



CALDWELL FRESHMAN ACADEMY

The Caldwell School District opened a new school for freshmen only, the first of its kind in Idaho. The idea is to improve graduation rates by helping some freshmen make a more successful transition to high school. More than 80 students attended the first day. They followed a dress code, attended classes with less than 15 students, and spent time developing relationships and trust in team-building exercises. This school is another tool toward improving the educational offerings in Caldwell.



GIRLS sit in a circle and toss a ball of string to someone who then tells about their favorite summer experience. The students at CFA get to know each other better.



BOYS at the CFA balance on an unstable piece of wood. The goal is to get as many people balanced as possible, which takes a great deal of timing and teamwork.

CFA freshmen joke around and play outside on the first day of school in their newly remodeled building at the old Washington Elementary.



NEW PRINCIPAL Jacob Skousen and secretary Lisa Hammer take charge at CFA. Principal Skousen met every parent before school started to explain how their child can be successful in his school.



QUICK HITS

MEET CALDWELL'S NEW SOFTBALL COACH

Long-time CHS assistant softball coach Heather Ramos was recently hired to head the program

Heather Ramos has coached softball at Caldwell High since 1995, most recently as the junior varsity coach. She's also coached the summer team since 2005.

Mrs. Ramos is the truancy officer at CHS and is the co-founder of GRASP, an after school program for at-risk youth. She earned her degree in Criminal Justice from Boise State University.

She graduated from Caldwell High, married Lupe Ramos, and they have two children, Braxton, a freshman at CHS, and fourth-grader Zack.

Here are her thoughts about the job:

Goals for Program

To help each athlete reach individual goals day by day. To implement physical and mental strategies for a winning mentality. Winning seasons.

Potential in Caldwell

The Cougars are lucky to have some excellent athletes coming through the program. Hard working, coachable kids is what I look for in an athlete and we definitely have many.



Heather Ramos at left

Why did you want this job?

I am excited with the potential that is here at CHS. I have had the privilege to coach many of the girls in the past and they are just all-around great girls. I feel that with hard work and dedication, Caldwell softball will be a great success.

How will the program be your own?

What I have going for me — besides the knowledge — is dedication and love for the game. I will put in the time and effort that it takes to have a successful program. My excitement will radiate to the athletes, which in turn will radiate to the parents, students and public.

Coaching Style and traits

Prepare in the off season for what needs to happen in the season. Hard work in practice offers success in games. High expectations for all of my athletes both on the field and in the classroom.

Season Saying

TEAM: Knowing that the name on the front of your jersey is more important than the one on the back.

Role Model

I think everyone has different role models at different times in their lives. Mine would definitely be my parents for supporting me through all of the ups and downs in life. My dad for pushing me in my sports and still being there with me coaching softball. And Dr. Lonnie Barber for teaching me that everyone deserves to be successful, you just have to put in the work and dedication to get there.

Girls can expect ...

... to work hard, put in a lot of off-season time and be prepared for new ideas and drills. To be held accountable.

NEW BOARD ROOM

ANNEX The West Wing at the old Washington Elementary is under renovation. It will house a new board room (at right), freshman academy classrooms and offices for district personnel. The board of trustees should be able to move into their new meeting place before the end of the year. Board members will sit behind this podium and audience members will relax in chairs on this lovely new carpet.

