

# Eagle



# Update

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Welcome to all!

It is wonderful to finally have our students back in the building with a significant number of new faces. Nothing beats the laughter and joy of over 160 students! We had a phenomenal start to the school year. These first days of school were filled with excitement and new experiences for students, along with the greeting of new and old friends. The students (and staff) are noticing the new faces. Principal Brian Berry stated, "We were expecting approximately 130 students and we are starting the year with over 160." This is a substantial increase for a small rural school. With the increases in students at the elementary school, the District is up approximately 40 students from the end of last school year.

The staff at YHS is committed to providing the best educational services to help our students achieve at all levels. It is my desire that everyone feels welcome and excited to be at Yoncalla High School. Even though the students won't remember each and every day this school year, they will remember the moments along the way and love the fact that they belong at YHS.

After evaluating our programs and practices the last few years, we realize a change may be in order to reach our goals. Therefore, we are adding Spanish and several other classes to our schedule. Your involvement as a parent or guardian can make all the difference in your child's success in school. We look forward to working with you and your students throughout the upcoming year and beyond.

Many adults think of school altogether as a negative experience or clearly remember some bad event "as if it were yesterday." Yoncalla School District, with your help, is breaking that cycle. In order to do that, we need your help. When talking with your student take time to reflect back on his/her middle school and high school days, talk about your favorite teacher, a moment when they took an educational risk and found success or the discovery of a hidden talent. That list could go on and on. The bottom line is this: this type of help and working together will help continue your efforts as parents and as a community focused on providing the very best opportunities for children.

I strongly believe in the importance of fostering an environment centered on trust, open communication, and meaningful relationships. High quality education is a top priority at Yoncalla School District. We continue to move forward educationally and working with all students. We have made our steps in the correct direction, and we are well on our way to another wonderful year at YHS. Your commitment to this journey is vital. As we start this new school year, I invite your presence, support, and engagement along the way. Please let me know if there are ways I can improve these goals to help you stay on top of all that is happening at YSD. I also encourage you to become active with the Yoncalla Engaged Parents and to volunteer when you are available.

Happy September! I look forward to our journey together.

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# Child Nutrition Programs

After many frustrating years of having the food service program at Yoncalla School District running in the red, YSD is excited to announce that all students attending YSD will be fed breakfast and lunch free. What this means is that there will now be more food for all students no matter what their financial standing. The District decided this summer to apply for the state Community Eligibility Provision.

The Community Eligibility Provision fully funds meals for schools if at least 40% of the student population falls under one of various high-need categories. Their households could qualify for food stamps, for instance. Their children could be migrant students, foster children or experiencing homelessness.

In Yoncalla, both of the district's schools qualify for the program. Approximately 65% of families in Douglas County qualify for free and reduced lunch, according to Children First For Oregon. For a number of years, the YSD has spent time processing free and reduced lunch forms. Now, the state Department of Education announces how many students in each school falls under those high-need categories and that's that.



We are proud that no student will ever attend YSD and be denied a meal.

## Early Works BBQ

Yoncalla School District kicked off the new school year with a Yoncalla Early Works retreat and community barbeque. The event was filled with facts, food and fun. Parents, students, staff, regional and state stakeholders and the community gathered early in the afternoon to begin discussions focused on 4 topics that included improving attendance through a culture of parent partnerships, celebrating success with Yoncalla School Districts new attendance protocols, barriers to attendance at the high school level and supporting attendance through health and wellness.

The retreat was well attended with approximate 100 stakeholders and community members in attendance for the retreat and many more who joined in the barbeque. Representatives from the Ford Family Foundation and Children's Institute were involved with a timeline activity that helped to identify the evolution of the Yoncalla Early Works initiative and Portland State University presented data to the group that supports the remarkable progress that has been made with the Yoncalla Pre-school.

After the retreat, there was a BBQ for attendees and the community at large. People enjoyed hotdogs, BBQ chicken and several other items from the local Yoncalla Bakery. The night offered families, staff and the community a chance to get better acquainted with the Yoncalla School District staff and Board members. Fun was had by all!



