

Welcome to ORTING



YOUR ORTING SCHOOL DISTRICT INTRODUCTION NEWSLETTER | 2025

Greetings!

On behalf of the Orting School District, we extend our warmest welcome to you and your family. Representing the communities of Orting, Puyallup, Bonney Lake, and Graham spanning over 45 square miles, we are excited to have you join our vibrant community. We look forward to partnering with you in creating an enriching educational experience for all learners.

At Orting School District, our mission is rooted in the belief that every individual holds inherent dignity and value. We are committed to fostering a community where every student, family, and staff member feels supported, celebrated, and valued for who they are. By embracing the diversity and uniqueness of our community, we aim to create a culture where everyone has a sense of belonging and worth.

Across our four schools, you will see consistent efforts to elevate our students' voice, opportunities for involvement in the school and local community, and meaningful learning opportunities centered around choice, collaboration, problem-solving,

goal-setting, and reflection. We have notable alumni across a wide range of career pathways including business owners, doctors, rocket scientists, skilled trades, and even professional athletes.

Equally, we are passionate about empowering all learners to realize their fullest potential. Through personalized learning opportunities, innovative programs, and a supportive environment, we encourage our students to dream boldly and take ownership of their educational journeys. Our goal is to inspire confidence and equip every learner with the tools, skills, and mindset to set and accomplish their dreams.

We are honored to be part of your family's journey and are here to support you every step of the way. Our four schools serve and support nearly 3,000 learners every day from pre-kindergarten through age 22. Welcome to Orting, where together, we can build a future full of possibilities.

Ed Hatzenbeler
Superintendent

Register to Vote!

You can register online, 24 hours a day, at **VoteWA.gov**. Scan the QR code to register today!



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Puyallup Tribe of Indians History of sʔiqʷ / Orting

In our small town of Orting, we live on land first inhabited by the Puyallup Tribe of Indians. We have worked with the Puyallup Tribal Language Department (or txʷəlšucid/Twulshootseed) to learn more about the local Native history in Orting.

While there are accounts that Orting was a native word that means “town on the prairie,” there are no records that the word Orting is from a local tribe. It has been concluded that Col. S. A. Black named Orting from his original homeland. We will continue to do more research so we can teach our students and community about our history!

In the meantime, in the Mythology of Southern Puget Sound by Arthur Ballard, there is a special piece about our town and how it came to be.

“...The man died and it was so. The head of taqʷuʔbəd burst open and the water rushed down the hillsides and swept the trees from the valley. The prairie about the town of Orting was called by us, sʔiqʷ, which means “open,” because the flood cleaned it and left it covered with porous stones. The white people do not now see the lake on the mountain top; it has been spilled out.”

Orting’s Lushootseed place name is sʔiqʷ, meaning “opening.”

We want to thank and raise our hands to txʷəlšucid for researching and helping us learn more about our area. To learn more about the Puyallup Tribe’s language revitalization program, visit their website or scan the QR code.



ORTING SCHOOL DISTRICT MAP



WHO WE ARE

4 schools

2,853 students enrolled

72% of students regularly attend

88.6% 4-year graduation rate

Orting School District boundaries cover 45 square miles and serves the communities of Orting, Puyallup, Bonney Lake, and Graham.



Ptarmigan Ridge Elementary

Home of the Mountaineers!

About Our School

Serving **740** students

With **124** staff and teachers

Contact Us!

805 Old Pioneer Way NW
Orting WA, 98360

Phone:

(360) 893-0595

Highlights

- **Golden Award Winners:**
Weekly recognition of students for classroom achievements, fostering a culture of success and excellence.
- **Character Development Focus:**
Emphasis on fostering kindness, respect, responsibility, and safety in students.



Principal's Message

Nikkii Mesa

Orting holds a special place in my heart as a 1999 graduate of the district. After earning my teaching degree from Pacific Lutheran University, I taught from 2nd to 6th grade and served in roles such as Intervention Specialist and Middle School Assistant Principal. Returning to Orting is a true gift, and I'm excited to continue to serve the community that raised me, helping all students thrive!



