

Administration Reports June 2026

Windy River Elementary

District Pinewood Derby

Windy River Elementary recently hosted the District Pinewood Derby, and what a fantastic event it was! Students, families, and staff from across the district gathered to celebrate creativity, craftsmanship, sportsmanship, and friendly competition.

Congratulations to Irrigon Elementary School (IES) for once again bringing home the District Pinewood Derby Trophy. Final team standings were:

- 1st Place – IES
- 2nd Place – WRE
- 3rd Place – IES
- 4th Place – (HES)

One of the highlights of the event was seeing WRE students enthusiastically cheering for all participants, regardless of school affiliation. The positive atmosphere and support shown by our students truly reflected the character and sportsmanship we strive to develop in our schools.

A special thank you goes to Dr. Shimer for spearheading and organizing this outstanding event. Additional thanks go to Mr. Hansen, Mr. Kerrigan, and Dr. Shimer for serving as judges. It was a memorable afternoon and a great example of district-wide collaboration and student engagement.

5th Grade Field Trip to LIGO

This Friday, our 5th grade students will travel to LIGO Hanford in Richland, Washington. LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory) is one of the world's premier scientific research facilities and provides students with a unique opportunity to explore cutting-edge science and engineering. Students are excited for the experience and eager to learn more about gravitational waves, space, and scientific discovery. Information about the facility can be found at the official LIGO Hanford website. [LIGO Hanford Observatory](#)

Experiences like this help connect classroom learning to real-world applications and inspire curiosity in STEM-related fields.

Spring Concert Success

Our annual Spring Concert was an incredible success and showcased the tremendous talent and hard work of our students and music program.

Two standout performances included the entire school performing "Viva La Vida" together and the always-popular 6th Grade Bucket Drumming performance. Both performances energized the audience and highlighted the dedication of our students and music staff. The concert was a wonderful celebration of the arts and a fitting showcase of student achievement as we near the end of the school year.

Multicultural Night

WRE recently hosted its annual Multicultural Night, and the event was exceptionally well attended by families and community members.

Students researched countries from around the world and created informational tri-fold displays showcasing their learning. Families were invited to tour the displays, creating what truly felt like a journey around the world. The evening provided an excellent opportunity for students to share their learning while celebrating the diversity and global connections that enrich our community.

Thank you to our students, staff, and families for making this event such a success.

Wise Wolf Award Celebration

We recently held another Wise Wolf Award Ceremony, one of my favorite traditions at WRE. These ceremonies provide an opportunity to recognize students who consistently demonstrate the character traits, work habits, and positive behaviors that contribute to a strong school community.

It is always rewarding to celebrate our students and hear the many stories of kindness, perseverance, leadership, responsibility, and academic effort that led to their recognition. Events like these remind us of the outstanding young people we have at Windy River Elementary.

WRE is filled with great kids, and the Wise Wolf Awards provide a wonderful opportunity to recognize and celebrate the positive impact they make in our classrooms and throughout our school every day.

Assessment Update and Looking Ahead

As we wrap up the school year, students are completing OSAS assessments, i-Ready Diagnostics, and Acadience Benchmark assessments. While there are many positive scores and accomplishments to celebrate, I am particularly excited to review our final Acadience Reading data.

Throughout the 2025-26 school year, students and teachers have worked incredibly hard to strengthen foundational literacy skills. Our focus has been helping students learn to read so they can read to learn, and early indicators suggest we have significant growth to celebrate.

I look forward to sharing our final reading achievement data with the Board in the coming weeks. The commitment shown by our students, teachers, intervention staff, and families has been outstanding, and I am eager to highlight the progress our students have made.

Some Photos -





Riverside Jr/Sr High School

As we wrap up another successful school year, I want to recognize the hard work and dedication of our students and staff. I am proud to report that all seniors have met the requirements for graduation this year. This accomplishment reflects the perseverance of our students and the support provided by our teachers, counselors, and families throughout their high school journey.

We also had an outstanding showing at the state track meet with four student-athletes qualifying to compete. Ethan Beatty finished 8th in the 800 meter race, Osmin Barrera earned 8th place in the 110m hurdles, Seth Hammond placed 5th in the triple jump, and Kaylee Christy finished 3rd in the javelin. We are proud of these students for representing Riverside so well at the state level.

