



District Administration Office

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Brookings-Harbor Voices PSA - Chetco Bar Fire

Hello, this is Sean Gallagher – Superintendent of Brookings Harbor School District here to talk to you about a how the wildfire east of town has affected our schools.

We announced last week that the district will delay the start of the school year one week for students, teachers and staff due to the Chetco Bar Fire and fire fighting operations in Curry County. The first day of school will be Tuesday, Sept. 12.

All major start dates have been pushed back one week. Specific information based on grade level and other factors can be found on the district website.

We made the decision to delay because evacuation orders have displaced many staff and student families and because of concerns about safety for people, homes, livestock and pets are paramount at this time.

Our schools have been right at the center of the community response to the fire. Our high school was briefly the location of the Red Cross Emergency Shelter, which is now available at Riley Creek Elementary School in Gold Beach; and our Middle School hosted a community fire information meeting.

The high school and middle school are now home of one of the major fire operations base camps, with approximately 500 personnel from across Oregon and the nation camping on the school grounds.

On behalf of the school district, I'd like to extend our deep gratitude to all the fire personnel and local first responders working the fire, which has been declared the No. 1 priority fire in the nation. Our local and Bruin Pride spirit is strong in the community right now with volunteer-led relief efforts, fundraising campaigns and neighbors helping one another to prepare for possible evacuations.

This delayed start to the school year will likely mean some adjustments to the school calendar down the line. We appreciate the patience of parents and students while we explore options. By putting safety first, we will ensure that Every Student Can Succeed!