

SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

GOOD NEWS

EDITION NEWSLETTER



WELCOME BACK MESSAGE

As we enter the 2024/2025 school year, we want to extend a warm welcome back to each of you. The school year promises to be filled with incredible learning opportunities and growth for our students. Our dedicated educators are more committed than ever to nurturing a supportive and challenging environment where every student can thrive.

Over the summer, many of our staff members continued to hone their skills by participating in workshops and training sessions. Their dedication and commitment to refining their teaching methods support our efforts to meet each student where they are and help them succeed. I am both honored and proud to lead such a passionate and committed team of educators who are ready to inspire and guide our students through another successful year.

We know that not all children learn the same way, and each student may have a different path to success. Over the past couple of years, the St. Helens School District has worked on developing optional pathways to graduation and success. Students in the St. Helens School District have the ability to create an experience that best fits their needs. At the elementary and middle school levels, besides our traditional schools, we have an online virtual school and a program that supports homeschooled students.

In this edition:

Welcome Back Message

Back to School Photos

Elks Teen of the Month

District Listening Sessions

District Surplus Sale

Grandfriends Day

SHSD Volunteer Application

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

WELCOME BACK MESSAGE

At the high school level, students can do everything from graduating early by dual enrolling in our virtual program and our comprehensive high school to attending an early college program where students can earn their associate's degree at the same time they earn their high school diploma from St. Helens High School. The world has changed, and how we meet the needs of today's learners in the St. Helens School District has changed with them.

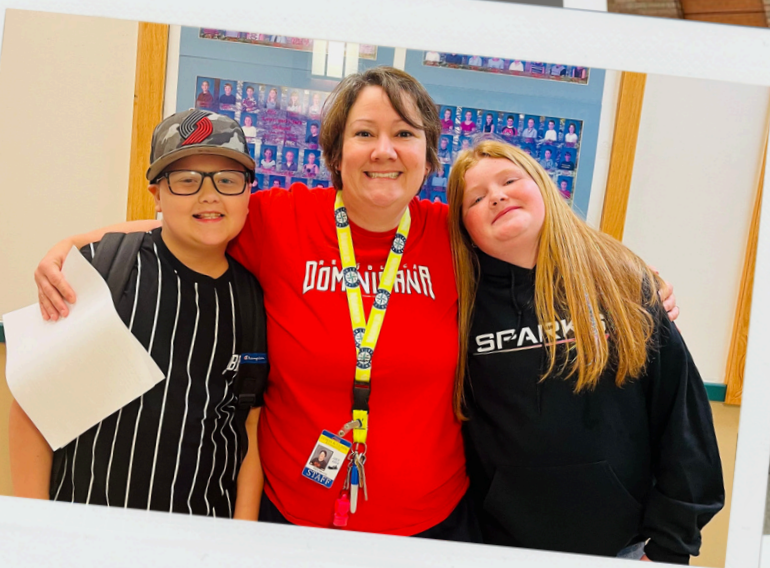
- **High School - Early College:** The program offers students a unique opportunity to earn college credits at PCC while completing their high school education at St. Helens High School, setting them on a path to success in higher education. In partnership with the Portland Community College and the Beaverton School District, students can immerse themselves full-time in a college experience at either PCC Rock Creek or Sylvania campuses, with staff and offices available at both locations. The program offers a comprehensive two-year engagement spanning approximately six terms. Typically, students apply during the spring of their 10th grade or the fall of their 11th grade. They complete all high school credit requirements at PCC while simultaneously earning college credits for all their courses. On average, graduates accumulate around 75-80 transferable college credits upon completion. The program operates full-time, involving 12-16 credits per term, equivalent to a standard college load. Upon graduation, approximately 40% of students achieve an Associate of Arts (AA) degree, further solidifying their higher education foundation.
- **Plymouth High School:** Offering a flexible and personalized learning experience for students, ensuring that each individual can reach their full potential. Plymouth High School generally has smaller class sizes and does not have the distractions that accompany a large, comprehensive high school. Students often attend Plymouth High School who enjoy a quieter setting without all of the pomp and circumstance.
- **St. Helens Virtual Academy:** Delivering a comprehensive and adaptable online learning environment that meets the diverse needs of our students and families. Our Virtual Academy accommodates students from kindergarten through 12th grade. The St. Helens School District provides the chance for students to engage with suitable educational material for each grade level from the comfort of their own homes or other off-site locations through virtual learning. In addition, weekly in-person support is available, as well as field trips and other in-person activities throughout the year to enhance the educational experience.

WELCOME BACK MESSAGE

- ***St. Helens High School and Virtual Hybrid:*** Students can concurrently enroll at St. Helens High School and the Virtual Academy. Students have the flexibility to engage with both their ongoing class subjects and materials at St. Helens High School, as well as catch up on previous class subjects and/or materials within the Virtual Academy. Doing so allows students to accelerate their graduation and take classes to free up space in their schedule for more focused studies or make up credits.
- ***St. Helens Homeschool Connections:*** Our Homeschool Connections program is different from our Virtual Academy in that it allows families to choose their own curriculum and monitor their child's progress. Students in this program have access to tutors, resources, and funds to be successful, yet require a parent or other adult to support instruction from home.

We have so much to be proud of at the St. Helens School District and even more to look forward to, given the options we are able to provide families. We are excited to offer opportunities for success beyond the traditional school house. As we embark on this new school year together and look forward to the many achievements and milestones our students will accomplish, we want to thank our community for their continued support and partnership. We strive to provide the best educational experience tailored for each and every child in the St. Helens community.
Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Welcome
Back to
School!



WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL



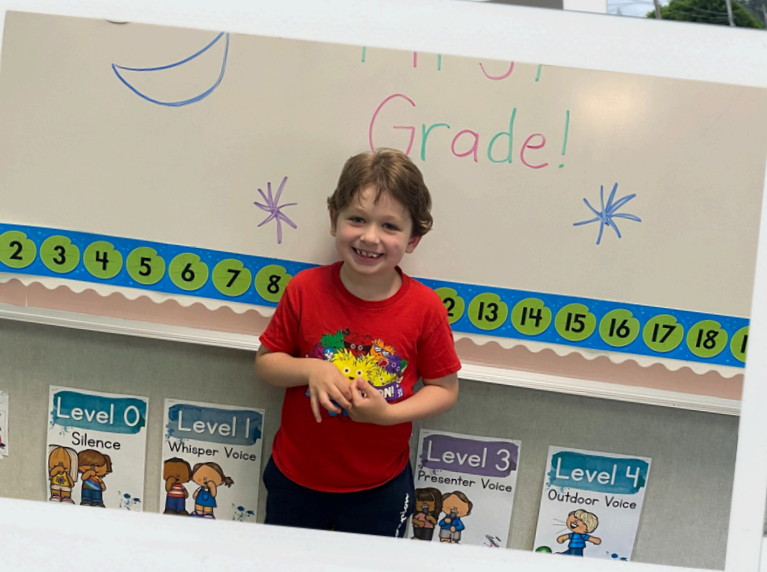
WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL



WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL



WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL



WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL



WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

St. Helens High School proudly announces Christina Kelly as the September Elks Student of the Month.

Christina is a senior at St. Helens High School who is actively involved in the automotive program, varsity tennis team, and National Honor Society. When asked about her reaction to receiving this honor, Christina shared, “My first thoughts were honestly pure shock.”

Throughout her high school career, one of Christina’s favorite memories was winning a tennis match with her partner on her birthday. The match extended well past sundown, finishing long after others had ended. She recalls feeling a mix of “exhaustion and excitement” upon securing the victory. Her tennis coach, Mark McQueen, praises Christina for her dedication, noting, “She is eager to help others and seeks advice to improve each day. She exemplifies how a positive attitude can lead to achieving one’s goals.”

In her free time, Christina enjoys reading and writing, considering writing one of her greatest strengths. “Words flow so easily from my brain to paper. Writing is like solving a puzzle—grammar is the puzzle’s pieces, and finding the exact words to fit into a sentence is like completing it,” she explains.

Her favorite class is the automotive program, which she has been a part of for all four years of high school. She cherishes the close friendships she’s made and the valuable skills she’s gained—skills that would otherwise be costly to learn elsewhere. Her automotive teacher, Jay Groom, describes Christina as “a quiet, intelligent young woman who is a joy to have in class. She’s always looking for tasks once her work is finished and is willing to help and teach others what she has learned.”

As her teachers have noted, Christina’s most remarkable quality is her deep care for others. She is a compassionate, gentle student who consistently supports those around her, showing genuine concern and empathy. Her peers know they can always count on her to listen and care.

Congratulations, Christina!



Christina Kelly

Elks Teen of the Month

DISTRICT LISTENING SESSIONS



OCTOBER 17, 2024

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
McBride Elementary
2774 Columbia Blvd.
St. Helens, OR 97051

JANUARY 16, 2025

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Plymouth High School
470 North 16th Street
St. Helens, OR 97051

MARCH 20, 2025

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
St. Helens High School
2375 Gable Road
St. Helens, OR 97051

MAY 15, 2025

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
St. Helens Middle School
354 North 15th Street
St. Helens, OR 97051

In our ongoing commitment to actively engage with the community and gather meaningful input, the St. Helens School District will be hosting four district-wide listening sessions. These sessions offer a valuable opportunity for you to connect directly with school district staff in an open forum.

There will be no set agenda for these meetings. Instead, they are designed to be a space where you can discuss any district-related matters, share your thoughts, and voice concerns. Your feedback is invaluable to us, and we believe that open, honest conversations will help us serve our students, families, and community more effectively.

We look forward to collaborating with you to strengthen our school district, and we hope you will join us for the second of these four listening sessions.

St. Helens School District Surplus Sale

Saturday, September 28, 2024

8:00 am - 11:00 am

St. Helens School District Warehouse

58751 Sauser Road, Warren, OR 97053

The St. Helens School District will conduct a warehouse sale on Saturday, September 28th to dispose of district equipment declared as surplus. Items include furniture and equipment. These items are sold on a first come, first serve basis. Items are sold as is on site without representations or warranties.

Buyer is responsible for moving items prior to the conclusion of the sale.

Cash or Cashier Checks only.



SURPLUS SALE

The St. Helens School District will conduct a warehouse sale on Saturday, September 28th to dispose of district equipment declared as surplus. Items include furniture and equipment.

These items are sold on a first come, first serve basis. Items are sold as is on site without representations or warranties. Buyer responsible for moving items prior to the conclusion of the sale.

Cash or Cashier Checks only.

Saturday

September 28, 2024

8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

District Warehouse

58751 Sauser Road

Warren OR



COLUMBIA CITY, MCBRIDE & LEWIS & CLARK

GRANDFRIENDS Day



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10TH 2024

7:45 AM - 9:15 AM



Come and see our school!

7:45-9:00 Classroom Time

9:00 - 9:15 Principal Chat



St. Helens School District

Volunteer Application



*Make a Difference in Your
School Community*

**APPLY
NOW!**



Volunteers can really make a big difference in the educational experience for our students. Whether you're interested in a one-time, one-hour project, or an ongoing opportunity, we can find something for you!