



Selah School District's

Education Report

An education update for the Selah community

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

Spring/Summer 2024

A Special Graduation Edition!



Taking A Sneak Peek at the News Inside



Celebrating Our Selah High School Graduates

See Pages 2 and 3

June was special for **seniors** from Selah High School **as they celebrated graduation**. Read about their milestone.

New Student Online Enrollment Open for All Grades

See Pages 4

Families **new to the District** can enroll their student(s) online for the 2024-2025 school year. Read about this process.

Selah School District News to Know

See Pages 4 - 8

Catch-up on the **District news** that you need to know.

A Summer Hours Office Update

School may be out, but it is business as usual at the Administration Offices this summer! Business hours remain **Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.** If you visit during work hours and the office is locked, ring the doorbell. Also, school and departmental offices have closed for the summer. If you have questions, contact the District Office at **698-8000**. All offices reopen **Monday, August 5**.



Have a Safe Summer! See You in the Fall!

First Day of School Monday, August 26!

NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENT

24-25
School Year!
Año escolar

Inscripción de nuevos estudiantes

Grades 1-12 Grados 1-12

NOW OPEN!
¡AHORA ABIERTO!

MORE INFORMATION
www.selahschools.org

Cultivating a Culture of Life-Long Learning for All!

Selah Seniors and Graduation News...

"Time Doesn't Slow Down for Anyone!"



Selah High School students celebrated graduation on Saturday, June 1, at the Yakima SunDome. Congratulations!



In front of a packed crowd of supporters, the Viking Class of 2024 graduated 270 members.

The Class of 2024 Graduates 270 Members

As he stood atop the afternoon's biggest stage, class chosen speaker, Evan Ozanich, looked out at his classmates dressed sharply in blue and gold. With carefully crafted words directed toward the 269 classmates sitting before him, Ozanich reminisced about the group's school experiences. Telling anecdotes of class memories and unique experiences, Ozanich shared the significance of 13 past years, especially the last four.

As he recounted different high school moments, Ozanich explained that in the Class's celebration of the day, there were challenges and obstacles that had to first be overcome. Ozanich shared that the Class of 2024 was the last class of high school students affected by the COVID pandemic, and in the fall of the group's freshmen year, the first day of school was experienced at home and learning contin-

ued there through November. However, as students transitioned back to campus and activities resumed, the Class ended the year with a taste of what high school could be. Recounting the group's sophomore adventures, Ozanich said they learned what high school was really about, and that year, in addition to their junior campaign, students enjoyed a variety of activities including pep assemblies, homecoming week, dances, sporting events, and participation in clubs. However, in the enjoyment of these moments that were delayed in start, Ozanich admitted that as seniors, he and his classmates did their best to slow time down. And, even though their 13th school year was packed with events, creating memories, try as they wanted, Ozanich said *Time Doesn't Slow Down for Anyone!*

Preceding Ozanich's address, faculty chosen speaker, Byanca Perez Villegas, began the after-

noon's celebration by sharing how she and her classmates enjoyed their high school experiences because they embraced the opportunities provided over four years. Perez Villegas then challenged her classmates that even in their graduation accomplishment to continue to prepare for their future, and, wherever opportunity takes them to live everyday as if it were their last.

In his message to graduates, Superintendent, Kevin McKay, congratulated the Class for their achievement. McKay further thanked the group for their high class and integrity, which comes about from caring for each other and the community – all part of *The Viking Way*.

Prior to the announcement of graduates, Principal, Colton Monti, addressed the Class by praising them as being a remarkable group that was passionate and resilient,

See Graduates/Cont. Page 3



Graduation Planning for the Class of 2025



Even though we just celebrated the Class of 2024, there have been inquiries as to the graduation date for the Class of 2025. Selah High School has set a tentative date for next year's graduation for **Monday, June 2, at 7:00 p.m. at the SunDome.**

More Viking Graduation News...

Graduates/Cont. From Page 2

and who left their mark on the community. Also, Monti shared that the journey to graduation was a collective effort, and in the *Power of We*, there was strength in unity. Monti said the *Power of We* recognizes differences and makes people strong in order to propel forward.

