

ST. HELENS SCHOOL DISTRICT

GOOD NEWS

EDITION
NEWSLETTER

www.sthelens.k12.or.us



May 4, 2026

Good News

Edition Newsletter



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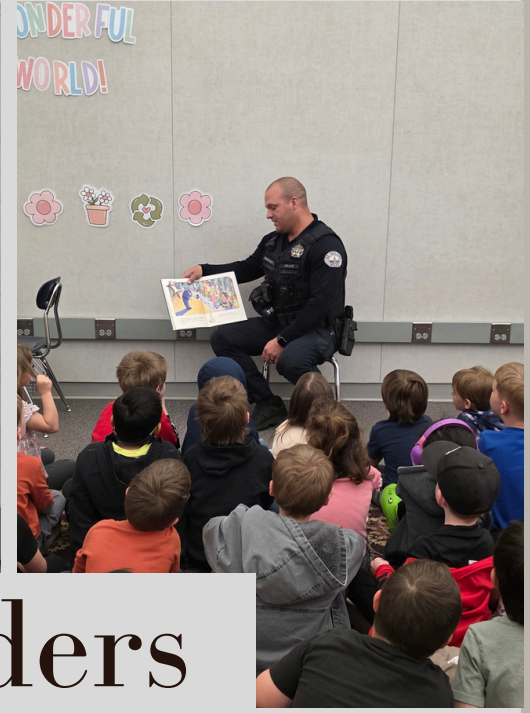
District Mission Statement:

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.

Mystery Readers Visit McBride Elementary!



Mystery Readers

ST. HELENS POLICE DEPARTMENT



Our students had some very special guests this week! We were thrilled to welcome Officer Stratton and Officer Raethke from the St. Helens Police Department for a surprise reading session.

The officers shared the classic Officer Buckle and Gloria, teaching our young learners about safety through a fun and interactive story. Our students were all ears and loved getting to know the officers!

A huge thank you to St. Helens Police Department officers Stratton and Raethke for creating such a positive, memorable experience for our students.



State Competition



We are proud to celebrate the incredible accomplishments of our St. Helens High School students at the SkillsUSA State Competition!

SkillsUSA is a national nonprofit organization that empowers students to become skilled professionals, career-ready leaders, and responsible community members. Through hands-on learning and real-world competitions, students build the skills they need for success in technical and skilled service careers.

Recently, three of our students competed in Carpentry, and all placed! Congratulations to Alberto on taking first place, Julian for earning second place, and Logan for placing fifth.

We are so proud of their hard work, dedication, and craftsmanship. Congratulations to these outstanding students for representing St. Helens with excellence!

LITTLE LIONS PRESCHOOL



walking
field
trip

Little Lions Preschool recently took a walking field trip to Safeway, where they put their learning into action! Using funds, they helped raise through our Bottle Drop efforts, students purchased flowers while also learning firsthand how the Bottle Drop process works. It was a great opportunity to connect real-world experiences with teamwork, responsibility, and pride in their contributions.

Student Community Impact Award Recipient



Liam Itza Nelson

STUDENT COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD RECIPIENT - LIAM ITZA NELSON

At the board meeting held on April 22, 2026, Director Kim Walker presented Liam Itza Nelson with the Student Community Impact Award.

Liam is an outstanding student who exemplifies service, leadership, and academic excellence in ways that make a meaningful and lasting impact on his school community. Through his actions, attitude, and commitment to doing what is right, he consistently sets a positive example for those around him.

Liam's dedication to serving others is evident in the small but powerful choices he makes each day. Each morning, while many students are heading off to class, Liam takes the initiative to remain in the cafeteria and clean up without being asked. His willingness to step in and help, simply because it is needed, reflects a level of selflessness and responsibility that is truly remarkable. He regularly seeks out opportunities to contribute, asking staff how he can help make the school a better place.

In addition to his acts of service, Liam brings a sense of positivity that has a noticeable impact on the school environment. His bright, genuine smile and uplifting presence create a ripple effect among both students and staff. In a middle school setting, his consistent kindness and optimism help foster a welcoming and supportive atmosphere for everyone.

Liam's commitment to excellence is also reflected in his academic achievements. As a consistent Honor Roll student, he demonstrates a strong work ethic, focus, and pride in his learning. His teachers describe him as a pleasure to have in class, noting his positive attitude and the effort he puts into every assignment. He approaches his education with the same level of dedication and integrity that he brings to serving others.

Liam is more than a student who attends school. He actively contributes to building a stronger, more connected community. He represents the true spirit of this recognition by showing that excellence is not only measured by academic success, but also by character, compassion, and a willingness to serve others.

Liam is a deserving recipient of this recognition, and his impact will continue to be felt by those around him.

Congratulations, Liam!

