

# PROSPECTOR PRIDE

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## Grant Union Creates Online and Hybrid Program

By Jaclyn Lopez, Online Teacher/Coordinator

Grant Union Jr/Sr High School's Online Hybrid and Fully Online Program is a flexible, high-quality learning option for students in grades 6 through 12. With 72 students enrolled in the hybrid program, 1 hybrid student at Humbolt, and an additional 4 fully online students; this program supports a diverse range of student needs, allowing students to progress at their own pace with the support of experienced teachers and real-world, project-based learning. This program is part of the Individual Success Plan implemented by the school district for all students.

The program includes four dedicated teachers of record: Elijah Humbird, Drew Lusco, Sonna Smith, and Cindy Dougharity-Spencer. These educators create quarterly projects required in all core courses to promote academic rigor and enhance learning. The focus on project-based assessments helps ensure students can apply what they learn in practical settings, preparing them for both post-secondary education and the workforce. With the completion of the first quarter's projects, student progress is on track, and the feedback has been positive, indicating strong learning outcomes and high engagement.

Students enrolled in the Online Hybrid Program have access to various learning environments that cater to individual preferences and needs. They can work from the online classroom, study in the Student

Commons, or, with permission, complete their assignments from home. The online classroom is always available for those seeking in-person assistance, allowing for a blend of independent and supported study. Heather Rookstool has been a great support to many students, providing a comfortable, yet structured environment for learning in The Commons area, and tutoring them when needed.

One of the program's key strengths is the ability to adapt to students' interests and future goals. The Career Coordinator, Tonia Seebart, collaborates closely with the students and me to make sure students are enrolled in classes that align with their future goals and fulfill graduation requirements. Hybrid students have the opportunity to attend in-person classes tailored to their career aspirations, while also opting for online classes to meet various needs, such as flexible scheduling, credit recovery, accelerated learning, or earning college credit. The curriculum includes all core subjects and offers an array of specialized courses, such as Spanish (levels 1-3), Forestry and Wildlife Management, Computer Programming, Culinary Arts, Certified Nursing Assistant, Graphic Design and Illustration, and Introduction to Veterinary Studies. Science labs provide engaging virtual experiences, giving students hands-on learning opportunities in a digital format.

The program aims to help online students enrich their high school experience and build a sense of community. These include access to extracurricular activities, lunch and study groups, and educational field trips.

As Grant Union Jr/Sr High School's Online Hybrid and Fully Online Program continues to grow, we are committed to providing a rigorous, supportive, and flexible learning environment for students at all levels.

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Jaclyn Lopez, Online Teacher/Coord



Students work on online classes in the classroom and in the Student Commons

### Thank You, Community Sponsors!

Grant Union Jr/Sr High School opened their doors to all home sporting events free of charge thanks to the generous donations from Les Schwab, the Booster Club, Outpost Restaurant, Solutions CPAs, Strong Contracting, Subway, Thadd's Place, Len's Drug, and Patriot Plumbing. Thank you for supporting Grant Union student athletes!

-Andy Lusco, GU Vice-Principal and AD

### Seneca Thanks Jessica Moore...

Thank you to Jessica Moore for years of PTA service, coordinating fairs, activities, managing social events and creating a fun environment at Seneca School while being a great mom who cares immensely for her family.

-Carrie Sullivan, Seneca Head Teacher

### Thank You, Charissa!

A huge shoutout and thank you to Charissa Moulton for all she does for the students and staff at Humbolt! She volunteers countless hours every week to help with multiple programs that help enrich the lives of Humbolt students! These include, but are not limited to: 100 Book Club, Running Club, PTA, fundraisers, Veterans Day, Ninja Night, classroom volunteering, and creating flyers, and PTA Facebook posts! Thank you, Charissa! We appreciate you so much!

-Robyn Miller & Kristal Hansen, Humbolt Teachers

### Thank You, Ms. Ross!

Ms. Ross has always pushed me to pursue my career in the medical field. She tells me about field trips and offers for different programs. She definitely wants the best for her students. I'd also like to include that she knows how to keep things real and honest.

