

LIND-RITZVILLE COOPERATIVE SCHOOLS

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

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LIND-RITZVILLE GRIT

MAY 2025

SUPERINTENDENT MESSAGE

As we head into the final stretch of the school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the meaningful work taking place across our schools and share some important updates from the Lind-Ritzville Cooperative.

First, I'm proud to highlight our staff's continued focus on Mastery-Based Learning. At the middle school level, teachers have collaboratively developed guiding principles for grading practices that reflect learning, not just point accumulation. This approach will help students better understand what success looks like and how to grow from feedback. It's also reinforcing our broader district vision to ensure all students experience academic progress, personal growth, and preparation for life beyond graduation.

We're also making important strides in infrastructure and planning. Fiber installation has been completed at the Lind campus, significantly improving technology access. In addition, we're exploring a rooftop solar project through a federally funded, WSU-managed grant that—if approved—would allow us to pursue energy cost savings with no upfront investment. We look forward to sharing more about this opportunity during our May board meeting.

We also continue our community outreach related to the proposed 4-day school week. In the coming days, families and community members will receive an informational flyer that outlines key considerations. This will be followed by a series of community forums, where everyone is welcome to come learn more, ask questions, and engage in meaningful conversation.

As always, thank you for your continued support. We're fortunate to live and learn in communities where education is a shared priority.

Don Vanderholm
LRCS Superintendent
dvanderholm@lrschools.org



5-12 Grade Band Spring Concert

Wednesday, May 21 / 6:00PM
LRMS Gym

SAVE the DATES!

Proposed 4-Day School Week Community Forums

May 28 / Ritzville / 6:00PM
June 2 / Ritzville / 6:00PM
June 3 / Lind / 6:00PM
June 4 / Lind / 6:00PM

More information & details to follow!

UPCOMING LRCS DATES

May 3 - LRHS Sadie's Dinner & Dance / HS Commons / 7:00-11:00PM
May 3 - Lind Alumni Banquet / LRMS Gym
May 5 - HS Class of 2026 Jostens Grad Preview/LRHS Commons / 6:00PM
May 7 - 9 - FFA State Convention
May 8 - RGS Muffins with Misses / 7:30 - 8:15AM
May 8 - RGS 5th Grade Trout Release Field Trip
May 9 - LRHS Big Bend Application & FAFSA Support/HS Library / 8:45AM-1:15PM
May 15 - LES Pastries with Parents / 7:45 - 8:25 AM
May 16 - LRHS Academic Assembly
May 16 - RGS TK-5th Grade Reptile Man Assembly
May 17 - Marching Band/Armed Forces Torchlight Parade/Spokane
May 20th- LRMS 7th Grade Coulee Dam Field Trip
May 21 - 5th - 12th Grade Band Concert / LRMS Gym / 6:00PM
May 22 - LES 5th Grade Manito Park Field Trip
May 22 - Band Silverwood Trip
May 24 - Ritzville Alumni Banquet / Gilson Gym
May 26 - NO SCHOOL (Memorial Day)
May 27 - LES & RGS 2nd Grade Rattlesnake Flats Wind Farm Field Trip
May 27 - School Board Meeting / LRMS Collaboration Room / 6:30PM
May 27 - 28 - LRHS Junior Summit
May 28 - Proposed 4-Day Community Forum / Ritzville / 6:00PM
May 29 - LES & RGS 5th Grade Law Day Field Trip
June 2 - LRHS Senior Walk Through
June 2 - Proposed 4-Day Community Forum / Ritzville / 6:00PM
June 3 - Move Up Day
June 3 - Proposed 4-Day Community Forum / Lind / 6:00PM
June 4 - LRMS Clean-Up Day / 8th Grade Promotion Trip
June 4 - Proposed 4-Day Community Forum / Lind / 6:00PM
June 5 - LES Fun Run & Field Day
June 5 - 8th Grade Award Ceremony / LRMS Gym / 2:15PM
June 6 - RGS TK-5th Field Day
June 7 - LRHS Graduation / Gilson Gym / 2:00PM
June 9 - Last Day of School (Early Release)
June 23 - School Board Meeting / LRHS Collaboration Room / 6:30PM

****Dates & Times Subject to Change**

LIND-RITZVILLE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONY

Saturday, June 7
2:00 PM
Gilson Gymnasium

GREAT THINGS HAPPENING AT LIND-RITZVILLE COOPERATIVE SCHOOLS



Mrs. Davey's 6th grade class at LRMS took a field trip to the Coyote Canyon Mammoth Dig site in Kennewick.

