

Administration Reports

October 2026

Sam Boardman Elementary

October has been filled with school spirit, community connections, and purposeful learning at Sam Boardman Elementary. Our students have settled into school routines, and we continue to build on the strong start we made together through September.

Our PTO is gaining momentum and making great strides in supporting the SBE community. Members are preparing for several significant projects that will directly benefit our students and enhance their school experience. The PTO also kicked off the fall season with “Popcorn Thursdays,” a tasty treat that has quickly become a favorite among students and staff. In addition, the PTO is planning several opportunities to bring families together throughout the year. The first of these will be the Fall Kids’ Market, held during fall conferences. We are grateful for the enthusiasm, creativity, and partnership of our PTO volunteers.

Students and staff had a wonderful time celebrating Homecoming Week through a variety of dress-up days, including Cowboy/Girl Day, Twin Day, Pink Day, and Color Wars. Participation and enthusiasm were impressive throughout the building. Members of the Riverside High School Homecoming Court also visited SBE and spoke with our students about school spirit, traditions, and what it means to represent their school community. The week concluded with our kindergarten prince and princess helping announce the Homecoming King and Queen at the football game. It was a memorable experience for our students and families and a meaningful celebration of the traditions that connect our schools and community.

Planning is also underway for the return of our beloved Veterans Day celebration. The assembly will be held on November 10 at 10:00 a.m., and all veterans are warmly invited to attend. Our goal is to recognize and honor the courageous individuals who have served our country while helping students understand the importance of service, sacrifice, and gratitude. We look forward to welcoming veterans, families, and community members to this special SBE tradition.

Finally, students have completed the fall i-Ready diagnostic assessments in both reading and mathematics. Teachers are now using this valuable information to identify student strengths, determine areas for growth, and plan targeted instruction during our daily WIN—or “What I Need”—blocks. These intervention periods allow us to group students according to their current learning needs and provide focused instruction at the appropriate level. Teachers will continue monitoring student progress and adjusting groups and instruction throughout the year.

We are proud of the positive energy throughout our school and thankful for the students, staff, families, PTO members, and community partners who continue to make Sam Boardman Elementary a wonderful place to learn and grow.

Windy River Elementary

1. iReady to Party — and We Are Off and Running!

Our annual iReady to Party was a tremendous success! Students took the Fall iReady Diagnostic seriously, worked hard, and completed testing in record time. This is important because the Fall Diagnostic is not simply a test—it gives us valuable information that we use to identify student needs and place students into our WIN (What I Need) classes.

We are now off and running with WIN, and it is exciting to see students receiving instruction targeted to the skills they need most. **Kids are learning like crazy right now!** We have worked hard to use our diagnostic information to make sure students are in the right instructional setting and getting the right support.

2. Sixth Grade Gets Ready for Outdoor School

Our sixth graders are getting excited for **Outdoor School, October 20–22!** Students will spend three days learning in the mountains, exploring outdoor science and other topics while developing independence and teamwork.

Of course, they are also looking forward to some of the best parts of camp—**campfires, cabins, OUTDOOR EDUCATION, and spending time together outside of the regular school setting!** We are excited to provide our students with this opportunity to learn in a different environment and create memories that will last well beyond sixth grade.

3. Foundational Reading: From Decoding to Fluency

We are very encouraged by the progress our students are making in **foundational reading**. Many of our students who needed significant support with decoding are now demonstrating those skills and beginning to transition toward **reading fluency**.

I will admit that this next step makes me a little nervous! Decoding is very concrete—you can see whether a student can accurately read a word. **Fluency is much less concrete and requires sustained practice, accuracy, automaticity, and appropriate expression.** We know that moving students from learning to decode to becoming confident, fluent readers will take continued intentional instruction.

We are continuing to build that practice through several strategies. Our **Accelerated Reader program** is underway, and students are participating in **partner reading for an hour each week**. We are also bringing back **Battle of the Books**, which has students excited about reading and talking about good books.

The most encouraging part is that we are seeing students become more engaged with reading—and we want to keep that momentum going.

4. SEL Training for the Entire WRE Staff

This month, we completed **Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) training with our entire staff**, aligned with Oregon's state TSEL standards.

Our training focused on three important areas:

- **SEL Philosophy** — understanding the purpose and importance of SEL in our school community.
- **SEL in Practice** — what SEL actually looks like in classrooms and throughout the school day.
- **Educator Well-Being** — recognizing that educators also need to take care of their own mental health and well-being.