Class of 2024 —Top Graduates Announced!

Monti encouraged students to lean on the *Power of We* in their future.

In his final words to his classmates, Evan Ozanich said each of them had made important choices for the future: Some will go to college, others will enter the military, some will embrace the work force,

while others take a gap year. Ozanich encouraged the Class that no matter what choice they made, to live life because there is still more to learn. And, although no one knows what the future holds, one thing is certain — Time doesn't slow down for anyone.

Valedictorians Recognized!

As part of the student honors during Selah High School's graduation ceremony, a total of 13 valedictorians representing the Class of 2024 were announced. Honored were: **Taylor Aadland, Kendra Adams, Hannah Christianson, Jaden Gaudet, Indiana Hilmes, Abigail Huri, Macie Ladd, Jocelynn Orozco, Evan Ozanich, Erin Ringer, Yobi Ruark, Cade Terril, and Phoebe Topper.** Congratulations Valedictorians!



Taylor Aadland



Kendra Adams



Hannah Christianson



Jaden Gaudet



Indiana Hilmes



Abigail Huri



Macie Ladd



Jocelynn Orozco



Evan Ozanich



Erin Ringer



Yobi Ruark



Cade Terril



Phoebe Topper

Salutatorians Announced!

Honored during Selah High School's graduation ceremony as class salutatorians were five members of the Class of 2024. Congratulations to: **Madison Huri, Erica Nass, Byanca Perez Villegas, Whitman Peters, and Bracken Shea.**



Madison Huri



Erica Nass



Byanca Perez Villegas



Whitman Peters

Twice the Celebration!

It was twice the celebration during Selah's graduation ceremony as 15 students were honored for earning high school diplomas while also meeting requirements to earn an Associate Arts Degree: *Natalee Barnett, Brant Bartrand, Kalahla Currier, Evan Dulaney, Jaden Gaudet, Riley Goin, Janae Hall, Zoe Harrington, Moises Mendoza, Kyle Morris, Erica Nass, Whitman Peters, Ivan Villa, Kaih Weiss, and Finley Ziegler.* Congratulations graduates!

Top Ten Percent Honored!

The following students were honored as the top 10% in the Class of 2024: *Taylor Aadland, Kendra Adams, Hannah Christianson, Issak Figueroa, Adley Franklin, Jaden Gaudet, Indiana Hilmes, James Hull, Abigail Huri, Madison Huri, Beau Kinley, Macie Ladd, Benjamin Michael, Erica Nass, Jocelynn Orozco, Evan Ozanich, Byanca Perez Villegas, Collin Perry-Skrudrud, Whitman Peters, Erin Ringer, Yobi Ruark, Sarah Russell, Bracken Shea, Brenden Steenmeyer, Cade Terril, and Phoebe Topper.*



Bracken Shea

A Message from the Superintendent



A Message by: Kevin McKay

It's hard to believe another school year has already passed, and another last day of school has been celebrated. As we conclude another successful academic year in the District, I extend my deepest gratitude to each person who was a part of our Viking Team. This includes students, staff, parents, and community members who all invest in our Selah kids.

In our Viking culture, where students are provided opportunities to learn in quality educational environments, it has been a successful year. Among our highlights, on June 1, Selah High School graduated 270 students. I am proud to say these students recognize the opportunities in their future as they are headed to four-year

universities, two-year colleges, professional and technical schools, will serve our country or begin their careers in the workforce. Students and staff have worked hard to celebrate this milestone. Also, we recognized our students who celebrated their transition to higher grade levels next fall, or new buildings, and the new opportunities that await them as they return to campus in August.

As we enjoy another summer, I want to thank our staff, who, within their roles, worked this year to contribute to the cultivation of life-long learning for students. Their work and the connections they make with kids help foster our Viking Way purpose.

I also want to express appreciation to our families who trust us to provide guidance to their children on a daily basis. It is humbling to realize the confidence that is placed in our school system, and it reminds us of why we committedly work for students.

Finally, I want to thank the Selah community for its continued support of our school system. The ongoing support provided to our schools, students, and staff, helps us continue our proud Viking tradition of being a strong school district that provides quality experiences and opportunities for every learner. We all have the same end purpose in mind and that is to provide the best for our Selah students.

