too ill to attend school. Throughout the year, we'll closely monitor each student's attendance. If we notice that absences are beginning to become a concern, we'll reach out to collaborate with your family.

In accordance with state and school district guidelines, students missing more than 10% (9 days) during the semester will lose semester credit for those classes.

Your support is crucial in this endeavor, and we are committed to working alongside you to provide every opportunity for your child's success. Together, we can make sure they attend school regularly and benefit fully from their educational experience.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership in your child's education.

Warm regards,

Ace Marcellus
Principal
Vera C. O'Leary Middle School
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Samantha Mauch
Associate Principal
Vera C. O'Leary Middle School
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Vera C. O'Leary Middle School Attendance Matters

A whole year has 365 days.

A school year has only *170 days.*

Please consider using the 195 non-school days available for family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs, and other appointments.

Attendance Matters.

Absences Each Semester - Keep it in the Green!

0-4 Absences	5-8 Absences	9 or More Absences
100-95%	**94-90%**	**89-0%**
Very Good: Best Chance of Success. Your child is off to a solid start.	**Worrying:** Less chance for school success. Your child may find it harder to make progress.	**Serious Concern:** Your child will find it very difficult to make progress and may face significant consequences.

Track your child's attendance by writing in the date of each absence on this chart.

Semester 1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Immediate Support Needed (contact the school counselor)

Semester 2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Immediate Support Needed (contact the school counselor)

SHOULD I STAY HOME CHECKLIST

Your child should stay home **ONLY** when they have one of the following:

- Signs or symptoms of COVID-19/Influenza
- Fever (100 degrees or higher) - A child should be *fever-free without medication for 24 hours* before returning to school
- Bad cold - especially if it keeps your child awake at night - Colored (yellow/greenish) drainage from nose or eyes
- Persistent cough
- Strep Throat - must have been taking antibiotics *at least* 24 hours before returning to school
- Vomiting within the last 24 hours - A child should be able to keep solid foods down before returning
- Diarrhea within the last 24 hours - A child should have a solid bowel movement before returning
- Rash/Skin infections - especially with fever or itching
- Eye infections - teary, redness, swelling, yellow drainage
- Head Lice - must start treatment before returning to school

2026-2027 Supply List

6th Grade - Required Supplies:

Minimum 2-inch three-ring binder (*Zippered Binders will not be allowed for 6th grade*), 8 plastic subject dividers (*without pockets*), 2 composition notebooks (*for reading and math*), 1 two-subject spiral-bound notebook (*for Science*), 4 glue sticks (*one used only for Science*), 1 pencil pouch (*that hooks into a 3-ring binder*), 2 packs of #2 pencils (*one for S1 and the other for S2*), 1 hand-held pencil sharpener, 2 packs of colored pencils (*one for S1 and the other for S2*), 1 package of blue *OR* black pens, 1 package of red pens, 1 ultra-fine black tip permanent marker (*for Science*), 1 package of highlighters, 1 package of loose-leaf paper, gym shoes/shorts/t-shirt used for PE only, 1 pair of wired earbuds

PrimeTime Suggested Donation: Three boxes of tissues and one container of disinfecting wipes.

Note to Families:

- Art students are required to have separate art supplies.
- Please do not put 6th-grade binders together. Binders will be assembled/organized in Cub Essentials the first week of school.

7th Grade - Required Supplies:

Minimum 2-inch three-ring binder (*Zippered Binders will not be allowed for 7th grade*), 8 plastic subject dividers (*without pockets*), colored pencils (pre-sharpened), pencil pouch, black pens (erasable preferred), 2 packs of #2 pencils (one in the pencil pouch for S1, save the other for S2), handheld pencil sharpener, 2 packs of loose-leaf paper (one in the binder for S1, save the other for S2), 2 composition notebooks (Math), 3 glue sticks (one used only for Science), 2 dry-erase markers (any colors), 4 highlighters (any colors), four function calculator (Math), 2 subject spiral notebook (Science), gym shoes/shorts/t-shirt used for PE only, wired earbuds/foldable headphones (for online learning and testing).

