

# WEEKLY WARRIOR

Official Newsletter of Philomath High School

## Class of 2025: A Celebration to Remember

Saturday, June 7th at 11:00 AM marked a milestone moment as 116 graduating seniors walked across the stage on our football field to receive their diplomas. The Class of 2025 celebration was filled with pride, achievement, and pure joy as families and friends gathered to honor these remarkable students.



The ceremony began with a welcome speech from Finlay Moore, Senior Class Co-President Raul Quiroz Sanchez in both English and Spanish and beautifully with Natalee Barton, Brooke McDaniel, and Hanna McDaniel performing the national anthem, setting a tone of respect and celebration. Throughout the event, Colton Hruska and Raegan McKinney, JJ Lewis and Janice Hellesto as student speakers, offering unique perspectives on their high school journey.

This exceptional class produced an impressive 10 valedictorians, showcasing the academic excellence that defines our school community. The ceremony concluded with a perfect moment of unity as Peter Reed, senior class co-president, led the entire class in the traditional tassel move and cap toss.

Congratulations to the Class of 2025! It was truly a great day of celebration for students, families, and our entire school community.



Graduate EVERY student and transition each of them into a job, training, or college.



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# Parade of Grads: A Community Celebration



Our graduating seniors took their victory lap through the heart of our school community during the annual Parade of Grads. The Class of 2025 walked proudly from the high school down Applegate Street to the District office, then through Philomath Elementary and Clemens Elementary, and walked by the Middle School.

Students from every school lined the hallways and gathered outside to cheer, clap, and congratulate the graduates. The parade was such a fun way to connect all our schools, with younger kids getting excited about what they can achieve someday and everyone celebrating our seniors together.

This tradition really shows what makes our district awesome – when our seniors succeed, the whole community gets to share in the excitement!

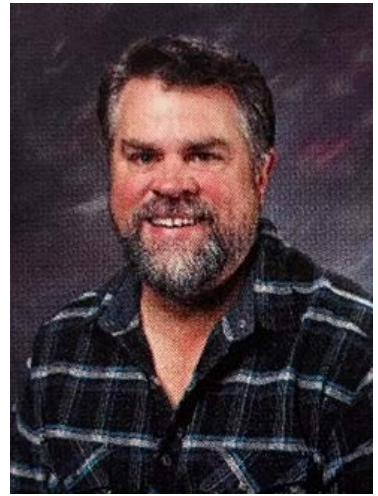
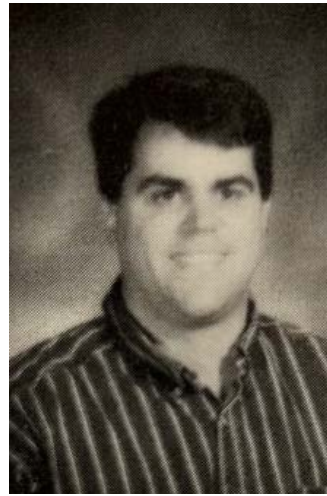
# A Fond Farewell to Mr. David Dunham

After 30 years of unwavering dedication to Philomath High School, we're bidding a heartfelt farewell to Mr. David Dunham, who is retiring at the end of this school year.

Mr. Dunham has been much more than a teacher; he's been a cornerstone of our community, wearing hats throughout his tenure. His passion for reading, literature, poetry, writing, and film has inspired countless students over three decades, fostering a love for the arts and critical thinking.

Beyond the classroom, Mr. Dunham's impact has been felt throughout the school. He's coached our softball team and served as ASB Advisor. For decades, his voice has been synonymous with Warrior football and basketball, bringing the excitement of the games to our community. Many will also remember him for his driver's education classes and his innovative work in creating Broadcast video and our daily morning announcements.

Mr. Dunham's commitment and passion have enriched Philomath High School in countless ways. He will truly be missed by students, staff, and the entire community. We wish him all the best in a well-deserved retirement!



# Welcome to Mr. Mikula to PHS

Born and raised in the Detroit Michigan area and relocated to the PNW 5 years ago from Pennsylvania where I taught for 20 years at Lower Dauphin High School. I began my work in education in Oregon teaching in the Philomath Academy and served as Aquatics Director of the Clemens Community Pool as well as Head Swim Coach for the High School Team. For the past three years I have been teaching Language Arts at Crescent Valley High School. My interests include being outdoors, playing golf, and playing guitar (poorly). My wife and I will be celebrating 27 years this November and we are blessed with 5 children ranging in age from 16 to 24.



