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Jerry Sprouffske – Board Chair
Rebecca Stillings
Dana Spivey
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SUPERINTENDENT:

Bryon Bahr



PRINCIPALS:

Rita Meldrum – Elementary
John Beckman– Middle/High School

Welcome Back to the 2026–2027 School Year

Dear Rainier School District Staff, Students, Families, and Community,

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year! I hope everyone had an opportunity to enjoy the summer, spend time with family and friends, and return refreshed for another exciting year in the Rainier School District.

As we begin a new school year, I want to thank our dedicated staff, students, families, Board of Directors, and community for your continued support of our schools. Together, we are committed to ensuring that every student receives an outstanding education in a safe, welcoming, and engaging learning environment.

This summer has been one of the busiest in recent district history. Thanks to our Small School Modernization Grant and the outstanding work of McKinstry, along with our maintenance and custodial teams, significant improvements have been made across our campuses. These projects represent an investment in our students, staff, and community that will benefit the district for many years.

Some of the improvements completed or nearing completion include:

- Replacement of all domestic water lines in the High School.
- New energy-efficient LED lighting throughout the High School, Middle School, and Elementary School.
- New doors and windows at the High School to improve security, efficiency, and appearance.
- New chiller at the Elementary School.
- Refinished gymnasium floors.
- Installation of new electronic reader boards at the High School and Elementary School.
- Continued modernization of building systems, including infrastructure improvements that create safer, more efficient learning environments.

These projects would not have been possible without the support of our community and the hard work of everyone involved. We are excited for students and staff to enjoy these improvements as they return to school.

As many of you know, the proposed Blue Fern Development continues to generate significant interest throughout our community. The Rainier School Board remains committed to making decisions based on facts, reliable data, and the long-term interests of our students, staff, taxpayers, and community. We are continuing to gather information, evaluate the potential impacts of the development, and engage with community members before considering any future actions. We appreciate everyone's patience and participation as we work through this important process thoughtfully and transparently.

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OUR VISION- The best education for every student, every day, every way

OUR MISSION- In partnership with our community and within a culture of belonging, educate and prepare responsible, well rounded citizens who can contribute and adapt in an ever changing world.

OUR VALUES

Excellence - We believe all children deserve support on their own journey to excellence.

Character - Every child is expected to participate, be hardworking, kind, positive, honest and respectful.

Culture - Every child matters and will be provided a safe, supportive environment in which to feel confident to succeed.

Curiosity - Every child is encouraged to question, explore and innovate

We encourage all of our families and community members to join us for our Back-to-School Open House on Wednesday, September 2. Our Elementary, Middle, and High Schools will be open from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., giving families an opportunity to meet teachers, visit classrooms, and get ready for a successful school year. At 5:30 p.m., everyone is invited to gather at the Football Stadium for our annual Community BBQ Hot Dog Feed. Following the BBQ, the schools will reopen from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., allowing families additional time to visit classrooms and connect with staff. We hope you'll join us for this special evening as we celebrate the beginning of another outstanding school year together.

The start of a new school year brings new opportunities, new friendships, and new possibilities. I am incredibly proud of the dedicated professionals who serve our students each day and grateful to be part of a community that values education and works together to support our schools.

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to the Rainier School District. I look forward to another outstanding year of learning, growth, and success.

Thanks,

Bryon

Bryon Bahr
Superintendent
Rainier School District