



Charter Oak-Ute Community School District Newsletter

Volume 29 No. 3 May 2017

CHARTER OAK-UTE SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

The Charter Oak-Ute Community School District is committed to providing a quality, small school atmosphere to enhance the abilities of students toward reaching their utmost potential.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Rollie Wiebers

The 2016-2017 school year will soon be history and with it comes the end of an era. Charter Oak-Ute will not be having high school classes or activities since the district has entered into a Whole Grade Sharing Agreement with the Maple Valley Anthon-Oto CSD. It is an emotional and sad time for all of us with connections to Charter Oak-Ute but a decision that needed to be made for a variety of reasons. We will all have fond memories of COU High School and it will have a special place in our hearts, but we now have to look to the future.

It has been a busy spring preparing for the transition occurring in our district but we feel things are in place to start school smoothly next fall. Schedules are in place, transportation arrangements are made and sharing sessions were completed to make the students feel more at ease. Orientation sessions are planned for August 8th, 9th and 10th for our students attending high school at MVAO. More information concerning these sessions will be distributed sometime this summer. We have added a link to our website that will allow you to access information about MVAO from our site and they have added a link to our website on theirs. Communication will be key in this arrangement and we will do our best to relay pertinent information to you. We will miss COU High School but should be excited about the new possibilities and opportunities.

As we look back at Charter Oak-Ute High School, I would like to thank all alumni that were a part of making COU a special place to be a part of. The traditions found and carried on, the pride shown in

being a Bobcat and the continual support that was given are the things that allowed Charter Oak-Ute to sustain this long and to continue to be a great place.

Goodbye and Thanks

One of the difficult things about the Whole Grade Sharing Agreement we entered into was the necessity to reduce staff. Having to tell someone that news is not fun and was certainly more difficult because of the quality of people and teaching that are leaving us. On behalf of the Charter Oak-Ute CSD and myself personally, I would like to thank each and every one of them for their dedicated and outstanding service to the students of the Charter Oak-Ute CSD. They spent countless hours and an enormous amount of energy to help our students grow educationally and as young people. I will forever be grateful to them for all that they have done. We wish them the best in their future endeavors and hope that you will always be a Bobcat at heart. The following are the people who were reduced due to Whole Grade Sharing. If you see them please say thank you. Marcela Babl, Michael Bahr, Jodi Behrendt, Amber Bissen, Nicole Cote, Shelby Johnson, Michael Kline, Hillary Boogerd and Lee Stence.

We would also like to thank the two individuals who are leaving on their own accord. Derek Dougherty has accepted a position with the Maple Valley Anthon-Oto school district and Dave Seieroe is retiring. Derek has served us well as a teacher and coach and he will be missed. Mr. Seieroe is a life long Bobcat who had great success as a student at Charter Oak-Ute and is one of those alumni who continued to help make COU great over the years. Dave worked with many student-athletes in his time as a coach at Charter Oak-Ute in different sports, but his main love was coaching track. Under his guidance COU athletes competed at state every year and individual state titles were won. We thank Dave for the difference he has

made in the lives of students and for everything he has done for the district. We wish him nothing but the best in his golden years of retirement.

Summer Hours

Office hours during the summer months will be from 8:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8:00 a.m. till 12:00 p.m. on Fridays. There may be days when the office will be closed due to maintenance and cleaning.

2017-2018

The 2017-2018 school year will start with the first day of classes being August 23, 2017. In-service days will be held on August 21st and 22nd. Open House will be held on Monday, August 21st from 6:30 p.m. till 8:00 p.m. Registration will be held on Monday, August 7th from 12:00 p.m. till 7:30 p.m. Football and volleyball practice for high school students starts on August 7th. Junior High volleyball will start on the 1st day of school.

As with any other school year, there will be changes that occur over the summer in staff, policy and procedures, and we will make you aware of those before school starts next August.

Budget Information

The Charter Oak-Ute CSD approved a budget for the 2016-2017 school year on April 11, 2017. The budget as approved will have a tax rate of 10.22437 per thousand which is down from last year's rate of 10.33725.

Summer Breakfast and Lunch Program

The Charter Oak-Ute Community School District will be offering a "Summer Breakfast and Lunch Program" this summer. This program will allow any student 18 and younger to receive free breakfast and lunch at the Charter Oak-Ute Community School District lunchroom during weekdays in the month of June, part of July and again in August.

