

Administration Reports

October 2025

Sam Boardman Elementary

The school year is in full swing at Sam Boardman Elementary, and we couldn't be more proud of the progress our Buccaneers are making! From the energy in our classrooms to the smiles in our hallways, it's clear that our students and staff have settled into a strong and positive rhythm.

We have welcomed a few new classified staff members, and they've already become an essential part of our Buccaneer family. Their enthusiasm, flexibility, and care for our students have made a noticeable impact across the school. Whether supporting classrooms, helping during transitions, or lending a hand wherever needed, they've jumped right in to help make our school year smooth and successful.

This fall also brought the completion of our beginning-of-year diagnostic assessments. These assessments play a key role in helping our teachers understand each student's unique learning profile. With this data, teachers are now able to provide more focused and intentional instruction—meeting students exactly where they are and helping them grow in the areas that matter most. It's been inspiring to see how our staff uses this information to shape meaningful learning experiences every day.

We're also excited to share that drop-off and pick-up routines have greatly improved! Thanks to staff members parking in a new location and families following the designated timeframes, our mornings and afternoons are running more smoothly than ever. This teamwork between staff and families has helped create a safer, more efficient process that keeps everyone moving and minimizes stress for students and parents alike.

Now that routines are established and expectations are clear, our school is running with confidence and consistency. Classrooms are alive with curiosity and collaboration, and students are showing tremendous growth both academically and socially. We're seeing stronger peer connections, increased engagement in learning, and a school-wide sense of belonging that truly reflects our Buccaneer spirit.

As we move further into the fall season, we're excited to continue building on this momentum. The dedication of our teachers, the support of our families, and the enthusiasm of our students make Sam Boardman Elementary a special place to learn and grow.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead—full of learning, laughter, and Buccaneer pride! 🚢💙

Windy River Elementary

Instructional Focus and Student Progress

Windy River Elementary successfully completed our i-Ready Diagnostic assessments in just one week, a process that typically takes two to three weeks. This remarkable accomplishment allows us to maximize instructional time, ensuring that we make the most of our 150 precious days of direct instruction. Completing assessments efficiently helps us transition more quickly into meaningful learning and targeted support for students.

In addition to i-Ready, our team conducted extensive reading diagnostics to develop a comprehensive understanding of each student's reading needs. These assessments included:

- i-Ready Reading Diagnostic
- Acadience Benchmark Assessments
- Acadience MAZE Comprehension Assessment
- Waldpool and McKenna Informal Decoding Inventories (Levels 1 & 2)

The depth of these diagnostics enables us to pinpoint the exact areas where students need support. For example, data from our fourth-grade cohort shows that 58 of 95 students require continued development in foundational reading skills (phonics) to strengthen decoding and fluency.

We are currently using this data to target the **specific needs of specific students** in the area of **phonics and foundational reading skills**—and we are already seeing students master these skills! The challenge has been setting up new systems and instructional structures to make these learning gains possible, and our staff has risen to that challenge with dedication and teamwork.

These efforts are in direct alignment with **district-level elementary professional development** focused on the **Science of Reading and Explicit Instruction**. Our teachers are applying these research-based practices in classrooms every day, ensuring that instruction is both systematic and responsive to student needs.

At Windy River Elementary, we are committed to giving every child the advantage they need to read, think, and thrive—and this start to the year reflects that focus in action.

PIRATE NATION NEWSLETTER

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Student Spotlight



Alejandra Corona

Alejandra is a senior this year, she is a active member of RHS athletics and FFA.

UPCOMING EVENTS



VS. Irrigon

10/3/25

Boys/Girls Varsity home game
@1PM Girls- @3PM Boys



VS. Umatilla

10/10/25

Boys/Girls Varsity home game
@5PM Boys- @7PM Girls



VS. Enterprise

10/3/25

Varsity home game @7PM



Athletic Spotlight

Leslie Gonzalez

Leslie isa sophomore and has been playing soccersince she was three years old. At the moment it is her second year playing high school soccer, she plays forward.

Leslie Gonzalez - "My favorite memory from last year is being on AUX in charge of the music for away games. For this year I am looking forward to making some goals."

#1

Christy's Corner

Parking Permit- Needed to be able to park on school property.
School Spirit- Show up to games and events.
Pirate Gear- Wear pirate gear on Thursdays!



Teacher Feature

Mr. Hull

Mr. Hull teaches a variety of business classes such as Intro to Business, Accounting, Marketing, Retail Selling, and a new Business Leadership class.

Mr. Hull is the advisor for the Future Business Leaders Of America here at RHS, which is split up into Jr. High and High School.

—Mr. Hull



"My favorite part of teaching is seeing students put the knowledge they have gained into real business experience."

This Month in Pictures

Seniors doing their first cheer off of the year, And winning!



Homecoming court seniors: Jose Serrano and Jade Arriaga.



Homecoming court seniors: Sergio Avalos and Alejandra Corona.



Homecoming court seniors: Fernando Medina and Abrianna Lomeli.