# Farewell to a Library Legend: KiKi Klipfel Retires After 8 Amazing Years

After eight wonderful years as our Librarian and Media Assistant, KiKi Klipfel is retiring, leaving behind an incredible legacy at PHS. During her time here, KiKi wore many hats - editing our newsletter, rebuilding and managing the PHS website, and leading OBOB for the high school. But her impact went far beyond her official duties. KiKi transformed our library into a warm,



welcoming space by bringing in games, puzzles, crafts, and her famous "would you rather" questions that sparked countless conversations and connections. She reignited a passion for reading in so many students by taking the time to research, hunt down, and acquire books that matched their interests perfectly.

As KiKi heads into retirement, she's looking forward to spending quality time with family and friends, traveling when possible, and continuing her longtime commitment to volunteering throughout our community. While we'll certainly miss KiKi's positive influence, infectious kindness, and dedication to making our school a better place, we won't forget Chester either! KiKi's legacy of creating a safe and inviting library environment will continue to impact students for years to come. Thank you, KiKi, for everything you've given to PHS - you'll be greatly missed!

## Trimester 3 Grades Available Using ParentVue in Synergy on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Trimester 3 grades will be available on June 20th. To view your student's report card, you'll need to use the ParentVue platform by Synergy. Here's how to access your grades:

### Web Browser Access

1. Open a web browser on your computer or mobile device
2. Navigate to the official ParentVue website
3. Click on the "Login" button
4. Enter your username (typically your email address)
5. Enter your password
6. Select your student's profile
7. Click on the "Grades" or "Report Card" section
8. View Trimester 2 grades



### Accessing a Hard Copy of Grades

For parents who prefer a printed copy of their student's grades, please scan the QR code. This will direct you to a Google form where you can request a hard copy to be mailed or emailed to you.

# SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER

## PSAT Registration: Don't Miss Your Scholarship Opportunity!



The PSAT isn't just practice for the SAT – it's your gateway to potential scholarship opportunities through the National Merit Scholarship Program. Juniors who perform well on the PSAT can qualify for National Merit recognition, which opens doors to significant college scholarships and awards.

### Important Dates:

- Registration Deadline: June 16th
- Test Date: October (exact date TBA in the fall)



We'll be ordering tests over the summer, so it's crucial that families sign up by the June 16th deadline. Use the QR code provided to register your student for this valuable opportunity. The specific October test date will be communicated when we return to school in the fall.

**Students that don't sign up by June 16<sup>th</sup>, will not be able to test in October!**

## Lane Bettencourt Wins Chili Cook Off Design Competition

Congratulations to Lane Bettencourt for winning this year's Chili Cook Off design competition! His creative work will be featured on promotional materials for the upcoming event, with some minor changes (including the QR code). We're proud of the excellent work he put into this design.

The annual Chili Cook Off benefits the 4-Spirits Veterans Scholarship Fund. The event is proudly sponsored by the Philomath Foundation and Sheriff's Foundation.

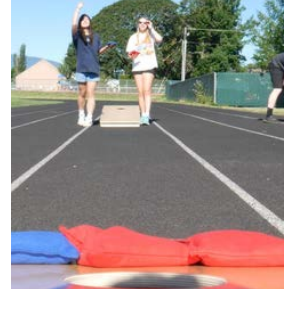
Great job representing our school's artistic talent in the community!



# Homegoing Week Fun

What a week! Homegoing was absolutely amazing this year, and it all started with ASB flipping pancakes for the whole school - talk about the perfect way to kick things off. Students had fun with dress-up days, with some seriously creative costumes that had everyone cracking up in the hallways. The talent show was incredible too, with so many hidden talents coming out of the woodwork that left us all impressed.

Field day brought out everyone's competitive side with tons of fun events and team bonding that had people cheering from the sidelines. And of course, we wrapped it all up with our famous mess assembly - because what's Homegoing without getting a little messy? From the pancakes to the final cleanup, this Homegoing was one for the books and showed just how awesome our school spirit really is.



# Class of 2026 Officially Takes Over - Ready to Make Their Mark

The parking lot at PHS transformed into an unforgettable celebration ground as the Class of 2026 marked their official transition from juniors to seniors with an overnight sleepover. As the sun began to set, painting the sky in brilliant oranges and pinks, soon-to-be seniors gathered around the firepit for an evening of bonding and reflection. The night was filled with laughter and games, including spirited rounds of sardines that had students hiding and seeking throughout the area. The aroma of grilled food filled the air as students took turns cooking over the fire, followed by the classic tradition of roasting marshmallows for s'mores. Between activities, students could be seen zipping around on scooters, their excitement infectious as they embraced the freedom and fun of the moment.