I hope you take time to enjoy the summer with family and friends. As these next few months pass, I look forward to the fall and experiencing another first day of school so we can see what the year brings. Working together, we will continue to provide the best opportunities for our students and community. That is *The Viking Way*.

Thank You Senior Student Board Reps!



Indiana Hilmes



Elise Ozanich

The Selah School Board of Directors would like to thank recent graduates, **Indiana Hilmes** and **Elise Ozanich**, for serving as student representatives on the Board. Both Indiana and Elise served the Board for two years. Within their roles, Indiana and Elise were important liaisons between the Board of Directors and students. Indiana and Elise were able to provide feedback on the student's perspective of education and opportunities. Thank you Indiana and Elise for your board service!

Incoming Juniors — Be a School Board Rep!

Incoming junior students during the 2024-2025 school year interested in serving as a student representative on the Selah School Board, there are two positions now open for fulfillment. Incoming junior representatives will serve a two-

year term on the Board. Serving as a liaison between the Board and the student body, the role of the high school representatives is to provide student insight and perspective to the Board of Directors and District administration. The commitment of

student school board representatives includes attending two meetings a month during the school year. The deadline to apply is **Monday, September 2**. Students can scan the QR code to apply.



Selah School District Family News and Notes...

Online Enrollment Open for All Students!

Enrollment for New Students in Grades Preschool - 12

The Selah School District is currently enrolling all new students online. This includes preschool and kindergarten students as well as all students new to the District in Grades 1-12. The online process includes enrollment for new families in the District as well as for existing families who have other children attending Selah Schools and want to enroll a sibling or other student in the household. Parents can register their children using any electronic device. If families don't have access to a personal device, they can visit one of Selah's schools or the District Office to use a computer to complete the process on site. Scan the QR codes below to begin the process.

PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN 24-25 School Year! ONLINE ENROLLMENT



PREESCOLAR Y JARDÍN DE INFANCIA 24-25 Año escolar INSCRIPCIÓN EN LÍNEA



NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENT 24-25 School Year! Inscripción de nuevos estudiantes Grades 1-12 Grados 1-12



2024-2025 Year Start Forms

At the start of each school year, we ask families to complete the annual Year Start Packet for their current Selah students. This ensures we have the most up-to-date student and family information including emergency contacts, student health and medication information, transportation needs, etc. We also provide families with important updates about some of our programs including Nutrition Services, Athletics and Transportation.

Please have the Year Start Packet completed for each of your students prior to the first day of school to ensure we have updated information before school begins. Scan the QR code at left to complete the Year Start process online through our Skyward Family Access system.



Summer Meals Locator

For Kids 18 and Younger



Even though the Selah School District is not hosting a free meal location this summer, families can still find a local participating site. At these local locations, all children under 18-years-of-age can receive free breakfast and lunch meals. Families can find the closest summer meal location by accessing:

- **Meal Site Finder by Phone:** 1-866-3-HUNGRY (1-866-348-6479) or text "Food" to 304-304.
- **Summer Meal Site Finder by Website:** <https://www.fns.usda.gov/meals4kids>.
- **Summer Meal Site Finder By Phone:** (Spanish): 1-877-8-HAMBRE (1-877-842-6273), or, text "Comida" to 304-304.

Please See More Selah School District News on Pages 6-8.



Stay Connected with Selah Schools!

www.selahschools.org

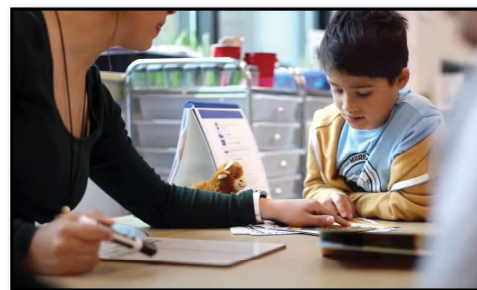


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Selah School District Good News...

A Look Inside Selah Schools...

