

Administration Reports

February 2026

Sam Boardman Elementary

We are grateful for the incredible generosity of our community partners. A heartfelt thank you to PTO and Lamb Weston for their large donation to purchase new books for our students. Access to high-interest, high-quality texts directly supports literacy growth and classroom engagement across grade levels. We also extend sincere appreciation to Columbia River Health for their donation of Goldfish crackers in support of our student snack program, and to the Millie Baker Library Fund for their continued commitment to enriching our school library resources. These partnerships make a meaningful difference in the daily experience of our students.

Recently, students completed the iReady winter diagnostic assessment. We are excited by the growth we are seeing. This assessment provides valuable data that allows our teachers to form small, targeted instructional groups based on individual student needs. By identifying each student's strengths and areas for improvement, teachers can tailor instruction to ensure students receive the right support at the right time.

At our last assembly, we celebrated perfect attendance and our Students of the Month for making positive choices. This recognition aligns with our January focus within the Conscious Discipline framework, emphasizing the importance of thoughtful decision making. Learning to make good choices is essential not only for school success but for life beyond the classroom.

We also celebrated students with perfect attendance through our "*Don't Be a No Show, Earn Your Hot Cocoa*" event, which was a tremendous success. Students were excited and proud to be recognized, and we look forward to celebrating our third-quarter perfect attendance earners in the coming months with a *Smart Cookie Party*.

In February, we celebrate National School Counselor Week. We recognized the incredible work of our school counselor and our Columbia Counseling Services in-house counselor. Together, they provide critical social-emotional support to students, assist families in navigating challenges, and help ensure that students are ready to learn each day. From individual student check-ins, skill focused friendship groups to crisis support and family outreach, their work has a notable impact on student well-being and overall school climate. We are grateful for the care they bring to our school community.

As we continue forward in our learning journey, we remain focused on goal setting, supporting one another, and reinforcing positive choices. With the partnership of our families and community, our students are positioned to achieve great things.

Windy River Elementary

ASB Assemblies & Student Leadership

At the end of January, Windy River Elementary continued its focus on building community and student leadership through student-led ASB assemblies. Our 4th–6th grade students planned and facilitated school-wide assemblies where grade levels competed in engaging activities. Students were responsible for preparing games, practicing public speaking, and making adjustments in real time as the assemblies unfolded. These assemblies provided meaningful leadership opportunities, built confidence and teamwork, and had a positive impact on the entire school, as younger students looked up to the leaders and the school community came together around student voice and school spirit.

Grinch Day:

This year 4th grade did a grade level wide "Grinch day." The word on the street was that The Grinch had come in the night before and scrambled all of their work! Math Facts had been scrambled, they had to do an escape room to do some math, and all of their papers had been moved to different locations! All in the name of making learning fun. The culminating activity was when the Grinch SHOWED UP to WRE to read a story to the kids! The Grinch read to a few other classes that day as well! It was AWESOME! Good job 4th Grade team organizing this fun day. FUN!

Winter Concert:

Our Winter Concert was well attended by the Boardman community and showcased the hard work and enthusiasm of our students. Students sang their hearts out and demonstrated both confidence and joy in their performances. Mr. Azurin did an outstanding job leading our students and fostering a genuine enjoyment of music. A highlight of the evening was the

entire school singing several songs together, creating a powerful sense of unity and school pride. The concert was a wonderful celebration of student effort, community support, and the arts at Windy River Elementary.

Foundational Reading Program:

During February, teachers continued their focused work on strengthening students' foundational reading skills, particularly phonics, which is essential for decoding and word recognition. We continue to make meaningful strides in this area, including targeted training for four teachers and five educational assistants in the *Phonics for Reading* curriculum. This comprehensive program is designed to support struggling readers in the upper grades and includes instruction in phonics, fluency, and comprehension. We are excited about the impact this work is having on student learning and are seeing significant progress as a result of these efforts.

Pictures from the ASB assembly (This was a game that ASB leadership put together that had grade level teachers competing with other grade level teachers. FUN!):



Musical Chairs ASB Assembly



PIRATE NATION NEWSLETTER

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Student Spotlight



Paula Di Mauro

Paula is a senior this year and excels in academics and clubs. She is the FBLA reporter, Key Club editor, NHS activities director and Senior Class President.

