

APRIL 26, 2024

GOOD NEWS

EDITION NEWSLETTER



CRIS GWILLIAM: NAMED 2024 MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR!

Congratulations to St. Helens Middle School Principal Cris Gwilliam for being named the **2024 Oregon Middle School Principal of the Year** by the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators (COSA).

Cris was nominated for his outstanding leadership, collaboration, and innovation in leading St. Helens Middle School through significant transitions over the last year. He first joined the St. Helens School District staff as an assistant principal in 2013 and moved to a principal role in 2018. Since then, he has led a transition for St. Helens to become a comprehensive middle school for grades 6, 7, and 8 and has created a strong community among veteran staff, students, and the larger community.

"Cris has worked diligently to create a warm, inviting, safe, and secure school environment through collaborative leadership. Mr. Gwilliam has nurtured inclusivity and empowerment, where every voice matters and every idea counts," shared Superintendent Scot Stockwell.

After receiving this award, Cris Gwilliam stated, "I'm honored to be recognized as Middle School Principal of the Year for my service to the St. Helens Middle School Community. Helping students find their passion for learning is what makes middle school so fun and challenging. In order for students to enjoy learning, they need an inclusive, safe, and supportive school culture where they can take risks and explore opportunities. Healthy school culture is what the teachers and staff of St. Helens Middle School specialize in. I'm blessed with the opportunity to lead a team of champions for students. Thank you to all the teachers and staff who elevate our students and support our middle school vision."

"We are thrilled to recognize Cris for his leadership and community building in St. Helens," shared COSA Executive Director Craig Hawkins.

Please join us in congratulating Principal Cris Gwilliam!

In this edition:

Cris Gwilliam: 2024 Middle School Principal of the Year

Student Community Impact Award
Recipient: Abby Jauron

Staff Community Impact Award
Recipient: Kristin Fastabend

Community Impact Award Recipient:
Officer Jeremy Howell

Upcoming: Teacher Appreciation

Upcoming: District Listening Session

Upcoming: Kindergarten Welcome
Event

Capture the Legacy: Photo Contest

Phase I Open House

Summer Academy Registration

District Mission:

Strengthening Our Community
Through Exceptional Schools

District Vision:

St. Helens School District inspires
all students to learn, connect,
and commit to a thriving future.

LEARN
CONNECT
COMMIT

ABBY JAURON

STUDENT COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD RECIPIENT

Abby Jauron is a model student, inspiring her peers through her work ethic and commitment to excellence. As a strong advocate for hard work, she not only excels academically but also encourages her fellow students to strive for their best, fostering a culture of achievement within the classroom.

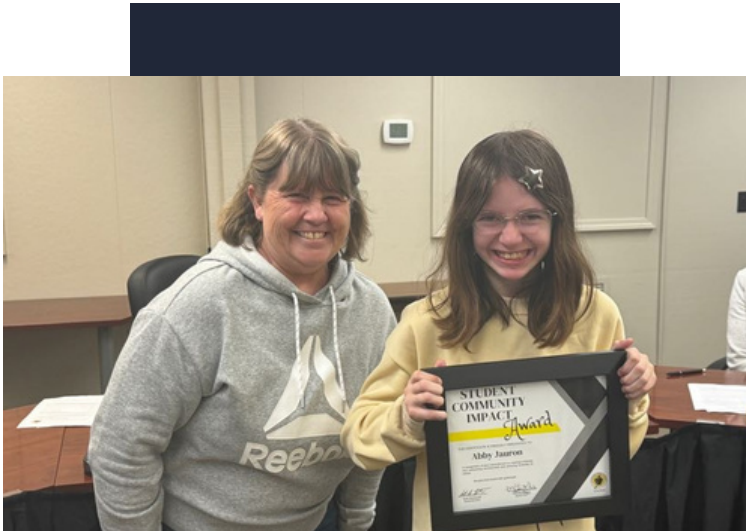
Consistently demonstrating care and empathy towards her peers, Abby serves as a teacher assistant and extends a helping hand to those who may be struggling, ensuring that no student is left behind.

Abby leads by example with compassion and understanding. Embracing her individuality fully, she encourages others to do the same, fostering an environment where every student feels valued and accepted.

Her determination and caring nature have earned her the role of a trusted mentor and friend. Her readiness to offer support and encouragement to her peers is a testament to her character and the positive influence she has on her school community.

