

# Eagle



# Update

Yoncalla, Oregon

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## YSD Working towards All-inclusive Goal

Over the past 2 years, staff at Yoncalla School District has been working on looking at students through an equity lens. While the word “equity” can have negative connotations to some, the district has taken a proactive approach to creating an all-inclusive environment when it comes to students’ safety.

This past week, staff at YSD took part in a staff training put on by the Douglas ESD. The workshop provided an introduction to gender and sexual identity terms, the importance of using correct pronouns in conversations and on documents and making sure people understand the difference between gender and sexuality. Allison Whitworth and Reina Pike led the information session.

Learning about equity and inclusion is a **lifelong task**. **The reason for this, is that we all have different life** experiences and cultural backgrounds, so we can never truly know what it’s like to experience the world as someone of another race, gender identity, ethnicity, or nationality. However, YSD wants to break down stereotypes and provide knowledge through educational opportunities in order to provide our staff with

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Percent of Students Who Reported Risk Behaviors and Experiences	LGBTQ Students	Others Students
Bullied at school in the past year	22.3	12.8
Skipped school in past month because felt unsafe	11.5	3.3
Been in a physical fight at school in the past year	9.8	5.2
Threatened or injured with weapon at school	9.0	4.4
Bullied electronically in the past year	20.7	11.9
Hurt self on purpose in the past year (e.g., by cutting, burning self)	35.6	11.2
Seriously considered suicide in the past year	31.2	9.9
Made a suicide attempt in the past year	16.3	4.1
Can talk to parents about "things that are important to you"	73.9	81.1
Any lifetime heroin use	5.2	0.9
Experienced sexual contact against their will	16.3	6.1
Homelessness	2.2	0.8



Logan Noffsinger  
Yoncalla Middle School  
January



Cecelia Phillips  
Yoncalla High School  
January

**Middle/High School  
Students of the  
Month**

**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.

## YHS to Participate in UCC Classes

At the end of 2021, Superintendent Brian Berry met with UCC President Rachel Pokrandt to talk about the needs of Yoncalla High School students. Throughout these conversations, the consistent tone was the lack of opportunities for students who do not want to do the traditional 4-year college track. Based on these conversations, UCC applied for a grant to help meet the needs of this group of students. On March 4, UCC contacted the Douglas County Superintendents with news of a new program, Career Academy, beginning Fall term of the 2022/2023 school year.

Career Academy will be an extension of the Expanded Options Program where high school students approved by each individual district will come to campus on Fridays and participate in one of three college-credit tracks (Theatre, EMT Certificate, and Automotive) designed specifically for Douglas County high school students.

Yoncalla High School has been an active participant in the Expanded Options Program. Each year the district has sent many students to UCC for classes in a variety of subjects. Now, non-traditional students will be able to take classes that are more career oriented in fields that are needed or lacking in the Douglas County area. "As educational leaders, I am excited that President Pokrandt has been influential in working with our local districts and listening to our needs," stated Berry. "YHS will definitely be working with our students and encouraging them to be a part of this unique opportunity"

### Ode to Fiji

By Thaden Gutierrez

Oh Fiji my bright glowing star,  
oh true cuteness incarnate.  
You are like a rainbow, on a  
rainy dreary day.  
As you give me that Cheshire  
grin, your smile oh so coy.  
You are truly the cutest kitten,  
filling me with joy.



# Natural Resources Goes to the Oregon Logging Conference



## YSD Goes Masks Optional

Throughout the pandemic, schools have navigated a variety of issues just to try to keep the doors open, however, the mask mandate has been a bone of contention the entire school year with a few parents. The Yoncalla School District has held the position that the state mandate for the wearing of masks on school property would and has been enforced. Students K-12 have been required to wear masks throughout the year. Even with the inconveniences that masks can have and the overall uncomfortable feeling, staff and students at Yoncalla have persevered and the result has been that the district has been able to stay open.

Those issues have been nonexistent as of March 12 as the District has made masks optional. “We understand that the mask optional stance for our district will vary from family to family, however, after surveying staff, students, parents and Board members, it is apparent that this option is what the majority of people want,” stated superintendent Brian Berry. “We also will continue to share resources with families that help to create a safe and welcoming environment for every students and staff member.”

The survey results are below.

(Results are based on percentages.)

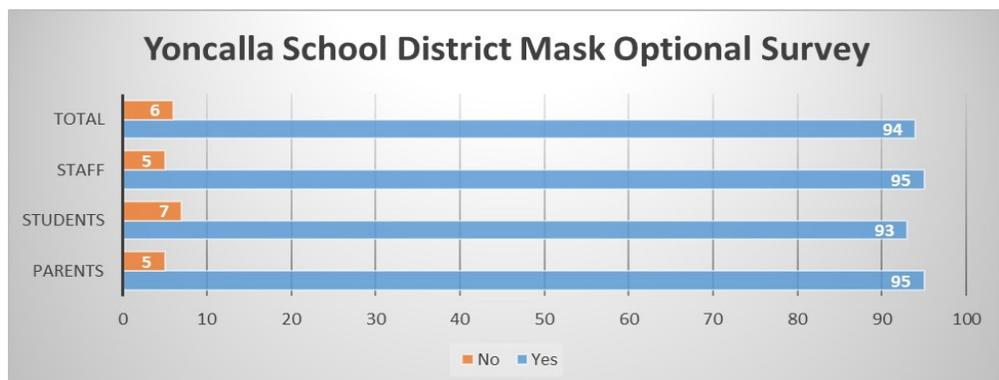
*The Oregon Department of Education is setting a March 19<sup>th</sup> deadline for giving local control to school districts regarding the statewide mask mandate. We have been able to minimize our student and staff COVID exposure with universal masking, physical distancing, cohorting grade levels, and health checks.*

*At this time, if we make masks optional within the district, students would not be allowed to participate in the “Test to Stay” policy and would be required to quarantine when exposed.*

*With this information, the Yoncalla School District would like your thoughts on this question:*

***Do you think Yoncalla Schools should make masks optional?***

Even though the state has given local control back to districts in Oregon, ODE has warned that this may be a short term reprieve. If COVID positive cases rise in the future, mask mandates could be reinstated for public schools. That being said, the staff and students in the Yoncalla School District will enjoy this current mask free time. It is a freedom that they will not take lightly.



The Third grade celebrated 100's Day in March. We dressed up and did activities throughout the day. We were also, so excited to attend a play at Roseburg High School. The play was a lot of fun and the kids really enjoyed it. We had lunch at the park and played with the other students.

