



SCHOOL DISTRICT

Selah School District's

# Education Report

An education update for the Selah community

316 West Naches Avenue, 98942; 509-698-8000

Fall 2023

## Selah Learners Have Been Hard at Work!



Selah students have been working this fall as the District continues to cultivate a culture of lifelong learning for all! Participating in equitable and quality learning experiences, our students are acquiring the skills needed for future college and career opportunities.

### Taking A Sneak Peek at the News Inside

**A Message from the Superintendent**  
Page 2

It's hard to believe we are over a third of a way through another school year. As 2023 draws to a close, Superintendent, Kevin McKay, shares his thoughts from the fall. See his message on page 2.

**The Bus Stops Here! A Co-op Facility Update**  
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Selah's fleet of school buses now have a new stop as the District has relocated to its new cooperative transportation facility. Please read the latest on this project. See page 4.

**Supporting our Selah Families!**  
Page 5

Through its focus on the Viking Promise and the commitment to supporting its students and families, the Selah School District works to shape future generations. Please read page 5.

*Cultivating a Culture of Life-Long Learning for All!*

# A Message from the Superintendent...



by: Superintendent, Kevin McKay

**H**appy holidays to our Selah School District families and the community! It is hard to believe that 2023 is about to come to an end. The day-to-day excitement of visiting schools, seeing the enthusiasm of teaching and learning, and watching students and staff interact make the school year go by quickly.

Throughout the fall, we maintained our focus on the *Viking Promise*. Established in 2019, the *Viking Promise* is the District's priorities that guides the work of all who play a part in educating students in the District.

The start of the 2023-24 school year brought with it an additional focus on school safety and security. Students, parents, community members and staff worked together

to ensure schools are safe and secure. Also, we continue to emphasize the importance of our students being *Future Ready*, meaning they have the skills necessary to pursue their career pathway, whatever that may be. Evidence of this is the expansion of Career and Technical Education courses at the middle and high schools. Further, in order to support our students' social, emotional and health needs, we expanded our nursing, family support and campus engagement staff, employed mental health professionals, and added staff to support student behavior.

Additionally, in November, the District held an open house and conducted tours to celebrate the completion of its new co-op transportation facility. This project was made possible by a cooperative agreement with the Union Gap School District, State Match funds, and unused funds from the 2018 bond measure. The modernized facility will benefit the District for years to come as expanded space and equipment used for today's current maintenance needs will enable personnel to work more efficiently in servicing its bus and motor vehicle fleet. Thank you for supporting our facility improvement efforts.

Although public schools are faced with numerous challenges and declining public support, I could not be prouder of the accomplishments our students have made, the commitment of our employees and the incredible support of parents and the entire Selah community. We are all very fortunate to be Vikings!

Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

## Join Us for Community Collaboration!

Again this school year, the District is continuing its Community Collaboration events for parents and patrons which highlight a specific topic of interest each month. We would like to invite you to attend! Collaboration event information will be posted each month on our District website, Facebook, Instagram, and ParentSquare platforms as locations and times may vary. The next Community Collaboration is on **Wednesday, January 10**, with the topic of *Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying*.

Selah School District  
Join Us For  
Community Collaboration  
Wednesday, January 10  
HIB  
Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying  
@ District Board Room/5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Selah School District Facilities Committee  
**Meeting**  
Long Range Facilities Committee  
Wednesday, January 17  
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
@ Selah High School  
Join Us If You are Interested in Participating in the  
Development of a New Long Range Facilities Plan for the District  
Call 509-698-8001 With Questions

Happy Holidays

As we enjoy the last days of 2023, the Selah School District would like to wish families and patrons a happy holiday season! Thank you for your support of our schools and for trusting in our commitment of young people!

In keeping Selah patrons informed, there are some upcoming District Office holiday closures. On **Monday, December 25 - Monday, January 1**, the District Office will be closed for business. The office will reopen for business on Tuesday, January 2.