As the school year comes to a close, we are preparing to celebrate many student accomplishments. Next week we will recognize students who successfully passed their state assessments, as well as honor our Students of the Year. These celebrations are an important way to acknowledge the hard work, growth, and achievements of our students throughout the year.

Thank you to our staff, students, families, and community for your continued support of Riverside Jr./Sr. High School.

A.C. Houghton Elementary

As we approach the final six school days of the 2025–2026 school year, it feels somewhat surreal to be nearing the finish line. Since spring break, time seems to have moved at hyper-speed, and it is hard to believe another successful year is ending.

This time of year, provides an opportunity to reflect on the many accomplishments, growth experiences, and memorable moments that have shaped our school community. To capture some of those highlights, I asked our classroom teachers and specialists to share what they were most excited about from the 2025–2026 school year. Their responses reflect the dedication of our staff, the achievements of our students, and the positive learning experiences that made this year so meaningful.

Teacher and Specialist Highlights:

Kindergarten--Mrs. Homer & Ms. Gormley: The kindergarten class for the year 2026 made a lot of growth in many areas. Our kindergarteners went from not knowing how to write a word to writing fantastic sentences with great detail. Our students also make great progress on their iReady diagnostics. We are very proud of our students!

1st Grade- Mrs. Dames & Mrs. Sturgeon: This year, first grade at ACH was buzzing with curiosity, excitement, and most of all, learning! We are so proud of the growth that our students have experienced this year, and they are ready for whatever comes their way. We went all over the world with our reading studies this year and even made our way to space! Students read, engaged in listening skills, persevered through problems, collaborated, and mastered foundational skills that will set them up for success in the years to come.

2nd Grade-Mrs. Bork, Ms. Meyer, Mrs. Pullen- Second grade had many exciting highlights this year! We enjoyed a valuable field trip to the Sage Center, Boardman Foods and the Irrigon Fish Hatchery. The students were able to experience hands-on activities and learn many things about agriculture in our community. They wrote about their experiences after, and it was apparent that they were engaged and enthusiastic about all of the things they learned. Students matured and grew in so many ways this school year, we appreciated how inquisitive this group is. Our students learned how to be better students, better classmates, better communicators, better writers and watching them has given us all great pride.

3rd Grade – Mrs. Arnold, Ms. Standifer & Mr. Yzaguirre: Things went very well this year with our pacing with the curriculum. We finished the iReady Math curriculum and made it further in Amplify than we ever have. The students were eager learners and showed a great deal of interest and excitement in the content of third grade. Our trip to the SAGE center for Think Big Space and a Willy Wonka play were definitely the highlights of our students' year. All in all, things went quite well and we are ready to gear down and prepare for next year. Also, the students enjoyed having a new music teacher and the concerts she put on were incredible!

ELL – Mrs. Pope: We had a great year in ELL, and I feel it was quite successful. We continue to use the Vista Connect curriculum, with a few other learning materials and strategies added to further engage the students in learning. All students work through the four ELPA domains of Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking, and a full 20% of the students tested at ACH did graduate from the program this year. The kiddos enjoy the classes, work hard, and quite a few also joined the Star Readers Program (additional reading/writing homework) which contributed to higher ELA scores on iReady reading for most of the students who participated.

SPED Resource- Mrs. Borms: The biggest highlight for the Resource room was the growth made by the students this year. Growth from students with disabilities looks different, but they can be and were successful in making progress toward their goals. As a new teacher at ACH it was great building relationships with students and watching their excitement grow about their learning, and their academic and social successes as well.

Lastly, I have included a couple of pictures of recent celebrations.... our Crystal Apple Winner at ACH, Mrs. Jennifer Pope. Also pictured below are our 1st grade students during our very successful Spring concert---the first one in many years. **Thank you so much for the continued support throughout the school year to our very dedicated MCSD School Board members!**



Irrigon Elementary School

May has been a month of accomplishment and reflection as students and staff worked through the final stages of the school year. We successfully completed state assessments, district assessments, and our Acadience reading fluency assessments. Throughout the year, our teachers and students have remained focused on goals that continue to move our building forward. It has been rewarding to see the growth our students have made and the commitment our staff have shown in supporting their success.