-Morgan Majors, GU student

### Cross Country Volunteers Host Meet...

Shout out to all the students and adults who made our home cross-country meet a success. We could not have done it without you.

-Sonna Smith, GU Science Teacher

### We Appreciate Mrs. James!

She is not only an amazing teacher, but she is an awesome coach.

-Emily Ford, GU Student

### Thank You Mary Armstrong...

A big shout out to Mary Armstrong for all her help with our Original Works fundraiser and for all her help setting up and running our Little Pro Swag online store! Mary, thank you for all you do for Humbolt!

-Robyn Miller, Humbolt, 3rd Grade Teacher

### Thank You Veterans!

Humbolt staff and students would like to thank all the Veterans who came out for our Veterans Day Celebration. We appreciate your service!

### Hadley Boethin is Appreciated...

Shout out to Hadley for keeping the rooms and bathrooms out in the science/weight building in such good shape. Thank you Hadley! You are appreciated.

-Sonna Smith, GU Science Teacher

### Thank You, Ms Combs and Ms Smith!

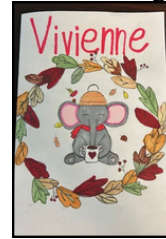
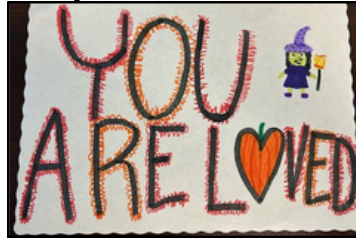
Andrea Combs and Marissa Smith both give 110% with kindness and patience. Both have a true passion for what they do and our students flourish everyday.

-Tammy Larkin, GU Classified Staff

### Elementary Artists Brighten a Day...

Grant County Senior Programs would like to give a special Shout Out to Mrs. Lamb's 5th grade class. Mrs. Lamb's class made special cards to enclose in the home delivered meals for homebound seniors that the John Day Senior Center provides twice a week. These small acts of kindness offer connection and brighten someone's day. Thank you!

-Misty Palmer, Grant County Senior Programs Manager



### Ms. Seebart Aces Student Schedules...

Shout out to Ms. Seebart for making sure all of our students' schedules are on track for them to graduate. I appreciate all the extra hours she puts in weekly.

-Sonna Smith, GU Science Teacher

### GU Recognizes Students of the Month...

September students of the month were Aubri Judd, Ivy LaFramboise, Adie Judd, Gracee Hueckman, Taylor Gosnell, and Monel Anderson. These students show great work ethic and integrity with everything they do! October students of the month were Arte McKnab, Emmie Saul, Morgan Cole, Eliza Bailey, Vincent Raschio, and Mallory Lusco. These students work hard every day and show respect in and out of the classroom!

-Dennise Blevins, GU English Teacher



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

# Alumni Focus on Roger & Meredith Ediger

Roger and Meredith both grew up in John Day, walking to school at the John Day Grade School. Roger attended first through eighth grades at the John Day Grade School (currently the Painted Sky Center for the Arts). By the time Meredith started school, first through fourth grades were held in the Annex (current location of Kam Wah Chung), while fifth through eighth grade classes met in the Grade School. They shared stories of favorite teachers, Mr. Kodesh ("Never end a sentence with a preposition!") and Mrs. Pocock ("Who can forget Mrs. Pocock?"). When there was a fire in the Annex, the students continued school in Kearns Hall at the Grant County Fairgrounds while the building was repaired.

In ninth grade, students moved to Grant Union High School and most continued to walk to school. "I would catch the bus on the corner when I could," Meredith said. Roger and Meredith began dating during his junior year and her freshman year. She giggled as she recalled fixing a sewing mistake because she had been distracted by Roger walking past the classroom. "Take it out," was the quiet correction from Mrs. Benson, the Home Ec teacher. They also shared memories of Mr. Swenson, who taught typing, bookkeeping, and coached football; Mrs. Allison, Physical Education teacher; and Mr. Valliant, Science and Chemistry teacher. Roger credits Mr. Baucum as the one who inspired him to be a teacher, although he did not realize that until several years later.