We believe that supporting students socially and emotionally is an important part of creating the conditions where students can learn, grow, and be successful.

5. Instructional Walkthroughs and the MCSD Instructional Expectations

Principal walkthroughs continue to be an important part of our work at WRE. Elementary school administrators remain focused on the **six instructional expectations established by MCSD**.

The purpose of these walkthroughs is not simply to evaluate teachers. Our goal is to **support teachers with high-yield, research-based instructional practices that provide students with greater opportunities to learn and ultimately improve academic performance.**

We are continuing to focus our attention on the instructional practices that have the greatest potential to impact student learning. We believe strongly that when we consistently improve instruction, **students benefit**.

There are a lot of good things happening at MCSD—and there are a lot of good things happening at Windy River Elementary!

Work Hard. Be Kind. WIN!

PIRATE NATION NEWSLETTER

(541) 481-2525

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Student Spotlight

Ambar Rodriguez Del Angel - Last year Ambar qualified for the FFA National Convention in the Spanish FFA Creed event. She will be competing against students from across the country later this month in Indianapolis.

Ambar also qualified for the FBLA National Leadership Conference last summer, competing in Exploring Agribusiness.



UPCOMING

ATHLETIC EVENTS

Scan the QR code to see this month's Volleyball, Soccer, Football, and Cross Country events!



Crowell's Corner

Trade Schools Visit!

Kids can sign-up for a trade school event where we will visit three schools in Tri-Cities to learn business in plumbing, sheet metal and electrical work. Sign-up by the library to get a seat on the bus on **NOV 23rd**

Dinner With A Doc!

Interested in healthcare careers? Have dinner with Dr. Earl and learn about different careers. Bring your questions and bring your appetite! **Wed OCT 21st 5:30-7pm.**

State Testing Day!

All day testing for all high schoolers on **OCT 27th** Good luck!

TEACHER FEATURE

Ms. Wienert

One of our new science teachers this year, Ms. Wienert was born and raised in Madras, OR. She graduated from Oregon State University with a Bachelors in Biology and a Masters in Science Education. Her favorite memories from the last few years came from her Science Club hosted at the local library.

In her free time she plays the bass, goes on long runs, and makes bread, as well as yogurt. Additionally, Ms. Wienert is an avid reader.

"This first month has been very welcoming, and I'm excited to make more interesting lab experiences for my students this year. My favorite snack is peanut butter flavored anything btw!"

Upcoming Club Meetings

NHS - October 8 - 9:15am - Library

FBLA - October 15 - 9:15am - Auditorium

Key Club - October 21 - 6:00pm -
Ms. Simpson's Class

Team Spotlight - Boys' Soccer

This year's boys soccer team is off to a hot start, with their lone loss of the season to Catlin Gabel.



As of October 4th, the Pirates are the #7 team ranked in the state! Big home games remaining on the schedule include #9 McLoughlin on October 17th and SENIOR DAY against Four Rivers on October 24th!

Athlete Spotlight

Senior Standout Jeremias Calvillo is receiving rave reviews from Coach West and Coach Shanks. "Jeremias is having a great season. He is averaging 10 tackles and 2 touchdown plays per game."



A.C. Houghton Elementary

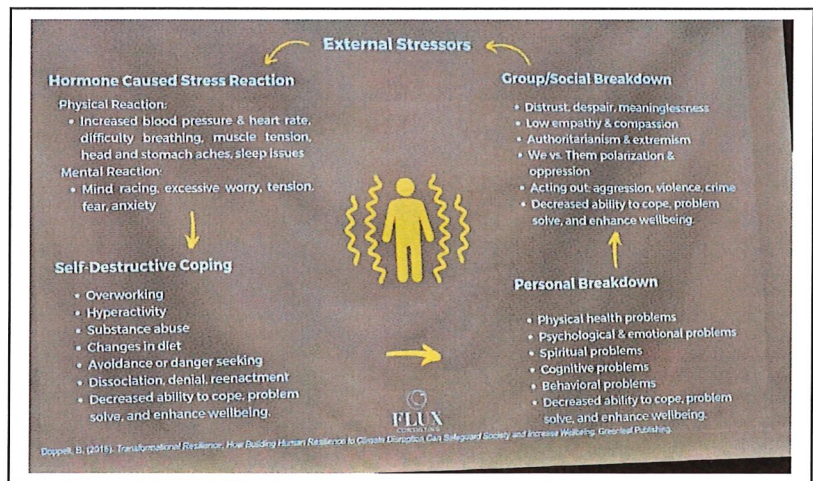
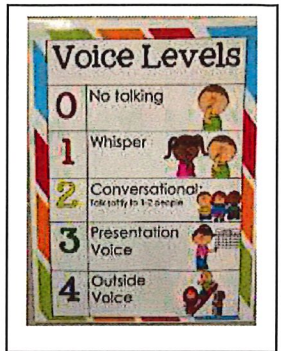
Six weeks into the 2026–2027 school year, A.C. Houghton Elementary is off to a positive, productive start! Staff and students have settled into daily routines, with consistent expectations carrying from classrooms to hallways, the cafeteria, and the playground. These shared routines help create a safe, welcoming school where students are ready to learn.