**Winter Break; December 20 - January 2—NO SCHOOL  
Classes Resume January 3**

# Selah School Board News and Notes...

## Thank You, Jeff Hartwick!

**T**aking the gavel one last time on the morning of November 22, Selah School District Board President, Jeff Hartwick, presided over his final meeting.

Hartwick served the District as a board member since 2012. In addition to his board roles as a member and President, Hartwick also served as Vice-President.

During his Board tenure, Hartwick was an advocate for Selah Schools, kids and the community, and his agenda was what was best for student learning. Jeff's guiding principle was keeping student needs first and maintaining programs directly related to their academic progress. During his service to the Board, Jeff also volunteered to serve on District and community committees, and was part of passing two school bonds and five learning levies.

The District thanks Jeff Hartwick for his 12 years of service to the Board and Selah schools. Selah schools, students and the community have benefited from his contributions.



*Thank you to Jeff Hartwick for his Board service.*

## A Look at Selah School District Board Briefings...

### • The General Election and School Board News...

Following certification of the November 7, General Election, there is updated school board news to share.

Board incumbents, **Sarah Michael** and **Dan Peters** both retained their Directorship positions. Michael represents Position 5, District 1, and has served on the Board since 2018. Peters serves Position 4, an At Large seat, which he has held since January 2020.

Also following the election, the District welcomed a new director to its Board as **Derek Iverson** will represent Position 3, District 3. Iverson was a 1998 graduate of Selah High School where he served as ASB President.

Additionally, Iverson graduated from Brigham Young University with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management. Iverson currently works as a partner for Columbia River Funding, LLC, in addition to serving as a volunteer in multiple capacities, including Selah Parks and Recreation, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Iverson was officially sworn in as the Board's newest member at its December 14 meeting.



*Sarah Michael*



*Dan Peters*



*Derek Iverson*

### • Election of Board Officers

At its December 14 meeting, the Board of Directors elected new officers to serve for the upcoming year. The *Ed Report* was already in production prior to this vote. See the District's website for current board leadership positions.

### • School Board Welcomes Two Student Reps!



*Addison Flowers Lauren Rice*

Two Selah High School students are ready to serve as they were selected this fall as the new student representatives on the District's Board of Directors.

Juniors, **Addison Flowers** and **Lauren Rice**, have been selected as the new student panel members and will serve a two-year term. They join senior representatives, Indiana Hilmes and Elise Ozanich. Student representatives began serving on the school board in 2010. The role of the representatives is to provide student insight and perspective to the Board and administration.

### A School Board Meeting Reminder...

Selah School District Board Meetings are generally held the **second** and **fourth Thursday** of the month. The first meeting of the month begins at 7:00 a.m. The second monthly meeting starts at 4:30 p.m. Access the QR Code at right to see the complete Board meeting schedule.



# Selah School District News and Notes...

## The Bus Stops Here!

### Co-Op Transportation Facility to Service Selah and Union Gap School Buses

**S**elah's fleet of school buses now have a new stop as the District has relocated to its new co-op transportation facility.

The new transportation complex is a cooperative agreement between the Selah and Union Gap School Districts. The District recently showcased its new facility to the community during an open house and tours.

It is because of the cooperative structure the District was able to utilize State Match funds for the project, in addition to unused resources from the 2018 Facilities Bond. Under the

collaboration, the District owns and operates the facility, and will provide maintenance services to Union Gap for at least 10 years.

The transportation center replaces the original structure built in 1970, and which was not modernized for today's bus maintenance needs, including the lack of space needed to efficiently work on buses simultaneously, and where mechanics had to crawl under the vehicle to administer repairs. The upgrades to the new facility include four bus maintenance bays, two indoor and one outdoor

wash bays, increased maintenance space and a workshop with modernized equipment, including a scissor lift. The increased space for maintenance as well as the new lifts and equipment, allow for more than one bus to be worked on at once, in addition to quicker repair time. Also, with the new indoor wash bays buses can be cleaned year round, including the winter. The new facility also includes a training classroom, secured office space, and increased storage which allows the District to save money by purchasing fuel in larger quantities.



