

OKANOGAN SCHOOL DISTRICT



BACK TO SCHOOL

2026–2027 MAGAZINE



NEW YEAR. NEW FACES. BIG CHANGES. SAME BULLDOG PRIDE.

First day of school • Tuesday, September 1, 2026

Welcome Back, Okanogan!

A message from Superintendent Steve Quick



STEVE QUICK
Superintendent

“Here’s to a fun, exciting, and probably occasionally dusty school year!”

It is hard to believe summer is already winding down and another school year is just around the corner! I hope everyone had a chance to spend some time with family and friends, enjoy our beautiful area, and maybe even find a little time to relax and recharge along the way.

There is something I have always enjoyed about the start of a new school year. After a quieter summer, our buildings suddenly come back to life. Classrooms fill up, buses are back on the roads, our gyms and fields get busy, and there is an energy that comes with seeing students and staff return.

Of course, things aren't nearly as quiet during the summer as they might appear from the outside. A tremendous amount of work takes place behind the scenes to get ready for that first day. Our staff have been preparing classrooms, hiring and training new employees, cleaning and maintaining our buildings, getting buses and technology ready, planning meals and schedules, working on facilities, and taking care of the countless details that go into starting another school year.

BUILDING FOR OKANOGAN'S FUTURE

This year has a little extra excitement attached to it. We are entering one of the most significant periods of facility improvement in the history of Okanogan School District. Some construction is already underway, and later this fall we expect the first phases of our voter-approved bond projects to begin.

As exciting as construction will be, new roofs, classrooms, fields, and tracks aren't what make a school district great. That happens because of the people inside our schools every day. Thank you for your continued partnership and support.

Go Dawgs!

Construction & Bond Update

Planning is becoming visible across OKSD.



New wrestling facility foundation work



Construction access and staging



Work underway across district facilities

For more than a year, planning, design, permitting, engineering, and coordination have been taking place behind the scenes. This fall, much of that work will finally become visible throughout our schools.

Major bond projects are moving through the bidding process. Once bids are reviewed and contractors are under contract, the district will be able to develop more detailed construction sequencing and communicate impacts to families and staff.

Modernization work is underway at Dawson Gym and the Vocational Agriculture building, including roofing, HVAC and related improvements. At the new wrestling facility site, demolition has been completed and work has moved into foundations, utilities and site preparation.

PLEASE NOTE

Tyee Street next to Dawson Gym is closed. Construction updates will continue as schedules are finalized.

Welcome Back!

A message from Principal Jeremy Clark



JEREMY CLARK

Elementary Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

Office Opens: August 18

Class Lists Posted: August 20 (on the school entry doors) through the first day of school

Open House / Classroom Visits: August 31, 3:00-5:00 PM

Kindergarten & TK Screening/Assessments: September 1 and 2

First Full Day for Kindergarten & TK: September 3

Parents will be contacted to schedule Kindergarten and TK screening/assessment appointments.



Virginia Grainger Website

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year! Whether you're returning to our school community or joining us for the first time, we are truly excited to welcome you to the Virginia Grainger family. I hope your summer provided time to rest, recharge, and make meaningful memories together.

As we begin a new year, we're continuing our school-wide focus on strong attendance. Our shared goal is to reach 95% attendance—which means students can have 9 or fewer days absent during the school year. We'll monitor progress throughout the year and celebrate our collective success monthly. When students attend regularly, they are more likely to feel connected, confident, and ready to learn.

Getting started with attendance support is easier than it may seem. A few helpful reminders for families include:

- Establish a consistent bedtime and morning routine
- Plan appointments outside of the school day when possible
- Encourage your child to talk about school and what to expect each day
- If your child is struggling with attendance, please reach out so we can work together to help.

Welcome Back, Bullpups!

A message from Principal Dorinda Belcher



DORINDA BELCHER

Middle School Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

Office Opens — August 18

6th Grade Orientation — August 25 at 6:00 p.m.

7th & 8th Grade Open House — August 27, 5:30–7:00 p.m.

Free Sports Physicals — August 27, 4:00–6:00 p.m. with Family Health Centers

Welcome back, Bullpups, to the beginning of the 2026–27 school year! We are so excited to greet you and experience this awesome year together. Our teachers have been working hard getting ready for your return, and we can't wait to see our students back in the building.

Camp Progress has been spared from the fires affecting our area, and, as long as our good fortune continues, we are excited to offer Camp Progress Outdoor Learning to our incoming 6th grade students this spring.

Students will spend one week at camp beginning May 3. Half of our 6th grade students will attend during the week of May 3, while the remaining students will attend the week of May 10. This experience has been an annual tradition for many years, and we are thrilled to look forward to continuing it with our students this year.

For many years, we were fortunate to receive a state grant that helped fund our Outdoor Learning program. Unfortunately, that grant is no longer available. To make camp possible, we will be fundraising and seeking donations from our community.

We know how meaningful this experience is for our students, and we are committed to doing everything we can to continue this tradition.



