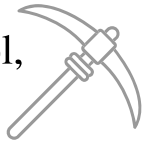


# PROSPECTOR PRIDE

August/September 2024

Volume 2 Issue 1

A publication of Grant School District 3, Grant Union Jr/Sr High School,  
Humbolt Elementary School and Seneca Elementary School



**WELCOME**

We are excited to welcome new administrative and certified staff members (and current staff members who are transferring to a different position) for the 2024-25 school year!  
We will be publishing a list of classified staff members soon!

Andrea Ashley, Humbolt Elementary, Transfer to 6th Grade Teacher

Anna Field, Transfer to Grant Union Jr/Sr High School, Math Teacher

R.C. Huerta, Humbolt Elementary, Transfer to Dean of Students

Amy Hunt, Transfer to Humbolt Elementary, Title 1-A Teacher

Page Welch, Humbolt Elementary, 5th Grade Teacher

Jaclyn Lopez, Grant Union Jr/Sr High School, Online School Coordinator

Justin Lieuallen, Grant Union Jr/Sr High School, Principal

Drew Lusco, Grant Union Jr/Sr High School, Math & History Teacher

Tina McCormick, Transfer to Humbolt Elementary, 4th Grade Teacher

Stephanie Riis, Grant Union Behavioral Interventionist

Tonia Seebart, Grant Union Jr/Sr High School, Academic Advisor

Alesa Smith, Grant Union Jr/Sr High School, Head Cook

Gary VanderStelt, District Office, Transportation Manager

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## Help Keep Kids Safe:

Please remember to obey posted speed limits within school zones. School buses travel at slower speeds. Pay attention to any signals on the bus. Expect to slow down and only pass when the bus driver signals you to go by.

## FBLA Appreciates Heather Rookstool!

Thank you so much to Heather Rookstool for stepping up and helping with Grant Union FBLA for the 23-24 school year. Heather was willing to take on any task we needed throughout the year. More importantly, with only a 48-hour notice, Heather stepped in and took five students to Orlando, Florida to attend the FBLA National Conference. She went above and beyond for our students and we are so lucky to have such a committed and caring person working at Grant Union. Heather, we appreciate you!

-Kalli Wilson, GU Business Teacher & FBLA Advisor

## Thank you Canyon City!

Humbolt Summer School would like to thank the town of Canyon City for making the community center and city park available to us once again this summer. The building and park are both well maintained and a beautiful alternative when we can't be on our campus. Thank you!

-Kelli LaFramboise, Summer School Director

## Thank you Summer Maintenance Team!

Thank you to Kyle Erickson, Hadley Boethin, Skip Ryder, Dennise Blevins, Ty Baker, Jordan Walker, Randy Mooney, Rolando Moreno, Alex Finley and Ernie Shorts. Along with our normal summer list of waxing and moving classrooms for teachers, we have a long list of special projects to prepare each school campus for the 2024-25 schoolyear. At GU, the guys have spent hours moving rocks, pruning the juniper brush and getting the new drip sprinkler system up and running. We are in the process of painting a couple of classrooms, moving the alumni pictures into the cafeteria (because we ran out of room in the hall), fixing the sprinkler system, and epoxying the Ag classroom floor. At Humbolt we are updating the 3rd/4th grade bathrooms, fixing damaged areas in classrooms and the outside of the buildings, and various other projects. At Seneca we are epoxying the bathroom floors and upkeeping one of the best yards in the county. Thanks guys! We could not have done it without you!

-Dustin Wilson, Facilities Manager

## Little Prospector Volleyball Camps

Grant Union's Volleyball Team and Coach Mariah Moulton hosted Volleyball Camps for 3rd-5th grade students and 6th-8th grade students at Grant Union. Way to go Ladies!



## Thank you Parks & Rec!

Humbolt Summer School would like to give a big thank you to staff and volunteers running the JD/CC Parks & Rec Summer Lunch Program. The meals have been phenomenal and the students look forward to them everyday.

-Kelli LaFramboise, Summer School Director

## Thank you GU Summer School Crew!

A special shoutout to Andrea Combs, Grant Union SPED Teacher, and Heather Rookstool, Online Coordinator, for all of the time and energy they put into hosting summer school. Over the summer, 23 students have completed 49 credits and counting! Students had the opportunity to complete classes online or stop by the school during office hours for assistance.