Abby always works hard to include everyone around her, which makes our school feel like a close-knit community. She makes every effort to do well in school and to be kind to everyone at Columbia City Elementary, making her a true role model for those around her.

Congratulating Abby!



KRISTIN FASTABEND

STAFF COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD RECIPIENT

Kristin Fastabend has consistently demonstrated exceptional skills and dedication to her students. Her passion for teaching literacy is truly commendable. She possesses a remarkable ability to engage her students and foster a deep love for reading. Her innovative teaching methods ensure that each student receives personalized attention and support tailored to their unique learning needs. Kristin goes above and beyond to create a nurturing and inclusive classroom environment where every student feels valued and empowered to succeed.

One of Kristin's most admirable qualities is her kindness and compassion toward her students. She approaches each interaction with warmth and empathy, building strong rapport and trust with them. Her genuine care for their well-being extends beyond academics, as she consistently provides guidance and support to help them navigate challenges both inside and outside the classroom.

In addition to her exemplary work with students, Kristin is also a collaborative team player who actively contributes to the success of the entire staff. She is always willing to share ideas, resources, and best practices, and her positive attitude and willingness to lend a helping hand greatly enhance the team dynamics. Kristin's ability to collaborate effectively ensures that the Lewis and Clark school community operates cohesively with the students' best interests at the forefront of all their endeavors.

Kristin is an outstanding educator who possesses a rare combination of teaching expertise, kindness, and collaborative spirit. She continues to make a profound impact on the lives of her students and colleagues within the St. Helens community.

Congratulations, Kristin!



JEREMY HOWELL

COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD RECIPIENT

For over 20 years, Officer Howell has been an integral part of the St. Helens community, with seven of those years dedicated to serving as the School Resource Officer for the school district. During his tenure, Officer Howell has left an indelible mark on the community, engaging with students and staff in a multitude of impactful ways.

At the heart of Officer Howell's service lies his profound dedication to the well-being and safety of the community's youth. As a welcome guest figure at various school events, Officer Howell's ability to connect with students on a personal level has been commendable. He consistently demonstrates patience, understanding, and an unwavering commitment to nurturing positive interactions with students. His patient demeanor and genuine interest in addressing students' questions and concerns have earned him admiration and respect throughout the community.

Throughout his career, Officer Howell has emphasized the importance of building and maintaining relationships, both within the school community and beyond. His ability to listen attentively and act with integrity and compassion has earned him the trust and respect of students, staff, and families alike.

In times of crisis or uncertainty, Officer Howell's calm presence and empathetic listening provide a sense of reassurance and support.

Officer Howell's tireless dedication to the St. Helens community exemplifies the values of service, compassion, and integrity. His impact on the lives of countless individuals, particularly the youth, is a testament to his enduring commitment to making a positive difference in the community.

Congratulations, Jeremy!

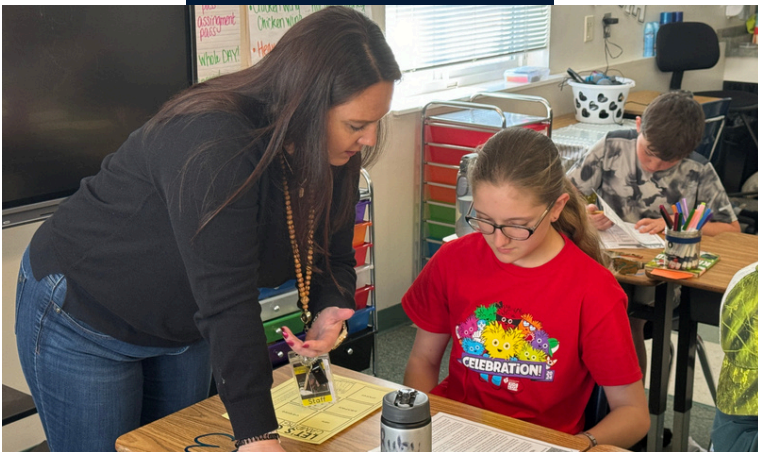


May 6, 2024 - May 10, 2024

UPCOMING TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

*Teacher Appreciation Week
is right around the corner.*

*Join us as we celebrate
our dedicated teachers
May 6, 2024 - May 10, 2024.*



LISTENING SESSION



Thursday, May 2, 2024

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

St. Helens Middle School

These sessions are an opportunity for you to engage directly with school district staff in an open forum.

