

Administration Reports

September 2026

Sam Boardman Elementary

Students have happily returned to the halls of Sam Boardman Elementary, bringing their energy, excitement, and joy back into our building. We truly missed our Buccaneers over the summer and are looking forward to another great year of learning, growth, and connection.

We began the year with a very well-attended Open House. Families had the opportunity to meet teachers, visit classrooms, ask questions, establish transportation plans, and help their children feel prepared for the first day of school. It was wonderful to reconnect with returning families and welcome those who are new to SBE. This strong turnout reflects the value our families place on being involved in their children's education.

Improving student attendance continues to be an important priority for our school. This year, we have strengthened our systems for monitoring attendance, identifying concerns early, communicating with families, and providing individualized support when needed. Our goal is to approach attendance as a partnership with families. We want every family to know that we care about their child, we miss them when they are absent, and every day at school matters. We look forward to seeing how these systems benefit our students and families throughout the year.

To help students learn schoolwide routines and expectations, we kicked off the year with our first **Buccaneer Boot Camp**. Students rotated through stations focused on expectations for the cafeteria, hallways and dismissal, playground, bathrooms, and drinking fountains. It was truly "all hands on deck," with staff members working together to explicitly teach, model, and practice the routines that keep our school safe, positive, and ready for learning.

Our educational assistants took the lead in planning and facilitating this project. Their organization, creativity, and leadership helped make Buccaneer Boot Camp an engaging and successful experience for students. We are grateful for the many ways our educational assistants support students and contribute to the success of our school each day.

Finally, SBE is participating **iReady2Party** for the first time! During this event, students focus on completing their fall i-Ready diagnostic and showing what they know. The remainder of each day is filled with fun and engaging activities, including Super PE, art, STEAM activities, read-alouds, and movement breaks. This approach helps create a positive testing environment while encouraging students to give their best effort. Diagnostic results will provide teachers with valuable information to guide instruction, form student groups, set goals, and plan support for the months ahead.

We are excited about the year ahead and proud of the strong start made possible by our students, staff, families, and community.

Windy River Elementary

A Great Start to the 2026–27 School Year!

We are excited to get the 2026–27 school year underway at Windy River Elementary! There is a great energy in our building, and I am very encouraged by the start we are seeing from both our students and staff.

1. iReady to Party Week begins tomorrow! 🎉 Our students are excited and ready to show what they know.

Beginning Wednesday, students will take their Fall i-Ready Diagnostic in both Reading and Math. This assessment is an important starting point for our instructional work this year. The results will help us identify student strengths and needs, set goals, and determine the skills students are ready to learn next.

We have spent time preparing students to understand that this is not simply a test—it is an opportunity to **show their growth, demonstrate their effort, and help us plan their learning for the year.**

We are encouraging students to be at school, on time, rested, focused, and ready to give their best effort. The excitement around our “iReady to Party” theme has been wonderful to see!

2. Welcoming New Teachers

We were fortunate to welcome **four new classroom teachers** to WRE this year—two new 5th grade teachers and two new 6th grade teachers.

I am very happy to report that all four have settled into WRE extremely well. They are building relationships with students, working collaboratively with their grade-level teams, and doing a great job getting their classrooms and instruction established.

We are very pleased with the addition of these teachers to our staff, and I appreciate the work they have already put into making WRE a great place for students.

3. Continuing Our Focus on Reading 📖

Reading continues to be one of our primary instructional priorities this year. We are building on the work we began last year and continuing several important initiatives:

- **Phonics for Reading** — providing targeted, explicit phonics instruction for students who need additional support.
- **Accelerated Reader** — encouraging students to read regularly and develop both reading volume and comprehension.
- **Read-Aloud Period** — continuing to intentionally build time into the school day for students to hear quality literature and develop a love of reading.

