

SCHOOL DISTRICT #29 MARCH 2026

Dufur School Website: www.dufur.k12.or.us



Congratulations to the Dufur Rangers, 2026 Girls Big Sky District Champions

Board of Directors Meeting

There will be a Special Audit Meeting held prior to the Regular March School Board Meeting. It will begin at 4:30 pm. The regular March meeting of the Dufur School District Board of Directors will be held on **Tuesday, March 3rd at 5:30 pm**. This meeting is open to the public and can also be joined online via Zoom. The Zoom Meeting link, agenda, meeting minutes and video archive can be found on the Board of Directors page on our website.

Budget Committee Vacancy

The Dufur School Board has announced one vacant position on its Budget Committee. Candidates must live in and be registered to vote in the Dufur District and not be an officer, agent, or employee of the district. To apply for this position, please contact Kristin Whitley.

Dufur Powwow

There will be a second annual Powwow at Dufur School on March 7th. The Powwow is hosted by the Columbia Gorge Indian Education Program. It will be held from 8 to 11 pm. If you would like to make a donation to help fund the Powwow, please call 541-441-3603.

Dufur School Clothing Closet

Dufur School Clothing Closet needs your help! Here are some things that would be helpful donations. They can be dropped off at the front office any time. Thank you for supporting our kids!

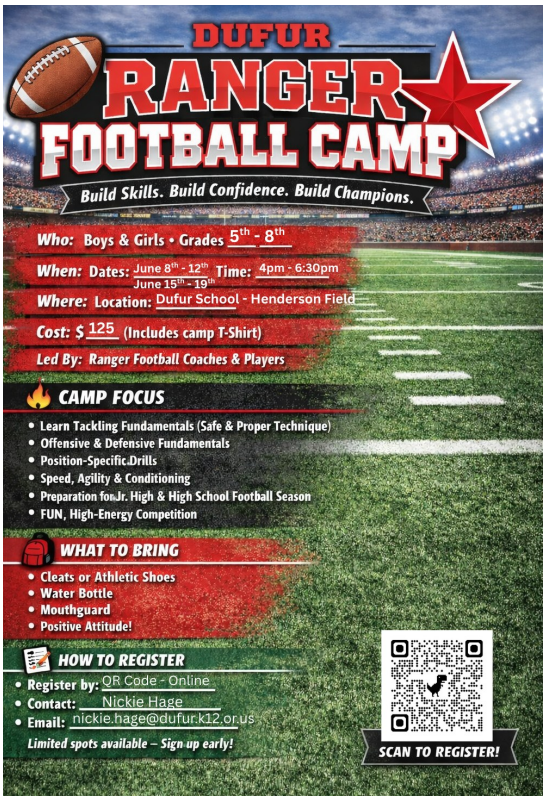
- New socks (boys & girls, all sizes)
- New underwear (boys & girls, all sizes)
- Slightly worn sweatpants/leggings (K-5 boys & girls)

Ranger Athletics

Congratulations to the Rangers Girls Varsity Basketball team. They have finished regular season play as the 2026 Big Sky Champions. They will continue their play on Saturday, February 28th in a State Second Round game against Union High School. If they are victorious in this game they will be traveling to the State Tournament at Baker High School!

Spring sports are here! High School Track and Field practice will begin on Monday, March 2nd. Coaches this year are Mandi Williams and Crystal Pechanec. March 2nd is the start date for High School Golf practice as well, with their new coach Bill Timinsky. Mid-Level Track and Field practice will begin on Monday, March 31st, and the mid-level coaches are Jill Fargher and Brynn Smith. Please make sure your athlete is ready for the first day. Check to see that you and your child have both completed a profile on FinalForms, and sports physicals are up to date!

Don't forget Junior Ranger Football Camps. See details below! If you have any questions, contact Dufur School Athletic Director, Nickie Hage.





NHS Induction Ceremony

On March 10th, eight DHS sophomores will join 17 juniors and seniors as they are inducted into Dufur's chapter of the National Honor Society. Students are chosen based on scholarship, leadership, service and character. Congratulations to Emmy Egeland, Ellie Brock, Noah Coleman, Alexis Ward, Eric Carrillo, Alexandria Olson, Alma Compo and Jacey Calloway on their invitations to NHS!

Visit the NHS page of our website for more details on NHS and the criteria to become a member.

Beyond January...

Apr 2	End of Quarter 3 & Semester 2 Mid-Term
Apr 3	Staff In-Service – No School for Students
Apr 6	Library Week begins
Apr 7	Dufur School Board Meeting
Apr 10	Student of the Quarter Assembly
Apr 16	5th Grade Field Trip to Maryhill Museum
Apr 18	K-4 Jr. Ranger Football Camp
Apr 21	Jerri Walker De-Priest and RPEF Scholarship Applications due!
Apr 23	Annual Ranger Walk-a-thon
Apr 24	No School for Staff or Students
Apr 25	K-4 Jr. Ranger Football Camp
May 2	K-4 Jr. Ranger Football Camp
May 4	ODOT Flagger Course
May 5	Dufur School Board Meeting
May 7	Mid-Level Greenhouse Plant Sale
May 8	Mid-Level Greenhouse Plant Sale

Mid-Level Greenhouse

Mrs. Hertel's 7th grade greenhouse students are busy planting annuals and vegetable starts in the school greenhouse, in preparation for the student plant sale. The plant sale will be held on May 7th & 8th. This year we will also be selling hanging baskets, planted by students and sold for a fantastic price. Mark your calendars, you don't want to miss out!

