

# Rainier School District Newsletter

“Home of the Cougars, Mountain Lions and Mountaineers”

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION



### Rainier Elementary Kindergarten Registration

Your child needs to be five years of age on or before  
**August 31, 2026,**  
for the **2026-2027 Kindergarten Class**

We look forward to seeing our future  
kindergarteners and parents.  
Thank you for sharing your precious child/children with us.

To start the registration process: <https://elementary.rainier.education/>  
Please pre-register online using the [New Student Registration button](#). This button is found on our [website](#). We will contact you to confirm your interest in our kindergarten program and to review our registration process. You will also receive an email with the information for the next step. Please call the office if you need assistance: 360-446-4020.

To complete your kindergartner's registration:

1. Proof of residency!
2. A copy of your child's birth certificate or other proof of age/guardianship
3. Immunization records, must be completed before attending school.
4. A completed Kindergarten Google Enrollment Form submitted online, link will be emailed after **step two** is completed.
5. Skyward Annual Update in August, information will be sent out in August.

### Rainier Preschool Registration

Preschool registration will open up on May 4, 2026.  
Registration is online only. To start the process:  
<https://elementary.rainier.education/>  
Space is limited and will be on a first come basis.  
Your child needs to be 3 1/2 years old and potty trained by August 31, 2026.



# 100th Day of School at Rainier Elementary



## American Heart Association 's Kids Heart Challenge!

The Kids Heart Challenge helps students focus on the whole body well-being, improve their own health while raising life saving donations for the American Heart Association to help kids with special hearts.

Congratulation Rainier Elementary students! This year you raised \$10, 833.83, that is \$2,333.83 over our goal of \$8,500.00.

**CONGRATULATIONS!!!**



**Thank you to Deputy Hansen for talking with the three Kindergarten classes!**



## **MISS THURSTON COUNTY**

Miss Thurston County, Helena Rudolf, visited with RES 3rd grade students.

Her community service initiative is entitled “Dismantle Diet Culture”, with the goal of raising awareness surrounding eating disorders and helping the community unlearn diet culture. With the kids she did a presentation on food positivity and self-love to encourage food as fuel and to love and appreciate our bodies.



# K-9 Visit

SRO Deputy Hansen visited the Kindergarten classes for a second time this month and brought along two special guests, Deputy Pearsall and his partner, K-9 Mac. Each class had prepared three specific questions to ask Deputy Pearsall. After the question and answer time, students had an opportunity to pet K-9 Mac.

Thank you, Deputy Hansen, Deputy Pearsall, and K-9 Mac for a very enjoyable and informative visit!



**You are invited to the  
Rainier Education Foundation  
2026  
Auction for Education**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026  
In the RHS Gym**

**Silent Auction at 4:00 PM  
Dinner (\$25.00 each) at 6:00 PM  
Dessert Dash at 6:50 PM  
Games/Entertainment at 7:00 PM**

**Register online:  
[www.RainierEducationFoundation.com](http://www.RainierEducationFoundation.com)**

**From the halls to the peaks,  
we reach new heights!**

## Students Earn Industry-Recognized Certifications

At the conclusion of first semester, students in Mrs. Rossmailer's third and sixth-hour Intro to Business class reached an exciting milestone by earning their Industry-Recognized Certification (IRC) in 21st Century Skills. These certifications reflect students' proficiency in essential workplace skills such as communication, professionalism, teamwork, and problem-solving.

Achieving this certification not only celebrates students' hard work and dedication but also provides them with a valuable credential that can give them a competitive edge as they enter the workforce. Opportunities like this help prepare students for real-world success and demonstrate the district's commitment to career-ready learning experiences.



# FBLA Connects Classroom Learning to Real-World Careers

Rainier High School FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) members had the opportunity to expand their learning beyond the classroom during a special lunch guest speaker event on January 22. FBLA is a Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) that helps students apply classroom knowledge to real-world experiences while exploring career pathways and building leadership skills.