Earlier this year the District launched a video series, *Inside Selah Schools*, focusing on our students and the opportunities available to them, the programs the District provides, and the milestones learners meet. As we moved through the school year, our most recent looks *Inside Selah Schools*, includes the dual language and co-teach classrooms at Selah Intermediate, *Go Time* at John Campbell, and learning through play at the Robert Lince Early Learning Center. As the Selah School District continues to cultivate a culture of lifelong learning, it's easy to see with opportunities like these, why Selah students have the future in their hands. Scan the QR code to view these features.



It's Go Time at John Campbell Primary as students participate in Growth Opportunity sessions where every learner receives instructional support for what they need to learn in order to grow academically.

Summering With a Safety Focus...

Even though school is out for the summer, focus remains on student and staff safety! This past June, Selah staff and community partners from the District's Safety and Crisis Team collaborated during a summer table top exercise.

Joining Selah staff were Chris Weedon from ESD 105 and representing the SSOCC (School Safety Operations & Coordination Center), and representatives from the Selah Police Department, Fire Department,



The Selah School District Safety and Crisis Team held a table top exercise. ment, Washington State Patrol and Selah Safety Parent Advocacy.

The exercise focused on the steps taken during an active school shooter scenario. During the training, staff and emergency personnel identified and discussed their specific role in the situation and collaborated how they would work together in the emergency. During safety situations, multiple outlets work together in order to keep our schools and students safe. The Safety and Crisis Team meets a couple times a year for collaboration and training.

Nationally Speaking, SHS Students Showcase Their Technical Magic!

School may be out, but earlier this summer Selah High School students showcased the magic in their technical abilities! That's because they competed at the Technology Student Association (TSA) National TSA Conference June 26 - 30 in Orlando.

For her work, **Rosie Pandit** earned second-place national honors in the competition category of Prepared Presentation. Also, **Miles Longmire**, **Mauro Lopez** and **Martin Sloboda** placed in the top ten for their work in System Control. Selah's national competitors qualified for the contest after earning top state honors this spring. The TSA prepares students for bright futures through science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.



Congratulations Selah High School students for their work at the National TSA Conference.

Our Points of Pride!



We want to brag about our District! To read more about our achievements and stories like these, visit our District website and look for the *News Updates* or *Points of Pride* sections, or scan the QR code.



Selah School District Staff News...

Thank You Retirees for Your Viking Service!

Saying good-bye at the end of the school year is hard. It's even more difficult when familiar faces are saying farewell due to retirement. The Selah School District would like to thank its 2024 retirees who boast an amazing 340 years of Viking service among them. At the conclusion of the school year, 15 staff members retired:

Julie Archer — (38 Years)
Candy Calvert — (37 Years)
Kristin Jared — (34 Years)
Chandra Vollendorf-Anderson — (33 Years)
Kay Smith — (30 Years)
Tami Jahns-Odinzo — (26 Years)
Karen Jochen — (26 Years)
Jeff Fortner — (21 Years)
Linda Hale — (21 Years)
Nancy Minnick — (20 Years)
Jennifer Goodpaster — (18 Years)
Donna Marquis — (14 Years)
Betty Lamb — (10 Years)
Jill Breeze — (9 Years)
Cydney Bacon — (3 Years)



Julie Archer



Candy Calvert



Kristin Jared



Chandra V. Anderson



Kay Smith



Tami Jahns-Odinzo



Karen Jochen



Jeff Fortner



Linda Hale



Nancy Minnick



Jennifer Goodpaster



Donna Marquis



Betty Lamb



Jill Breeze



Cydney Bacon

Congratulations!

Selah Staff Honored During *Best of the Best* Ceremony!