This overnight celebration wasn't just about fun and games – it was a symbolic passing of the torch.

# Art Extravaganza: A Night of Creative Celebration!

Thursday, June 5th's Art Extravaganza was a tremendous success! The open-house style event brought together families and community members to celebrate the incredible artistic talents of our students.

Highlights from the Evening:

- Stunning student artwork displayed throughout the venue
- Delicious food and refreshments for all attendees
- Community participation in People's Choice voting
- Engaging hands-on art-making activities for visitors
- Successful fundraising with Tessa Singer coloring books and ceramic bowls benefiting Philomath Community Services

Despite the busy end-of-year schedule, our community showed up in wonderful numbers to support and celebrate our talented artists. The creativity and skill on display was truly impressive, and it was heartwarming to see students' hard work recognized and appreciated.

Thank you to everyone who attended this celebration of student art and helped support Philomath Community Services!



# Life as a Soundtrack: Students Complete Creative Final Project

Mr. Lake's History of Popular Music students wrapped up the semester with an incredibly personal and creative final project called "Songs in the Key of Your Life." This comprehensive assignment challenged students to curate a soundtrack that tells the story of their own lives through music.



Each student created a complete album experience, designing original album artwork that visually represents their personal journey. But the creativity didn't stop there – students also compiled a detailed songbook featuring the lyrics of each chosen song along with thoughtful analysis explaining why each track holds significance in their life story.



This project beautifully combines artistic expression with personal reflection, allowing students to explore how music connects to memory, emotion, and identity. The final products showcase not only their understanding of music's role in popular culture but also their ability to think critically about the soundtrack of their own experiences.

The creativity and personal insights shared through these projects demonstrate how powerfully music can capture and communicate the human experience.

## Looking Ahead: Back to School Registration Dates

We know it's a little early to be thinking about next year already, but we wanted to give everyone a heads up on upcoming registration dates so you can mark your calendars!

Registration Schedule:

- 9th Grade: August 19 (1:00 pm - 3:30 pm)
- 10th Grade: August 19 (8:30 am - 11:30 am)
- 11th Grade: August 18 (1:00 pm - 3:30 pm)
- 12th Grade: August 18 (8:30 am - 11:30 am)



New Students: Families new to our school can schedule appointments with the counselor on August 20 - 21. Families will be able to schedule appointments when using the online registration.

# ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

## Fall Sports Information

For information about High School Athletics, please visit our website at where you can find coaches' contact information, how to register for sports, and more.

- Fall sports officially start on August 18th, however many teams have Summer programs and workouts throughout the Summer. Please contact coaches for Summer program information.
- To be eligible to participate in Fall sports, students and families need to complete registration, have a current sports physical on file, complete ImPact testing, and submit the athletic participation fee. All information can be found on our website.
- The only sports physical accepted is the School Sports Pre-Participation Examination Form. This form can be found on our website.



## Fall Sports Parents Night

Tuesday, August 12th at 7pm in the Philomath High School Auditorium

## Resources

- Philomath High School Athletics Website
  - <https://www.philomathsd.net/philomath-hs-home/athletics>
- Physical Form: School Sports Pre-Participation Examination Form
  - <https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1691613610/philomathk12orus/iqpxsbazbfrzxn9wnujk/PhysicalExaminationFormENr2023.pdf>



**PHILOMATH  
WARRIORS**

# Summer EBT is back in 2025

## Learn how the program can help feed kids.

Summer EBT (SEBT) is a grocery benefits program. It helps families buy food for their school-aged children when school is out. Each summer, families will get one payment of \$120 on an Oregon EBT card for each eligible child to buy groceries. Unused Summer EBT benefits expire 122 days after issuance.

## Families may automatically receive Summer EBT in 2025 if:

Your child got benefits for 2024 through an approved application. Or, your child experienced one of the following anytime during the 2024-25 school year:

- SNAP food benefits.
- TANF cash assistance.
- Medicaid and your household has income under 185% of the federal poverty level.
- Foster care.
- Attending a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or School Breakfast Program (SBP) and meet household income requirements.



## Families may need to apply if:

- Your household meets the income requirements for free or reduced-price meals at school, **AND**
- Your child attends a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or School Breakfast Program (SBP).

For more information, visit our webpage at <https://sebt.oregon.gov> or by scanning the QR code.



## Quick Fact

### Did you apply in 2024?

Applications submitted in 2024 will be re-used to determine eligibility for 2025.



## Key Dates

### Now

Paper applications available in 10 languages online at <https://sebt.oregon.gov> for families that need to apply.

