

SCHOOL DISTRICT #29 NOVEMBER 2025

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

October 20, 2025

Dear Dufur School District Families and Community,

It's hard to believe that we are already nearing the end of the first quarter of the school year—October 30th marks the close of Quarter 1. Our students and staff have accomplished so much over these first two months, and I continue to be inspired by the energy and engagement across our classrooms.

One of our biggest celebrations this fall is attendance. In September, 100% of Dufur School classes met or exceeded the state attendance benchmark of 91%! This is an incredible achievement that speaks to the commitment of our students, families, and staff to showing up and engaging every day. To celebrate, our entire school enjoyed a popcorn party, and I want to give a special thank you to Lindsey Harvey, Nancy Wilson, and Bonnie Lepinski for helping make this celebration happen.

Why does attendance matter so much? Research consistently shows that students who attend school regularly are more likely to achieve academic success, build strong peer relationships, and develop positive habits that support lifelong learning. Chronic absenteeism—defined as missing 10% or more of the school year—can set students back academically and socially. 10% of a quarter is about four days, so you can see how even missing a few days a month can really add up!

At Dufur School, we know that every day counts. Thank you for making attendance a priority in your household and for partnering with us to ensure our students continue to learn, grow, and thrive. Let's keep this momentum going as we move into the second quarter!

Sincerely,

Kristin Whitley
Superintendent
Dufur School District
kwhitley@dufur.k12.or.us

Board of Directors Meeting

The November meeting of the Dufur School District Board of Directors will be held on Tuesday, November 4th 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.

Parent Teacher Conferences

We will have two evenings set aside for Parent/Teacher Conferences this year. From 5-8 pm on November 4th and 6th, teachers will be available by appointment to meet with you and visit about your child's progress in their class. Teachers have sent out links for parents to schedule conferences, and you can also find links here!

Veteran's Day Assembly

We will be honoring United States Veterans at an assembly on Monday, November 10th. The assembly will be from 9:15 to 10:15 and our community is invited to join us for the event.



Beyond November...

Dec 1	Class of 2027 Candy Cane Gram Fundraiser begins
Dec 2	Dufur School Board Meeting
Dec 10	Christmas & Holiday Music Program
Dec 12	Staff Development Day—No School for Students
Dec 12	Dufur Library "Cocoa & Gift Wrapping"
Dec 19	Early Release for Students at 1 pm
Dec 22	Winter Break begins
Jan 2	Winter Break ends
Jan 6	Dufur School Board Meeting
Jan 19	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday—No school for staff or students
Jan 23	End of 1st Semester and 2nd Quarter
Jan 23	High School Community Service Due Date for Semester 1
Jan 26	Staff In-Service—No school for students
Feb 3	Dufur School Board Meeting

Non-School Days

School will not be in session for staff or students on Friday, November 7th.

In observance of Veterans Day, November 11th, school will not be in session for staff or students.

We will be off during the week of November 24th—28th for our Fall Break and the Thanksgiving holiday.

Fundraisers

The class of 2029 is selling Krispy Kreme donuts beginning on November 3rd and ending on November 20th. If you are interested in ordering please see a member of the sophomore class.

Get ready for some spooktacular fun! The Senior Class of 2026 is hosting this year's Halloween Carnival on Friday, October 31st from 3:00 to 5:00 PM at Henderson Field. Come enjoy an afternoon filled with games, candy, prizes and plenty of Halloween Cheer! Whether you're showing off your costume, playing for prizes, or just stopping by for treats, there's something for everyone. Tickets will be available for purchase at the event - $1 each, 6 for $5, or 25 for $20. Bring your friends, wear your best costume, and come celebrate Halloween with us—if you dare!

Envision Mobile Vision Screening

Envision Eyecare for All mobile vision screeners will be at our School Based Health Center for the second time on Wednesday, November 19th. All students in Dufur School are eligible to receive a comprehensive eye exam and glasses at no cost. You can use this QR code to make an appointment for your child or see our website for more details.

Academics

The end of our 1st quarter and mid-term of our 1st semester is on October 30th. We will be having parent/teacher conferences during the evenings of November 4th & 6th. Teachers have sent out links for parents to schedule conferences, and you can also find links here! and grade reports will be sent home to families.

Athletics

It is time to begin preparing for the winter sports season. Basketball practices for mid-level and high school will begin in November. If you child is planning on playing basketball please make sure that they are prepared for the season by having a up-to-date sports physical and all forms are complete and signed by you and your child in FinalForms. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Clothing Closet Wishlist

Our clothing closet could use a little love! We're especially in need of elementary boys and girls socks, new boys underwear, and boys and girls pants or shorts (size 6-16 and adult sizes.) We're also hoping to purchase another coat rack-financial donations are welcome! If your student is missing a sweatshirt, check the clothing closet—our washed lost and found items are added there. Please label clothing so we can return it when found. Thank you for helping keep our kids comfy and confident!

CTE Construction News

The Construction class has started on both some inside and outside projects. We are hopeful to have some items for sale in time for Christmas, if not, at least by the Spring plant sale. Juniors and seniors will be attending the Skilled Trades Fair on Friday, November 14th at the Redmond Fair Grounds. This is a great opportunity for students to get eyes on careers in the skilled trades industry.

SECRETS Field Trip



In October, Mr. Talley's fifth grade class traveled to The Dalles Mountain Ranch for a day of outdoor education with the SECRETS program. SECRETS is a science program through The Gorge Discovery Center and Gorge Ecology. Members of the team teach seven weekly lessons in the fifth grade classroom and facilitated this field trip. Thanks to TEN parent volunteers, the SECRETS team reported that this is the largest group of parent volunteers to attend one of their field trips! Way to go Dufur families!!

Employee of the Month

Dufur School is proud to recognize Nancy Little as our September Employee of the Month! Nancy has been a valuable part of the Dufur School District for many years, and her commitment to our students and community shines through in all that she does. Nancy is caring, dependable, and brings patience and kindness to her work each day, creating a positive environment where students feel supported and encouraged. Her reliability and professionalism stand out-always on time, always prepared, and always giving it her best. Thank you, Nancy, for your dedication to the Dufur School District and for the lasting impact you continue to make. We are so grateful to have you on our team.

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.

Volunteers Wanted

Dufur School is seeking skilled volunteers to help in the woods and welding shop. Interested individuals should contact Leona Egeland. Volunteers at Dufur School will need to complete paperwork with the school business office prior to volunteering.

Dufur PTO

Support our Dufur PTO and help raise funds for classroom enrichment and academic needs! All proceeds from this fundraiser go directly to supporting teachers and students.

Shop for your holiday wrapping paper and other festive items at https://registercw.com/gateway?organizationMidasId=30577 and enter code 30577 at checkout.

Thank you for helping us make a difference in our classrooms!