Most importantly, **we are seeing progress**. Our students are reading better this year than they were at this point last year. We are seeing students engage more confidently with text, and we are seeing the impact of consistent reading instruction and practice. We know there is still a tremendous amount of work to do, but the early signs are encouraging. **Progress is happening, but we are going to keep pushing.**

4. Excited for a New Year!

There is a great feeling at WRE as we begin this school year.

We have **great staff and even better kids!**

Our focus this year is simple: continue building strong relationships, provide excellent instruction, expect effort from every student, and help every child make meaningful academic growth.

We are excited about where WRE is headed, and I am looking forward to a fantastic school year!

Go Wolves!

Riverside Jr/Sr High School

We had an **excellent start to the school year** at Riverside Jr/Sr High School! It has been exciting to welcome our students back and see them engaged in classrooms, participating in athletics, and getting involved in clubs and activities.

One of our major focuses this year is **increasing our regular attendance percentage**. We will be working toward this goal through our attendance team, student incentives, and increased communication and meetings with parents and families.

We are excited about the year ahead and look forward to continuing to build a positive, engaging school environment where our students can be successful. **It's going to be a great year at Riverside!**

John Christy

A.C. Houghton Elementary

Welcome to the 2026-2027 new school year at A.C. Houghton Elementary. We are excited to begin another year of learning and growth at ACH! As we welcome students and families back, our staff remains focused on providing every child with the targeted instruction and support needed to become a successful student, with extra emphasis this year on students becoming confident readers as this impacts all subjects and aspects of a student's school career.

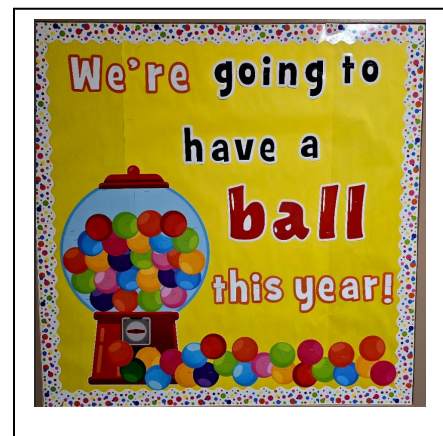
First, I would like to welcome new staff, or welcome staff to new roles here at ACH:

- **BeAnn Smith** is our new LifeSkills teacher; she comes to us with teaching experience from SBE, and many years of experience in SPED from other districts.
- **Abby Fitzgerald** comes to a 1st grade position with years of experience at ACH already, but formerly as a PreK ed assistant. It's great to have her in this new role!
- Added to our kindergarten team, coming from Little Bobcats, is **Hannah Weatherby**.
- Moving from 3rd grade to our Little Bobcats program is **Jessica Standifer**.
- **Rubi Campos**, returning to ACH (shared with IES) to support as our CARE Coordinator.
- A familiar face in MCSD as a substitute, but now as a hire here at ACH, **Jessamyn Corpus** is in our LifeSkills classroom as an educational assistant.
- We have also added a general educational assistant, **Brionna Baker**, newly hired to support teachers and students.
- **Krystal Carroll** moved from LifeSkills EA into a Behavior Technician position.
- **Kaylee Elliott** is now supporting our Little Bobcats PreK as an educational Assistant.

This school year we are focused on and determined to strengthen ACH's instructional structures by building upon the systems established over the past several years. Our daily 30-minute WIN—"What I Need"—block remains an essential part of our reading program, providing targeted instruction based on students' individual needs. To address barriers related to demographics, attendance, and language development, WIN continues to evolve into a highly structured, layered intervention system.

Along with strong CORE instruction, the district has invested in research-based programs such as ECRI and *Phonics for Reading*. Professional development has prepared teachers and educational assistants to deliver these programs effectively, expanding our instructional support for students.