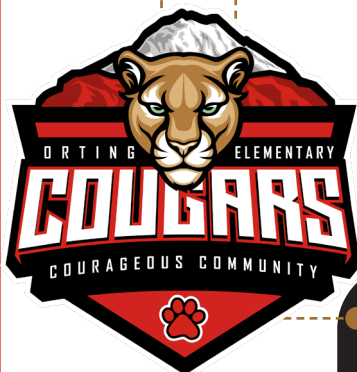
Orting Elementary School

Home of the Cougars!

Principal's Message

Connie Halvorson-Tran

I joined the Orting School District team in 2023. I have worked in the Sumner-Bonney Lake School District and the Olympia School District. As an Orting community member myself, I am dedicated to building a strong community and ensuring all students have access to a high-quality education that prepares them for future success!



About Our School

Serving **583** students

With **83** staff and teachers

Contact Us!

316 Washington Ave N
Orting WA, 98360

Phone:

(360) 893-2248

Highlights

- **Cougar Pride Assemblies:** Monthly assemblies that celebrate student achievements and build school spirit.
- **Student Leadership Roles:** Opportunities for students to take on leadership roles through clubs, activities, and classroom responsibilities.

Orting Middle School

Home of the Falcons!

About Our School

Serving **660** students

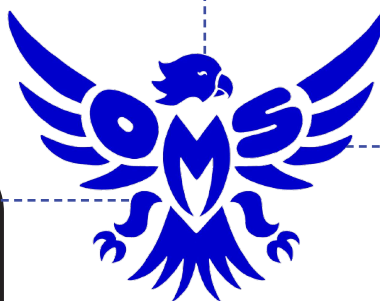
With **95** staff and teachers

Contact Us!

111 Whitehawk Blvd NW
Orting WA, 98360

Phone:

(360) 893-3565



Highlights

- **Career Exploration:** Middle school students begin exploring Career and Technical Education pathways, preparing for high school and beyond.
- **Falcon Mindset:** Building a mindset where students view mistakes as part of learning, see themselves as learners, and believe in their ability to succeed.



Principal's Message

Kevin Collins

I'm honored to serve as Principal of Orting Middle School. I work closely with staff, students, and families to ensure every student feels safe, welcome, and has a sense of belonging. Our goal is to provide engaging learning experiences and opportunities for students to explore their interests and connect within our community. I am proud to be a Falcon!



Orting High School

Home of the Cardinals!

Principal's Message

Cliff Fries

I've had the privilege of serving Orting students and families since 2001, all at Orting High School. I've served as Principal since 2017. Orting High School is a special place, with dedicated staff and students known for their kindness, tenacity, and passion. We're committed to providing robust career and technical programs to help our students thrive. I'm here to serve and support our community!



About Our School

Serving **890** students

With **111** staff and teachers

Contact Us!

320 Washington Ave N
Orting WA, 98360

Phone:

(360) 893-2246

Highlights

- **13-Year Seniors:** Celebrate students who have attended the OSD from kindergarten through 12th grade.
- **State Champion Wrestling Team:** The Orting High School wrestling team has won the state championship for four years in a row.
- **Career and Technical Education:** A robust CTE program offering six career pathways for students to explore and prepare for their future careers.

FacilitiesUpdate

Highlights of our schools and facilities improvements

The Orting School District has experienced incredible growth in the last several years. Across our boundaries, several major developments will bring over 5,000 new homes to the District by 2033. Starting in 2021, over 50 community leaders and educators came together to build a long-term facilities plan to address this growth. The Board of Directors has helped reshape the Citizens Facility Advisory Committee recommendations with subsequent community surveys and feedback. Although a majority of voters have supported recent bond measures, we have failed to reach a 60 percent supermajority necessary to construct new, adequately sized facilities.

The Board of Directors recognizes the balance between urgent facility needs with the very real impact associated with property taxes. The issues facing our children are too dire to ignore. The Board has directed the creation of a Bond Task Force composed of community members and students to help shape and direct a future bond proposal. You can help by ensuring your voter registration is up to date. Look for more information in future mailers or on the District website as the Board contemplates a bond package for November 2025.

SPOTLIGHT ON FACILITIES NEEDS



■ *Orting Elementary was built to house 290 students. With more than 580 students now, the lack of space is felt in every aspect of the school day.*



■ *Orting High School has the same STEM labs since 1986. This is grossly insufficient to prepare our students for the type of jobs and industry they will face after high school.*

Orting Alumni Shine Bright: From Local Roots to Incredible Generosity

Orting School District is proud to celebrate the success of its amazing alumni, whose achievements continue to inspire our community and beyond. Two graduates, in particular, have made waves in their respective fields while staying deeply connected to their Orting roots.