### September

- 19th VB at UVC & Camas Valley 5:30pm
- 19th MSVB vs. UVC 4:40pm
- 21st FB at Camas Valley 1:00pm
- 23rd MSVB vs Elkton 4:40pm
- 25th NR Spawning Field Lab
- 26th VB vs. Riddle 4:30pm
- 26th MSVB at North Douglas 4:30pm
- 26th Trades' Fair at Seven Feathers
- 27th FB at Oakridge 7:00pm
- 30th MSVB vs Oakland 4:30pm
- 30th College Fair at RHS
- 30th HOCO Wizard of OZ
- 30th HOCO Mud Tug 6:00pm

### October

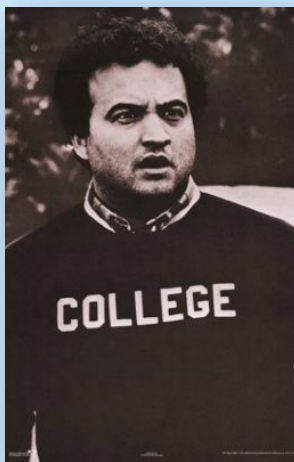
- 1st VB vs. Glendale 4:30pm
- 1st HOCO Celebrity Day
- 1st HOCO Noise Parade ~8:00pm
- 2nd HOCO Superhero's vs Villains
- 2nd HOCO Obstacle Course
- 3rd VB at New Hope 6:00pm
- 3rd MSVB vs Glide 4:30pm
- 4th FB vs. Lowell (Homecoming) 7:00pm
- 4th HOCO Dance ~9:30pm
- 5th MSVB "B" Tourney 9:00am
- 7th MSVB at UVC 4:30pm
- 8th VB vs. Pacific 5:30pm
- 8th MSVB at Elkton 4:40pm
- 10th FNRL CDE Scio
- 11th FB at Mapleton 7:00pm
- 12th VB at North Douglas & Powers 6:00pm
- 15th VB vs. ND (JV) & UVC (V) 4:30pm
- 17th VB at Elkton 4:30pm
- 18th FB vs. North Douglas 7:00pm
- 25th FB vs Elkton (Senior Night) 7:00pm

## Yoncalla School

### District Priorities

1. Each student will enjoy positive, engaging learning environments.
2. Each child will possess the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful in post secondary education and careers, and the self-reliance to be a productive citizen.
3. A strong sense of community is recognized and nurtured among all stakeholders
4. Facilities and finances are managed effectively and efficiently for the benefit of each child.

Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month is college t-shirt day. Be proud and wear the college t-shirt of your choice.



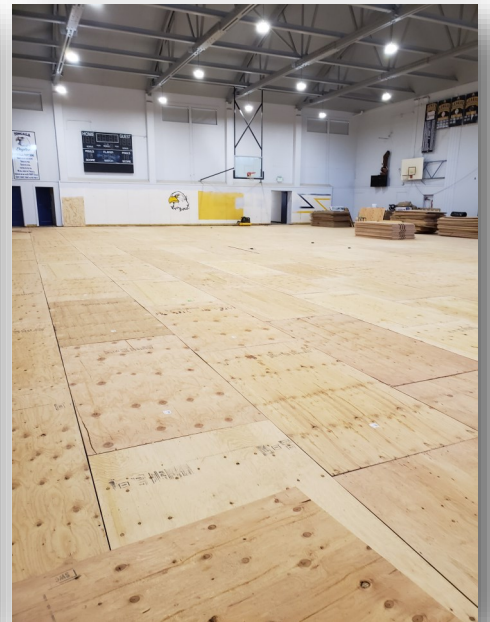
## Building Renovation News

As many of you know, YHS was approved for two seismic retrofits at the high school. We are currently in the second year of the retrofit with Phase 1 complete. Phase 1 included an expansion of the office area that includes development of the office area, reroofing of the entire structure, HVAC in all classrooms, exterior painting of the entire structure and the removal of the glass blocks with installation of new windows.

