

ST. HELENS SCHOOL DISTRICT

GOOD NEWS

EDITION
NEWSLETTER



www.sthelens.k12.or.us



April 3, 2026

Good News

Edition Newsletter



In this edition:

Guest Readers: St. Helens Police Department

SHHS Woodworking II

Teacher Leaders Collaborate to Strengthen ELA Instruction

Mystery Reader: Brittnei Jackson

Elks Teen of the Month: Joseph Howard

Copy Paper Drive

April Dates to Remember

Kinder Ready Events

Community Listening & Learning Session

District Mission Statement:

Strengthening Our Community Through Exceptional Schools

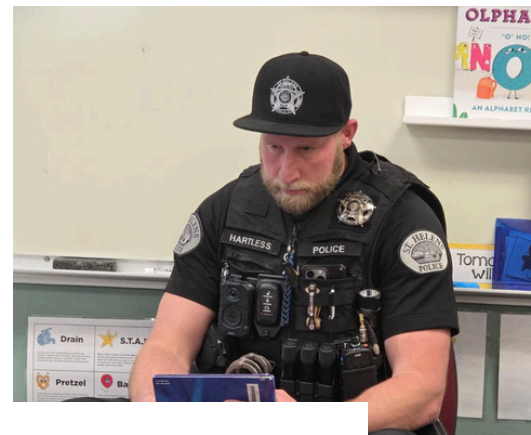
District Vision Statement:

St. Helens School District inspires all students to learn, connect, and commit to a thriving future.

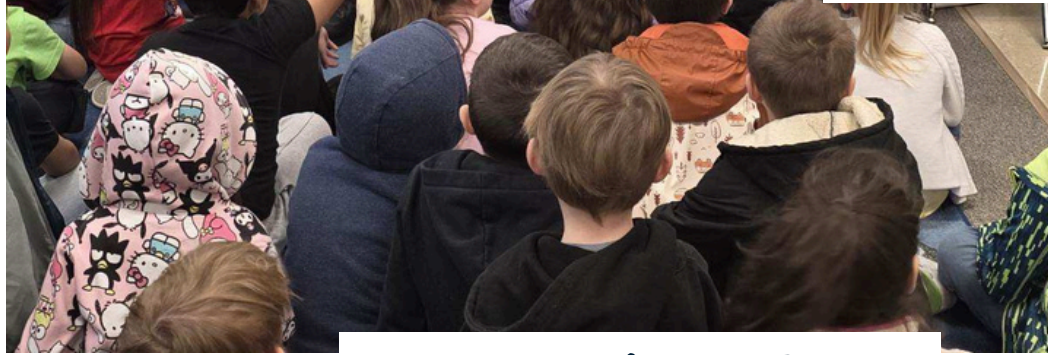
Kindergarten Welcome

Sign up to Volunteer

Stay Connected



GUEST READERS



St. Helens PD



Mystery Readers Visit Lewis and Clark Elementary!

Students in Pre-K through 1st/2nd grade at Lewis and Clark Elementary recently enjoyed a special visit from two officers with the St. Helens Police Department, Officer Hartless and Officer Sprinzl.

During their visit, they read the book Officer Buckle and Gloria, sharing an interactive story while connecting with students and reinforcing important safety messages. Students were highly engaged throughout the visit, asking thoughtful questions and showing great excitement as they interacted with their guest readers.

We appreciate Officer Hartless and Officer Sprinzl for taking the time to visit our classrooms and support our young learners through this meaningful experience!



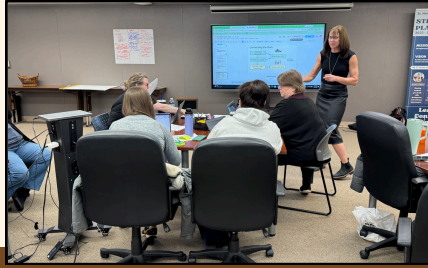
Our students are building more than just projects; they're building real-world skills!

In Woodworking 2 at St. Helens High School, students are hard at work on both personal projects and a custom shed for a community customer. From planning and measuring to construction and finishing, these hands-on experiences are a powerful example of our Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs in action.

We're proud to see our students applying their learning in meaningful ways while gaining skills that will serve them well beyond the classroom!

Building brighter
futures:

Teacher Leaders Collaborate to Strengthen ELA Instruction



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We had two incredible days of learning and collaboration with our teacher leaders. Our elementary and secondary teams each spent a day working alongside an English Language Arts consultant as part of our ongoing work with the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, focused on Multi-Tiered Systems of Support and Professional Learning Teams.

Throughout the trainings, our educators deepened their understanding of high-impact instructional strategies designed to strengthen ELA instruction and increase student achievement. Just as important, they collaborated, shared ideas, and built collective capacity to support students across all grade levels.

We are grateful for the dedication of our teacher leaders and their commitment to continuous improvement. The work happening behind the scenes today is shaping even stronger learning experiences for our students tomorrow.



MYSTERY READER PROGRAM!



Mystery Reader Surprise at Lewis & Clark Elementary!

