

Chelsea Ross Named Superintendent of Yoncalla School District

Yoncalla, Ore. — The Yoncalla School District has announced the appointment of Chelsea Ross as its next superintendent, selecting a familiar and experienced leader with deep roots in the district and a strong commitment to student success.

Ross, who currently serves as principal of Yoncalla Middle/High School, brings more than 15 years of experience in education and school leadership to her new role. Her career reflects a steady progression through the ranks of teaching and administration, underscored by a dedication to building relationships and fostering student achievement.

A graduate of Eagle High School in Eagle, Idaho, Ross went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Oregon. She later completed a Master of Arts in Teaching at Pacific University, followed by a Master of Science in Organizational Leadership from Southern Columbia University. In addition, Ross holds her initial administrative certification from Concordia University of Chicago.

Ross began her career in education as a classroom teacher, where she spent a total of 10 years shaping student learning. She taught for five years at Phoenix Charter School in Roseburg before joining Yoncalla Middle/High School, where she taught for another five years. Her leadership journey in Yoncalla started when she served two years as Dean of Students for the district. She was then appointed principal of Yoncalla Middle/High School, a role she has held for the past three years.

Throughout her career, Ross has embraced an educational philosophy centered on belief in every student's potential.

"I believe that every student is capable of learning, growing, and achieving success," Ross said. "It is my responsibility, and that of our district, to ensure students consistently see, hear, and feel that belief. Student success is built through strong, positive relationships with all staff—both certified and classified—and paired with clear, high expectations and a commitment to high-quality instruction. When these parts are working together well, we create a space where students not only thrive academically, but also feel a deep sense of belonging and pride in their school."

As superintendent, Ross plans to build on the district's existing strengths while focusing on strengthening connections among schools, families, and the broader community.

"I want Yoncalla to be a district where families choose to send their children, not just because they live here, but because they want them to be here," she said. "I am committed to building relationships with families and our community, fostering strong relationships between the elementary school and middle/high school to support student learning and transitions between buildings, and supporting our Career Tech Education and College Readiness Programs at the high school, so our students are ready for the next stage of their life."

Ross emphasized that her connection to Yoncalla is both professional and personal, noting that she values the close-knit nature of the community and the opportunity to watch students grow over time.

"I love being a part of this community," she said. "It is a privilege to know our families and see our students grow through the years—from elementary all the way through high school. I cannot wait to see what we can do together."

District leaders and community members have expressed optimism about Ross's appointment, highlighting her familiarity with Yoncalla's students, staff, and values. Her experience across multiple roles within the district positions her to provide continuity while also guiding future growth and innovation.

Ross is expected to officially assume her superintendent duties in the coming months, ushering in a new chapter for the Yoncalla School District focused on collaboration, opportunity, and student-centered success.

Addendum:

Following the announcement of her appointment, the Yoncalla School District has confirmed that Chelsea Ross will serve in a dual leadership capacity. In addition to her role as superintendent, Ross will continue to serve as the principal of Yoncalla High School. This combined position reflects the district's commitment to maintaining strong, consistent leadership at the secondary level while also guiding district-wide initiatives. Ross's familiarity with the high school and her established relationships with students and staff are expected to support a seamless transition and continued focus on student achievement across the district.

