



Focus on Schools

The Colfax community working together for kids

Winter 2018-19 • Colfax School District • 1207 N. Morton Street, Colfax, WA 99111 • 509-397-3042

Superintendent's message

Counting down to construction

What is the significance of October 27, 2016? On this date, the Colfax School District met with a construction consultant to determine the extent of our facility needs at the junior/senior high school. The amount of asbestos in the building, along with "shower boards" being used as white boards, was a concern. The shower boards could not be replaced as they were attached to older chalkboards held in place by asbestos glue.

The worn carpet could not be replaced as it was glued over asbestos tile. The school district's original plan of updating four classrooms per year was not possible because of the cost of asbestos abatement.

We then focused on the condition of both school roofs. Significant leaks had developed over the past several years and the shingles on the elementary building were past their lifespan, blowing off the building with each wind storm. The auditorium in the junior/senior high school building was in need of a complete renovation, as there were several areas with asbestos and many materials were worn out and no longer usable. It was determined we had a lot of work to get the buildings in proper working order.

The school district held its first facility planning meeting three months later, on January 31, 2017. The process had begun to identify the extent of needed renovation, determine a cost estimate, prioritize needs and prepare a recommendation for the school board. We met at least monthly for the next 10 months to accomplish this work.

On April 17, 2017, a small committee selected Design West Architects in Pullman to work with us in developing a more detailed scope of the work, prioritize the work and provide a cost estimate. A detailed plan was then given to the Colfax School Board on October 23, 2017 with a priority list and recommendation to run a bond for \$18.9 million.

On February 13, 2018, Colfax voters approved a bond to renovate the junior/senior high school and to renovate the old gymnasium, replace the roof and update HVAC at Jennings Elementary School.

What have we been doing for the past 18 months? When are we going to see construction activity in the district?



Artist's rendering of new entry to junior/senior high school.

What do you need to know and expect in the coming months and year(s)?

Many different planning phases have been completed. Education specifications, schematic design, value engineering, design development and soon a constructability review will be completed. Several of these processes allowed for community input into designs and drawings.

The last community meeting drew more than 20 people who shared their thoughts and input. We are now working with Design West on a few final design development issues and staff have provided input on finishes and color scheme.

During their regular meeting on January 14, 2019, the school board will review and vote to authorize the project to go to bid. The bid opening is scheduled February 21, 2019, one year since the bond was approved by our community!

We are pushing hard to have the contractor on site starting the project during our spring break in April.

So, thank you for your support of and participation in this construction project. Please stay tuned for more information as we approach the start of construction.

Jerry Pugh
Superintendent

Local Postal Customer

Both schools set fast pace in fall semester

Jennings Elementary:

The 2018-19 school year is off to a terrific start. One of the new programs Jennings is offering this year is before-school childcare for any family needing it. The program begins at 6:30 a.m. each school day and is free for JES families. A big thank you to Mrs. Koenig for coming in early and managing this program. If you have questions about early morning childcare, please call the JES office at 397-2181.

JES staff and students thank all who participated in our 3rd Annual Family STEM Night on November 15. The evening featured math games, robots, STEM-related activities and, of course, root beer floats.

The Jennings Elementary robotics team is off to a great start this fall and extends a big thank you to Erin Kroll and Leah Phillips for their volunteer leadership of the program. Good luck to the team as it enters December competition.

Finally, we would like to give a big thank you to our PTO, the Thrifty Grandmothers and Schweitzer Engineering. Our PTO put on another successful book fair and fundraiser this fall raising money for JES; the Thrifty Grandmothers donated \$500 to our Compassion Fund; and Schweitzer Engineering donated \$2,100 to support our Jennings students and school programs.

The contributions of our staff, parents, volunteers and business partners play a big role in our school success. Thank you to all for making our school a special place for student learning.



Mrs. Cocking's creative kindergarteners: After reading the book, *Great, Now We've Got Barbarians* with Mrs. Moore in library class, students created these amazing masks.

Colfax Junior/Senior High School:

This year's theme at Colfax Junior/Senior High is *Bulldogs Go Beyond*. We are challenging students, teachers and staff to Go Beyond the walls of our everyday relationships, routines and habits to forge new connections, new friendships, new learning and new ways to serve our community.

Colfax student leaders (our ASB) are using this year's theme to inspire positive change throughout the school. On October 1, the ASB traveled to Pomeroy to take part in a leadership conference with a focus on positive school community.

On October 31, the ASB pulled all junior and senior high students together in the first of a series of monthly assemblies designed to go beyond the format of a regular pep assembly. The ASB created games and events promoting fun and community building among all students.

They also created a new **B-U-L-L-D-O-G Heroes** recognition program that highlights the heroes among us who go beyond and exhibit positive character traits every day. Each **B-U-L-L-D-O-G** letter stands for a character trait: B=Brave; U=Upstanding; L=Leader; L=Listener; D=Determined; O=Optimistic; G=Genuine.

Every month, the ASB will hold another similar assembly to recognize our Bulldogs who go beyond.



Colfax High School ASB: Gavin Hammer, Gunnar Aune, Kelan Becker, Carson Cloaninger, Johanna Keller-Tersch, Cole Baerlocher, Casey Fulfs, Maya Ensley, Kaitlyn Cornish, Bryan Rubin, Kylie Kackman (Madi Cox not in photo).

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