Staff Community Impact Award Recipient



Kristie Plahn

STAFF COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD RECIPIENT - KRISTIE PLAHN

At the board meeting held on April 22, 2026, Vice Chair Christine Smith-Reed presented Kristie Plahn with the Staff Community Impact Award.

Kristie Plahn has made a profound and lasting impact on Columbia City Elementary through her compassion, dedication, and unwavering commitment to the students, staff, and families she serves. As a central figure in the school community, Kristie creates an environment where every individual feels welcomed, valued, and supported from the moment they walk through the doors.

In her role, Kristie consistently goes above and beyond to build meaningful relationships. She greets students by name, offers patience and empathy to families, and ensures staff feel appreciated in their daily work. Her ability to make others feel seen and heard fosters a strong sense of belonging and connection throughout the entire school.

Kristie's dedication extends well beyond her daily responsibilities. She frequently volunteers her own time to enhance the school environment, helping to create a space that is not only safe and welcoming but also inspiring for students. Her efforts are driven by a genuine love for her community rather than a desire for recognition.

Whether she is comforting an anxious child, guiding a family through school processes, or stepping in to support colleagues during busy times, Kristie approaches every situation with grace, kindness, and a steady presence. Her positive influence can be felt in every corner of Columbia City Elementary.

Kristie is known for her warm, compassionate nature and her ability to bring people together. Her "heart of gold" shines through in every interaction, strengthening the culture of care and connection within the school.

Columbia City Elementary is stronger, more connected, and more compassionate because of Kristie's contributions. She truly embodies the spirit of community and service.

Congratulations, Kristie!

St. Helens School District

Community Impact Award Recipient



Heidi Clark

COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD RECIPIENT - HEIDI CLARK

At the board meeting held on April 22, 2026, Director Melody Killens presented Heidi Clark with the Community Impact Award.

Heidi is a dedicated community member whose continued service, generosity, and commitment have made a meaningful impact on the students, staff, and families within the St. Helens School District.

Heidi first became actively involved in the St. Helens Band Program while her daughter, Makayla, was a student, serving as a volunteer and member of the St. Helens Band Patrons Board. Even after her daughter's graduation, Heidi chose to remain deeply committed to supporting the program, demonstrating a level of dedication that extends far beyond personal involvement.

She currently serves as Treasurer of the St. Helens Band Patrons and plays an essential role in supporting the success of the program. Heidi contributes her time to the band's scholarship committee and regularly assists with uniform fittings, alterations, fundraising efforts, and many behind the scenes tasks that help keep the program running smoothly. Her willingness to step in wherever needed reflects her strong work ethic and genuine care for students.

In addition to her work with the band program, Heidi has also generously volunteered her time and expertise as a former member of the St. Helens School District Budget Committee for several years. In this role, she supported important financial planning efforts that impact the entire district.

Heidi is also a familiar and enthusiastic presence at games and performances, where she supports not only her nieces and nephews but all students. Her encouragement and positive energy contribute to a strong sense of community and pride.

Heidi's dedication, selflessness, and unwavering commitment to supporting students and school programs make her a truly valued member of the St. Helens community. Her impact is felt in countless ways, both seen and unseen, and she exemplifies the true spirit of service.

Congratulations, Heidi!

STUDENT OF THE WEEK



Sophie Marseille-Godden

St. Helens Virtual Academy (SHVA) is proud to recognize Sophie Marseille-Godden as the SHVA Student of the Week.

Sophie is a natural leader whose dedication, organization, and drive make a meaningful impact on our school community each and every day. She has truly mastered the art of balancing a busy schedule while maintaining a high standard of excellence in everything she does.

For Sophie, SHVA provides the “best of both worlds.” The virtual format allows her to focus deeply on her coursework, while the program’s flexibility gives her the opportunity to attend select classes in person and stay actively involved in activities at St. Helens High School. This balance has allowed her to thrive both academically and socially.

Sophie doesn't just participate, she leads. Her teachers consistently note her strong leadership presence, especially during Homeroom, where she sets the tone for engagement. When Sophie turns on her camera and contributes, others naturally follow her example, creating a more connected and interactive learning environment.

Science teacher Bill Rash shares that Sophie is a standout in both effort and engagement. "Sophie stays on top of her coursework and is always looking for ways to exceed expectations," he said, highlighting her commitment to going above and beyond.

That same leadership extends beyond the classroom. Sophie has a natural ability to organize and uplift those around her, whether she's coordinating group work or supporting her peers. Her family shares that her desire to help others and her talent for organizing activities have always been defining traits.

While Sophie continues to excel in her hybrid learning path, there is no doubt that her leadership skills and strong work ethic will take her far, wherever her future leads.

Congratulations, Sophie! We are so proud to have you as part of the SHVA community.