No School Day

Friday, March 13th is a Staff Development Day. There is no school for students on that day, while staff will be attending training activities. Staff Development Days provide an opportunity for school staff to dedicate time to learn new trends in education and collaborate with colleges. These days are used to enhance instructional practices, boost morale, and ultimately improve student learning.

High School Honor Roll Trip

Those students who are listed on the Winter Honor Roll for 1st semester grades will be going on a field trip to celebrate on March 19th. They will be going to Mt. Hood Lanes in Gresham and the Troutdale Food Trucks.

CTE Construction Class

Construction students have been working on the following school based enterprise projects: cutting boards to be sold on consignment at The Forge Coffee and planter boxes to be sold at the annual plant sale in May. Construction students will also be collaborating with the STEM Hub to build free little library kits that will be placed in the Columbia Gorge area in May. The chicken coop and outside improvements of the greenhouse area at Dufur School are near completion. The next location to be beautified will be the South and West side of the upper building.

Spring Break

March brings with it Spring Break. This year it will take place during the week of March 23rd—27th. Students, families and staff will get a chance to relax and regroup before we start the final stretch of the school year.

2nd Camp Morrow Trip

Our second grade classes will be taking a field trip to Camp Morrow in Pine Hollow on Tuesday, March 31st.

Community Food Pantry

The Food Pantry located at Dufur School is open each Thursday from 4 to 6 pm. All members of the community are welcome when there is a need for food assistance. If you need emergency food assistance, please call the school office at 541-298-5141.

Class Pictures

One of the very iconic things about our school is all of the class photos in our high school hallway. We have several missing classes that are not represented. We are trying to remedy that by making frames for the missing classes. So far three have been completed. If you would like to make a small donation to this project, contact the school. Thank you to the Alum who recently made a donation!





Dufur School District #29

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Superintendent Kristin Whitley
Principal Tess Welk

Dear Dufur School District Families and Community, February 19, 2026

Each winter, we take time to reflect on our statewide assessment results in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. These assessments, administered in grades 3–8 and 11 for ELA and Math, and in grades 5, 8, and 11 for Science, provide us with important information about how our students are performing and where we must focus our efforts moving forward. Our most recent results come from the Oregon Department of Education's 2024–25 Accountability Details Report.

English Language Arts (ELA)
In ELA, 38.7% of Dufur students met or exceeded the state standard in 2024–25, with a three-year average of 39.2%, placing us at a Level 2 rating under Oregon's accountability system. While we saw improvement from last year's 33.5%, we remain below the state's long-term goal of 80%. We are encouraged by growth in certain student groups and by the dedication of our teachers to strengthening reading comprehension, writing skills, and academic vocabulary. At the same time, we recognize that closing achievement gaps remains critical work. Our focus continues to be on high-quality core instruction, intervention supports, and prioritization of standards across grade levels to ensure students are progressing throughout the year, not just at testing time.

Mathematics
Mathematics remains an area requiring intensified attention. In 2024–25, 21.5% of students met or exceeded the state standard, with a three-year average of 24.5%, also placing us at Level 2. While our math performance has remained in that percentage vicinity over the past three years, the data clearly show that we must accelerate learning. We are responding by strengthening instructional alignment across grade levels via new curriculum exploration, and investing in professional development around standards prioritization across grades K-12. Our goal is to ensure that every student builds a solid mathematical foundation from elementary through high school.

Science
Science assessments, administered in grades 5, 8, and 11, provide valuable insight into students' ability to apply scientific reasoning and problem-solving skills. While science is not included in the same accountability rating structure as ELA and Math, we carefully analyze these results internally. Our teachers continue to prioritize hands-on, inquiry-based learning experiences that connect science standards to real-world applications, particularly in our small, rural setting where experiential learning opportunities are abundant.

Participation and Accountability

Statewide participation expectations require that at least 94.5% of eligible students complete assessments. Over the past three years, Dufur has not consistently met this participation threshold in ELA and Math. Participation matters because it ensures that our data accurately represent all students and allows us to make informed decisions. We will continue partnering with families to emphasize the importance of full participation in state assessments so that we get the most accurate data possible that can fuel important budgetary decisions.

Moving Forward

Assessment results are one measure of student learning; they are not the sole definition of student success. At Dufur School, we also measure success through graduation rates, career and technical education opportunities, athletics, and the strong relationships that define our school community.

At the same time, we take these academic results seriously. Our commitment is clear:

- Strengthen Tier I core instruction in ELA and Math
- Expand targeted intervention supports
- Use data cycles to monitor student progress more frequently
- Maintain high expectations for every learner and incorporate student goal setting into our formative assessments.

We are proud of our students and grateful for our educators' dedication. Improvement is a continuous process, and in a small district like ours, every percentage point represents real children, real families, and real effort.

Thank you for your partnership in supporting Dufur students. Together, we will continue to build academic excellence while preserving the strong sense of community that makes Dufur School such a special place.

Sincerely,



Kristin Whitley
Superintendent
Dufur School District