

Rainier School District Newsletter

Home of the Cougars, Mountain Lions & Mountaineers

CLASS OF 2026

Graduation will be held in the Mountaineer Gym on June 5, 2026 at 6:00pm

Top 5 Students



Valedictorian
Katelyn Eckroth



Salutatorian
Zach Hamilton



3rd Cooper Lantz



4th Cash Martin



5th Anika Plowman



5th Zaylee Bravo

Congratulations Class of 2026



Liberty Adair
Jayden Alegarbes
Hope Baker
Mason Baker
Martin Berger
Fred Bergman
Brendan Blasdell
Zaylee Bravo
Dorien Cano
Andrew Cardy
Cloe Cavanah
Alexander Clark
Olivia Cotham Mills
Hollyann Covington
Chloe Craig
Skye Dale
Briella Davenport
Carson Delaney
Sienna Dondero Valdes
Katelyn Eckroth

Brandin Fry
Catherine Garrard
Kaden Goodman
Josephine Grager
Zachary Hamilton
Kryslayla Hill
Lizzy Jacobson
Ryan Johnston
Aiden Kane
Jeanice Kitchens
Hayden Knight
Cooper Lantz
Nehemiah Linson
Zoey Lynch
Nathaniel Maggard
Cash Martin
Mackenna McGinnis
Matheus McKitrick
Kiera McNeilly-Lopez
James Morrison

Mickey Pacheco
Lilyann Peralta
Anika Plowman
Addison Poole
Lucius Precour
Peyton Prince
Jordan Pringle
London Rearden
Elizabeth Redfield
Jade Reichel
Zachary Robinson
Jazzlyn Shumate
Brayden Simmons
Jaylynn Strasbaugh
Peyton Thomas
Josephine Vance
Ean Viik
Bethani Warren
Cielo Zamudio Gonzalez

Bridge Ceremony Class of 2030!

Bridging Ceremony will be held on June 9, 2026 at 6:00pm in the Mountaineer Gym

Michael Alexandre
Alexander Arp
Jaxon Ayers
Kaydance Ball
Angelo Barei
Jaycee Barlow
Zander Bartell
Lily Beckman
Aydin Black
Reagan Bloom
Carter Blum
Saylor Briscoe
Alder Buckingham
Samuel Burk
Josiah Campos
Dayton Carver-Wolf
Emmaline Covington
Ryder Crittenden
Quinn Delaney
Lylie Desart
Layah Desotell
Bailey Dill
Trenton Dow
Whitney Ensele
Nevaeh Evans
Kaylee Fisher
Lillian Gaither

Brando Gallardo Mendoza
Wyatt Gannon
Sequoia Gitt
Nikita Glukhovskikh
Samantha Good
Gracie Green
Elijah Greenwood
Wyatt Howell
Rilynn Keese
Kevin Kinahan
Everette King
Jeremiah Kitchens
Cierra Langworthy
Dezirae Langworthy
Kysen Larman
Lilya Larsen-Bechtel
Sierra Lee
Iris Lugo
Kody Lynch
Nikolai Masuoka
Weston McIntyre
Camdyn McMullan
Mitchel Meirndorf
Connor Mullin
Ryan O'Neal
David Olson
Brooklynn Popp

Cade Price
Aubrie Reeves
Torin Rex
Brady Reynoldson
Job Reynolds
Ella Rosenberg
Layla Runkel
Xavier Scheidt
Wyatt Severin
Chance Sills
Xavier Simental
Victoria Sparks
Landon Sproles
Parker Sprouffs
Albert Stephenson
Ryley Strasbaugh
Tristan Taylor
Caiden Thompson
Peyton Tsagris
Samuel Walker
Broke Wemhaner
Kellan West
William Whiteman
Hunter Wills
Isabella Wilson
Ryder Wilson
Rylee Wilson

Rainier High School Hosts Successful Career Day 2026

On April 23, Rainier High School proudly hosted Career Day 2026 from 8:30–11:26 a.m., providing students with a dynamic and engaging opportunity to explore future career paths. Throughout the morning, students rotated through four 30-minute sessions, gaining first hand insight from a diverse group of professionals.

