

**NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS**

# High school makes in-person teaching plans

BY LISA BALDWIN

“We miss the kids.” For Hidden Valley High School Principal Damian Crowson, that sentiment drove him and his staff as they worked every day to bring students back into the classrooms and keep them connected to the school while they learned from home.

Through the fall, the HVHS team met weekly to assess what was working, what was not, and how they could better serve students’ needs. Hidden Valley began transitioning all students to the “hybrid” learning model with orientation sessions on November 18 and 19. If all went as hoped, the high school would have had everyone “back in school” and moving forward on Monday, November 30, just prior to this paper’s publication.

To minimize risk of COVID-19 transmission, students are divided into two cohorts based on their home address. Those with odd numbered home addresses are in the “A” group and attend classes on campus on Mondays and Wednesdays. “B” group students with even-numbered addresses attend on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

During these on-campus days, from 8:40 am to 12:30 pm students have

in-person instruction in four classes. This A/B schedule facilitates the social distancing required by state guidelines by reducing the number of students on campus by half (300 at a time rather than 600) and reducing class sizes (15 at a time rather than 30). Directional signage in the hallways will help keep students safe as they pass from one classroom to the next.

Mr. Crowson made a point of complimenting the Hidden Valley staff, who have really stepped up to meet the great challenges this school year continues to present. He singled out head cook Amy Berg and her kitchen staff as “rock stars.” They prepared 600 meals every day, four days a week, all delivered by bus to Hidden Valley students and families throughout the school closure in October and November. Now that students are back on campus on a regular basis, they will pick up their meals at school, two lunches and two breakfasts, ready to “grab and go” each time.

Music teacher Joe Green has found ways to keep the bands and choirs making music, and there is some hope

they may be able to put together a “virtual” winter concert. School sports have been reworked into eight-week seasons, starting with the traditional winter team sports (basketball and wrestling) in January and February, fall sports (football and volleyball) in March and April, and spring sports (baseball, softball, and track and field) in May and June. All student athletes can schedule workout time at school in groups of 10 or less.

There are two new faces in the front office this year: Assistant Principal Jessica Falkenhagen and Assistant Principal-Athletic Director Dale Fisher.

Five teachers joined the Mustang family this fall, as well: John Johall (Social Studies), Dave Delgado (English), Jessica Beck (Science), and Heidi Marks Morris and Elizabeth Venzon (Math).

“I want to thank the students and families for their strength, support and resiliency,” Principal Crowson said, “[as we worked together to] get them back as soon as possible.”

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Principal Damian Crowson stands proudly in the recently upgraded gymnasium with its new paint, new bleachers, new LED lighting, refinished floors, and seismic reinforcements. Photo: Lisa Baldwin.

# A child’s view of life in the Applegate

Name Brighton Lee Gradisar  
Date 10/11/20

### WHY I LOVE THE APPLGATE VALLEY

Hello I am Brighton. I have lived in the beautiful Applegate Valley since birth. I think the Applegate is a great place to go if you need a muse or just a great place to have some fun. The Applegate is always waiting for you. With its river so fast, and its lake so glassy. I hope you would think it was the most beautiful thing on earth. I hope to see you in the Applegate sometime too. I know I will be there.

The best thing about living in the applegate is the people. The people are so friendly I can not go into a store without seeing someone I know. They are so kind hearted and sweet. I do not know how you can not live if you do not live here. In the Applegate valley, there is a snug little farming community called Ruch that is where I live.

The next thing is that the Applegate is a beautiful place to walk, ride, skip, run or quad. I always love the nature and this beautiful place that they call the Applegate valley. I think in the dictionary when you look at beautiful it should say the Applegate Valley I love the flowers in the spring and the snow in the winter.

I think one of the best things in the Applegate valley is the history. The Applegate valley goes from Applegate to Ruch and Grants pass and more. The first Applegate settlers were Levi Scott, David Goff and the Applegate brothers Jessie and Lindsay.

The Applegate is a fun place to camp or visit friends. There is an old town called Buncom. It is said to have ghosts. But I don't believe in this silly ghost thing but there may be ghosts. I hope to see you sometime in the applegate.

Ellie

I like Living in the Applegate Valley.

It is close to the female place. my family eats there. I get them at hte saturday market.

It is close to the river. I like to collect rocks, and I like to swim.

It is close to the school. I like to ride my bike at school and to play on the yellow bar at school. I like living here because the views are budfl

Sonia

Apple gate 9/24/20

The APPLE gate valley is an amazing place. There are beautiful forests, flowing rivers, and the cool, deep, glassy Applegate Lake. The people that live there and work there are so kind, and the food grown there tastes so good. (Juice/ tomatoes, sweet corn, and celery/ carrots taste better if they're home grown in the apple gate valley.) The wildlife is so pretty. seeing a strong bear, clever coyote, cute rabbit or majestic deer is an inspiring experience that will not be forgotten easily. And last (one of my favorite things about the apple gate valley) its just so peaceful, no busy cities or loud highways.

Applegate is a Great Place. I love living in the apple gate valley!

Students at the Ruch Outdoor Community School (ROCS) have written essays about living in the Applegate Valley as part of their participation in A Greater Applegate’s community visioning process (see column, Page 7). Applegate, Madrona, and Williams Elementary Schools are also participating and will submit essays in the coming months. These essays will be featured in the Applegate Valley strategic plan and used to identify community priorities. Here are three of the essays, authored by Ellie, second grade; Sonia, fourth grade; and Brighton, seventh grade.

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The *Applegater* wishes you a very merry Christmas and a happy new year!