We are placing greater emphasis on attendance and arriving on time. Our CARE Coordinator, school-based counselor, and CCS staff are working with families to address barriers within our control. My board presentation will highlight our new strategies and efforts. Being in class matters—every day present gives students another opportunity to learn and grow.

Fall traditions and community partnerships have also kept us busy. September pictures have been distributed, and our traditional class photos never disappoint! Hearing screenings are scheduled for next week, and Advantage Dental has been scheduled to visit later this fall to provide screenings and address immediate dental concerns. A generous donation from Lamb Weston will add more books to our book vending machine. Next week our Kindergarten classes will travel to Taylor's Pumpkin Patch in Boardman to explore farming and learn how the harvest season is so important to our region. We appreciate the many partners who help keep our students healthy, engaged, and excited to learn.

Students completed their fall iReady diagnostic assessments at the end of September, and teachers are now analyzing the results to identify priorities for their students. Our systematic approach helps us understand what students know, what they still need to learn, and how to close gaps toward grade-level expectations. Ongoing monitoring, reflection, and adjustments to instruction ensure lessons respond to students' needs.

Lastly, Eastern Oregon University provided meaningful professional development for certified staff on September 25, followed by a session tailored to classified staff on October 2. Led by three expert trainers, the sessions focused on trauma-informed practices and resilience, social-emotional learning, and educator mental health and well-being. These topics addressed the complex academic, behavioral, and emotional needs of our students while recognizing the daily challenges faced by school staff. Both certified and classified staff appreciated the trainers' expertise and the emphasis on supporting student success alongside staff well-being.



Irrigon Elementary School

Sept/Oct. Professional Development: SEL and Trauma-Informed Practices

During our recent professional development sessions, both licensed and classified staff engaged in meaningful learning experiences focused on supporting the whole child as well as staff well-being. Our efforts centered around Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) and trauma-informed practices like instruction, that are directly supporting our school-wide goals for a supportive and inclusive culture.

- Christina Thew: Delivered background knowledge and effects of adverse childhood experiences (ACES) and the realities of resiliency.
- Claire Ranit: Facilitated sessions on integrating self-regulation routines into daily schedules to help students remain focused and calm.

- Dr. Stephanie Halloway: Provided research-based insights into trauma informed practices, highlighting how early intervention and consistent relational support build student resilience.

By equipping our entire staff with these tools, we ensure a unified approach to student well-being across all classrooms and common spaces.

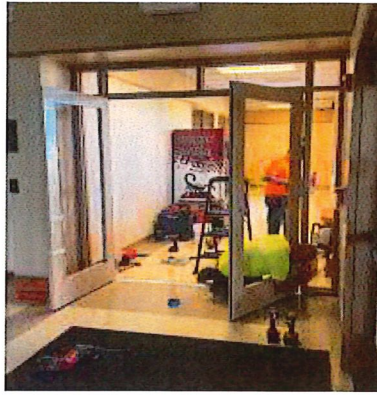


Facility & Safety Upgrades

Our building security received a significant upgrade this past month with the completed installation of new secure entryway doors. These modern locking systems enhance safety for students, staff, and visitors while maintaining a welcoming atmosphere for our families.

NEW





We appreciate the community's investment in keeping our campus safe and secure.

6th Grade Outdoor School at Camp Elkanah

Our 6th grade students are set to attend Outdoor School this week at Camp Elkanah for an exciting three-day, two-night trip. This hands-on outdoor education experience offers students valuable opportunities to connect with science curriculum in a real world setting.