This year, staff schedules have been aligned to "flood" ELA blocks, reducing student-to-adult ratios and increasing focused group instruction. Instructional coaches are also embedded in schedule to support students and help staff adjust instruction progress. Together, these layers allow us to maximize our and help every student reach their greatest reading potential. closely monitor student growth and make adjustments to sure our students' needs are being met! THANK YOU to the hardworking staff that works each, and every, day to ensure success. Just like the bulletin board states when entering our although it's hard work, it's rewarding work ... we plan to have doing it!



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Irrigon Elementary School

Opening & Building Culture: A Celebratory Start

We are off to a fantastic start this school year! The hallways are once again full of energy, smiles, and the enthusiastic chatter of our students and staff. Our team worked tirelessly over the summer to ensure that our school environment is welcoming, safe, and ready to foster meaningful learning from day one. Seeing our students settle into their daily routines with confidence has set a wonderfully positive tone for the months ahead.



Family & Community Engagement: Strengthening Our Partnerships

We firmly believe that student success is a shared responsibility between home and school. We were thrilled by the turnout at our annual Open House, where so many families came to connect with teachers, explore classrooms, and celebrate the launch of the new year.

To build on that momentum, our wonderful Parent Club hosted a "Coffee and Donuts Tailgater" on the morning of the first day of school. It was a joyful event that provided parents with a warm welcome and an easy opportunity to learn more about getting involved in our school community. We are deeply grateful for our Parent Club's partnership and dedication to making every family feel included and supported.

This week our first class went to the Sage Center Think Big Space, for their week-long immersion into the sciences. This partnership with Think Big Space is a great program with in-depth, hands-on instruction and experimentation for our students.



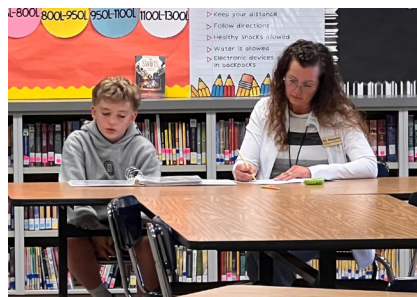
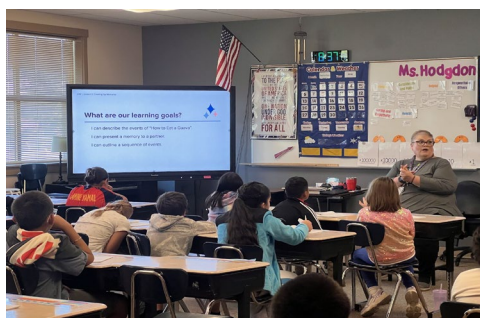
Student Learning & Academic Focus: Data-Driven Instruction

A large part of our focus this academic year is continuing to drive student achievement, with a targeted emphasis on reading proficiency. We are committed to using intentional instructional practices tailored directly to individual student needs so that every child makes meaningful growth.

To establish our baseline data and guide our instruction:

- **Acadience Reading Assessment:** This week, our staff is gathering initial reading fluency data to help us identify strengths and target areas where students need additional support.

- **i-Ready Diagnostic:** Next week, we will begin our fall i-Ready diagnostic assessments. To keep students engaged, relaxed, and motivated to try their best, we are framing this testing window around an **"iReady to Party!"** theme, blending high standards with a fun, supportive atmosphere.



Attendance & Student Engagement: Encouraging Every Day Success

We know that consistent attendance is one of the single greatest factors in student learning and building a strong sense of community. This year, we are placing a refreshed emphasis on improving attendance through positive reinforcement.

Rather than focusing solely on absence, we are celebrating presence! Students will be recognized weekly for consistent and improved attendance, culminating in special celebrations at our quarterly assemblies. Our goal is to make every student feel that their presence matters and is celebrated every single day.

Looking Ahead

Thank you for your continued leadership, support, and advocacy for our school community. With strong instructional systems, dedicated staff, engaged families, and enthusiastic students, we are well-positioned for an exceptional school year ahead.