The event featured more than 40 guest speakers, including 22 proud Rainier High School graduates who returned to share their journeys and experiences. Presenters represented a wide range of careers—from funeral directors and electricians to attorneys and television personalities—offering students a broad perspective on the possibilities that lie ahead.

Career Day was a tremendous success, filled with energy, curiosity, and meaningful connections. Students not only enjoyed the experience but also walked away with valuable information to help guide their Career Pathway decisions as they prepare for life beyond high school.



2026 PROM COURT



Congratulations to the Prom Court

Back row: (left to right) Princesses Senior Catherine Garrard, Junior Valerie Hansen, Queen Zaylee Bravo, Junior Kalea Overstreet, Senior Khryslayla Hill

Front row: (left to right) Princes Senior Cooper Lantz, Junior Joseph Kragenbrink, King James Morrison, Junior Bob Shaw, Senior Nathaniel Maggard

Rainier FFA Plant Sale

The Rainier FFA Plant Sale was a great opportunity for our members to help our community with their plant needs. We need to thank our community for showing up and supporting our school programs. Your commitment to Rainier Schools doesn't go unnoticed. This was our largest plant sale with both the online orders and in person orders. The students talked about how nice the customers were and how much fun they had helping and teaching about what they had been learning during this spring semester. Watch out for us again at the end of April next year for lots of fun plants and new varieties.

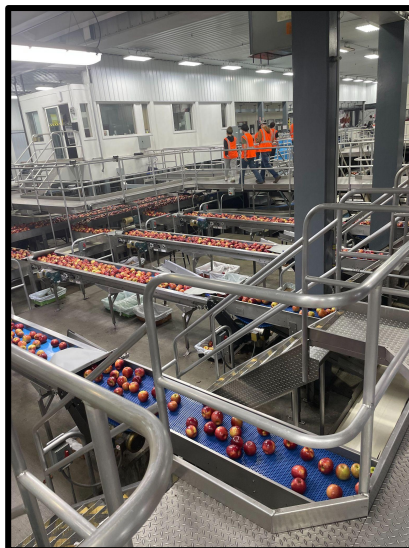
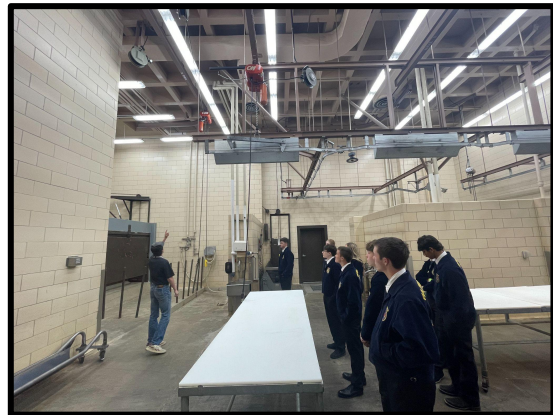


FFA State Convention

RHS FFA member and advisors receiving the Superior Chapter Award for our dedication to growing leaders, building communities, and strengthening agriculture.



FFA students explored processing plants



FFA students visit WSU



BBQ team took 7th in the state out of over 60 teams competing.



In Loving Memory of Miss Peyton Poler

Rainier Elementary is proud to dedicate a Sunshine Bench in honor of Miss Poler. Peyton was a beloved teacher whose kindness, dedication, and passion for education touched the lives of many students, families, and colleagues.

This bench will serve as a lasting tribute to Peyton Poler and the legacy she leaves behind.