Anticipated positive outcomes include:

- Enhanced team-building and leadership skills through collaborative outdoor activities.
- Deeper understanding of environmental science and local ecosystems.
- Stronger peer relationships and community building outside the traditional classroom setting. We extend our sincere gratitude to the dedicated parent chaperones who are donating their time to make this memorable experience possible for our students.



"No Bully Zone" Safety Campaign

Our school counselor, Ms. Arian Romero, launched a proactive campaign encouraging students to commit to a safe, welcoming, and inclusive school environment. Through interactive lessons and student pledge commitments, the campus has formally rallied around maintaining a "No Bully Zone." Students have responded with great enthusiasm, reinforcing daily kindness and positive choices in classrooms, lunchrooms, and on the playground.

Irrigon Jr/Sr High School

Since the past board meeting IJSHS held Homecoming Week. This takes a lot of collaboration to pull off and we are thankful for the help of the community. For the bonfire, the fire department, parks and rec, parents and past students all worked together to pull off a fun, safe event. This year we held the boys and girls soccer games for the Friday HOCO athletics event and the Tri Cities Corvette Club was nice enough to drive down to escort our royalty around the track for the HOCO king and queen reveal.

Our academic counselor has been working hard to provide students with college and career opportunities for students. She has had several college visitors as well as speakers to present about their career. Some of the speakers have been past students which has been an added bonus. Coming up in November is an apprenticeship visit in the Tri Cities.

At conferences on October 8 we will be highlighting some of the plans for the new building, sharing out I Love You Guys information, showcasing student projects and helping families get set up in PowerSchool.

Heppner Elementary School and Heppner Jr/Sr High School

1. Attendance & Student Success

Attendance has been a strong point during the first full month of school and remains a K–12 priority. For September, HES finished with an average daily attendance rate of 92.41%, while HJSHS finished at 91.90%. At HES, Kindergarten and 2nd Grade—our largest elementary class—led the way with 96.65% attendance. At HJSHS, the Junior class posted the highest attendance rate at 96.20%. We will continue emphasizing the importance of regular attendance and partnering with families to keep students in school and engaged in learning.

2. Family Communication

Consistent communication with families continues to be a priority across both buildings. Each week, families receive our Colt Call from HES and Pulse of Heppner High from HJSHS. These weekly communications, paired with social media updates and automated text and email messages, provide families with multiple ways to stay informed about school events, expectations, activities, and important reminders.

3. HES Academic Progress

HES has completed its fall benchmark testing, providing staff with important baseline information as we begin measuring student growth throughout the year. With the end of the first quarter and family conferences approaching, a schoolwide reading progress monitor and math growth monitor is scheduled for October 12–22. This will provide teachers with updated reading and math data to share with families during conferences and help identify areas of student growth and needed support.

4. HJSHS School Culture & Homecoming

Homecoming Week has provided a great opportunity to strengthen school culture and student involvement at HJSHS. Our ASB officers have taken an active leadership role in organizing activities, and participation from the student body and staff has been strong. Events such as Homecoming are an important part of creating connections, building school pride, and giving students a sense of belonging beyond the classroom.

Two buildings. One community. One commitment to our kids.

MCSO Maintenance & Facilities Report – October 2026

Fall is here and we have already begun the prep for winter! Our grounds crew will be shutting down the irrigation system, our HVAC company will be firing up the boilers for heat in our buildings, and our custodial crew will keep our staff and students safe and healthy.

Bond Project Update:

Irrigon Jr Sr High Project:

We have Owner Architect Contractor (OAC) meetings every two weeks to discuss design decisions, permitting, early site work package possibilities, budget and scheduling. Geotech surveying is complete – this is to ensure safety of the CTE building and current building prior to excavation and site work for new construction.

SAJ presented our site plans to the Irrigon Planning Commission on October 1 and it was approved. We had community members and staff speak in favor of the plans as presented and there was no opposition.

SAJ has completed the 100% Design Development documents! Our third party estimator, MACC, and Fowler Construction will review the documents and provide an updated cost estimate. Based on that evaluation, we will review the value engineering log and adjust if needed.

The team is discussing an earlier start date for the civil work including earthwork and utilities, potentially March 2027.

We want to acknowledge the Irrigon DAC for their hard work and volunteerism for the design phases! They had a 92% attendance rate for our meetings which shows how invested the group was – thank you to Rose, Marie, Addie, Dan, James, Brenda, Heidi, Jade and Aaron!