*A look at the District's new cooperative transportation facility.*

## Breakfast After the Bell Benefits All Selah Learners!



*Breakfast after the bell benefits learners as it allows for all students to eat a nutritious meal to begin the day.*

The sound of the morning school bell means students are ready to begin their day. However, once the ringing sound has quieted, it also means it is time for them to start the morning with breakfast after the bell.

This year, the Selah School District again meets the requirements to continue operating under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) structure for meal service, allowing for meals to be provided at no cost for all students. A requirement for continued participation was to implement a Breakfast after the Bell Program, a new way of providing a morning meal while students learn academically. Breakfast after the Bell is an inclusive program where all kids are encouraged to participate. The benefits include that all students can begin their day by eating a nutritious meal which includes an entry, fruit and milk. Research shows that academic success is increased when students eat breakfast. Also, increased breakfast participation correlates with lower absenteeism, more positive nutritional outcomes, higher test scores, better student behavior, and, a fed student does not visit the nurse's office as often.

Under the new program, Robert Lince, John Campbell and Selah Intermediate provide breakfast after the bell in classrooms. Selah Middle School also offers breakfast after the bell in addition to being served before school. Selah High School offers breakfast before school and a second chance opportunity after the bell.

# Inside Selah Schools and Other News...

## Inside Selah Schools...

This year the Selah School District launched a video series, *Inside Selah Schools*, focusing on our students and the learning opportunities available to them, the programs we provide and the milestones our learners meet. Our first installment focused on Career and Technical Educational (CTE) opportunities the District offers. Read below to learn about one of the CTE experiences that provide our students with the skills to be successful.

*Selah High School senior, Jaiden Rockey, prepares for her future by participating in Career and Technical Education Opportunities.*



## A Look at Career and Technical Educational Opportunities in Selah...

A visit to today's Selah High School classrooms might surprise you.

Yes, teachers still provide the quality educational opportunities students need in order to succeed. However, today's learning experiences go beyond traditional classrooms and include opportunities for students to put their knowledge to work as part of Selah's Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program.

Career and Technical classes don't just fulfill credit obligations; they provide an important pathway to future success by combining academic and technical skills with the knowledge and training needed in today's labor market that are linked to opportunities for students. As a student example, Selah High School senior, Jaiden Rockey, is taking

advantage of career and technical educational opportunities as she prepares for her future by taking classes on campus and then applies her industry knowledge in a hands-on learning environment at the Yakima Valley Veterinary Clinic. This experience is not typically found in traditional classrooms, but enables Jaiden, who was proactive in her CTE journey, to demonstrate what she has learned to a real-life profession that prepares her for her future.

In Selah, the culture of traditional high school classrooms is changing. In all, 39% of courses at the high school are directly connected to careers, and 983 industry recognized credits have been earned by students. Also, Selah High School has partnered with 17 valley businesses, where students are extending their

learning outside the walls of traditional classrooms. Combine that with the 199 conventional format courses offered, the 178 total dual credit opportunities, and the partnership with four local universities and colleges. The benefits of participating in CTE classes include the opportunity to explore real prospects, development of career skills, insight into industry credentials, improved graduation rates, and bridging to future education.

The purpose of the Selah School District is to ensure high levels of learning where all students gain life-long skills. With the diverse opportunities in our schools, it's easy to see how Selah students have the future in their hands.

Scan the code at right to see more about this CTE story.



## Supporting Selah Families...

Through its focus on the Viking Promise and its commitment to supporting students, the Selah School District works to shape future generations. Providing quality learning environments and instructional opportunities is one way to do this. However, the District wants to contribute more. That is why it has programs in place to provide enhanced meal opportunities for families.