Our 5th grade students had the opportunity to participate in several engaging activities through a visit from STARBASE Rees out of Hermiston. Their extension program is thoughtfully designed to connect with 5th-grade state and national standards while providing hands-on experiences that spark curiosity and problem-solving. Students explored robotics activities, conducted liquid density testing, and participated in discussions that encouraged critical thinking. One of the things I appreciate most about STARBASE Rees is their belief that every student deserves the opportunity to explore the exciting world of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art/Design, and Math (STEAM). Their programs help students discover new interests while building skills that will serve them well in the future.

Another highlight this month was our spring music concert. Mr. Azurin, along with a dedicated team of IES staff members, created a memorable evening for students, families, and community members. Each grade level had the opportunity to showcase their musical abilities while also gaining valuable performance experience. From creative props to a glow-in-the-dark theme, the evening was full of energy, excitement, and plenty of smiles. It was clear how much work and preparation went into making the event special for our students and their families.

We were also proud to celebrate two outstanding members of our IES family at the Chamber of Commerce Annual Citizens Dinner. Cynthia Hodgdon was recognized as Educator of the Year, and Rubi Campos was honored as Volunteer of the Year. Both individuals consistently put students and families first and embody what it means to serve others. Their dedication, compassion, and willingness to go above and beyond make a positive difference in our school community every day.

As we enter the final two weeks of school, we are excited for the many activities planned to celebrate a successful year. Our 6th grade students are wrapping up their Titanic unit with several culminating activities connected to their ELA studies. Meanwhile, our 4th grade students have been hard at work constructing paper mâché volcanoes and are eagerly anticipating the opportunity to test them next week. They are also finishing the year strong in mathematics through a performance task that requires them to analyze data, identify trends, and explain their thinking in writing. The fact that the task revolves around donuts has certainly helped maintain enthusiasm and interest.

As always, I am grateful for the dedication of our staff, the support of our families, and the hard work of our students. We are looking forward to finishing the 2025-26 school year strong and celebrating all that our students have accomplished.

Irrigon Elementary Photos



Irrigon High School

IJSHS will graduate 59 Seniors. This is every Senior currently enrolled at IJSHS. We want to thank everyone in the district who helped the Seniors reach the finish line.

Over Memorial Day Weekend, Knights baseball played in the first round of playoffs. Unfortunately, they did not proceed beyond this round.

Brody Parrish qualified for state track in the long jump and 110 m hurdles. He placed second in state in the hurdles.

Tennis sent one doubles team, Claire Mueller and Samantha Yates, and a single, Catalina Valencia, to state.

NHS inducted five new members and FFA added 11 new members.

Heppner Elementary

The sun is out, baseball and softball are winding down, and students are excited for the end of year activities. May was full of testing (OSAS, Acadience, and iReady), another smash-hit concert by Mrs. Baker, and long nights at the ball fields for our students, staff, and community members.

Testing can bring stress, anxiety, and tired brains. Our teachers put a lot of effort into goal setting, creating fun incentives, working on a growth mindset, and celebrating growth of any kind. We are seeing a wonderful improvement in our students learning using a variety of measures and assessments. I look forward to an in depth conversation with my teachers at the end of the year, looking at systems we can implement to best support student learning.

5th grade students participated in the Pinewood Derby Race, both at HES and at WRE for a district wide competition. Students enjoyed working on their cars during library with Mrs. Lamb, and the top 3 cars went to WRE where Jaylee Schlaich took 4th place! The event was fun, and we look forward to hosting the event in 2027.

I look forward to an eventful end of the year, full of outdoor activities, community, assemblies, and school events that make HES a special place to be.



Heppner Jr/Sr High School

As we near the conclusion of the 2025-26 school year, our focus has shifted toward both successfully closing out the current year and preparing for a strong start to 2026-27.