UPCOMING VARSITY HOME GAMES



VS. Nyssa

2/6/26

Girls/Boys 6PM



VS. Vale

2/7/26

Girls/Boys 3PM

SENIOR NIGHT FOR GIRLS!



VS. La Grande

2/10/26

Girls/Boys 6PM

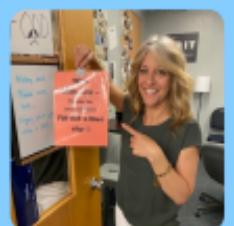
SENIOR NIGHT FOR BOYS & CHEER!



Image Credit: Antonio Sturgeon

Rosen's Corner

- **Feb. 17th** – BMCC STEM drone program presentations in classes
- **Feb. 23rd** – Port of Morrow internship presentation in auditorium during Advisory – 10th & 11th graders
- **Feb. 28th** – CBC Foundation Scholarship due!



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Riverside Jr/Sr High School (continued)

TEACHER FEATURE

Mr. Ramos

Mr. Ramos, has been teaching at Riverside for four years. The classes that he teaches are Success 101, Leadership, JH Exploring Technology, and Yearbook. Many students look up to him as an inspiring and helpful teacher!



"My favorite thing about teaching is getting to build fun and positive relationships with students. I enjoy having the opportunity to help them grow academically and athletically."

—Mr. Ramos

This Month In Pictures



Kaylee Christy winning Youth Citizen of the year, and Mr. Hull Educator of the Year!



Mr. Boor influencing students to buy a yearbook



Mr. Boor winning Citizen of the Year!



Seniors Hugo, Andrew and Orlando heading to welding class



Riverside Club Corner TSA

TSA stands for "Technology Student Association". TSA enhances personal development, leadership, and career opportunities in STEM, whereby members apply and integrate these concepts through co-curricular activities, competitions, and related programs.

The advisor for TSA is Mr. Elliott, who is in his second year at Riverside. Mr. Elliott is also the head football and softball coach.

Upcoming Club Meetings

FBLA - 1/29 - In La Grande (Regionals)
FFA - 2/20 - 6PM - Ms. Rodelo Classroom
NHS - 2/17 - Advisory - Ms. Myers Classroom
KEY CLUB - 2/10 - Advisory - Ms. Simpson Classroom

Created by Abigail Mendoza

A.C. Houghton Elementary

for A.C. Houghton Elementary by Jill Ledbetter

It's February—which means Groundhog Day, a little disappointment (once again) in Punxsutawney Phil's weather prediction, also many families will be tuning in to the big game on Sunday, and students already buzzing with excitement about the Valentine's Day parties we'll be enjoying next week. We are all eagerly looking ahead to warmer days, spring flowers, and longer hours of daylight!

Testing and instructional adjustment update! This time of year, marks an important checkpoint for student learning. Students recently participated in mid-year assessments, beginning with Acadience Benchmarking in December.

Acadience is a brief, research-based assessment that measures key early literacy skills such as phonemic awareness, phonics, and reading fluency. It also serves as our required universal screener to help identify students who may be at risk for reading difficulties, including dyslexia. We use this data to build targeted ELA intervention groups—small groups that receive 30 minutes of focused instruction daily based on each student's specific assessment results.

In January, ACH students also completed the i-Ready Winter Diagnostic in both Math and Reading. This winter session represents the second assessment window of the school year, and we are currently analyzing the data to form new Math intervention groups and to make adjustments to existing WIN groups to best meet student needs.

Teachers are analyzing data from September to the present, paying close attention to how well students are retaining and transferring their learning. This information helps ensure we are solidifying key concepts and supporting all learners. Data analysis guides instructional decisions for whole-class instruction, small groups, and individual students as we move through the remainder of the school year. In preparation for mid-year goal meetings, teachers are reviewing student data with a focus on students who have not yet met at least half of their expected annual growth, while also celebrating progress since the fall diagnostic and recognizing students who have already achieved a full year's growth.

Students are actively involved in this process—not only through testing, but by setting goals with their teachers, working diligently through each assessment, and learning the importance of doing their very best to show what they know.