Phase 2 included work on the gym. Most of the grant money was spent on the strengthening of the trusses. There was also a portion of the grant spent on removal of the old glass blocks and installation of new windows in the gym. Phase 2 is just about complete with only wall matts remaining. These matts have been ordered and should be installed by the middle of October.

Phase 3 of the project is money that the Yoncalla School Board approved to lower the stage, build a new classroom and install a new gym floor. This phase of the project is currently in process. The stage has been lowered and the new weight room is opened. The new classroom is currently being used with more work to be done. There still needs to be windows and a new bathroom installed. The gym floor is currently being installed with new bleachers coming in October.

We are excited to work with our current students and staff to continue planning for the future of the Yoncalla School District. These new additions will help house the increasing number of students attending YHS. We believe the small growing pains this year will lead to even greater opportunities next year allowing YHS to more fully realize its potential of being a small school striving for big results.





## THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME(COMING)

Homecoming Week is just around the corner and Student Leadership is excited to announce this year's theme, "Wizard of Oz: There's No Place Like Home(coming)."

### The dress-up days include:

Monday: Wizard of Oz Day

Tuesday: Favorite Celebrity Day

Wednesday: Superhero's VS Villains Day

Thursday: Blue & Gold Day

### Events include:

Monday: Mud Tug O War 6:00 @ the high school

Tuesday: Volleyball @ the elementary school at 4:30 (JV) 6:00 (Varsity)

Immediately following the volleyball match, the Noise Parade will start at the high school.

Wednesday: Obstacle Course for students 1:30-3:30

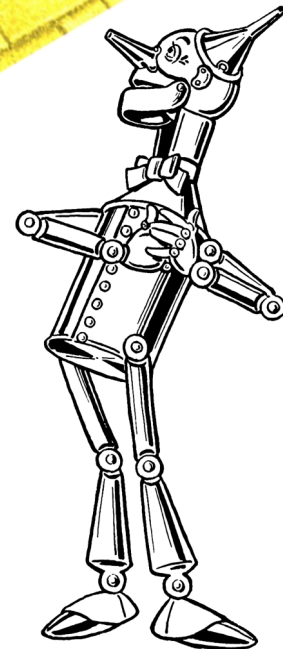
Thursday: Pep Assembly for students

Middle School Volleyball @ the elementary school at 4:30

Friday: Football game at the high school at 7:00

Homecoming dance 9:30 to midnight for students.

Semi-formal attire is encouraged at the dance!



## 10 Facts About School Attendance

1. Absenteeism in the first month of school can predict poor attendance throughout the school year. Half the students who miss 2-4 days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school.
2. Over 8 million U.S. students miss nearly a month of school each year.
3. Absenteeism and its ill effects start early. One in 10 kindergarten and first grade students are chronically absent.
4. Poor attendance can influence whether children read proficiently by the end of third grade or be held back.
5. By 6th grade, chronic absence becomes a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school.
6. Research shows that missing 10 percent of the school, or about 18 days in most school districts, negatively affects a student's academic performance. That's just two days a month and that's known as chronic absence.
7. Students who live in communities with high levels of poverty are four times more likely to be chronically absent than others often for reasons beyond their control, such as unstable housing, unreliable transportation and a lack of access to health care.
8. When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their academic prospects and chances for graduating.
9. Attendance improves when schools engage students and parents in positive ways and when schools provide mentors for chronically absent students.
10. Most school districts and states don't look at all the right data to improve school attendance. They track how many students show up every day and how many are skipping school without an excuse, but not how many are missing so many days in excused and unexcused absence that they are headed off track academically.



## Investing in Our Future

Investing in Career Technical Education (CTE) has been a major focus of Yoncalla High School over the past 2 years. The shop program has invested over \$80,000 in new equipment to upgrade the shop and be able to teach its students how to compete for new jobs in the work place. This year the school invested a substantial amount of money into upgrading the welding equipment. The investment is from the High School Success grant (Measure 98) money that has been awarded to YHS.