1. A major accomplishment this month was finalizing the master schedule for next school year. We have also begun the process of front-loading student schedules, allowing us to identify and address potential scheduling conflicts early and better meet student academic needs.
2. Several transition activities have taken place to support students moving into new grade-level experiences. Our annual 7th Grade Bring-Up Day provided incoming seventh graders with the opportunity to visit Heppner Jr./Sr. High School, follow a modified schedule, and meet their future teachers. We also hosted Freshman Orientation for current eighth-grade students who will be entering high school next year. These activities help ease student transitions and build familiarity with expectations and opportunities at the next level.
3. On June 1, we held our annual Night of Excellence at the Gilliam & Bisbee Building. This year's event was a tremendous success and provided an opportunity to recognize the many academic, athletic, and extracurricular accomplishments of our students throughout the school year. The venue change allowed for a comfortable and celebratory atmosphere as we honored student achievement.
4. As the school year comes to a close, staff are focused on year-end activities, final assessments, graduation preparations, and reflection on the year's successes. At the same time, we have already begun planning for the 2026-27 school year, with attention directed toward scheduling, staffing, student support systems, and continued opportunities for student growth and achievement.

MCS D Maintenance & Facilities Report – June 2026

The end of the school year is fast approaching, and summer break is a few days away. Summer is filled with annual inspections, deep cleaning and projects to get our buildings ready for staff and students for the 2027-2028 school year! We focused budgeted funds on equipment and necessary projects with a focus on the buildings that are not receiving bond upgrades. Here are a few items that have been approved:

- Proper light switches, plumbing shut off valves and restroom flooring at ACH
- Exterior and interior lighting at SBE
- Cleaning equipment at ACH, IJSH, SBE and RJSH
- Maintenance shed at WRE

The State of Oregon added a new mandate called Oregon Buildings Performance Standards which requires schools to report energy usage during a five-year period for buildings over 30,000 square feet. The deadline to submit is July 2028 and we are working with McKinstry to ensure compliance. We have applied for a grant through Oregon Department of Energy to help offset the cost and will know in late July if funds will be received.

Bond Project Update:

Irrigon Jr Sr High Project:

The Irrigon Community Engagement Event was held on May 20 hosted by SAJ Architecture. They had a wonderful presentation highlighting the work of the DAC, preliminary exterior and interior design plans with an opportunity for verbal and written comments. The DAC will continue to meet each month through September. 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.

Fowler Construction and MACC Estimating Group have each provided cost estimations on the Irrigon draft plans and both analyses are coming in under budget. These rough estimations give SAJ guidelines as we continue through the design process.

Riverside Jr Sr High Project:

Bouten Construction has been selected as our CM/GC for the Riverside Jr Sr High major renovation project. Our kickoff meeting was great with collaborative work already started.

MACC Estimating Group provided a cost estimate based on SAJ's preliminary design which is under budget. Bouten will provide a cost estimate as well.

Boardman's DAC will meet from July 2025 – January 2027 with school tours tentatively planned for June 8. The 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:

The CM/GC request for proposal (RFP) for Heppner's K-12 project has been issued and a recommendation by the committee will be made to the school board at the August meeting.

Heppner's DAC meetings are September 2026 – March 2027. The 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.

District Wide:

Fowler Construction has submitted their construction schedule for Irrigon Elementary and Windy River Elementary's safety and security upgrades for this summer.

IES: June 15 – July 17

WRE: June 25 – July 29

SBE, MEC and ACH's upgrades along with the SBE bus loop and parking project will begin in June 2027. The preliminary design and engineering work will start this summer.

The District has selected the software program and vendor for the security cameras and access control systems. All schools will receive the software program, access controls and new cameras as needed. The system is versatile and provides a 10-year warranty. Our next step is to select the bells and paging systems.

SAJ is creating MCSD Educational Specifications which are a guide for facility design, to ensure consistency and equity across the District, to support planning and budgeting, and to engage stakeholders with an eye towards the future. Staff from Riverside and Heppner were given an opportunity to review the educational specifications and provide feedback via a shared google document while the Irrigon staff had the opportunity during the 3-day design studio. SAJ and our team appreciate those that took the time to offer their opinions.

We received two proposals for the commissioning agent and once under contract, we will announce them. All surveys and consultants are a vital part of the process to aid the architects and general contractors to know what to expect and provide a checks and balances system which in turn should keep the change orders and unexpected expenses minimal.

The Bond Oversight Committee met on May 19 at Riverside. Scott from Wenaha, presented an update on the progress, budget and answered questions. The next meeting has been scheduled for August 11 at Irrigon Jr Sr High School. 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 are 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.

Pacific Northwest Communications is continuing to create press releases, social media content and update the website. As draft floor plans are ready for release, we plan on presenting to our schools, community organizations and members to share the hard work from our DACs and the SAJ Architects.

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 |

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