Students welcomed RHS graduate Kayla Rice-Ferguson, who shared valuable insight into the wide range of career opportunities available within financial institutions. Kayla spoke about her professional experiences and the many career pathways within the financial industry, helping students better understand how skills learned in RHS courses can translate directly into the workforce. In addition to her work in the financial field, Kayla also shared her experiences helping operate her family's pest removal business, highlighting the entrepreneurial opportunities available in today's job market.

The lunch event provided students with an engaging and informative experience filled with practical advice and encouragement. Opportunities like this help FBLA members recognize how their education, CTSO involvement, and course selections at RHS can help prepare them for future careers and real-world success.



# Rainier Wrestling

## Continues Consistency at Mat Classic XXXVII

Rainier Wrestling advanced its largest contingency of wrestlers to the Dome in school history sending 21 total participants to Mat Classic XXXVII. Rainier boys sent a record 16 while the girls team added 5 more.

The Rainier boys were led by state qualifier champion Dorien Cano (175 pounds) who was victorious over Wyatt Gose of Onalaska in the final. Joining Cano on the ride to the Dome was Jacob Scott (120), Adan Gonzalez (120), Evan Delaney (126), Tyson Mahan (126), Carson Delaney (132), Jayden Manibusan (132), Tanner Dow (138), Dustin Sawyer (138), Addison Poole (144), Keagin Howell (144), Nick Starr (150), Wyatt Cughan (150), Nathaniel Maggard (190) and Blake Roberts (285).

The Rainier girls were led by state qualifier runner up Ryleigh Cruse (235 pounds) who lost the finals match to Nina Siribun of Raymond/South Bend. Joining Cruse on the trip to the Dome was Dakota Gardner (105), Sophia McCarthy (145), Chloe Willis (190) and Gracie Lantz (235).

Friday February 20 was a busy day on the floor of the Tacoma Dome with just 4 coaches and 21 wrestlers. Oftentimes there were 4 Rainier wrestlers competing at the same time on mats spread across the Dome floor. "It is a nice problem to have," remarked Coach Holterman, "But, it is exhausting!" When the dust settled at the end of competition on Friday, Rainier advanced 9 boys and all 5 girls to Saturday's competition.

Saturday was just as busy with several wrestlers competing at the same time on different mats. Dorien was the only one to punch his ticket to the semi finals with his third pin of the tournament, beating Landon Girton of Cle Elum. Later that afternoon Cano would step to the center circle and face off with returning multi-medalist Gabe Ray of Tonasket to see who would make it to the finals that evening. Cano executed a very strategic game plan and won via pin at the end of round #2. Cano then faced another Tonasket wrestler in the finals, returning state champion Chub Plank. It was a scoreless first round, but the length of Plank proved to be the undoing of Cano's run with a pin in round #2. This would be Cano's 3rd state medal to go along with a 4th place in 2023 and 4th place in 2025.

Dorien Cano put together a solid tournament placing 7th, also at 175 pounds. "It sure would have been something to see brothers wrestling for a championship," said Holterman.

Blake Roberts rounded out the boys medalist with a 5th place medal at 285. "It isn't very often that there are people bigger than Blake," remarked coach Swann, but there were several that Blake had to battle in the bracket. Blake avenged an earlier loss to Benjamin Knittel of Pomeroy by pinning him in the 5th place match. Blake wrestled a record 8 matches at Mat Classic on his way to the podium. The Rainier boys placed 12th overall out of 61 teams.

Ryleigh Cruse was the lone medalist for the Mountaineer girls team placing 5th at 235. It wasn't the plan, but with a bad ankle it had been a rough month for the Mountaineer. The good ankle suffered a high sprain in a consolation round loss which put the rest of the tournament in jeopardy, but the medical staff taped it up and with determination, Cruse finished the day with a 5th place medal equaling her performance of last year. Four of the five girls earned victories for the team helping the place 36th out of 73 teams.