Riverside Club Corner

FBLA

FBLA is a club that prepares students for careers in business and entrepreneurship through leadership development, educational programs, and competitive events.

The advisor for FBLA is Mr. Hull, and the high school officers include President Abrianna Lomeli, Vice President Adalia Chavez and Reporter Paula Di Mauro.

Upcoming Club Meetings

FBLA – High school 10/9, JR High 10/16 during advisory.

FFA – 10/8 at 7PM in the Ag classroom

NHS – 10/10, in Mrs. Myers Room during advisory.

KEY CLUB – 10/9, in Mrs. Simpson Room during advisory.

Created by Abigail Mendoza

A.C. Houghton Elementary

We are now entering the seventh week of the 2025–2026 school year, and we are pleased to report that the year is off to a strong and positive start here at A.C. Houghton Elementary. The first weeks of school have been productive, as both staff and students have settled into daily routines and classroom expectations.

Our dedicated teachers have been working diligently to establish consistent structures and routines—not only within their classrooms, but also throughout common areas such as hallways, the cafeteria, and during recess. These efforts are essential in creating a safe, supportive, and engaging learning environment for all students.

We have also successfully completed several important beginning-of-year tasks. Student picture day has taken place, and we are looking forward to receiving and distributing the photos later this week. In addition, Advantage Dental recently visited our school to provide screenings and address any immediate dental concerns for our students. We are grateful for their partnership and continued support in promoting student health and well-being.

I am also excited to share that we recently hosted a special visitation here at A.C. Houghton—we had royalty stop by to share with our students' facts and information about the dairy industry. The Dairy Royalty and their coordinators arrived at 8:30am for their first presentations. The schedule was set that they could do their prepared 10-minute presentation in each of the classes in grade levels 3rd, 1st, and 2nd grade, these visits took place during STEAM time. The queen, Cydney Stables came with her supervisor Emma Clark, joining our local princess, Isabel Wedam, right here from Irrigon. These wonderful young ladies shared with our students what their work involves in representing the dairy community throughout the state of Oregon. They brought engaging examples of the vitamins and feed used to keep dairy cows healthy and explained how each contributes to cow care.

Students were excited to participate in several question-and-answer opportunities, such as guessing how many pounds of food (up to 100) or gallons of water (40–50) a dairy cow consumes in a day, and how many gallons of milk (7–10) one cow can produce daily. Both students and teachers eagerly joined in the fun!

We were also intentional about ensuring all students could participate by providing a Spanish translator in as many classrooms as possible. It was a delightful, informative, and interactive presentation—made even more special by the Dairy Royalty's signature tiaras! I overheard several students (and staff!) say, "I want to wear a tiara to school too!" A heartfelt thank-you to the Dairy Royalty and their coordinators for their thoughtful, engaging, and well-organized presentation—it was truly a highlight of the day!



Irrigon Elementary School

Our staff continues to engage in meaningful conversations around our instructional goals and how they come to life in the classroom. These goals have been carefully developed to align with our professional development focus areas and are centered on improving student learning. We are working to ensure that all students experience lessons where they are active participants, where learning targets and success criteria are clearly articulated, and where behavioral expectations are consistently reinforced schoolwide. The staff's collaboration and commitment to these shared goals are evident in the thoughtful planning and intentional instruction happening throughout the building.

Academically, our team has completed the fall administration of the **Acadience Reading Screener**, which provides valuable insights into early literacy skills and helps us identify students who may need additional support. We have also finished our **iReady Diagnostic Assessments**, and we are now beginning to analyze that data to guide instructional decisions and interventions. This information will help us tailor instruction to meet the diverse needs of our students and ensure that every learner is making progress toward grade-level expectations.

Looking ahead, our **6th grade students** are preparing for **Outdoor School next week**, an annual highlight for both students and staff. Last years' experience was exceptional, and we anticipate another memorable trip—though it may be a bit chillier this year! We are grateful for the strong turnout of **parent chaperones and staff** who are joining us to

make this opportunity possible.

In the classroom, our **5th graders** recently conducted a hands-on **Mystery Science** investigation involving live worms, where they explored behavioral patterns and made hypotheses about how the worms would react to different conditions. The excitement and curiosity in the room were wonderful to see!



Our school community continues to thrive through collaboration, curiosity, and care. The dedication of our staff, the engagement of our students, and the support of our families make our school a truly special place to learn and grow.

Irrigon Jr/Sr High School

This past week was HOCO Week. The theme was New York Times. The following events were held for students:

- HeMan Volleyball
- Powder Puff Football
- Royalty and Pep Assemblies
- Halftime with the Tri Cities Corvette Club driving royalty
- HOCO Dance

To encourage participation for dress up days, drawings were held and ten students who dressed up were awarded prizes.

Conferences are coming up October 20 and 22. On the October 22nd the Mariachi Band will perform a mini set at 6 pm. This will be their first performance since adding the class during the 24-25 school year.

