

## New superintendent ready for school year

By JONNY CLINTON  
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After a turbulent couple of years for school districts around the country due to the Covid pandemic, this school year should start out looking much more normal for Park County School District 6 students and staff, and will have a new face leading the way.

Vernon Orndorff officially transitioned into his new stint as Cody superintendent on July 1, taking over for interim superintendent Tim Foley, who will remain as assistant superintendent.

"Tim has done a great job getting us to where we are today," Orndorff said. "He is my sounding board, someone I trust a lot and we are going to make a great team."

Orndorff has had the chance to get familiar with the district the past few months, prior to the move from Texas, and is focused on growing the systems already in place, plus creating growing opportunities for students, faculty and staff.

"I'm still in the process of learning, listening and growing," Orndorff said. "I'm anxious to get back in the classroom, support the teachers and work with the support staff."

"What I've seen in Cody is good people and people that genuinely care and are respectful. The community enjoys each other and all of the special things that go on here."

Vernon Orndorff,  
Cody superintendent

He had the opportunity see students and teachers interact in the classroom on a trip to Cody last spring and said he appreciated the student engagement and the teachers facilitation of the instruction.

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photo by AMBER STEINMETZ

Vernon Orndorff began officially serving as the superintendent for the Cody School District in July.

## Meals no longer free for all students

By JONNY CLINTON  
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For the first time in two years, breakfast and lunch in the Cody school district will not be free for all students.

The United States Department of Agriculture's Free Breakfast and Lunch Program that went into effect at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic has ended.

This does not affect the final Wednesday grab and go drive thru on Aug. 17, however, the district said.

The grab-n-go bags will continue to be free with no applications or sign ups.

"Come Aug. 23 the School Nutrition Department will be charging for school meals based on your child(ren)'s eligibility status," the district announced.

Parents are encouraged to fill out a meal application online for free and reduced lunches at [Park6.org](http://Park6.org) where they can create an account and track student meals and pay via an online portal.

All students regardless of income were provided free breakfast and lunches as part of the early federal

### Application

File your school meal application at [family.titank12.com/](http://family.titank12.com/). You can also track student meals and pay via the online portal.

Covid relief programs.

This year breakfast will run from no cost to \$0.25 for the reduced meal to the full price of \$3.

K-5 lunches are the same for free and reduced meals and \$3.75 for full price.

Lunch for grades 6-12 will be the same for free and reduced price and \$4 for the full price.

The district encourages parents to apply for free and reduced meals before school starts.

Although the free meals are eliminated this year, the USDA increased the reimbursement schools receive by approximately \$0.68 for each free or reduced price lunch, and \$0.32 per free or reduced price breakfast.

Many school districts are concerned that may not be enough to make up for the increase in food prices across the board.

Nutrition standards were also eased during the pandemic, but for the 2022-23 school year, schools

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photos by BOB KENNEDY

Laura Israelsen (from left), Keegan Jensen and Josh Davis of Logan, Utah and the company FieldTurf help install the new football field in July.

## Variety of projects completed

### Maintenance department had busy summer

By JONNY CLINTON  
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The weather may have hampered the installation of the new artificial turf at Cody High School this summer, but it's hard to tell there were any issues as the Broncos and Fillies will have a chance to shine on one of the finest fields in the region.

"The rainstorm over Memorial Day weekend created so much water underneath the old turf that when they removed it, their equipment put large grooves in the ground," school district maintenance director Ged Whalen said. "We had to regrade it and then it took five weeks for it dry out."

The maintenance department ended up heavily involved in the process, including dispersal of the old turf to an eager public.

"The contractor said this is the only place he had ever done this



The new field features "CODY" in both end zones and the Bronco logo in the center of the field.

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