Irrigon Jr/Sr High School

IJSHS kicked the year off with Open House and 7th grade orientation. At orientation families of 7th grade students are invited to get their schedules and be led around the school by 9th grade students who the 7th grade students will interact with throughout the school year. Parents and students can ask questions at each stop on the tour as well as see where their student's classes will be. The orientation ends with hot dogs, chips, cookies and drinks in the cafeteria where families are encouraged to ask questions or get more information about 7th grade and IJSHS.

Homecoming week is just around the corner September 21-26. New this year will be the crowning of King and Queen between the boys and girls soccer games on Friday, September 25.

Heppner Elementary School and Heppner Jr/Sr High School

We are off to a strong start to the 2026–27 school year. As of this report, enrollment stands at 172 students at Heppner Jr/Sr High School and 200 students at Heppner Elementary School, for a combined K–12 enrollment of 372 students. Staff and students have returned with good energy, and the opening days have gone smoothly.

This year marks a new chapter as I begin serving as Principal of both Heppner Elementary School and Heppner Jr/Sr High School. Our focus is captured in one message: Two buildings. One community. One commitment to our kids. While our students learn in two separate buildings, we share a common responsibility to provide them with the best educational opportunities possible.

2. Staffing & Instruction

We are excited to welcome several new staff members to our Heppner K–12 team:

- Karen Shelton, K–12 Vice Principal
- Bryce Fowler, CTE Teacher, HJSHS
- Ellie Accord, 2nd Grade Teacher, HES

- Dominique Hunter, 5th Grade Teacher, HES
- Annette Backous, Assistant Custodian, HES
- Tracie Diehl, Assistant Custodian, HES
- Tara Proudfoot, Educational Assistant, HJSHS

Our staff began the year with a focus on instructional expectations, building positive relationships, and creating learning environments where students can be successful. We continue to emphasize strong instruction, consistent expectations, and collaboration across grade levels and buildings. At HJSHS, we will continue our work around proficiency-based grading and instructional alignment. Across K–12, our goal is to strengthen communication and consistency while recognizing the unique needs of elementary and secondary students.

3. School Culture & Student Engagement

A major priority this year is building a shared K–12 identity through our message, Two buildings. One community. One commitment to our kids. We want students, staff, and families to recognize that although we have two buildings, we are one Heppner school community.

An important part of that work is establishing common language around our R.I.D.E. values:

- Respect: Treating others and ourselves with dignity and understanding.
- Integrity: Doing what is right, even when no one is watching.
- Discipline: Staying focused, persistent, and committed to our goals.
- Excellence: Striving to be our best in the classroom, in activities, and throughout our community.

These values will serve as a common foundation for expectations across K–12, with language and practices that are developmentally appropriate for each grade level. Our goal is for students to understand what R.I.D.E. looks like from their first years at HES through graduation at HJSHS. We will also continue to promote student leadership, school spirit, extracurricular activities, and opportunities that help students build connections and develop a sense of belonging.

4. Academic Focus Areas for 2026–27

- Attendance Matters: Improving regular attendance through consistent expectations, family communication, and support for students who are struggling to attend school regularly.
- Instructional Alignment: Strengthening collaboration across K–12 to support student learning, clear expectations, and consistent instructional practices.
- Career and Technical Education (CTE): Continuing to grow meaningful opportunities for students to explore agriculture, business, technical skills, and career pathways.
- College & Career Readiness: Preparing students for their next steps, whether that includes college, the workforce, military service, a trade, or another pathway.
- Behavioral Expectations: Establishing common R.I.D.E. language and reinforcing positive behavior, accountability, and consistent expectations across both buildings.

5. Looking Ahead

Our goal is to build on a strong start while continuing to bring our K–12 schools together as one community. We will focus on high-quality instruction, meaningful student engagement, improved attendance, and opportunities that prepare students for success at every stage of their education. I am excited about the year ahead and grateful for the opportunity to work alongside our students, staff, families, and community. Together, we will continue to build on the strong traditions of Heppner while looking forward to what we can accomplish for our kids.