Being a student was very different in the 60s. The Edigers both remember freshman initiation, which included hiking up to clean and weed around the letter G on the hillside above the school, white-washing the letter, and using motor oil on the ground to inhibit weed growth. Meredith remembers there was never a lack of social engagements, and they had "all kinds of dances," including the traditional Homecoming and Prom, but also a Sadie Hawkins dance and several others. Roger adds, "The Elks Club sponsored dances every other week, and there were always enough chaperones to keep eyes on everybody."

Roger graduated in 1962 and spent his time working on his grandparents' ranch and at Glen Lee's sawmill, although he enjoyed hunting and fishing in his spare time. He decided to pursue higher education and attended Blue Mountain Community College for a year before Meredith's graduation in 1964. The pair attended Eastern Oregon College together, marrying in 1967 and

graduating in 1968; he with a degree in Biology and a minor in Chemistry, she with a degree in Elementary Education. Roger planned to continue into Veterinary Medicine but the Veterinary program was difficult to get into. His mother encouraged him to pursue a career in education. They moved to North Dakota to attend graduate school, but soon returned home to Oregon, and he completed his master's degree at Eastern Oregon College. Roger continued to work on the ranch until a call from Mr. Nodine in 1972 offered him the opportunity to teach junior high science. After 12 years at John Day Junior High, Roger taught for 18 years at Grant Union High School.

Roger enjoyed giving the students hands-on science experiences by having the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in the classroom frequently and taking field trips to the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Strawberry Lake and counting salmon on the Middle Fork of the John Day River. He was known to say, "Kids do not care how much you know until they begin to realize how much you care." He received several awards in education, including the 1983 EOSC Ralph Badgley Outstanding Science Teacher, 1996 NW Exposition Sigma XI Outstanding Research Teacher of the Year, and 1999 Oregon Small School Association Teacher of the Year.

Roger worked with fellow teachers Richard Neafie and Matt Jones to create a Science Club for the students, which included lunch time meetings and fund-raising money from a hoop shoot and dances to support many different field trips. A favorite was taking students to Lava Beds National Monument in California. "The students would be given hardhats, lights, and a small amount of instruction from a park ranger, and we would turn them loose to explore." Other trips included the Oregon Coast, Seattle, and rafting on the Deschutes.

Roger remembers when the school decided to take the large metal GU out of the front yard, so he worked with welder Boyd Britton and student Jamie Brown, who did the artwork, to redesign and mount the letters on the front of the school with the addition of "Home of the Prospectors," which remains to this day.

Teaching was not Roger's only full-time job. Even as a teacher he continued working on the family ranch. He would head to the ranch in the morning to "feed cattle and move whatever needed moving" before getting to school. He would then return to the ranch after school to care for his uncle and complete the chores before joining his own family for supper. Roger and Meredith raised three kids, who all graduated from Grant Union High School, and the couple moved to the ranch full-time in 1995. Meredith retired after 17 years with the Circuit Court and Roger joined her in 2002, after 30 years with Grant School District 3. Their biggest reward from teaching is having students who drop by to visit or receiving thank you cards and letters to share what is going on in their lives. As Roger always dismissed his students, "Stay safe and clean!"



# Thank you, Veterans!



Grant Union Student Body President Mallory Lusco (top left) welcomed Veterans (top right) and thanked them for their service at a Veteran's Day assembly. Humbolt Elementary hosted Veterans for a Meet and Greet Interview (bottom row) where each of the classes were able to hear about the different branches of the military and meet the Veterans. Humbolt then hosted a student assembly (middle right) with special music from the Grant Union Jr/Sr High School Band and the National Anthem was sung by the 5th and 6th grade students. Ms. LaFramboise's 5th-grade students served lunch to Veterans at the John Day Senior Center (bottom right).



Students hiked up the hill above Grant Union to repaint the letter "G" leaving their mark in History.