St. Helens Virtual Academy is dedicated to providing a flexible, high-quality digital education for K-12 students. Through strong teacher-student partnerships and an adaptable learning environment, SHVA empowers students to take ownership of their learning and reach their full academic potential.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

20
26



ST. HELENS
HIGH SCHOOL

D'aye Davidson

VALEDICTORIAN

20
26



ST. HELENS
HIGH SCHOOL

Devon Mason

VALEDICTORIAN

20
26



ST. HELENS
HIGH SCHOOL

Parker Humbird

VALEDICTORIAN



20
26

ST. HELENS
HIGH SCHOOL

Cosette Rogers

VALEDICTORIAN

20
26

ST. HELENS
HIGH SCHOOL

Riya Roylance

VALEDICTORIAN

20
26



ST. HELENS
HIGH SCHOOL

Halli Hays

SALUTATORIAN


20
26



ST. HELENS
HIGH SCHOOL

Adeleigh Ellis

SALUTATORIAN

A portrait of a young woman with long, wavy, reddish-blonde hair, smiling gently. She is wearing a light green and white patterned sleeveless top and light blue pants. She has a pearl necklace, a silver bracelet, and a ring. The background is a solid light blue color.

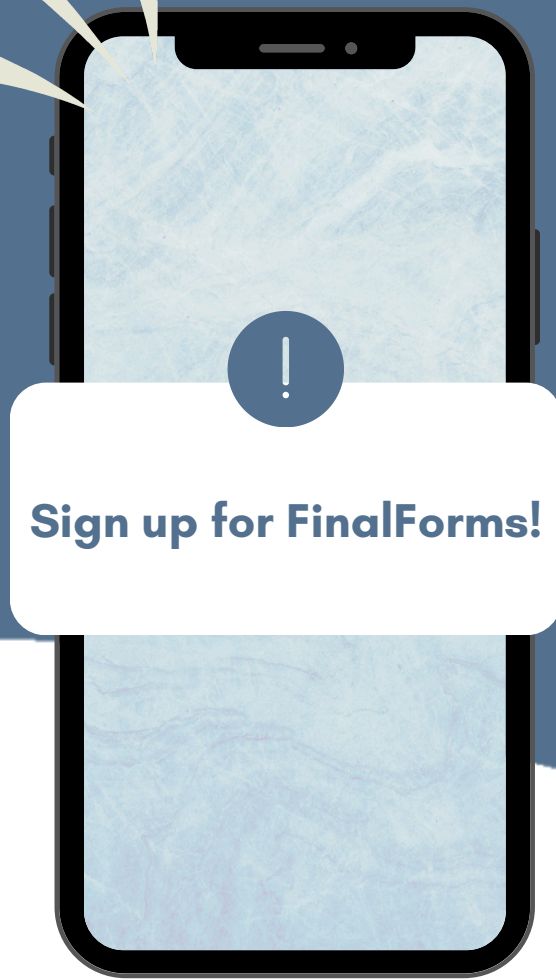
20
26

ST. HELENS
HIGH SCHOOL

Darcy Erickson

SALUTATORIAN

Final Forms



*Now!
Open!*

Middle & High School Athletics Registration



Welcome to FinalForms, our registration platform for all middle and high school athletic programs!

FinalForms streamlines the registration process, keeps your information safe and secure, and helps ensure you receive timely updates about your student-athlete's sport.

All student-athletes must be registered through FinalForms prior to participating in any practices or tryouts.

Register today: [FinalForms Registration](#)

Need help getting started? [Watch our Creating Your Parent Account video](#)

Thank you for supporting our student-athletes.

NOTES OF GRATITUDE

Join us in celebrating the incredible staff of the St. Helens School District! From the classroom to the front office, from nutrition services to maintenance, technology, and student support services. While their responsibilities may differ, their shared purpose remains the same: to create safe, welcoming, and engaging environments where every student can thrive.

We invite our families and community to help us show just how much they are appreciated! Take a moment to send a note of gratitude, whether it's for a specific staff member who has made a difference or a message of thanks to all staff.

Email: staceym@sthelens.k12.or.us

Subject Line: Notes of Gratitude

**WE APPRECIATE
ALL THE LITTLE
THINGS YOU DO
THAT MAKE A BIG
DIFFERENCE.**

**THANK YOU
FOR
BELIEVING IN
OUR KIDS!**

**YOU ARE
APPRECIATED
MORE THAN
WORDS CAN
SAY!**

**THANK YOU FOR
KEEPING
EVERYTHING
RUNNING SMOOTHLY
BEHIND THE SCENES!**

May

dates to remember

May 6

Early Release Wednesday

May 13

Early Release Wednesday

May 20

Early Release Wednesday

May 25

Holiday - No school

May 27

Early Release Wednesday

May 29

Furlough Day - No School



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!



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