This year, as in years past, the District is partnering with various agencies, organizations and businesses to ensure that Selah families have food to eat, so students can focus on learning. It is important that developing learners have healthy food options available to them as good nutrition supports optimum brain function and focus, providing students with the best opportunity to succeed. Although students have access to food while at school, home meal availability is crucial too. Hunger at home not only impacts academic performance, but it can also have negative impacts on a child's social-emotional



*The Selah School District is partnering with local organizations to provide meal opportunities for students and families.*

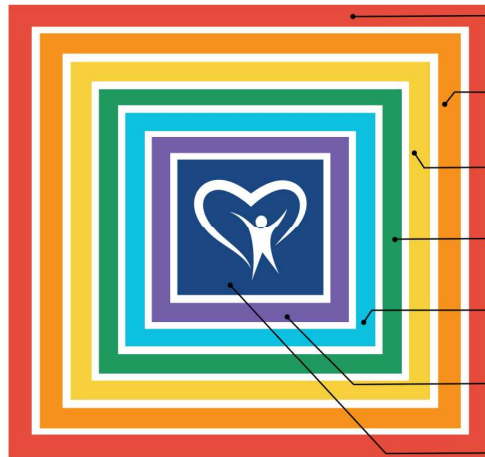
**Please See Support/Cont. Page 6**

# Selah School District Safety News and Other Notes...

## School Safety, It's a Layered Approach!

Keeping students and staff safe is the Selah School District's top priority. Our goal is to provide safe and secure learning environments where high quality educational experiences help cultivate a culture of lifelong learning.

A layered safety approach recognizes that no single barrier or intervention is sufficient by itself to maintain a safe school campus. Rather, using multiple layers acts like a filter to be able to identify, resolve and mitigate threats. In Selah, we think about safety in the following layers: **Well-Being**, **Classroom Safety**, **School Safety**, **Internal Safety**, **External Safety**, **Cyber Safety** and **Safety Management**. Each layer has multiple components and taken together are designed to help keep Selah students, staff and visitors safe. Access the QR Code at right for a closer look at the District's layered safety approach, which highlights the seven steps in Selah's system.



- 
**Safety Management**  
Director of School Safety • ICS Training • District Safety Team • SSOCC  
 School Crisis Planning & Response Teams • Vector Schools Training
- 
**Cyber Safety**  
Firewall Protection • Advanced Threat Protection • Security  
 Gadget • 24/7 System Monitoring
- 
**External Safety**  
Perimeter Fencing • Access Control • Vestibules  
 Entry Control • Security Cameras
- 
**Internal Safety**  
Visitor Management • ID Badging • Communications Systems
- 
**School Safety**  
SRO's • Campus Monitors • School Safety and Prevention Specialists  
 Anonymous Tip Line • Safety Posters • Administration • Drills
- 
**Classroom Safety**  
Trained Staff • Door Locks • Crisis Procedures and Plans  
 Emergency Kits • SSOCC Partnership
- 
**Well Being**  
Threat Assessment • Counseling • Community Partnership • Gaggie



Scan here.

## Handicapped Parking at Selah Schools



As a reminder, handicapped parking spots at Selah schools are reserved for campus guests displaying the proper plates/placards. It is a violation of code RCW 46.19.050.4 (aka parking without a placard) to park in disabled spots without the appropriate permit. Citations and fines can be issued by law enforcement for violators. Thank you for keeping these spots open for guests who need them and display the proper permits.



## Support/Cont. from Page 5

### Working Together to Help Selah Families!

skills and approach to learning.

After successfully piloting the Weekend Food Backpack Program last May at Selah Intermediate, the District implemented the opportunity this school year for all students experiencing food scarcity. The program works as the Selah-Naches Food Bank is partnering with Tree Top and the District to provide food for students needing extra meals during the weekend. The District's Family Services Department works from student lists based on priority and/or McKinney-Vento status, but also

takes recommendations for other families experiencing food shortage.

In addition, Selah's Migrant Program is partnering with OIC of Yakima to provide meals for families. Every Thursday throughout the school year, identified families receive a box of food which has been donated by OIC contributors. Initially, families were identified through the District's Migrant Education Program as needing support, or as McKinney Vento students. However, the opportunity has grown to also include other families in need. The Migrant Program is in need of volunteers to help prep the weekly meal boxes, so it can further expand its distribution availability to include more families.