Three Flags Field - The American flag waves proudly between the flags of Canada and Mexico at "Three Flags Field," home of the Grant Union Prospectors, on Hwy 395 which connects the three countries.



Celebrate Tradition



Graduation Walk - Each year the graduating class visits Humbolt Elementary

# Grant Union Jr/Sr High School Hosts Exchange Students



Name: Filipe Marcon  
Home Country: Brazil  
Host Family:  
Aaron and Emily Lieuallen  
Class: Senior



Name: Olha Boichuk  
Home Country: Ukraine  
Host Family:  
Nick and Morgan Green  
Class: Freshman



Name: Martina Lopez  
Home Country: Spain  
Host Family:  
Jennifer Smoot  
Class: Sophomore



Name: Mariana Kostiuk  
Home Country: Ukraine  
Host Family:  
Rick Callahan & JJ Collier  
(Also pictured is Mariana's  
mother Nataliia Kostiuk)  
Class: Senior



Name: Pau Carci Fuste  
Home Country: Spain  
Host Family:  
Rob and Sena Raschio  
Class: Junior

grating  
ition!



The  
Pickaxe  
Chant -  
Students  
circle  
around  
to chant  
after  
each  
win.



Grant Union Cheerleaders support all  
student athletes with energy and excitement!



Homecoming Dress-up Days - Staff and students proudly wear  
their Prospector colors during Homecoming Week.



The Spirit Stick, presented to the class with  
the most school spirit, is seen here with the  
Homecoming court.

# Rick Thompson Retires After 40 Years of Volunteer Service

At the final football game of the season, Grant Union Jr/Sr High School students and staff took the opportunity to recognize someone who has been very important to the Prospector family for many years. Rick Thompson has operated the scoreboard for football and basketball for so long that he can't even remember exactly when he started. Our best guess is that he started with basketball in 1985 and took over football in about 1987. Rick has been ensuring that our games run smoothly for 40 seasons. For 40 years he has been committed to our school community through thick and thin. At a time when volunteerism is declining, Rick Thompson is a shining example of commitment to a mission. The Grant Union Community would like to thank Rick for his amazing effort over the years. We will miss him, but know that he will be around and is always welcome at Grant Union. Once a Prospector, Always a Prospector. Thank you Rick!



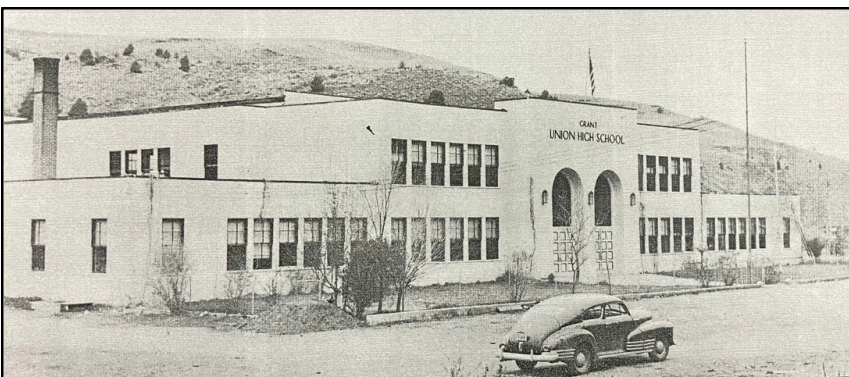
## The History of Grant Union High School

Grant Union High School was created in the fall of 1935, combining the John Day, Canyon City, Seneca, Marysville, Silvies, Izee, Belshaw, and Logdell school districts. Combining the school districts would make transportation more difficult but it allowed the new, larger district to qualify for government grant funds to build a high school building halfway between John Day and Canyon City. Here is an excerpt from the Grant Union High School 1937 yearbook. The full article, written by A.H. Wright, will be available on the district website at [grantschooldistrict.org](http://grantschooldistrict.org) or in person at the District Office, located at 401 N. Canyon City Blvd in Canyon City.