Pictured: Rookstool helps Junior Jakob Reeves with his online math class.

## Grant Union Hosts Red Cross Shelter

Thank you to the community members and Red Cross volunteers who helped host our neighbors displaced by recent fires.



Send a shout out to staff, students or community members, in 100 words or less by sending an email to [shoutout@grantsd.org](mailto:shoutout@grantsd.org).

# Health Occupation Program at Grant Union

One of the many Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs at Grant Union Jr/Sr High School is Health Occupation, which strives to introduce students to the many different careers in the healthcare industry. According to GU's Health Occupation Advisor, Sylvia Brown, "The focus is to expose students to different healthcare-related careers so they can make informed decisions about schooling, cost, future salary and, most importantly, if they enjoy the work." Brown graduated from Grant Union in 2005 before attending Eastern Oregon University and Oregon Health and Science University where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She then returned to John Day where she worked as a nurse at Blue Mountain Hospital for 14 years, including 10 years as the Director of Home Health and Hospice.

Brown accepted a teaching position with Grant Union Jr/Sr High School in the fall of 2023, where she began working to develop the Health Occupation CTE program. With fond memories of her years at Grant Union, Brown is excited to help students shape their own motivations and experiences into finding their future careers. As a student, Brown played soccer and basketball and was active in Science Club and FFA. Science club helped lead Brown to her career in nursing. "Mrs. Smith made me love science and it has forever been my favorite subject. In Science Club, I continued to learn about the body and the cells that make the body and I couldn't wait to learn more." She

also credits her experiences with FFA for helping her throughout her career. "I really enjoyed public speaking in FFA and competed in many contests all over the state, later using those skills as a nurse and now instructor at GU."

Having learned to apply her own life experiences into her career, Brown has returned to her alma mater to "focus on mentoring youth who are also wanting to be in the healthcare field." During the 2023-24 school year, Brown taught many different health classes and got to know the students at Grant Union. In her first year with the district, she credits the CTE Health Occupation Program with helping students apply for education programs, set up job shadows and paid internships, write scholarships, explore college campuses, complete college-level Medical Terminology classes and some even completed the CNA program through Treasure Valley Community College.

As Brown prepares for the 2024-25 school year, she is excited to share her experiences and commitment to the healthcare industry. Brown will be returning to Grant Union to teach classes directly related to the healthcare industry and is looking forward to helping the school develop the Health Occupation program through her own experience in the healthcare industry. "I am so looking forward to this year to see more growth in students and see who else I can help this school year!"

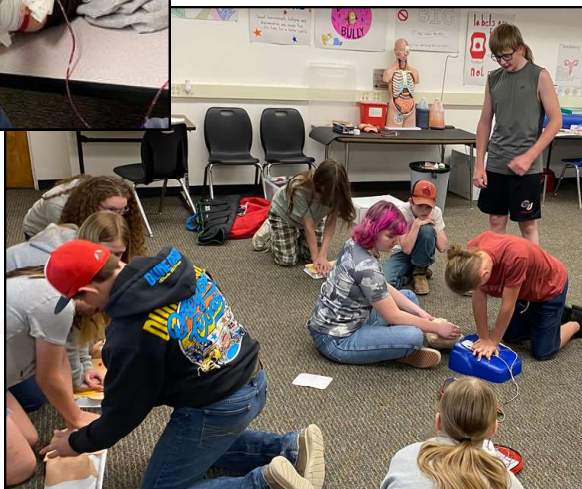


Upper Left: Student Gracee Hueckman experiences First Aid with patient/student Emmalyn Northway.

Upper Right: Sylvia Brown, GU's Health Occupation Advisor

Lower Left: 7th Grade students learn CPR

Lower Right: Students Addy Northway and Drew Williams practice First Aid skills in class.



# Immediate support rescues seventh-grade class

## Grant Union Jr/Sr High School leaped into action mid-year when the seventh-graders seemed to be floundering

June 13, 2024 | Republished from Oregon's Education News Connection

This school year started out rough for seventh grader Danner Franklin. He was getting bad grades, and the more he tried to catch up and failed, the more stressed he became. His mom, Amy, was having a hard time, too.

“We had a lot of frustration between the two of us trying to do math homework,” she said. Amy said her anxiety would “go through the roof” every time the school called.