### May 22, 2025

Benefits begin issuing for families who are automatically eligible.

### May 30, 2025

Online application opens

### Sept. 3, 2025

Application deadline.



You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer free of charge. Contact the Summer EBT Unit at [summerEBTinfo@odhs.oregon.gov](mailto:summerEBTinfo@odhs.oregon.gov) or 503-945-5600. We accept relay calls.

# Join us in Ireland, Scotland & England

Dear Philomath families,

I'm thrilled to share an incredible invitation with you and your student: we're headed on an educational tour in Summer 2027 and hope your child can join us on this adventure!

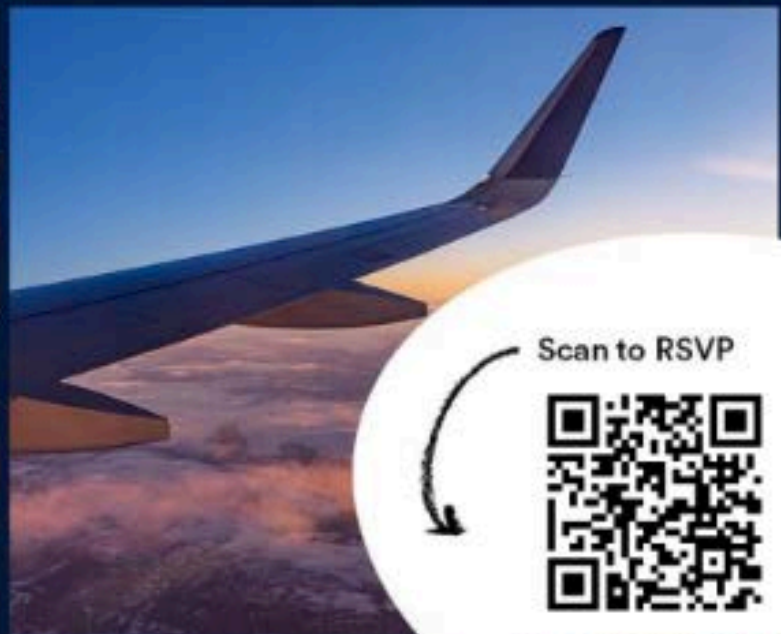
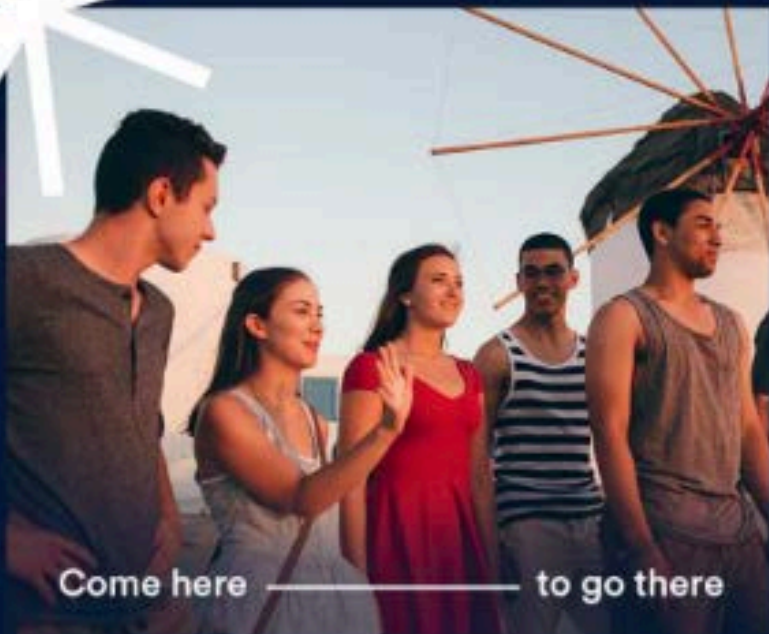
This journey goes beyond sightseeing—it's a real world-experience that gives students the chance to build confidence, gain independence, and grow in countless ways. It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience that can help shape their view of the world. Come to the information session to meet with me and learn more about this tour, including:

- What we'll see and do
- Travel logistics
- Safety and support
- Affordable payment options
- Our travel partner, EF Educational Tours
- How to enroll on this trip—before it fills up

**This meeting will take place virtually on May 27<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm. Please RSVP to receive the meeting link!**

Warmest regards,  
Karri McGovern

Can't make the meeting? Opt in to still get info on the RSVP page.  
For more information contact me at [kveducationaltravel@gmail.com](mailto:kveducationaltravel@gmail.com)



Come here \_\_\_\_\_ to go there

Scan to RSVP