PrimeTime Suggested Donation: Three boxes of tissues and one container of disinfecting wipes.

Note to Families:

- Art students are required to have separate art supplies.
- Students should set up their notebooks using the method learned in sixth-grade Cub Essentials .

8th Grade - Required Supplies:

Minimum 2-inch three-ring binder, Blue/black/red pens, 5 glue sticks (one used only for Science), colored pencils (sharpened), #2 pencils, 2 highlighters, scientific calculator (TI 30XS or the Casio fx-300ES Plus(casio is the most friendly to use for Algebra 1)), white lined index cards, 2 spiral notebook (for Language Arts and Math) , 6 composition notebooks (college ruled), 1 graphing composition notebook (for Algebra 1 only), white loose-leaf paper, 2 dry-erase markers, handheld pencil sharpener, gym shoes/shorts/t-shirt used for PE only, corded earbuds –(for online learning and testing)

PrimeTime Suggested Donation: Three boxes of tissues and one container of disinfecting wipes.

Note to Families:

- Art students are required to have separate art supplies.

Guide to Required Immunization Documentation
PRESCHOOL & K-12

IMMUNIZATION DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

Idaho Statute 39-4801 requires students attending preschool and grades K-12 of any public, private, or parochial schools to meet the minimum immunization documentation requirements upon admission. Parents and guardians must provide their child's immunization record to school officials, unless an exemption is claimed (39-4801).

IMMUNIZATIONS REQUIRING DOCUMENTATION, BY GRADE		
Preschool & Kindergarten-6th Grade	**7th Grade-11th Grade**	**12th Grade**
(5) Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTaP)[1]	(5) Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTaP)[1]	(5) Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTaP)[1]
(2) Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)	(2) Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)	(2) Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)
(4) Polio[2]	(4) Polio[2]	(4) Polio[2]
(3) Hepatitis B[3]	(3) Hepatitis B[3]	(3) Hepatitis B[3]
(2) Varicella[4]	(2) Varicella[4]	(2) Varicella[4]
(2) Hepatitis A	(2) Hepatitis A	(2) Hepatitis A
	(1) Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap) Booster	(1) Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap) Booster
	(1) Meningococcal (MenACWY)[5]	**(2) Meningococcal (MenACWY)[5]**

1. DTaP: The 5th dose is not necessary if the 4th dose was administered at age 4 years or older and at least 6 months after previous dose.
2. Polio: The 4th dose is not necessary if the 3rd dose was administered at age 4 years or older and at least 6 months after previous dose.
3. Hepatitis B: The use of combination vaccines may result in an extra (4th) required dose of Hepatitis B.
4. Varicella: History of chickenpox disease documented by a physician or licensed health care professional meets the requirement.
5. Children should have one dose of meningococcal (MenACWY) vaccine upon admission to 7th grade. A second dose of MenACWY is required upon admission to 12th grade. However, if a child received their first MenACWY vaccine at age 16 years or older, no additional MenACWY doses are needed upon admission to 12th grade.

CONDITIONAL ADMISSION

Children in the process of receiving immunizations may fill out a *Conditional Admission* form, or one similar. The *Conditional Admission* form verifies and documents that the child is in the process of receiving immunizations.

EXEMPTIONS

Idaho Statute 39-4801 allows a parent or guardian to claim an exemption from immunization requirements for their child for medical, religious, or other reasons. A medical exemption requires the signature of a licensed physician and certification that the child has a medical condition which would endanger the life or health of the child. Exemptions for religious or other reasons can be documented on the *School Immunization Requirements Exemption* form. Parents or guardians may also claim an exemption by providing a signed written statement to the school.

PROOF OF DISEASE

If the student has had certain diseases (Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, or Varicella) that would provide lifelong immunity to that disease, they can use the *Proof of Disease* form. This proof satisfies the immunization documentation requirements for those specified diseases.

IDAHO IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

immunizeidaho.com
iip@dhw.idaho.gov

08/2025

$10 SUMMER SPORTS PHYSICAL SPECIAL

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