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

MCSD Maintenance & Facilities Report – September 2026

We received two ODOE grants for a total of \$20,000 to offset the cost of the Oregon Buildings Performance Standards application and assessment. As reported last month, the mandate requires schools to report energy usage during a five-year period for buildings over 30,000 square feet. The assessment showed four of the seven buildings were over the target energy use – Riverside, Heppner Jr Sr, Windy River and Irrigon Elementary. The State does not require schools to comply, but the information allows us to analysis the data further and make proactive changes if desired. We may investigate IES and WRE, but the data will change significantly after the renovations at RJSH and HJSH.

We will receive \$44,584 from ODE to cover the cost of the lead in water testing that was performed earlier this year as part of our six-year testing cycle. All fixtures throughout the district were tested, remediated or permanently removed, results were shared with staff and parents and are viewable on our website.

Included in your board packet is the annual Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan and statement in both English and Spanish. These documents are required by the State of Oregon and will be posted on the district website after approval by the board.

Bond Project Update:

At our district in-service, SAJ Architecture presented an overview of the design process to the staff, had displays of the preliminary design plans, listened to feedback and answered questions. Scott Rogers and Hayden Gardner from the Wenaha Group attended and supported the design team.

Irrigon Jr Sr High Project:

The District, Wenaha, SAJ Architecture and Fowler Construction reviewed the value engineering log to aid in fine tuning the design plans. We have Owner Architect Contractor (OAC) meetings every two weeks to discuss design decisions, permitting, early site work package possibilities, budget and scheduling. Further Geotech surveying is being performed to ensure safety of the CTE building and current building which will include shoring prior to excavation and site work for new construction.

SAJ, Wenaha and the District will present and answer questions about the design plans to the planning commission on October 1.

Community and staff design feedback have wrapped up after SAJ's visit with staff during in-service week along with follow-up meetings with maintenance and food service. The DAC had their final meeting on September 9 which included design decisions on exterior and interior finishes. SAJ expresses their sincere thank you to everyone that provided feedback over the past several months. We are building a beautiful, functional, safe space where our students, staff and community can grow together. 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.

Riverside Jr Sr High Project:

SAJ, Bouten, Wenaha and the District continue working together on design and constructability including further investigation into hazardous material and Geotech surveys. 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.

During the service week, the Riverside staff had an opportunity to review the design plans during the In-Studio Design workshops with SAJ. This three-day exercise allowed staff to see and help create their space using SAJ's patent pending, Modular Planning Kit for their specific spaces. Many great discussions and ideas were captured, and the staff's time and input were greatly appreciated by SAJ. Design continued that week during the DAC meeting, we reviewed the media center, commons/café and athletic entry space discussing how these spaces are used by the community and ways to best utilize the spaces through design. 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:

We officially welcome Fowler Construction to our Heppner K-12 team! During the week of the in-service, we had a kickoff meeting with SAJ, Wenaha and Fowler where we dove right into initial thoughts on the site, preliminary design plans and constructability.

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.

SAJ met with the Heppner K-12 staff to review the preliminary design plans, timeline and answer questions. Heppner's next DAC in October will be a school tour. 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 made progress on the security vestibules at IES and WRE with the installation of the new doors and transaction window. The new store front should be arriving and installed within this month. Alpine has installed all the new cameras and is now troubleshooting and adjusting them. Administration will receive training on the system this month. Our next step is to select the bells and paging 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 will meet with SBE and ACH administration 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 met on August 11 at Irrigon Jr Sr High 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

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
5/27/26	ACH	Employee bit by student while trying to de-escalate behavior.
6/2/2026	HES	Employee tripped on sidewalk, fell and hit chin and elbow on concrete.
6/9/2026	RHS	Employee had chair rack roll over his foot. Medical attention sought, no time loss
7/23/2026	ACH	Employee had fingers smashed while working on fence. Medical attention sought, no time loss.