Riverside Jr Sr High Project:

SAJ, Bouten, Wenaha and the District continue working together during on OAC meetings every two weeks on design and constructability. There are Geotech boring samples that will be scheduled in October, but the other testing has been completed. We conducted our Schematic design turn page on September 22. As we learned through Irrigon's process, the estimates will fluctuate based on product selection and design updates as we move through systemic and development design phases. We look forward to seeing the estimates. We are discussing construction phasing plans to see how best to keep staff and students safe, classes accessible while maintaining the construction schedule.

We attended a pre-application meeting with the City of Boardman on September 23. There was great discussion and direction given to the design team.

SAJ will return to Riverside in December for a two-day design development in-school studio design sessions with staff. The final DAC meeting will likely be scheduled around that time as well. The DAC members are John Christy, Marie Shimer, David Boor, Stephanie Simpson, Claude Birt, Smokey Joe Wightman, Veronica Nunez Lezama and daughter Ariana and Luis Campos.

Heppner K-12 Project:

Our team has scheduled our OAC meetings every two weeks to discuss the project.

Fowler will begin their estimating work and review MACC's slightly under budget on their initial cost estimate based on the early pre-design work.

Our DAC's school tour is scheduled for October 14. We will tour the Sherman K-12 facility in Moro, Oregon. The high school campus became a K-12 in 2016, and we feel it is a good representation of how a K-12 campus can offer safety and flexibility to its school and community. The members are Ryan Gerry, Marie Shimer, Petra Payne, Jason Palmer, Ashley Beard, Sarah Matheny and son Peyton, Linsey Hanna and son Jasper, Jennifer Wilson, John Doherty and Linda Kenny.

District Wide:

Fowler Construction and Alpine Security are wrapping up the final touches on the IES and WRE safety upgrades. Administration received training on the new camera and door access systems. Our next step is to select the bells, paging and audio/visual systems.

SBE, MEC and ACH's upgrades along with the SBE bus loop and parking lot project will begin in June 2027. SAJ, Wenaha, Fowler Construction and sub-contractors had a productive meeting with SBE and ACH administration and secretaries to review and discuss the design plans for the safety vestibule entries and the civil work for the SBE drop off/pick up and parking.

The Bond Oversight Committee's next meeting will be November 18 at Riverside and is facilitated by Scott Rogers from Wenaha. As a reminder, the committee will meet quarterly through the entire bond process ending in the fall of 2029. The BOC's core purpose will be to carefully monitor the delivery of the proposed bond program to ensure accountability, fiscal transparency, and community trust. Up to three board members are allowed to attend the meetings. The BOC members include Brett Harrison, Meghan Golden, Don Alleman, Justin Nelson, Tia McNamee, Zac Acock, Debbie Radie, Phyllis Danielson, Torrie Griggs, Frances Glenn and George Shimer.

Pacific Northwest Communications is continuing to create press releases, social media content and update the website.

The District team would like to thank all the volunteer committee members and our incredible staff for their time, openness and support. We are excited to work collaboratively with the school board, staff, students and the community to create facilities for the next generations.

For Irrigon, the proposed schedule is as follows:

✓Schematic Design: 03/2026 – 06/2026
✓Design Development: 06/2026 – 10/2026
Construction Documents: 11/2026 – 03/2027
Bidding and Permitting: 02/2027 – 06/2027
Construction: 07/2027 – 04/2029, potential 03/2027 – 07/2028 (new building), 07/2028 – 04/2029 (demo, site work)

For Riverside, the proposed schedule is as follows:

✓Schematic Design: 07/2026 – 09/2026
Design Development: 10/2026 – 01/2027
Construction Documents: 01/2027 – 05/2027
Bidding and Permitting: 06/2027 – 09/2027
Construction: 10/2027 – 03/2029

For Heppner K-12, the proposed schedule is as follows:

Schematic Design: 09/2026 – 12/2026
Design Development: 12/2026 – 03/2027
Construction Documents: 03/2027 – 06/2027
Bidding and Permitting: 07/2027 – 10/2027
Construction: 02/2028 – 06/2029

Respectfully Submitted By,
Matt Combe, Gabe Hansen and Brandi Sweeney

Staff Incident/Accidents Report:

Date	School	Incident
9/15/2026	ACH	Employee hit by a student, knocking her to the ground. Medical attention sought, no time loss.