Dear Cochiti Families,

Welcome back to a new school year! If you are new to Cochiti or a returning family, we are happy to have you here. I am excited and honored to serve as your Principal and look forward to working with all of you. Our partnership is extremely important as we all work to support our students this year. I believe in frequent communication. Please keep your phone numbers and your email address updated in the office during the school year. You will receive a Sunday update phone call each week and a newsletter sent to your email on Wednesdays. Another great source of communication is our school website. Check out some of the updates and links.

We have been busy this summer. Many of you had students in our K-5+ summer program. It was nice to get to know many of our students and teachers. District staff and principals met and revised the Parent and Student Handbook, the Discipline Matrix and process, and the District Dress Code. One of the changes that you will notice is our Dress Code. It is important to note that a polo shirt is now optional and not required. We ask that student dress is appropriate for school; that means no drug/gang references, pictures of weapons of any kind, and the length of shorts/skirts are finger-tip length and cover all body parts. Jeans may have decorations, but any holes must be below the knee and not on the thigh area. Students will be given one warning and asked to change if the guidelines are not followed. If it becomes an issue, the discipline matrix will be followed. Again, we have posted the entire dress code on our school website. I will send more information regarding our Discipline Matrix and will make sure you all have a copy of the revised handbook as soon as it becomes available. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Our first day of school is August 12 for our 1st-8th graders. It is a full day of school. Our pre-k and kindergarten students will officially begin school on August 15. School hours remain the same (7:30-2:30). Mark your calendars for our first Open House of the new school year! It will be held on August 28 at 5:30. More information about that night will be sent home after school starts. School attendance is important to your child’s success this year. Please make sure your child is at school every day. If your child is absent for any reason, we ask that you call or email Mrs. Rosetta by 9:00 am (brosetta@bps.k12.nm.us). Thank you for your help.
The safety of our students and our staff is extremely important to us. This year, the district purchased the Raptor system for all of our schools. You can find an informational letter from Superintendent Cowan on the district website. We ask for your cooperation as we begin this new process. All visitors (including our parents) will be asked to show a valid picture ID (Driver’s License, Tribal ID, Passport) before entering any parts of the school building other than the office. It is important that everyone on your child’s pick up list also know to bring an ID with them to the school. Thank you for your help.

Together, we can solve any issue or problem that comes up this year. There will be times we agree and there will be times we disagree. My door is always open to you. Thank you for sharing your children with us this year. This is going to be a fantastic year at Cochiti Elementary and Middle School!

Sincerely,

Principal

Carissa Cantrell