Marin Sasaki-Boyce (class of 2017): Growing Locally with the Daffodil Festival

Marin Sasaki-Boyce, the 2024 president-elect of the Daffodil Festival, has drawn inspiration for the year's theme, Growing Locally, from her childhood in Orting. Marin, who was crowned Daffodil Festival Queen after representing Orting High School as its princess, shared the deep connection she feels to her hometown.

"I absolutely loved growing up in Orting and felt it was important to reinvest in my community as I got older," Marin shared. Her passion for community and her fond memories of Orting's farms and natural beauty are reflected in the 2025 festival theme, which celebrates local growth and connections.



■ **RIGHT:** Sasaki-Boyce's Daffodil Festival President-Elect Portrait
■ **LEFT:** Sasaki-Boyce visiting KOMO News as Daffodil Queen



Isaac Jones (class of 2018): A Slam Dunk for Orting Basketball

Isaac Jones, now playing in the NBA for the Sacramento Kings, has also stayed true to his Orting roots. After signing his first professional contract, Isaac used his initial paycheck to purchase new red shoes for Orting High School's boys' and girls' basketball teams.

When asked about the gesture, Isaac said, "It's a dream come true!" His generosity and dedication serve as an inspiration to current Orting students.



■ **RIGHT:** Isaac Jones playing for the Idaho Vandals
■ **LEFT:** Students open the shoes donated from NBA player Isaac Jones



Contact Us

Address:

Orting School District
121 Whitesell St. NE
Orting, WA 98360

Phone:

(360) 893-6500

Website:

OrtingSchools.org

Register your student!

Registration is open for all grades! Use the QR code and follow the steps to register your student today!



Join the *Get Outside* Movement!

Get Outside OSD was launched during the 2024-25 school year, an initiative aimed at encouraging students and families to adopt a healthier lifestyle by getting active outdoors and making nutritious food choices.

The **Get Outside OSD** initiative supports and encourages healthy lifestyles. To make the effort engaging, we created stickers that students and staff can earn for each goal they achieve which can be collected at each school office. These milestones are designed to be accessible to everyone, from beginners to avid outdoor enthusiasts. Whether it's completing a hike, cooking a healthy meal, going for a bike ride, or simply playing outside after school, every effort counts!

Families are welcome to share their adventures by using the hashtag **#GetOutsideOSD** or emailing the district at **communications@ortingschools.org** to be a part of encouraging a healthy lifestyle! Scan the QR code to visit our website to learn more about the initiative and how you can participate!



New Early-Learning Facility and Preschool-Friendly Garden

The Orting School District was selected to receive grants to support early learning within our district.

The Orting School District is honored to have been selected by the Department of Commerce to receive \$1.1 million in funding to support the development of a new early-learning facility. In the next legislative session, the district will be working with elected officials to receive an additional \$3.5 million to construct an eight-classroom early-learning facility housed at Ptarmigan Ridge Elementary. This significant investment will help create a dynamic space for our youngest learners, setting the stage for a strong start to their education.

In addition, Orting was one of only four districts in Pierce County chosen to receive a portion of a \$500,000 federal grant to construct a preschool-friendly community garden. This outdoor learning environment will give students hands-on experience with nature, aligning with our commitment to engage in healthy and enriching educational opportunities.

Orting 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, marital status, 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 employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination and their offices are located at 121 Whitesell St NE, Orting, WA 98360: Civil Rights Compliance/Title IX/ADA Coordinator Debi Christensen, Executive Director for Human Resources, 360-893-6500, ext. 4028, christensend@orting.wednet.edu. Section 504 Coordinator Dr. Jennifer Westover, Executive Director for Student Support Services, 360-893-6500, ext. 4027, westoverj@orting.wednet.edu. Information about the nondiscrimination and sex-based discrimination policies and grievance procedures, and how to report a concern or complaint can be accessed here. Title IX inquiries may also be directed toward the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights.

Be the first to know! Follow us on social media and be sure to be checking our website for updates!



@OrtingSchoolDistrict



OrtingSchools.org