This adventure tied into the Early Human History unit from the fall, as well as the Animal Extinction lessons they are covering in Mr. Hatch's Environmental Science class. The students learned about the Missoula floods, visited the actual dig site, and had the chance to wash dirt like an archaeologist. They were allowed to bring home all of the bones found in the dirt that they sifted.



In honor of Arbor Day, Mrs. Gingrich's 5th grade students rolled up their sleeves and got their hands dirty planting trees. It was a day of learning, teamwork and giving back.

Along with this experience, students wrote essays on their favorite tree. From Cherry Blossom Trees to Palm Trees, they shared inspiring reflections on nature and the importance of trees in our world. The essay winners are: Makenna Jacobs, Kyler Kerr & Jethro Kiesz.



Last month, LRHS Seniors participated in STCU's Money Live. STCU's Money Live! is an interactive, hands-on financial education event tailored for high school students. Designed as a real-life simulation, it helps students understand the financial decisions and responsibilities they may face in adulthood.

Students assume the roles of adults ten years into the future, making choices about housing, food, childcare, insurance, auto purchases, and more. Each student receives a unique life profile—such as a pilot, web developer, or physical therapist—and navigates budgeting decisions based on that scenario.

This immersive experience not only teaches financial literacy but also fosters appreciation for the complexities of adult life. Educators have noted that students gain a deeper understanding of the real costs associated with everyday living.

Thank You STCU for helping our students prepare for their future!



LES Preschool and TK students have been working on their fine motor skills. Fine motor skills are essential for tasks like writing, drawing, and self-care, contributing to their ability to complete everyday activities and succeed in school.



Congratulations to the LRHS FFA trapshooting team who competed in Wenatchee last month. FFA State Trapshoot, which hosts over 370 students for the competition, has over 50 teams competing in various competitions. This year LRHS had one team of four competitors: Levi Cooper, Jonathan Stromberger, Henry McRae, and Case McBride.

Congratulations to Jonathan Stromberger for placing 3rd Place in the overall competition!



Thirty-five LRHS FBLA members attended the Washington State Business Leadership Conference in Bellevue. They tested their business mindset and skills against other students across Washington State.

Electronic Career Portfolio - Hannah Towne - 1st Place at STATE & Qualified for NATIONALS

Job Interview - Brody Boness - 1st Place at STATE & Qualified for NATIONALS

Business Law - Willow Lawler - 1st Place at STATE & Qualified for NATIONALS

Intro to Business Concepts - Amelia Clack - 1st Place at STATE & Qualified for NATIONALS

Broadcast Journalism - Brody Boness & Brix Curtis - 3rd Place at STATE & Qualified for NATIONALS

Agribusiness - Zach Klein - 5th Place at STATE

Agribusiness - Claire Wellsandt - 8th Place at STATE

Accounting 1 - Danika Cox - 8th Place at STATE

Accounting 1 - Hayes Hennings - 9th Place at STATE

Website Design - Madi Cameron & Makenna Smith - Top 12 Finalist

This year, the FBLA National Leadership Conference will take place June 29-July 2 in Anaheim, California.



LR FFA Poultry Team earned 1st Place at **STATE!**

They will represent Washington at the **NATIONAL** FFA Convention in Indianapolis this fall. Team members include: John Stromberger (2nd High Individual), Alyssa Williams (4th High Individual), Maeve Korthuis (6th High Individual), Hagen Carlson & Morrighana Duke



Congratulations to the LR FFA 1st place at Livestock Judging CDE! Kelly Cordill (3rd High Individual), Luke Wade (4th High Individual), John Stromberger (8th High Individual), Trevor Redburn, Hagen Carlson, Landon Williams, Patrick Repp & Alyssa Williams



A HUGE THANK YOU to the Lind PTO for supporting our students in many ways this year! During a recent fundraiser, they raised \$3,940.97, to help fund replacing drinking fountains at LES with filtered water bottle filling stations. Thank you to all who contributed!

Contact Us:

Lind School District
Phone: 509-677-3499
507 North E Street
Lind, WA 99341

Ritzville School District
Phone: 509-659-1660
209 E Wellsandt Rd
Ritzville, WA 99169

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