Also contributing to students, the

Stone Church helped over 75 Selah families celebrate Thanksgiving by providing meals, and the Salvation Army has partnered with the high school, middle school and intermediate school to provide a food and snack pantry which supports kids who face hunger throughout the day and after school. Further, the District's CIS Student and Community Advocate has food distribution opportunities for Robert Lince and John Campbell families, who receive services from Communities in Schools. Other ways the District supports families is by providing holiday meal baskets, as well as contributing to projects such as angel and wishing trees projects. It's all part of Selah's commitment to students.

# Selah School District News and Notes...

## Let Us Brag About Our Nationally Honored Students!

### • FCCLA Students Earn Honors at National Convention!

Leaving their own personal piece of history in the South, Selah High School Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) students earned honors at FCCLA National Fall Convention.

Representing the Selah FCCLA contingent at the event in Birmingham, Alabama, were **Parker Casey, Hannah Christianson, Indiana Hilmes, Macie Ladd, Hannah Rees, Clare Richards, and Phoebe Topper**. As part of the convention, students participated in activities by either competing in a skill demonstration event or the FCCLA LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl challenge.

Punching their ticket to the National Leadership Conference this summer in Seattle, the five-lady Knowledge Bowl Team of Christianson, Hilmes, Ladd, Rees, and Topper, placed first in pool play to advance to July's event. The team will have the opportunity to defend its national title, which they won last summer. Also at the conference, Casey competed in #TeachFCS and earned national first place honors by posting an almost perfect score of 99! In addition, Richards competed in Impromptu Speaking and scored 98 out of 100 points. The students are advised by teachers, **Maggie Uceny** and **Shari Brink**.



*Congratulations to Selah High School FCCLA students who earned national honors during the fall convention.*

### • Selah FFA Recognized for "Horsing Around!"



*Selah FFA was honored this fall for placing in the top ten for horse evaluation at the National Horse Evaluation CDE Event.*

It's a good thing these Selah High School students like to "horse around" because earlier this fall they were honored at the national level for their work!

Congratulations to Selah's FFA and the Horse Evaluation Team for placing in the top ten for horse evaluation at the National FFA Career Development Event (CDE) in Indianapolis, Indiana. Placing in the top ten nationally is considered the gold standard for performance. Selah's horsewoman team consists of **Natalee Barnett, Myranda Bellotti, Gabrielle Felix, and Isabella Hovorka**. The team is advised by **Erika Parks** and **Brad Watkins**. Also, Barnett and Hovorka received individual Gold Emblem recognition and Bellotti and Felix earned individual Silver Emblem honors.

The National FFA Horse Evaluation CDE is a competitive event that tests students' ability to select and evaluate horses. Team members evaluate and rank horses based on breed characteristics, conformation and performance, and orally defend their decisions to judges. This is one of many convention activities where members apply classroom knowledge to real-life situations.

## All Aboard!

Students and families were all aboard at Selah Intermediate School as they embarked on learning fun during December's kindergarten through fifth grade Polar Express engagement night. As students boarded the festive Express, they received a golden ticket to be punched at each classroom and school location where they engaged in literacy, math games, and science activities. Through their North Pole excursion, students enjoyed the magic of learning and winter fun.



*Polar Express learning fun at Selah Intermediate School.*



You Can Now Follow the Selah School District on *instagram* @119ssd  
We Hope You Find Us!



We are proud of our students and staff and want to brag about their accomplishments! To read more student stories like the ones displayed on this page, visit the District's website and look for the *Points of Pride* section on the main web page.

Postal Customer

# A Final Look at the Selah School District

## A Look at Ole' Man Winter

As a reminder, now that Ole' Man Winter has arrived to the Yakima Valley and the Selah community, many early morning school operating decisions must be made. In Selah, student and staff safety is the priority and factors are considered based on Selah's **weather, road conditions, forecast**, and the safety of commuters. Go to the District's website to learn more about Selah school delays and cancellations and which platforms are used to communicate the information.



