

# Eagle



# Update

Yoncalla, Oregon

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[www.yoncalla.k12.or.us](http://www.yoncalla.k12.or.us)

## ODE Highlights Attendance Awareness Month with Focus on Youngest Learners

*Districts across the state are seeing positive trends in elementary attendance, including Bend LaPine, Centennial, Coos Bay, Ontario, and Yoncalla*

(Salem, OR) – The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) is joining schools, families, and community partners across the state in recognizing September as Attendance Awareness Month. Governor Tina Kotek issued a proclamation last week, affirming the importance of regular attendance and Oregon’s shared commitment to supporting students.

“As we begin the 2025-26 school year, we are placing renewed focus on helping every child build the habit of showing up every day,” said Dr. Charlene Williams, ODE Director. “This is especially important for our youngest learners, as early attendance lays the foundation for literacy, belonging, and long-term academic success.”

This year’s emphasis on young learners comes as Senate Bill 141 (2025) expanded the educational accountability system by adding a number of new performance metrics for school districts. Those metrics include a dedicated Early Learner Attendance Metric to track, monitor, and support improved attendance for students in kindergarten through second grade.

Research shows that consistent attendance in the early grades is directly linked to reading at grade level by third grade and to long-term school success. Starting the year with strong attendance helps children feel welcomed, connected, and ready to learn, setting a positive tone for the months ahead.

**Yoncalla School District - Yoncalla Elementary School:** In 2023-24, the regular attender rate rose to 63.8%, a gain of 5.9 percentage points from the 2022-23 school year (58%). Compared with 40.6% in 2021-22, this reflects an improvement of 23 percentage points over two years at the same time that elementary enrollment grew by 50% in 5 years. This achievement reflects a focus on building good attendance habits beginning in preschool through family engagement, learning opportunities and visible attendance reminders. These practices have fostered a welcoming school culture where students want to attend school. As a result, attendance is stronger across kindergarten and other grades.

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# Football!

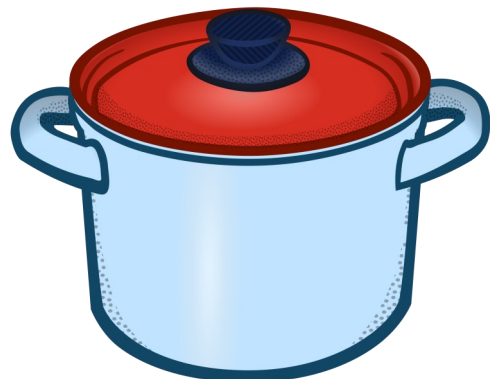


## Culinary Arts is Back



Students have only been back for three weeks but the Culinary Arts Kitchen never stopped. They have been hard at work setting up their kitchens, unpacking new stainless-steel pots and pans, learning about kitchen safety, and earning their food handler's permits to be able to share food with friends, staff, and family.

All culinary classes recently closed out their week with homemade pizza. Other items students have made so far this year include Pancakes, Biscuits, Banana Coconut Smoothies, Granola, Eggs, Omelets, and Lemon Zucchini Bread. The classes also harvested their first batch of garlic. They are excited to use it in their upcoming dishes.



## Middle/High School Student of the Month— September

Yoncalla Middle School  
Elsa Cameron  
September 2025



Yoncalla High School  
Riley Walters  
September 2025



## Senior Sunrise 2025

By: Delila Peralta

In the dark of the early morning on August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the seniors of Yoncalla High came together to watch the sunrise over our beautiful town. Mrs. Ross, our principal, provided donuts for every student and we all sat on blankets and in camp chairs, chatting as we watched the sunrise on our final year of school.

I had an amazing time with my fellow classmates and the event helped us reconnect after a long summer of not seeing everyone. At first we thought the smoke and clouds were going to cover the sun and we would miss the sunrise. Thankfully, this was not the case. Before people started to pack up and head home, the skies cleared and we were able to watch an absolutely beautiful sunrise together.

This was a great experience, not only because we were able to take pictures, make memories, and hang out, but it also shows that sometimes - when it feels you're not getting what you want - persevering and having faith is the key to success.



# Upcoming College and Career Events

September 30 - Southern Oregon Career Expo

October 8 - Roseburg High College Fair

October 16 - PSAT (Grades 10-11)

## Yoncalla School District Priorities

1. Each student will enjoy positive, engaging learning environments.
2. Each child will possess the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful

and the self-reliance to be a productive citizen.

Community is recognized and nurtured among all

4. Facilities and finances are managed effectively and efficiently for the benefit of each child.



Recently, Yoncalla Indian Education Coordinator, Shannin Stutzman and her mother, Esther, were gifted with a carved Raven mask created by Lummi carver James Jewell and a member of the Se'Si'Le Xaalh (The Way of the Masks), a group of Native people on a 1600-mile totem pole journey across the Pacific Northwest to bring awareness of environmental protection.

The gift was in recognition of the many years Shannin and her mother have worked with Indian Education Native Youth programs and also for their revitalization of the local Kalapuya language.

The mask will be on display at Yoncalla Elementary school during November, which is National Native American Heritage month.



## Kinder/Senior Breakfast

By: Bella Sybrant

On September 2<sup>nd</sup> over two-thirds of the senior class went to the grade school to continue the tradition of having breakfast with the kindergarten class. The previous week the kindergarteners attended half days to get used to school. This was the first full day for the kindergarten classes. The Kinder/Senior breakfast has been a tradition at Yoncalla for the last four years. In previous years, all students ate in their classrooms and the kinder classes eating in the cafeteria.

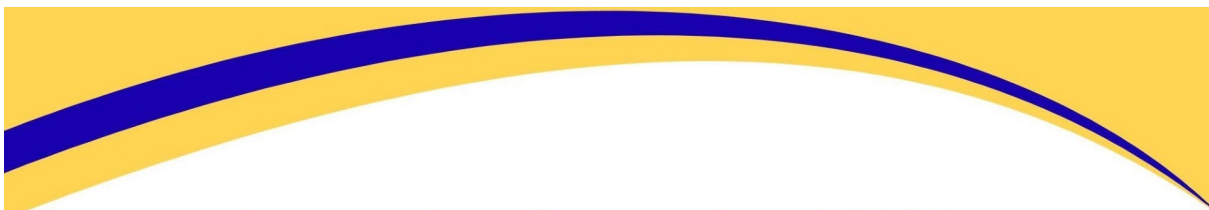
Liam Dougherty, a senior who attended, said "I had a lot of fun hanging out with my group of kids. I was able to color a picture with them and talk about their favorite things."

While some confusion took place this year around breakfast times due classes no longer eating breakfast in their classrooms and we did not have the opportunity to eat breakfast with the kindergarteners, we were able to walk them to class, color with them, and help them settle into their classrooms.

All of the seniors have requested to have another kinder/senior breakfast later in the year. Senior Eli Weight also said "The Kinder/Senior Breakfast went well and I enjoyed spending time with the tiny humans. It felt very influential in a sense that I got to feel like a kindergartener again and they got to see their future. The communication could have been better but I still had fun hanging little Bel-ladonna."

This is such an amazing tradition and we cannot wait until the Kindergarten class is able to walk us through the elementary school, one more time, at the end of the year while we wear our caps and gowns.

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Save the Date for YHS's  
*Fall Open House*

Wednesday, September 24, 2025  
Dinner at 6pm, Rooms open at 6:30pm

# Volleyball!