Junior Jacob Scott (120) was the WSWCA academic state champion for his division and weight class. This award goes to the Junior or Senior athlete with the highest overall GPA.



## Fueling Innovation & Career Readiness in Intro to Business

The *Snake Oil* game is a powerful way to spark imagination and creativity in Mrs. Rossmailer's Intro to Business class. Students love the fast-paced challenge of inventing and pitching imaginative products on the spot — and they don't even realize how much they are learning in the process!

This activity launches our culminating semester project. By the end of the course, each student develops and pitches an original invention to the class after researching, building a complete business plan, and creating a detailed financial page to support their idea.

The very first step? Imagining a new product that would make life better and does not currently exist.

Playing *Snake Oil* helps students:

- Strengthen creative problem-solving skills
- Practice persuasive communication and public speaking
- Develop confidence presenting ideas
- Think like entrepreneurs

These skills directly align with CTE standards in entrepreneurship, marketing, communication, financial literacy, and critical thinking. Students are not just "playing a game" — they are building essential career readiness skills such as innovation, professionalism, adaptability, and collaboration.

It is exciting to watch students move from imagination to implementation as they transform creative ideas into viable business concepts. The energy in the room is incredible — and the learning is real.



# **RAINIER SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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## **Rainier School District & the Clean Buildings Act (HB 1257)**

Washington State now requires large public buildings, including schools, to meet energy-efficiency standards. This law affects most of Rainier’s main school facilities.

To meet these requirements, districts must evaluate their buildings and upgrade systems that waste energy or are nearing the end of their useful life. These includes heating and cooling systems, building controls, lighting, and insulation.

Rainier School District has been proactive in planning for these improvements. The district was recently awarded a **Small School Modernization Grant totaling \$6 million**, which will help us complete required upgrades while reducing the burden on local taxpayers.

These projects will:

- Improve heating and cooling reliability in our buildings
- Lower long-term utility costs
- Increase building lifespan
- Improve comfort for students and staff
- Help the district meet state compliance deadlines

Importantly, this work allows us to address needed building improvements **without using EP&O levy funds** and while preserving local resources for student programs and staffing.

The Clean Buildings Act is a state requirement, but this grant gives Rainier the opportunity to make these improvements responsibly and strategically.

The district’s energy audit identified approximately **\$20 million in needed upgrades** to improve building efficiency and reliability.

Following a review of the findings, we focused on the most urgent needs and have identified the following priority projects to be completed this summer. We believe completing this work will allow the district to meet the state’s energy-efficiency targets and remain in compliance without incurring energy-related fines. You will notice that the high school accounts for the majority of the needed work, as it is the district’s oldest building and currently the least energy-efficient.

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# **RAINIER SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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## **Facility Improvement**

### **Rainier Elementary School**

RES Replace Chiller Rainier Elementary School

RES Interior Lighting Upgrade Rainier Elementary School

RES Exterior Lighting Upgrade Rainier Elementary School

RES Building Envelope Sealing Rainier Elementary School

### **Rainier Middle School**

RMS Exterior Lighting Upgrade Rainier Middle School

RMS Interior Lighting Upgrade Rainier Middle School

RMS Building Envelope Sealing Rainier Middle School

### **Rainier High School**

RHS Interior Lighting Upgrade Rainier High School

RHS Exterior Lighting Upgrade Rainier High School

RHS 100 & 200 Building Electrical Service Branch Panel Replacements Rainier High School

RHS Building Envelope Sealing Rainier High School

RHS 100 & 200 Building Window Upgrades Rainier High School

RHS Exterior Door Replacements Rainier High School

RHS 100 & 200 Building Domestic Water Piping Replacement Rainier High School

**These projects are scheduled to begin in June, once students and staff have departed for summer break.**

Thanks for your support of the Rainier School District.

Bryon

Bryon Bahr

Superintendent

Rainier School District