



August 21, 2026

Dear Rainier Elementary Families,

It's almost time! The classrooms are coming together, supplies are arriving, and before we know it, our hallways will once again be filled with students, backpacks, laughter, and all the excitement that comes with the start of a new school year!

I hope your family has had a wonderful summer and found time to relax, have fun, and make some great memories. I am excited to welcome our returning families back to Rainier and especially excited to meet the families who will be joining our Cougar family for the first time.

OFFICE OPENS

Our office will officially open on Monday, August 24th. Office hours are 7:30 am to 3:30 pm. Our secretaries will be busy finalizing enrollment and getting everything ready for the new school year. The office will be closed August 31st –September 2nd from 7:30 am – 12:00 pm for meetings.

CLASS LISTS

Class placements will be available in Skyward Family Access on the following dates:

- Grades 1-5: Friday, August 21st after 3:30 pm
- Kindergarten: Thursday, August 27th after 3:30 pm

A great deal of thought and care goes into creating our classrooms each year. We consider academics, behavior and support needs, services, class size, gender balance, and many other factors to create balanced classrooms where all students can be successful.

Because there are so many pieces that go into creating balanced classrooms, we do not accept requests for specific teachers or classroom placements. I know families may have preferences, but honoring individual requests can make it difficult to maintain the balance that is so important for all of our students.

Please know that every student is thoughtfully placed with the goal of helping them have a successful school year.

WELCOME NEW STAFF

We are excited to welcome several new staff members to our Rainier Elementary team this year:

- Ashley Jeffries – K-2 Special Education
- Maura Stockton – Life Skills & Preschool
- Rachel Cox - Kindergarten
- Molly Corak – 2nd Grade
- Natalie Humphrey – 3rd Grade
- Justin Kuykendall – 5th Grade

We are so happy to have each of them join our RES family and look forward to introducing them to our students and families!

OPEN HOUSE & BBQ

Please join us for our K-5 Open House on Wednesday, September 2nd from 4:30 – 5:30 pm (doors close at 5:30 pm for all family and staff BBQ) and then open again from 6:30 – 7:30 pm! This is a great opportunity