These assessments feel like high stakes for our 5- to 9-year-old learners! One of my favorite moments is hearing

students celebrate when they meet—or exceed—their goals.

New student intervention groups have been set for Reading, and soon we will also adjust our Math intervention groups as well. Below is a picture of one of our new comprehension groups in 3rd grade, as they are actively participating in a lesson in Mrs. Arnold's class. (see right)

We are gearing up for an exciting Family Literacy Night at ACH during the first week of March! We are thrilled to partner with Eastern Oregon University, who will be providing books and supporting a schoolwide chapter book study. This year's featured story is a fan favorite—*Charlotte's Web*. Each ACH household will receive a copy of the book, available in both English and Spanish. I look forward to sharing more details next month as we highlight this special event and the importance of reading together with our students and families.



Problem solving and engineering in PE at ACH!

Irrigon Elementary School

December Highlights

December was marked by strong community involvement and meaningful student leadership. Our annual canned food drive, in partnership with the Irrigon Fire Department, was highly successful. The hallways were lined with hundreds of cans and boxes of non-perishable food that will be distributed to local families in need. This effort reflected our students' generosity and commitment to supporting our community.



A celebration of ice cream donated by Tillamook Creamery for our efforts towards this year's Canned Food Drive. Our Christmas concert was another highlight, filling the Irrigon Elementary gym with families and celebrating the talents of our students. Mr. Azurin did a phenomenal job coordinating the two concerts between the two schools (Windy River and Irrigon Elementary), creating a seamless and joyful experience for students and families alike.



January Focus

As we returned from winter break, our school placed a strong emphasis on reinforcing positive student behavior and clear expectations. Students were recognized for demonstrating character traits aligned with being safe, respectful, and responsible through earning "ICUs." During the first week back, students were able to use their ICUs to enter daily prize drawings, which included items such as board games and coins to use in our book vending machine. This positive reinforcement helped students transition smoothly back into school routines and reinforced a strong, supportive school climate.



Our building also completed district mid-year assessments, and staff is now in the process of using this data to evaluate student progress thus far. We are encouraged by the growth we are seeing from our students across grade levels and are committed to sustaining this momentum through intentional instructional planning and targeted support.

Recent professional development provided valuable time for staff to collaborate on vertical alignment across our three grade levels in our building. These conversations brought clarity and consistency to our daily instructional practices, particularly in writing instruction. Our shared focus is ensuring students leave elementary school prepared to take notes effectively and write a proficient five-paragraph composition, setting them up for success at Irrigon Junior/Senior High School.

As we look ahead, February will be a time to reflect more deeply on our current data and refine the strategies we are using to continue moving students forward. The collective dedication of our staff and the continued growth of our students remain a strong foundation for the months ahead.

Irrigon Jr/Sr High School

IJSHS is in the midst of conducting 1-1 interviews with students regarding their progress in IXL. The students fill out a reflection survey and then meet with either the teacher or the principal to discuss the scores and how IXL is going for them. These visits are completed with the ELA and Math teachers at both the MS and HS level.

Girls Wrestling won the first ever team trophy at the Bank of EO Invitational.

To encourage positivity, Leadership is implementing Monthly Celebrations where they promote days such as Random Acts of Kindness Day where they will be handing out positive statements attached to snack.

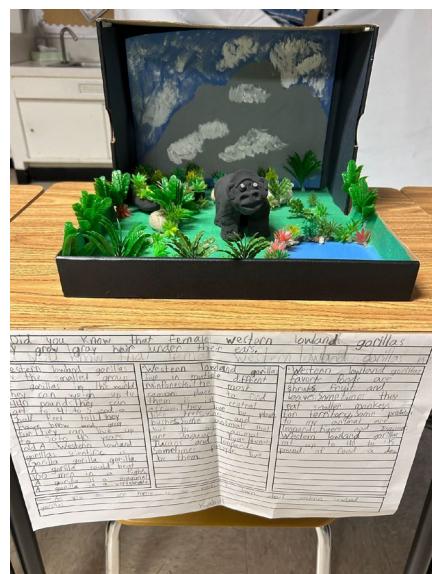
Over half of the student body had a 3.0 or greater and participated in celebrations and received a certificate.