Any student between the ages of 4 and 18 will be eligible to receive free meals in the summer through this program. Adults are also welcome to eat at the school with the price for adults set at \$2.50 for breakfast and \$3.75 for lunch.

The Charter Oak-Ute CSD is participating in the Summer Food Service Program. Meals will be provided to all children without charge and are the same for all children regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.ht), found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.ht

[ml](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.ht), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202)690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 845-6136 (Spanish).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. **Iowa Non-Discrimination Notice:** "It is the policy of this CNP provider not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or religion in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by the Iowa Code section 216.7 and 216.9. If you have questions or grievances related to compliance with this policy by this CNP Provider, please contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, Grimes State Office Building, 400 E. 14th St., Des Moines, IA 50319-1004; phone number 515-281-4121, 800-457-4416; website; <http://www.state.is.us/government/crc/index.html>.

Ortner Scholarship Foundation

Charter Oak-Ute and Maple Valley Anthon-Oto

The Charter Oak-Ute CSD and the Maple Valley Anthon-Oto school districts will be entering into a Whole Grade Sharing Agreement with the high school grades starting with the 2017-2018 school year. This agreement will also change how the Ortner Scholarship Foundation awards scholarships.

The Ortner Scholarship Foundation was established by Gary and Leah in memory of their children, Jamie and Jason, who tragically perished in an accident. The foundation was set-up to award scholarships to graduates of the Charter Oak-Ute CSD and if the event that Charter Oak-Ute no longer had a high school, the funds would then be available to graduates of the Maple Valley Anthon-Oto CSD. With the Whole Grade Sharing Agreement in place that time has arrived.

Scholarships for the Class of 2017 will be awarded to graduates of Charter Oak-Ute according to current practice. Future scholarship awards will occur as follows; for the Class of 2018, students who are current juniors (2016-2017 school year) of Charter Oak-Ute will be eligible regardless of where they attend high school. Any student who graduates from Maple Valley Anthon-Oto will also be eligible. After the Class of 2018 graduates, only students who attend and graduate from the MVAO High School will be eligible to receive Ortner

Scholarship Foundation Funds and Scholarship Awards.

As the transition period begins for the Ortner Scholarship Foundation, we encourage all students who are eligible to receive scholarships in the future, both COU and MVAO students, to participate in Foundation Activities as a main component of how much is awarded is based on service to Ortner Scholarship Foundation events and community service.

The Ortner Scholarship Foundation Golf Tournament is the main fundraiser for the foundation and a great opportunity for students to be involved in serving the foundation. There are various duties that students can help with at the tournament and all students in high school are encouraged to participate. MVAO and COU administrators will communicate with the students concerning the Foundation and Golf Tournament. The tournament is typically held the last weekend of July and is a great opportunity for student involvement and also a way to raise funds for the scholarships awarded while having a great time.

The Ortner Scholarship Foundation would like to thank everyone that has helped with their cause, and is looking forward to having new people join the effort to help young people continue their education as the Foundation expands due to the Whole Grade Sharing Agreement.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

It is the policy of the Charter Oak – Ute Community School District not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have any questions or a grievance related to this policy, please contact the district's equity coordinator. Patti Ryan, Equity Coordinator, 321 Main Street, Charter Oak, Iowa 51439, 712-678-3325 or e-mail: pryan@MVAOschool.org

Applicants for admission and employment, students, parents, employees, source of referral of applications for admission and employment, and all unions or professional organizations holding negotiated agreements or professional organizations holding negotiated agreements or professional agreements with the school districts are hereby notified that the district does not discriminate on the basis of **any of the following actual or perceived traits or characteristics, including but not limited to, age, color, creed,**

national origin, race, religion, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical attributes, physical or mental ability or disability, ancestry, political party preference, political belief, socioeconomic status, or familial status, in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs and activities. Any person having inquiries concerning the COU School District's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 504, 104.8, 106.9, Office of Civil Rights Guidelines, IV O, Iowa Administrative Code, 287.12 (8), 95.3, 05.4 (1) & 95.6 is directed to contact: **the district's equity coordinator. Patti Ryan, Equity Coordinator, 321 Main Street, Charter Oak, IA 51439, Phone # 712-678-3325 or e-mail: pryan@MVAOschool.org or Supt. Rollie Wiebers at wiebersr@co-u.net.**