*As we work together to keep students safe this winter, at right the graphic is a reminder of some inclement weather driving tips.*



**Sub Bus Drivers Needed!**  
\$24.49 Per Hour • Training Provided • No Experience Necessary  
Apply @ <https://selahjobs.hrmlplus.net>  
Call 509-698-8440

**Join Our TEAM** We are recruiting for individuals to join our team as certificated and classified subs! Apply at: <https://selahjobs.hrmlplus.net/Home.aspx>

**Stay Connected with the Selah School District!**  
[www.selahschools.org](http://www.selahschools.org)  
District and School Websites  
Facebook @ selahschooldistrict119  
Instagram @ 119ssd  
ParentSquare

Superintendent Kevin McKay  
Board of Directors  
Jamie Morford  
Dan Peters  
Sarah Michael  
Joe Catron  
Derek Iverson

The Selah Education Report is a publication for the patrons of the Selah School District. Please contact, Heidi Diener at 509-698-8007, or, [heididiener@selahschools.org](mailto:heididiener@selahschools.org), with inquiries.

Selah School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

The following employee(s) has been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:  
Chad Quigley, Executive Director of Human Resources; 316 W. Naches Ave.; Selah, WA 98942; 1-509-698-8004; [chadquigley@selahschools.org](mailto:chadquigley@selahschools.org)

El Distrito Escolar de Selah no discrimina en ningún programa o actividades sobre el base de sexo, raza, credo, religión, color, origen nacional, edad, estado de veterano o militar, orientación sexual, expresión de género, identidad de género, discapacidad o el uso de perros entrenados como guía o animales de servicio y proporciona el acceso igual a los Boy Scouts y otros grupos designado de jóvenes.

El empleado mencionado a continuación ha sido designado para atender consultas y quejas de supuesta discriminación:  
Chad Quigley, Executive Director of Human Resources; 316 W. Naches Ave., Selah, WA 98942; 1-509-698-8004; [chadquigley@selahschools.org](mailto:chadquigley@selahschools.org)



**SNOW REMOVAL**

Clear all snow and ice from your car before driving. Be sure to get everything off, not just the windows. Snow left on the roof of a car can slide onto your windshield, or blow onto another.



**DRIVING IS VISUAL**

Make sure your wiper blades, heater, and defroster are in good working conditions during winter weather. Driving is a visual task, so always be sure your windows and mirrors are clean and clear and your visibility is good.



**BE VISIBLE**

Remember to turn on your headlights for better visibility and to be seen.

**ALLOW MORE TIME**

Be prepared for winter driving and allow time to safely travel to your location. Drivers who allow extra travel time, help ensure appropriate speed for weather conditions and a safe following distance for wet and icy roads.

**BE AWARE**

Winter days mean darker mornings and afternoons. Be aware of students walking, crossing the roads and riding bikes to and from school.

**SLOW DOWN**

Slow down when driving on ice and snow. It's easier to skid or lose control traveling at higher speeds. When slowing down, remember downshifting as an option. Also, give yourself time to safely come to a stop.



**KNOW THE BUS ROUTES**

Be aware of alternate bus stops. During the winter the Transportation Department utilizes alternate bus routes. Students will appear at different locations other than where drivers are used to seeing them.



**WATCH FOR STUDENTS**

Be alert to students crossing roads, walking on sidewalks, or riding bikes. Icy conditions could mean they fall.

**REMAIN ALERT**

Students are more likely to be rushing during cold temperatures and could be hidden by poor visibility or snow banks. Remain alert for children who may be hidden or standing in or near the street at the bus stop due to snow piles.

**BE PATIENT**

School bus drivers are well trained on driving in inclement weather. However, snow and icy roads can slow down even experienced drivers. Safety is each driver's priority and extra time may be needed to get from stop to stop.