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## EDUCATION

### New to the area? Sign up your children up now for school

 By [Elizabeth Gabriel](#)

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"As soon as possible."

That's what Mountain Area school registrars say when asked how soon children who will be new to local schools should sign up.

At Coarsegold Elementary, registrar Anita Danihel said registering before the first day has several benefits.

"It helps us with planning," she said. "It helps us know the best placement for the student."

The first day of school is a busy one for all the staff, she said but there's another important reason to avoid that.

"It's hard on the child," she said.

At Yosemite High School in Oakhurst, registrar Jeanne Ratchford was busy with last-minute details.

"Avoid registering the first day of school," she said. "Do it ASAP."

YHS has a large packet for new students. It contains forms and information incoming students will need. She said about 30 new students had registered by midweek.

Most schools in the area will open for the 2007-2008 year Aug. 20 (Aug. 21 in the Chawanakee district). But to start, the kids have to register.

 If you don't know where your child is supposed to go, ask neighbors or go online to the local district Web sites: [www.basslakeschooldistrict.com](http://www.basslakeschooldistrict.com); and [www.yosemiteusd.com](http://www.yosemiteusd.com) for schools in the Oakhurst-Coarsegold area and [www.chawanakee.k12.ca.us](http://www.chawanakee.k12.ca.us) for schools in the North Fork area.

The sites offer a wealth of information from bus schedules to staff directories. They also have the addresses and phone numbers new students and their parents will need.

For parents and guardians without Internet access, here are the district phone numbers to call for information:

Bass Lake district:

(559) 642-1555

Yosemite district:

(559) 683-8801

Chawanakee district:

(559) 877-6209

 At Yosemite High School, all the forms you'll need are online at [www.yosemitemhs.com](http://www.yosemitemhs.com). Go to the "student/parent forms" choice and type away, but you have to get the forms into the office. As at most schools, you'll need proof of residence, up-to-date immunization records, the student's Social Security card, birth certificate, previous school records, emergency contact information and any special needs the student has.


Rachel Boswell, receptionist, (right) and Jeanne Ratchford, Yosemite High School registrar, compare notes.

Photo by Elizabeth Gabriel

At YHS, all new students and ninth-grade students will receive their schedules at new-student orientation Thursday, Aug. 16 (information on that will be mailed). Schedules for 10th- through 12th-graders will be available at the attendance office beginning Monday, Aug. 13, and may be picked up between 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. when students turn in their updated demographic information forms.

The counseling staff will be available on a first-come, first-served basis Aug. 13, 14 and 15 to register new students and make schedule changes. On the first day of school at YHS, students will pick up their final schedules and head for an assembly in the gym.



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