*The question of consolidating the schools of Canyon City and John Day has been a subject of discussion for a great many years. A number of people have had the idea that a better school system could be maintained at a cheaper cost of having one school for the two towns rather than maintaining separate systems only two miles apart.*

*However, during the fall of 1935, Mr. Frank Oliver in a discussion with some of the interested people in Seneca received the impression that it would soon be necessary for Seneca to provide High School facilities for their students and they were of the impression that it would be best to form a Union High School district consisting of Seneca, Canyon City, and John Day, which would make the cost lighter on all concerned.*

*Accordingly, the matter was discussed by Mr. Oliver with E.P. Hicks of the Canyon City School Board, Mr. Theron Knox of the John Day Chamber of Commerce and Carl Ewing, President of the John Day Lions Club. It was thought that it would be a good idea to have a joint meeting of the various school boards in John Day or Canyon City to discuss the question. A meeting was held sometime during the month of August at the Scout Hall in John Day, Oregon, and the school boards of Seneca, Canyon City and John Day were requested to look into the matter with the idea of securing Government aid under P.W.A. Loan and Grant.*



Grant Union High School, 1937



First Graduating Class, 1937

# Our Students Value Their Libraries!



Grant Union's library is an important part of the new Student Commons, giving students space to work and access to valuable resources to assist with their current projects. Heather Rookstool cheerfully helps each student find the resources they need.



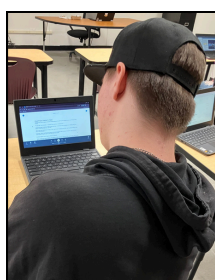
The Grant County Library is open Monday-Thursday, 11:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m., and librarians Chris Ostberg and Dovie Wood are always ready to help our students. If they don't have what you need they can borrow books, magazines, or additional resources from other libraries.



All Humbolt Elementary classes have weekly library time with Librarian Cheryl Hendron for instruction, stories, and checking out books. Individual students can also access the library on their own time.



Seneca Elementary students visit their school library, where they always have access to an abundance of books and additional research sources to help them with their current projects and encourage individual reading.

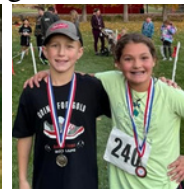


In addition to their great libraries, Grant School District 3 encourages independent reading through online access to both print and audio reading materials with EPIC and Learning Ally, further challenging students to pick up a book!

## Special Shout Out to Grant Union Cross Country...

Thank you very much to the GU Cross Country Coaches Sonna Smith, Levona James, and all the GU Cross Country athletes for including GSD3 elementary students from both Humbolt and Seneca. The 1 Mile Gold Rush Run was a huge success! We had over 40 elementary students participate!

-Robyn Miller and Kristal Hansen, Going For Gold Running Club Advisors



PRSRRT STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM RETAIL

LOCAL  
POSTAL CUSTOMER



Zach Bailey



Jake Taylor



Chris Labhart

# Thank You Grant School District 3 School Board!

What I value most about serving on the GSD3 board is having the opportunity to have input on policies, procedures and curriculum that will have long term positive effects on the youth of our community. One of my favorite accomplishments was being able to help create and implement our strategic plan for the district. For me, it all comes down to kids and making our district better for them. I'm proud to be a part of that.



MT Anderson



Amy Charette

My favorite accomplishment is the strategic action plan. I think it's incredibly useful to see the District goals and be able to track the success of the District with data and reports. I appreciate being able to be part of the School District's impact on education and the future success of our students.



Will Blood

This board has done an exceptional job of moving the district forward and making it a great place to learn and work. From administrator changes to revamping our finances, as well as developing a strategic plan, the district is poised to move in a great direction for years to come.



Kris Beal

I believe the most significant accomplishment was accomplished in collaboration with district staff, students, parents, community stakeholders, and the Board. This collaborative effort produced our Strategic Planning Guide for our district. The plan has set our strategic goals for the next three years along with performance indicators for each goal. This focused direction will make a difference for our district over the next three years.