Heppner Elementary School

January flew by, and students and staff are deep into core instruction after the close of the first semester. Elementary leaders have focused professional development on the science of reading and explicit instruction over the past few years, and data from principal walkthroughs shows that teachers at HES are implementing these techniques strongly. The last professional development day focused on building needs, and as a staff we took this opportunity to dig into topics our student data shows we need to strengthen, including alignment of response strategies, math alignment and the structure of math WIN time given the uniqueness of one classroom grade levels. I look forward to seeing this hard work pay off in the classroom, and watching students grow from this experience.

Head of the Herd award winners were honored for the second quarter, which is always a highlight for students, parents, and staff. Head of the Herd winners participated in activities including "No Snow in my Backyard" and "Pictionary Telephone" that had the crowd and participants giggling and cheering. The student council members ran the entire assembly, as is part of their duty, and designed the agenda in previous meetings. Students were honored for traits like hard work, dedication, kindness, growth, and being a helper- all characteristics we try to develop at HES.

In February we will be celebrating Kindness in a variety of ways- "caught being kind" chains will be hung in the foyer, a "buddy bench" will be decorated by the Kindness Committee, and Valentines parties will be held on the 12th. I look forward to a week of fun focused on treating others kindly.



Heppner Jr/Sr High School

1. Staffing and Instruction

- During our January building professional development day, staff participated in QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) suicide prevention training. HJSHS staff completed this training last year through our partnership with CCS, and this session served as a purposeful refresher on recognizing warning signs and responding appropriately to students in need. This work continues to support our ongoing focus on student safety, wellness, and staff preparedness.
- The professional development day was also used to prepare staff for the upcoming Oregon Statewide Assessment System (OSAS) testing window, which begins in April. Training focused on testing expectations, protocols, and procedures to ensure consistency across grade levels and content areas. Early preparation allows staff to remain focused on instruction while minimizing disruptions once testing begins.
- The first semester concluded on January 15th. This year, HJSHS implemented semester Teacher/Parent conferences for the first time during my tenure, held on January 21st. These conferences provided teachers with the opportunity to connect directly with families of students who are struggling academically, discuss

progress, and share resources and strategies to support improvement in the second semester. Attendance was strong, and staff did an excellent job of personally inviting families to ensure meaningful participation.

2. School Culture and Student Engagement

- HJSHS recently held our end-of-quarter awards assembly, recognizing students for positive contributions to the school community. Staff nominated students for the Mustang Student of the Quarter award based on demonstrated perseverance in academics, integrity in behavior, strong character in decision-making, civility in working with others, and leadership in taking on new challenges.
- To celebrate the conclusion of the first semester, ASB officers hosted an end-of-semester movie night for students. This event provided a positive, inclusive opportunity for students to come together and recognize the completion of the first half of the school year. Our ASB officers continue to work intentionally to promote a positive school environment and strengthen overall school culture.
- Winter athletics are in full swing, with basketball and wrestling programs actively competing. District basketball and district wrestling competitions are scheduled to take place in the coming weeks, with advancement to the state level determined by student-athlete performance. Participation and engagement in winter activities remain strong and continue to contribute positively to student connection and school pride.

MCSD Maintenance & Facilities Report – February 2026

Matt, Gabe and Brandi will attend the Bonds, Ballots and Building Conference in Salem as workshop presenters on February 6. We will join Molalla River School District, Cassie Hibert from Wenaha and Jeremy Wright from Wright Public Affairs with a presentation titled *Passing Bonds in Rural Communities: What it Takes to Finish in the Winner's Circle*. We are honored to be speaking and will share strategies and lessons learned in hopes to help other districts be successful. We will be meeting with administrators, head custodians and lead maintenance to begin the budgeting process for the 2026-2027 school year. They will present their needs during our walkthroughs then we will decide which projects to move forward with based on safety, extending useful life and efficiencies/cost savings. We will prioritize projects at buildings that are not receiving upgrades through the bond.