Camp Progress Outdoor Learning



Middle School Website

Welcome Back, Bulldogs!

Important information from Principal Zach Spaet



ZACH SPAET

High School Principal

**“Building a Bulldog community grounded in
Courtesy, Pride, and Respect.”**

IMPORTANT DATES

Office reopens — Wednesday, August 19 at 8:00 a.m.

Freshman Orientation — Thursday, August 27



High School Website

As we prepare to welcome students back, our goal is to create a school year where every Bulldog feels connected, supported, challenged, and proud to be part of Okanogan High School. Courtesy, Pride, and Respect continue to guide the way we learn, work, compete, and represent our school community.

The High School office reopens Wednesday, August 19 at 8:00 a.m., and the first day of school is Tuesday, September 1. Freshman Orientation will be held Thursday, August 27. We are excited to welcome our newest Bulldogs and help students and families feel comfortable and ready for the year ahead.

The High School office is cashless. Families can use the district’s online payment option for school purchases. ASB cards are \$45, and the online payment portal can also be used for technology insurance, yearbooks, and other items.

A successful year takes a partnership between students, families, staff, and our community. We encourage families to stay connected, ask questions, and reach out whenever support is needed. We are looking forward to seeing our students back in the halls, classrooms, activities, and athletic events and beginning another year together as Bulldogs.

Flexible Pathways, Individualized Support

A message from Principal Roy Johnson



ROY JOHNSON

Okanogan Outreach School Principal

“Different pathways. The same goal: helping students succeed.”



Alternative Programs Website

Okanogan Outreach and Open Doors continue to provide flexible pathways and individualized support for students working toward graduation, GED completion, and their next steps after high school.

The program meets students where they are, builds relationships, and helps young people create a path forward that fits their goals and circumstances. For some students, success means returning to a more traditional graduation pathway. For others, it may mean preparing for and completing a GED, reconnecting with school after time away, or getting the support needed to move toward employment, training, or postsecondary education.

Our staff work to create a welcoming environment where students can make progress at an appropriate pace while still being held to meaningful goals. The relationships built at Outreach are an important part of helping students believe in what comes next.

We are proud of the perseverance our students show and look forward to another year of helping them take the next step toward their goals.

EXPLORE. PLAN. ACHIEVE.

College and career exploration for Okanogan students in grades 7–12.



Students at Preview Day



Exploring a college campus

GEAR UP continues helping students in grades 7–12 explore college and career opportunities through campus visits, college and career planning, family outreach, and hands-on experiences. Students have opportunities to visit campuses, see different learning environments, ask questions, and begin picturing the possibilities available after high school.

Throughout the year, GEAR UP staff Casey and Jesse support students and families with information, planning, and opportunities designed to make postsecondary education and career pathways feel more accessible.



CASEY BALL
GEAR UP Director



JESSE VILLARALDO
GEAR UP Graduation Specialist

FAMILY INFORMATION EVENT

Thursday, August 27 • 5:00 or 7:00 p.m.

Join one 30-minute session for updates on how Casey and Jesse support Okanogan students in grades 7–12.

Special Services + Technology

Partnership, access, and practical tools for a strong start.



SPECIAL SERVICES

TANYA PETERSON

Director of Special Services

Welcome to a new school year! I hope you and your family had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to all that this year will bring.

As the Director of Special Services, I want every family to know that you are an important part of your child's team. You know your child in ways that no one else does, and your perspective is invaluable as we work together to support their success.

My goal is simple: to make decisions that are in the best interest of students. That means listening, working together to solve problems, and keeping the focus on each student's individual strengths and needs. We may not always have easy answers, but you can count on us to approach every conversation with respect, honesty, and a shared commitment to helping your child grow.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions, concerns, or simply want to talk through an idea. Strong partnerships are built through open communication, and I look forward to working together throughout the year.



TECHNOLOGY

CARI ZACHOW

Laptop Insurance Available for 2026–2027

“\$30 first student • \$10 each additional student”

We're excited to kick off another great school year! As part of our commitment to supporting student learning, low-cost laptop insurance is once again available for all students. This year, laptop insurance will also be available at Virginia Grainger Elementary.

Laptops are an essential part of today's classroom experience, and we understand that accidents can happen. Whether it's a spill, a drop, or normal wear and tear, laptop insurance helps protect your student's device and can save your family from unexpected repair or replacement costs.

Each laptop is assigned to an individual student, who is responsible for the care of that device. Students and families who choose not to purchase insurance will be responsible for costs associated with damage to the assigned laptop.

HOW TO PURCHASE

- Middle School New Student & 6th Grade Orientation
- Middle School Office
- High School Office
- Virginia Grainger Office

Made Right Here at OKSD

Fresh starts, student voices, and meals prepared by our own team.



TODD ROUSE

Food Service Director

There is something special about a meal made right in your own kitchen—and this year, Okanogan School District's Food Service team is continuing to bring that same approach to our students.