In December, she received a different kind of message from the Grant Union Jr/Sr High School in John Day. The school would be adding resources to institute intensive and immediate support for its seventh graders. Franklin was initially wary of negative consequences for Danner if the school paid closer attention to him. But watching her son blossom this year has her fully on board, and Danner says he is liking school now.

Seventh grade is the pivotal transition year for the Grant School District in the John Day area. Students go from a more structured elementary setting with a single classroom to the high school style of multiple teachers and classrooms daily.

Students often struggle initially but figure it out before the second quarter. This school year, that didn't happen. At the end of the first quarter, half of the students' grades in math, science, language arts and history were a D or F. By December, the class of about 40 was missing hundreds of assignments.

“They dug a hole so deep they stopped caring,” said teacher Kathryn Manitsas, who has been instrumental in Grant's new approach.

Principal Jay Hummel consulted teachers to design a collaborative program of immediate and intensive student feedback and support.

“Before we ever started, we called every parent and told them what we planned to do and asked for their ongoing input,” said Hummel. “We met with all the students and told them why we were about to surround them with support.”

The school started issuing every seventh grader a daily tracking form to carry from class to class. Teachers see a real-time heads up about how their students are present that day, and students have feedback about how they are performing.

Teachers meet twice a week to discuss students' needs and share approaches. School staff also call parents to let them know how things are going and to praise students' successes.

The forms note any missing assignments. Students who are behind flex out of a fourth period elective class on either health or computers so a teacher can help

them catch up.

“Immediacy is key,” Hummel said. “You can't wait until Friday to catch up. Those gaps keep building up, and kids start feeling bad about themselves.”

At the end of the third quarter, 80% of students' grades in the core classes were A's or B's. The class went from 40 failing grades to five. Fourth quarter grades aren't final, but Hummel said they expect the good results to hold.

Fourth-period teachers were initially hesitant to see their class time sacrificed, but they say the overall improvement in student attitudes has made their classes more productive.

According to student surveys, students said they felt significantly more supported, successful and engaged and better situated to succeed in April than they did in January.

“The students know we see them,” Manitsas said. Manitsas, hired in January as a long-term substitute teacher, took on managing the project. Every morning, she enters data from the sheets into spreadsheets that are available to students and parents. She said students are expected to act like kids from time to time and what teachers and administrators are really looking for are long-term patterns.

Manitsas does much of the tutoring during fourth period. She attends classes throughout the day so her help matches the lessons the students are receiving.

Hummel said that connection to daily work was key. “When they realized we would immediately intervene and help them with assignments, the whole thing fell into place,” Hummel said. “All of the sudden they quit fighting and they got to work.”

Hummel credits the school board with providing the leadership and the resources to tackle their seventh graders' struggles mid-year.

Board Chair Will Blood said that when the school board members saw the low grade reports, they started asking questions and urging action.

“It's one of the wisest uses of money there can be,” Blood said. “We can't leave these kids to fail. We have to help them.”

Blood praised the staff's quick and thorough response. Initially, all the seventh-graders received a tracking paper, but most didn't need them after getting caught up. About a dozen were still carrying papers by the end of the third quarter, mostly to help with ongoing education support plans.

Teachers, parents and school leaders worry about stigma being attached to the papers, but so far that doesn't seem to be a problem.

Seventh grader Elizabeth Hall likes the immediate feedback. “It lets me know how the teacher feels, and maybe I can do better next time,” she said.

(Immediate support, continued from page 4)

Parent Maitland Ridenour was initially resistant to the system, but she is a fan now. "It's a night and day difference for my kids' grades and their attitude about school," she said.

The tracking system showed so much success, the school instituted it with selected eighth graders in April and ninth graders in May. The older grades use an electronic form that teachers fill out after every period. The electronic system has the advantage of being more discreet, but students lose the immediacy.

Justin Lieuallen will become the new Grant principal July 1. He said the program would continue in some form next year, although they are still working out the

form and how it will apply in different grades. The district also may rework schedules so there is time to do catch-up work without missing another class, he said.

Amy Franklin said the extra attention has been transformative for Danner. He advocates for himself now, letting teachers know what he needs to complete assignments. He comes home from school in a better mood and without homework that frustrates Amy as much as Danner. Their household is a happier place. When the phone rings, it's often good news.