The District celebrated its finest during its *Best of the Best* ceremony where staff was honored for exemplary work during the year. John Campbell Special Education Teacher, **Kelly McNemee**, was honored as *Certificated Employee of the Year* and Family Services Coordinator, **Juan Garcia**, as *Classified Employee of the Year*. Also, staff recognized with categorical awards were: **Administrators/Directors:** Heather Burfeind and Laurie Ozanich. **Certificated Staff:** Marizol Amezcua, Valerie Barnett, Angie Brown, Lacey Carter, Kim Cruz, Stephanie Cruz, Kip Harris, Laura Lean, Kelly McNemee, Jennifer Quigley, Brianna Ramirez, Julie Rust, Hannah Schut, Elena Sullivan, and Amy Turcott. **Classified Staff:** Ashley Burmaster, Sherry Diaz, Juan Garcia, Chris Harris, Natosha Hernandez, Lisa Hires, Heather Holm, Nancy Minnick, Carly Osborn, Heather Queen, and Stacy White. **Guest Teacher:** Allison Switzer. **Volunteers:** Lynette Denison, Joan Dufault, HLA Team of Lisa Adams and Kelly Hedrick, Aubrey Holwegner, Eric Neumeyer, and Gini Obert. **Community Partner:** Nilah Webster for the Wilbur Repp Endowment.



Kelly McNemee



Juan Garcia

Now, That's Service!

Congratulations to Viking staff who have met service milestones.

5 Years: Nicole Alkharanda, Isabel Arens, Heather Burfeind, Kathleen Corey, Yessenia Garcia,

Enrique Gudino, Tiffany Jacobs, Riley Maier, Forrest Piatt, Ellie Robins, Krystyana Romero Morales, Jessica Sauve, Hannah Schut, and Hunter Sissom. **10 Years:** Joe Bixler, Charles Burger, Dora Cobian, Jeff Cochran, Alisha Coon, Tina

Fleming, Nicole Gonzalez, Tonya Hiatt, Alejandra Huitron, Cory Kunz, Betty Lamb, Diane Mendez, Traci Mouritsen, Shane Polley, Kris Rees, Tristan Scherzinger,

See Service/Cont. Page 8

Final District Thoughts...

Movin' and Groovin' Toward Their Future!

In the spirit of promotion season, Robert Lince Early Learning Center students marched toward their future this spring as they participated in a movin' and groovin' end-of-the-school-year parade throughout the campus grounds and school halls. The student smiles say it all — their future is full of exciting opportunity where there is lifelong learning for all!

Early Learning Students are movin' and groovin' toward their future as opportunity awaits them!



Service/Cont. from Page 7

Thank You Staff!

and Amie Weiss. **15 Years:** Donada Berry, Nathan Gross, Juan Morales, Adrian Ortega, and Melanie Rufer. **20 Years:** Jeff Blain, Sharon Conrad, Krista Doll, Kip Harris, Cindy Maycock, Nancy Minnick, Rebekah Norgard, and Tracy Ratliff. **25 Years:** Danielle Lund, Christina Richardson, Renee Snodgrass, and Bret Tambllyn. **30 Years:** Heather Fendell, and Kay Smith. **35 Years:** Angie Brown. **40 Years:** Brenda Williams.

News and Notes for Next Year

•School Supply Lists

It will soon be time to think about school supplies. Scan the QR Code to see a list of suggested items for students to bring to school for use in the classroom during the 2024-2025 school year.



•First Days of School

The first day of classes for the 2024-2025 school year for students in Grades 3 - 12 is **Monday, August 26**.

•TK/K/ 1st & 2nd Grades

The first day of school for little Vikings in TK/Kindergarten and 1st and 2nd grades is **Wednesday, August 28**.

•Preschool First Day

The first day of classes for our littlest Selah learners in preschool is after Labor Day on **Tuesday, September 3**.

•Activities Calendar

As we prepare for a new year, the 2024-2025 Activities Calendar will be **available mid-August**.

•Back-to-School Updates

As we prepare for the new 2024-2025 school year, be watching for our Back-to-School page on our District website. Also, please be watching for new year updates on the District's regular communication channels.



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Apply @ <https://selahjobs.hrmlplus.net>
Call 509-698-8440

Join Our TEAM

We are recruiting individuals to join the Viking Team! In addition to the certificated and classified positions posted to the District's website, we are recruiting for all substitute positions. Apply at <https://selahjobs.hrmlplus.net/Home.aspx>.



Superintendent
Kevin McKay

Board of Directors
Dan Peters; President
Jamie Morford; Vice-President
Joe Catron; Legislative Representative
Sarah Michael; Member
Derek Iverson; Member

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, 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

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