New YHS Welding Instructor Jesse McHaffie is excited about teaching students the art of welding and helping them work towards skills that will help them to achieve a career with a livable wage. Students in the program love the new equipment and understand the importance of proper safety equipment in the workplace. YHS received new safety goggles, ear plugs, welding gloves, coats and

much more, along with MIG welding accessories. As with any manufacturing job, time equals money. Because the MIG welding process is faster, it's also more cost-effective. MIG parts are also more readily available and far less expensive than TIG. This is why YHS has made the conversion from TIG to MIG welding.

## Parlevous Espanol ?

After several years of no foreign language at Yoncalla High School the District has hired Brooklyn Edera as the new Spanish teacher at YHS. After sharing a Spanish teacher with North Douglas for a number of years, YHS decided to make an investment in its students and its future and hire a full time Foreign Language teacher for the 2019-20 school year. Edera



will be responsible for several sections of Spanish including Spanish classes for its middle school which includes both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Edera will also be responsible for teaching several other electives within the high school. After a 4-year absence, 27 students signed up for the middle school Spanish class along with 22 signed up for the Spanish 1 high school class.

Principal Brian Berry said, "We are incredibly excited to bring Brooklyn on board to help our students begin to focus on their future. This investment will also help our students access post-secondary opportunities that would not have been available to them without this investment."

Edera has been a substitute at YHS this past year and has a strong connection with the students. She also was an assistant with the YHS girls basketball team, and has been a constant supporter of the students and staff for many years.



## OFF TO A GREAT START

The first weeks of school at Yoncalla Elementary have been great! The students are bursting with energy and smiles are easy to come by. Walking around the cafeteria, playground, hallways, and classrooms you hear friendly chatter and laughter.

We have returning and new teachers on campus. They have all prepared their classrooms for a prosperous year. Lessons have been planned for and they promise to be engaging and full of skill sets. This should be another great year here at Yoncalla Elementary!



## Yoncalla FBLA Takes San Antonio and the National Leadership Conference By Storm

Back in June the Yoncalla FBLA chapter traveled to San Antonio, Texas to compete against the best and brightest business students in the country at the National Leadership Conference. The local FBLA program took a record-high eight students this year. The students that attended are as follows:

- Elijah Allen (American Enterprise Project)
- Cassidy Bragg (American Enterprise Project)
- Shylah Shepherd (Parliamentary Procedures)
- Austin Clemons (Parliamentary Procedures)
- Kaleigh Soto (Parliamentary Procedures)
- Ashley Powers (Future Business Leader)
- Savannah Roseberry (Graphic Design)
- Amiah Ellis-Roseberry (Graphic Design)



The students spent four days of their trip competing in their events, attending dynamic workshops, visiting exhibitor booths, and meeting top executives and owners from some of the biggest companies across the country. The Yoncalla students were among over 10,000 other FBLA students from states all across the country, and even had the opportunity to meet business students from countries such as Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines.

On their off days, students traveled through the city of San Antonio and learned about the rich history of one of the oldest southern cities...which obviously included spending a day at the renowned Alamo, the site of one of the most courageous battles in American history. Students also participated in the Oregon FBLA State Day event, which took place at Six Flags this year. Students were also able to visit a water park and participate in an Escape Room during their time at nationals.

Yoncalla FBLA was recognized at the conference with the Chapter of the Year award for the state of Oregon, which is given to the top eight chapters across the state. Additionally, the chapter also received the Gold Seal Chapter Merit Award, which is given to the top 10% of all FBLA chapters across the country.

FBLA adviser Brett Andry stated “Earning the opportunity to compete at the national level in FBLA is truly something that these kids should be proud of. Even though none of our students made it into the



Top 10 in their events, they worked incredibly hard and I couldn't be prouder of their efforts throughout the year. I would also like to thank the administration at the high school, our school board, and our wonderful community for their unwavering support of Yoncalla FBLA over the years, especially in helping us attend the National Leadership Conference. This was truly a life-changing experience for our students and we couldn't have done it without all of the support from our school and our community.”