Rainier Elementary Booster Club



I'm Amanda Ensele and I'm excited to be returning for a second year as Booster Club Treasurer! I've truly enjoyed serving in this role and supporting the programs and events that make our school community so special. As a busy mom of three, I see firsthand how much the "little extras"—like Popcorn Fridays, field trips, and special events—mean to our kids. I'm grateful for the opportunity to continue using my love of organization (and spreadsheets!) to help keep things running smoothly and support these meaningful experiences for our students and families. I'm looking forward to another great year ahead!

Hello everyone, my name is Billie-LaVonne, and I'm honored to be serving a second term as Vice President of the Booster Club this year. As a returning RHS alumna, it means so much to give back to the community that gave so much to me growing up. After my husband was discharged from the Army, we made the decision to move home to raise our family, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to continue supporting our students, programs, and school community. I'm excited to work alongside our amazing parents, volunteers, coaches, and staff to help create successful events, strengthen community involvement, and make this a great year for everyone involved. Thank you for your support — I look forward to working with all of you!

I'm Rachel Aue, and I am excited to step into the role as Booster Club President. I have a child entering 2nd grade during the 2026-2027 school year and am excited to be part of this wonderful school community.

Our focus this year is supporting our students and school through organized fundraising and fun, family-centered events. With the help of our amazing volunteers, anything is possible—we can't wait to build a strong, connected community together.

Here's to a great year ahead!



Rainier School District Looking Toward the Future

As we close out another successful school year in the Rainier School District, I want to take a moment to thank our students, staff, families, and community for their continued support of public education and our shared commitment to “Every Child, Every Day, Every Way.”

This school year has been filled with tremendous accomplishments, celebrations, and growth opportunities for our students. At the same time, the District has also been focused on preparing for the future through important facility modernization efforts and long-range planning tied to growth within our community.

Modernization and Summer Improvement Projects

This summer, Rainier School District will begin one of the largest facility improvement efforts in district history. Through state modernization funding, energy efficiency initiatives, and long-term facility planning, the District will begin approximately \$6 million in upgrades and modernization work across our schools.

These projects are designed to improve safety, energy efficiency, reliability, and the overall learning environment for students and staff. The work supports Washington State’s Clean Buildings requirements while also helping the District reduce long-term operational costs and protect taxpayer investments.

Some of the work that will take place this summer includes:

- Heating and ventilation system upgrades
- Energy efficiency improvements
- Infrastructure modernization
- Safety and operational improvements
- Facility reliability enhancements

While construction projects can temporarily create inconvenience, the long-term benefits to students and the community will be significant. We appreciate the patience and support of our staff, students, and community as this important work moves forward.

Planning for the Future: Blue Fern Development

The District is also beginning conversations and planning related to the proposed Blue Fern Development project, which is expected to bring substantial residential growth within the Rainier School District boundaries over the next several years.

As with any large-scale development, there are many important questions to consider:

- Future student enrollment growth
- School capacity and facility needs
- Traffic and infrastructure impacts

- Long-term financial planning
- Potential school boundary considerations
- Preserving the quality of education our community expects

At this time, the project remains in the planning and discussion stages, and many details are still being developed. The School Board and District leadership are committed to gathering information, working collaboratively with city and development officials, and keeping the community informed throughout the process.

To support transparency and open communication, the District will hold a public informational work session on June 10th at 6:00 p.m. in the Rainier High School Gymnasium. Representatives from the City of Yelm will provide information regarding the Blue Fern Development project, and community members will have an opportunity to hear information and provide public comment.

We understand that growth can bring both excitement and concern. Our commitment is to approach these conversations thoughtfully, responsibly, and with the best interests of Rainier students and families at the center of every decision. We will continue to maintain open communication with our community by providing public information and engaging in thoughtful decision-making as discussions move forward.

Rainier School District has always been a community that values relationships, tradition, and student success. As we prepare for the opportunities and challenges ahead, we remain committed to providing the best education for every student, every day, every way.

Thank you for your continued trust, support, and partnership in serving the students of Rainier School District.

We hope everyone has a safe, restful, and enjoyable summer.

Thanks
Bryon Bahr
Superintendent
Rainier School District