One of our building initiatives for the 25-26 school year is writing in complete sentences across all subject areas. Staff will be trained in how to look for simple vs complex sentences using a rubric. The goal is to develop stronger writers 7th-9th grade to decrease the number of students who fail LA 2. In addition, when students are used to writing in complete sentences the essays that come with the Senior Portfolio will likely be easier for them to write.

Heppner Elementary School

After a month of settling into routines and getting to know the new normal for their classrooms, students and teachers are deep into core instruction and working hard to meet the needs of every student. The month ahead is one of tremendous growth; with very little interruption in school days and beginning of the year reviews in the past, October is a time when students can dig into new learning.

After several professional development sessions over the course of three years on explicit instruction, Heppner Elementary staff members are focusing on delivering instruction that is direct, clear, engaging, and targeted to student need. One area that we are focusing on as a staff is finding a variety of ways to engage students through opportunities to respond. Many classrooms already use items like white boards, choral response, hand signals, or individual responses. We are finding new ways to engage students in discussion like increasing structured partner talk. I enjoy walking around the building hearing and seeing students interacting with each other and their learning.

Another focus for HES is student leadership- with the elections for student council completed, I had to work to find new ways to involve students in leadership as there was so much interest and enthusiasm to serve our school. Starting soon, there will be a student Kindness committee focusing on creating a positive school climate for students and

staff, and a Recess Advisory Committee focusing on creating fair and consistent rules to follow for safety and equity at recess. We are also launching a mentorship program; with such a broad age range, we are unique in having a set of older students that can build positive relationships and become role models for younger students in the building. I will report on the implementation of these programs in the next board report for November.



Heppner Jr/Sr High School

1. Staffing & Instruction

- Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)
 - September 19th marked a strong start to the year with the district-wide professional development held at Irrigon High School. The event provided a valuable opportunity for district PLC work while focusing on effective instructional delivery. This approach will continue at HJSHS throughout the year, complemented by building-level professional development opportunities for staff.

2. School Culture & Student Engagement

- Homecoming Week
 - Homecoming was celebrated October 6–10 with a variety of events organized by our ASB officers to engage students and foster school spirit.
- 2025 Booster Club Auction
 - The Booster Club Auction is scheduled for October 11. The Booster Club plays a vital role in supporting school programs, and our students contribute to the event as part of giving back to the community. This event provides an excellent opportunity for students to observe and participate in community engagement firsthand.

3. Academic Focus Areas for 2025–26

- Attendance Matters
 - The school has implemented a proactive approach to attendance by quickly contacting families when issues arise. Early results are positive, with an overall daily attendance rate of 94.20% at the start of the year.
- Career and Technical Education (CTE)
 - Mrs. Dickenson's Agriculture classes recently competed in the regional Soils Contest near Arlington. A total of 24 students participated from HHS and achieved strong results.
- College & Career Readiness
 - On October 1, Mrs. Miller took 14 students to a regional Ford Family Scholarship event in Condon. Students learned about eligibility requirements, the application process, essay strategies, financial aid opportunities, and gained insights from local Ford Scholarship alumni.

MCSD Maintenance & Facilities Report – October 2025

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.

McKinstry has completed the installation of the new boiler system which will go from one cast iron boiler to two energy efficient boilers, this will offer redundancy and cost savings over the lifetime of the unit. We appreciate the cooperation and patience of the staff during the installation. We will be using capital funds for this project.

The Riverside Jr Sr High gym floor is complete and looks amazing! The company has ordered different thresholds for the entries to make them safer for the transitions. They should arrive and be installed by the end of the month. Morrow County Unified Recreation District, Boardman Community Development Association and the Riverside Booster Club are funding the project.



Wenaha and the District team have weekly meetings to stay on track!

The board packet includes our committees architect firm recommendation! The committee appreciated all the proposals and interviewed two firms at the end of September. The committee was impressed with both firms but unanimously agreed on SAJ architects.

Our next task is the finding of fact public meeting on October 27 and releasing the request for proposals for the Construction Manager/General Contractor.

Hazardous Materials, topographic and utility surveys are in progress with reports due in November and December. These surveys help the architects and general contractors with design and build.

The oversight committee is being formed and will have their first meeting in November.

PACWest and InterMountain ESD created and will mail out in mid-October a thank you and tax reminder postcard to all residents in Morrow County. The communications plan which will include monthly communication with the community via website, newspaper and social media posts.

The District team is 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: None

Date	School	Incident
9/8/2025	ACH	Behavior tech was kicked multiple times in the legs by a student while placing them in a medium level restriction.
9/10/2025	IES	Counselor was hit and bit by a student during an aggressive episode.
9/18/2025	HES	Classified substitute tripped while going up the stairs and hit her face, she went to the emergency room but was released back to work.
9/25/2025	ACH	Substitute was bitten by a student while trying to redirect.
9/25/2025	ACH	Life skills assistant was bitten 2 times by student while redirecting.
9/25/2025	ACH	Life skills assistant was bitten by student.