The annual building data collections report to Oregon Department of Education was submitted. The annual right to know hazardous substance report for the State Fire Marshal was submitted. PACE will be evaluating Heppner Elementary and Heppner Jr Sr High to ensure safety and reduce risk for our staff, students and visitors.

Bond Project Update:

The Wenaha, SAJ and the District team have weekly meetings to stay on track.

The next Bond Oversight Committee meeting will be on February 18 at 6:00 in the Heppner Jr Sr High library. 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. The meetings will be facilitated by Wenaha along with Matt, Gabe and Brandi. 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, George Shimer and Karen Pettigrew.

The Design Advisory Committee (DAC) had another great meeting in January reviewing the draft floor plans. SAJ guided our community groups through 25 realistic educational and operational scenarios called stress testing. This exercise allows the group to see perspectives of various building users to find gaps in the design and offer solutions.

The group is tasked with helping to shape the design and vision of the schools and to communicate the work with the staff, community and stakeholders. They will prioritize cost framework, craft the design goals and refine the design to shape the future of our schools.

In early March, SAJ will be conducting virtual educator workshops to engage specific staff on programming needs. The groups include special education/life skills, media center/library, art, business, food service, music, physical education/athletics, science/ag/shop and administration/student services.

Our final combined DAC meeting will be on February 24 at Irrigon Jr Sr High. Up to three board members may attend.

Starting in March, Irrigon's DAC will meet for the next seven months separately. Their March meeting will offer multiple school tours of newly constructed school buildings to gather ideas on what they like or do not like for their new building.

Boardman's DAC will meet from July 2025 – January 2027. Heppner's meetings are September 2026 – March 2027. During those meetings, the DACs will create unique, individual spaces for their buildings.

Irrigon's DAC members are Rose Palmer, Marie Shimer, Addie Cole, Dan Locey, James Durfee, Brenda Shockman, Heidi Horn and daughter Jade and Aaron Palmquist.

Boardman's 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's DAC members are Ryan Gerry, Laura Winters, 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.

Fowler Construction is on board and joined our team! We had a great kick off meeting and are working through the safety and security plans for this summer as they will be the CM/GC for the projects.

Safety and security may include updated camera systems, door access control and secure front entries. The plans for WRE and IES will be submitted for permitting by SAJ. We are reviewing different software programs with the goal of finding systems that will be used in all our facilities that are versatile and long-lasting.

Topographic and utility survey reports have been received and shared with Wenaha and SAJ. Hazardous material survey samples have been collected with three reports to be finalized. Geotech surveys, including boring, seismic and test plots are complete, reports to follow. Our next procurements include third party cost estimator, commissioning authority and building envelope consultant. All surveys and consultants are a vital part of the process to aid the architects, and general contractors know what to expect and provide a checks and balances system which in turn should keep the change orders and unexpected expenses minimal.

Pacific Northwest Communications created a press release highlighting the January DAC meeting which will be shared on all schools' social media and area news outlets. Xenia from IMESD along with Daniel of PACWest have created videos featuring our DAC student leaders and they will be released in January and February. Daniel has updated our bond page.

The District team would like to thank all the volunteer committee members 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.

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

Staff Incident/Accidents Report:

Date	School	Incident
12/10/25	SBE	Sam Boardman, Ed Asst was hit by student having a behavioral escalation.
12/10/25	SBE	Ed Asst was cornered by a student during a behavioral escalation and kicked in the knee.
12/10/25	SBE	Teacher had a chair thrown at her by a student during a behavioral escalation.
12/10/25	SBE	Instructional Coach was slapped by a student during a behavior de-escalation.
12/11/2025	SBE	Ed Asst was slapped, punched and kicked by a student. This was unprovoked and sudden.
12/15/25	RJSHS	Teacher slipped on wet floor and strained ankle and knee.
1/12/25	HES	Ed Asst, student pushed a bookshelf on her and it hit her foot, splitting her toenail. 801 filed and medical attention was sought.
1/14/25	SBE	Substitute kitchen staff spilled boiling water on her hand. 801 form filed and specialty medical attention is ongoing - possible time loss.
1/22/25	IES	Counselor was bit by a student on the back of the arm during a behavioral escalation. 801 form filed, medical attention sought, no time loss.