Students at Lewis and Clark Elementary enjoyed a special visit from our latest Mystery Reader, Brittnei Jackson.

During her visit, she shared about her work as a dental assistant and her current journey as a full-time student studying to become a dental hygienist. She also read the book Sugarbug Doug, helping students learn about the importance of healthy dental habits in a fun and engaging way.

We are grateful to our Mystery Reader for taking the time to connect with our students and inspire our young learners!

ELKS TEEN OF THE MONTH

JOSEPH
HOWARD



St. Helens High School is proud to announce Joseph Howard as the February Elks Student of the Month.

Joseph is an active and dedicated member of the school community, consistently working to make the high school experience better for others. He is a member of the National Honor Society, demonstrating his commitment to leadership and community service. Joseph is also involved in the SHINE Club, where he serves as a role model for students with special needs. In addition, he participates in the Principal Action Committee, serves as a 12th-grade representative on the student council, and is the student representative on the SHSD School Board, helping shape decisions that positively impact both current and future students.

Joseph's commitment to service extends beyond the high school. Each week, he volunteers at McBride Elementary, assisting staff with behavior support. He also represents students at the district level as a student representative at monthly school board meetings.

Athletically, Joseph has been a three-sport athlete all four years of high school. In the fall, he competes on the football field; in the winter, he excels in wrestling, placing at districts for the past three years and advancing to the state competition his junior year, where he earned All-League honors in the 190 lb. weight class; and in the spring, he plays on the school's baseball team.

After graduation, Joseph plans to attend college to study biomedical engineering, with the goal of earning his master's degree and pursuing a career designing prosthetic devices and assistive technology. He has already been accepted to seven colleges and has received an offer to wrestle for Pacific University, though he has not yet made his final decision.

Joseph prides himself on his compassion, which helps him understand different perspectives and build meaningful connections with others. In school, he enjoys math the most, appreciating both the challenge and satisfaction that comes with problem-solving. In his free time, Joseph enjoys watching sports, reading, spending time outdoors, and traveling, hoping to visit all 50 states before turning 21.

Congratulations, Joseph!

ST. HELENS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Please
consider
donating

COPY PAPER DRIVE



WE ARE COLLECTING:

**REAMS OF
WHITE COPY PAPER
(8.5 x 11)**

Drop-off Locations:

- Drop off at any school office
- Drop off at the District Office
(474 North 16th Street)

OR

- Send a ream of paper to school
with your student.

**FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CONTACT:
Stacey Mendoza at (503) 366-7240
staceym@sthelens.k12.or.us**

April

dates to remember

April 8

Early Release Wednesday

April 10

Teacher Work Day - No school

April 15

Early Release Wednesday

April 22

Early Release Wednesday

April 24

Furlough Day - No school

April 29

Early Release Wednesday





Kindergarten Ready 2026 EVENTS

Open to all incoming 2026-27
Kindergarten students!

April 15

Kindergarten Ready Event 2

5 - 6 pm at McBride Elementary

April 29

Kindergarten Ready Event 3

5 - 6 pm at Lewis & Clark Elementary

May 7

Kindergarten Welcome

5:30 - 7 pm, McBride, Lewis & Clark, Columbia City
(go to the location your student will attend school)

Families are welcome to attend all three April events, not just the one at their school. Each event will include staff from all three schools and feature a different theme. (Parents must stay with their child at these events.)

Please RSVP to:
<https://forms.gle/fNLDuN123wgBJwXP7>

Or Scan The QR Code



St. Helens School District

COMMUNITY LISTENING & LEARNING SESSIONS



Your voice matters,
and these conversations
will help guide the work
we do in the St. Helens
School District.

April 8, 2026

4:15 pm - 5:15 pm

Plymouth High School
470 North 16th Street

We believe that strong schools are built through open, honest conversations, and we want to hear from you.

Please join us for our upcoming Community Listening & Learning Session, where district leaders, superintendent, and two school board members will come together to meet with community members to share ideas, ask questions, and listen to what matters most to you.

WHEN: April 8, 2026

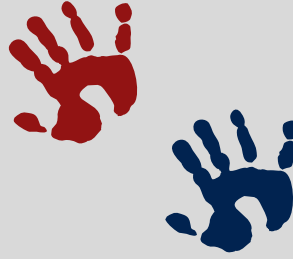
WHERE: Plymouth High School (470 North 16th Street, St. Helens, OR 97051)

TIME: 4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.

ST. HELENS SCHOOL DISTRICT

KINDERGARTEN

Welcome



MAY 7TH

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Columbia City
Elementary

2000 2nd Street
Columbia City, OR

Lewis & Clark
Elementary

111 South 9th Street
St. Helens, OR

McBride
Elementary

2774 Columbia Blvd.
St. Helens, OR



EVENT INCLUDES

- Guided School Tours
- School Bus Adventure
- Student Activities
- Registration Information

WHAT TO BRING

- Birth certificate
- Proof of address
- Immunization records



Students must be 5 years old by **September 1, 2026**, to enroll.



Sign up to Volunteer!



***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!



Stay Connected

Follow us online!



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