"It's been a long road, but it's definitely a success," Amy Franklin said.

- Jake Arnold, OSBA  
jarnold@osba.org

## Future Business Leaders of America National Leadership Conference in Orlando, FL



Pictured: Grant Union FBLA members Logan Randleas, Eliza Bailey, Maddie Bailey, Abbie Justice, and Vincent Raschio



## Summer Fun with FFA!

Summer



Grant Union FFA officers Monel Anderson, Cooper Ross, Zoey Beam, Eliza Ashley, and Alana Shaffer attended FFA Leadership Camp with Advisor Kailee Oliver.

# SUMMER School



Summer School Instructors included Andrea Ashley, Dalaney Coombs, Elijah Humbird, Amy Hunt, Kelli LaFramboise, Brianna Majors, Carrie Sullivan and GU student assistants Emmalyn Northway and Eliza Ashley.



This summer, students at Humbolt Summer School have been diving into more than just reading and math. Under the exciting theme of "Forest Adventurers," students have explored the intricate world of forest habitats, lifecycles, and food webs. Our young adventurers have had the unique opportunity to learn about the natural world around them, developing a deeper understanding of forest ecosystems.

Adding to the excitement, we were thrilled to welcome two guest educators: Christal Culley from OSU Extension Office engaged students with a captivating STEM activity. and Bonni Booth with OSU Extension's SnapEd program and Grant County ESD's Every Day Matters brought a fun and educational nutrition lesson. Together, these experiences have made this summer an enriching and unforgettable journey for our students.



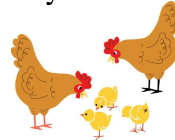
# Grant Union Jr/Sr High School



Grant Union Jr/Sr High School has a new look for the Library/Student Commons area. Students will enjoy access to all of their favorite books both in print and through online platforms, and the Commons area will add space for students working on group projects and online classes.

## Humbolt Elementary School

Construction is underway at Humbolt Elementary. A new playground, funded through an ESSER Grant, is scheduled to be completed this summer. The new Grant Union Farm Academy, which includes a district greenhouse and chicken house, has been funded through a CTE Revitalization Grant. Construction of the greenhouse has begun and the chicken house will be built by Grant Union woodshop classes.



## District Qualifies for Free Lunch Program

We are pleased to inform you that Grant School District 3 will implement a new option available to schools participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs called the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for School Year 2024-25. This is great news for all of the students in our district. All enrolled students of Grant Union Jr/Sr High School, Humbolt Elementary School and Seneca Elementary School are eligible to receive a healthy breakfast and lunch at school at no charge to their household each day of the 2024-25 school year. No further action is required. Every student will be able to participate in the

meal program without having to pay for meals or submit an application.

"Grant School District 3 is pleased to be able to provide a free breakfast and lunch for each of our students attending in-person school," Superintendent Mark Witty stated. "We believe this will assist families that are living within a tight budget, relieve the school district of paperwork requirements for the federal government and free up employees from taking time to track billing!" For additional information, please call your school office or the Grant School District 3 office at 541-575-1280.



LOCAL  
POSTAL CUSTOMER

## August

12-16 - Student Registration 8:00am-3:00pm

New Students: Please stop by the office anytime!

12th: Students with Last Names A-F

13th: Students with Last Names G-L

14th: Students with Last Names M-R

15th: Students with Last Names S-Z

16th: All Students who Have Not Registered

16 - Sports Physicals w/Charles Caughlin, DC, 8am at Grant Union  
Bring 4 cans of food or \$10 donation. First come, first served.

19 - GU Sports Practices begin

21-Sports Physicals, Wellness Exams and Immunizations at  
Strawberry Wilderness Community Clinic, Call 541-575-0404 for Appt.

21 - Humbolt's Back to School Night, 4:00pm-5:45pm

21 - District Booster Club BBQ at Grant Union Jr/Sr High School, 6:00pm

26 - First Day of School

## September

3 - School Pictures at Humbolt Elementary

4 - School Pictures at Grant Union Jr/Sr High School

5 - School Pictures at Seneca Elementary

Fall sports are starting and you can follow all  
GU sports schedules at  
<https://www.osaa.org/schools/162>  
or download the Grant Union Athletics app!  
Go Prospectors!