There will be no predefined agenda for these meetings. Instead, they will provide a platform for you to discuss district-related matters, share your thoughts, or express concerns. Your input is invaluable, and we believe that open and honest conversations will help us better serve our students, families, and the community.

We are excited to collaborate with you to enhance our school district, and we hope that you can attend the last of four district listening sessions for the 2023/2024 school year.

KINDERGARTEN

Welcome

MAY 1ST 5:30 PM -7:00 PM

Columbia City
Elementary

Lewis & Clark
Elementary

McBride
Elementary



Students must be 5 years old by **September 1, 2024**, to enroll.

We are thrilled to announce our upcoming Kindergarten Welcome Open House, set to take place on Wednesday, May 1, 2024, from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. This event is designed to warmly welcome our newest additions to the St. Helens School District family - our incoming kindergarten students and their families!

We're here to make your journey into kindergarten enrollment as smooth as possible. If you're unsure about which school your child should attend based on your address, don't hesitate to reach out to our Central Office at 503-397-3085. Our dedicated staff will be more than happy to assist you.

At this special event, families will have the opportunity to embark on an exciting journey through our elementary schools, where they'll discover the vibrant learning environments awaiting their little ones. Here's a sneak peek of what's in store:

- **Guided School Tours:** Explore the classrooms, playgrounds, and facilities where your child will laugh, learn, and grow.
- **School Bus Adventure:** Hop aboard and experience a fun-filled ride on one of our school buses - an exciting glimpse into our students' daily commute!
- **Student Activities:** Dive into engaging hands-on activities specially crafted to ignite your child's curiosity and creativity.
- **Registration Information:** Learn everything you need about the enrollment process, including online registration details.

Remember to bring along the following documents for registration:

- Birth certificate
- Proof of address
- Immunization records

Please note that to enroll, students must be five years old by September 1, 2024.

Wednesday | May 1, 2024 | 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM



CAPTURE THE LEGACY: ST. HELENS HIGH SCHOOL HISTORY PHOTO CONTEST!

As we eagerly await the grand opening of our new high school, we are thrilled to announce the launch of the **"Capture the Legacy: St. Helens High School History"** Photo Contest, grasping the rich history of St. Helens High School. We are inviting our community to contribute to the creation of a captivating photo display that will adorn the entryway of our new school, showcasing the moments and memories that have made St. Helens High School special throughout the years.

Capture the essence of St. Helens High School's history. Whether it's a snapshot from a memorable event, a candid classroom moment, or a cherished image from years past, we want to see it all! We are seeking photo submissions to add to our photo display and expand on the history of St. Helens High School. ***Specifically, we are seeking older photos from the 1885 - 1983 date range***, but all photos will be accepted.

Submission Guidelines:

- Submit your photo(s) online via email to Director of Communications Stacey Mendoza at staceym@sthelens.k12.or.us or submit a physical copy at St. Helens School District 474 North 16th Street - St. Helens, OR 97051 by Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at 4:00 pm. ***No late submissions will be accepted.***
- Please include a brief description or caption for each photo, highlighting its significance (including the year the photo was taken).

Categories:

- 1900-1910
- 1910-1920
- 1920-1930
- 1930-1940
- 1940-1950
- 1950-1960
- 1960-1970
- 1970-1980
- 1980-1990
- 1990-2000
- 2000-2010
- 2010-2020

We believe that each photo holds a piece of the incredible story of St. Helens High School. By participating in this contest, you are not only contributing to the visual tapestry of our school but also becoming a part of its living history.

For the selection process, prizes, and terms and conditions, please see our 'News' section on our webpage [HERE](#).

You're Invited!

ST HELENS HIGH SCHOOL

PHASE I

OPEN HOUSE

2375 Gable Road | St. Helens, OR 97051 May 24, 2024 | 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Friday, May 24, 2024 | 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.



Exterior Courtyard



Cafeteria/Commons



Main Office

Join us and be among the first to experience the incredible changes as we unveil the remarkable transformation firsthand.

**MONDAY - THURSDAY
JULY 8 - AUGUST 1, 2024**

SUMMER ACADEMY



Registration is Open!

- STEAM Focused
- Reading Enrichment
- Project Based
- Small Class Sizes
- Breakfast & Lunch provided



SCAN ME

8:30 to Noon

**For SHSD Students
entering grades 1 - 4
this Fall.**

Questions?

www.sthelens.k12.or.us

email: JenniferB@sthelens.k12.or.us