Last school year, we transitioned away from an outside food service provider, and district meals are now being prepared by our own Food Service staff, right here in our district kitchens. Our team is working each day to provide students with wholesome, nutritious meals while bringing more of that homemade touch back to school breakfast and lunch.

STUDENTS HAVE A SEAT AT THE TABLE

We have brought students directly into the menu-planning process, including a hands-on project with the high school leadership class and meal-planning development and suggestions with Mrs. Rawson's first grade class.

Food can also be a wonderful way to learn about and celebrate one another. Last year, our Food Service team brought new flavors and experiences to our students with special themed meals, including Jamaican Day and Greek Day. Jamaican Day was inspired by one of our kitchen staff members, making the celebration especially meaningful to our team.

We want our students to enjoy their meals, feel welcomed in our cafeterias, and head back to class ready to learn.



New Faces & New Roles

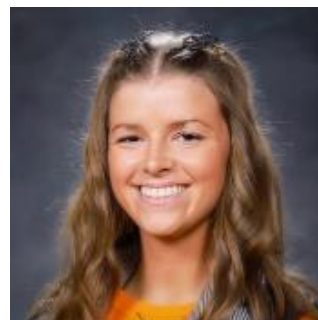
Welcome to the OKSD team!



Conner Ashworth

5th Grade Teacher

Hello, my name is Conner Ashworth, and I am extremely excited to join the Virginia Grainger team! A recent Whitworth University graduate, Conner is looking forward to beginning the year with OKSD students.



Alyssa Amann

3rd Grade Teacher

After serving as a long-term substitute in fourth grade last year, Alyssa is continuing with OKSD this year as a third-grade teacher.



Jill Streeter

Parent Partnership Program Teacher

After 31 years as a teacher with the district, Jill is moving into the Parent Partnership Program, where she will work with homebased students and families.



Bo Silverthorn

Behavior Specialist

Bo is very excited to join the team at Virginia Grainger as the new Behavior Specialist. He looks forward to building relationships with students, staff and families. Find him in the Boost Room — Go Dawgs!

Transportation + Maintenance

Safe rides, ready buildings, and a lot of summer preparation.



TRANSPORTATION

LARRY SCROGGINS

Director of Transportation

The Okanogan School District Transportation Department is excited to welcome our students, families, drivers, and staff to another school year!

Our transportation team is committed to providing safe, dependable, and welcoming transportation for every student who rides with us. We appreciate the partnership of our families in helping students understand bus safety, appropriate behavior, and the importance of being ready for the bus each day.

Does your student need bus transportation? Please contact the Transportation Department to register your student for bus transportation or to discuss your student's transportation needs.

Transportation Office: 509-422-3300



Transportation Information



MAINTENANCE

ROBBY GAINES

Facilities Director

Our custodial and maintenance teams have been busy all summer preparing buildings for students and staff. Their work has included deep cleaning, preventative maintenance, moving furniture, supporting summer projects, and preparing district facilities for the additional work that will come with bond construction.

A tremendous amount of work happens before students ever walk through the doors. We appreciate the staff members who keep our buildings, grounds, classrooms, and operations ready to go.



Summer work across OKSD facilities

Get Ready for the Season

Schedules, team information, and athletics updates in one place.

FROM ATHLETICS



KEVIN DALING • ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Bulldog athletics had a strong year, with 330 student-athletes participating across our programs and 232 home events hosted for our community. We are especially proud that the year concluded with zero athlete ejections—a reflection of the sportsmanship and character we want our Bulldogs to represent.

A special congratulations also goes to our 2B State Boys Tennis Champions. It had been many years since Okanogan reached that achievement, and it was a tremendous accomplishment for our student-athletes and coaches.

The Athletics Department coordinates eligibility, game management, scheduling, website information, and the many behind-the-scenes details needed to support our teams throughout each season. Families can use the Okanogan Athletics website for current schedules, team information, results, and updates.

Kevin Daling • Athletic Director
509-422-4429 • kdaling@oksd.wednet.edu



Cross Country



Girls Wrestling



Volleyball



Boys Wrestling



Basketball



Girls Soccer



SCAN FOR ATHLETICS • okanoganathletics.com



Quick Links & Need-to-Know Information

Scan, save, and keep these resources handy.



ONLINE PAYMENTS

Purchase ASB cards, technology insurance, yearbooks and other items online.



QMLATIV

Check grades, attendance and other important student information.



HOMEBASED STUDENTS

Information and forms for families providing homebased instruction.

REGULAR BELL TIMES

High School: 8:05 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Middle School: 8:05 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Virginia Grainger: 8:15 a.m.–2:55 p.m.

LET'S MAKE IT A GREAT YEAR!

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

McKinney-Vento supports may be available to families experiencing temporary or unstable housing due to financial difficulties.

Child Find helps identify, locate and evaluate children who may have a disability and may need special education services.

Parents providing homebased instruction should file required information with the district by September 15 or within two weeks of the beginning of the school quarter.