



# Santiam Canyon School District

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Like our pages on Facebook to get up-to-date information on events, closures, photos and fun.



Santiam Canyon School District

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## Character Counts!

As the middle of the year approaches, I reflect on the school year thus far and progress made. I am proud of the academic progress of our students, and particularly what we have seen in student character and school climate. In our District Strategic Plan, we place emphasis on the following core values: *Respect, Safety, Integrity, Leadership, Partnerships and Excellence.*

I get to see and hear wonderful things our students do. I want to share one great example about our school and community. The following statement was recently emailed to me from a Superintendent regarding our school's behavior at an away basketball game: *"I truly believe I can tell a lot about a school and what they value by watching the students, coaches and fans and I want send a compliment your way because they were well mannered, respectful and represented your district extremely well. Immediately following the game, I am up in the bleachers helping our young custodian clean up on our side and all of a sudden I'm surrounded by Santiam players helping me pick up the trash left by our fans. All I can say is I was impressed. Please send my thoughts of gratitude to both girls and boys basketball team, fans, coaches, etc."*

This feedback is better than any outcome of a game. Positive student behavior leads to future success and builds an enjoyable climate. We are seeing similar encouraging data around our schools, with conduct referrals nearly cut in half from last year at this point. I am proud of our student growth, the staff who support them and the families leading by positive example.

~Todd Miller/Superintendent

# Coming Soon! New Wi-Fi

We are pleased to announce that the Santiam Canyon School District is a recipient of a generous grant from the Doris J. Wipper Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation. Our technology grant application was selected and funded in the generous amount of \$74,100.

Our plan is to add high-capacity wireless Internet capabilities throughout all our campus facilities, including classrooms, offices, common areas, cafeteria, auditorium and gymnasiums. Currently, our outdated system limits our educational opportunities and adding this new state-of-the-art wireless system will open doors for our staff, students and community members who use our facilities. Our intention with the new wireless system is to increase the learning opportunities for all students with a safe and filtered Internet, while also adding a value to our community. We will be able to provide wireless Internet to patrons in our schools, gyms, auditorium, and even in the football stands and pressbox. Our staff already has instructional ideas waiting for the new system to be operational, which could be ready by early February. This also positions us for the future and the ability to have many wireless devices in our schools with a system that can handle it. This is an exciting opportunity that was awarded to us from the Doris J. Wipper Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation.

Doris Wipper, married to Lawrence (Larry) Freres, passed away in 2000 leaving a will specifying that two funds be established with the Oregon Community Foundation. The Doris J. Wipper Fund grants to nonprofit organizations that benefit children, and scholarships are awarded through the Doris J. Wipper Scholarship Fund.

"She wanted to help the next generation of children, giving them opportunities they couldn't otherwise have, and support local charities in need of financial assistance. It's tough living in areas where the main industry is tied to the land. It's so good to know that in times of true need, these funds can help organizations step in and lend a hand," says Lee Wipper, one of the Funds' advisors who lives in New York.

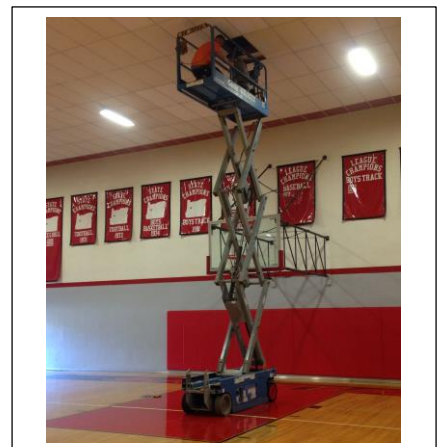
The limitless educational opportunities and interactions that can be made via the Internet is an equalizing force for rural schools and can open the doors to many possibilities for our students. We are also thrilled to offer additional services to our community, as our facilities are often the hub of community events. The support of the Doris J. Wipper Fund is turning our plans into a reality.

Our Technology Director, Gil Anspacher, has been working with wireless contractors to complete the wiring, hardware installation and system configuration. We are thrilled with this new opportunity!



Coming soon, we will have free WiFi Guest Access throughout all our facilities.

*Right: Santiam Junior/Senior High School gymnasium wiring and installation of wireless access points.*



# College Credits in High School

We are continually looking for ways to increase student opportunities and course options for our high school students. We have been able to add new college credit options for our students several ways: adding dual credit classes at our high school (dual credit means a student can earn high school and college credit for passing the class), and adding a pool of money to pay for our students to take college classes through Chemeketa Community College online or on-campus. We currently have seniors earning college credit in:



Mr. Saari teaching Spanish 3 to Santiam students, who are earning high school and college credit!

- Psychology
- College Algebra
- English
- Writing
- Spanish
- Criminology
- Medical Terminology
- Trigonometry
- Accounting
- Sociology
- Computer Information Systems

## Improving the Learning Environment

Much needed facilities improvements are happening

We have been working extensively this year to recover our aging facilities for student learning and plan for long-term improvement planning. Our goal is to offer a safe and innovative learning environment for our students, staff and patrons. We have started the process of a community-wide facilities committee to get input on priorities and needs. The committee has already put together an extensive list of ideas.

So far, we have done a lot to make improvements to our infrastructure, many of which go unnoticed, but are important.

- Added 2 classrooms behind the elementary school in a modular building
- Replaced the outdated high school fire alarm system
- Replaced rotten siding on the elementary school
- Repaired and services both schools' heating systems
- Updated ramps for ADA access into our buildings
- Added new roof structures entering the cafeteria/auditorium
- Replaced the outdated camera/security system at the high school
- Updated many Internet switches (hubs) around the schools to increase bandwidth and speeds
- Began renovations to the tennis court area, adding basketball hoops
- Resurfaced both gymnasium floors

SES Modular Classrooms (6<sup>th</sup> grade)

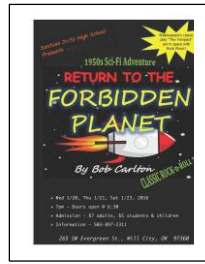


Heating/Air Flow Upgrades and Repairs  
Santiam Elementary School



New Auditorium Roof Structures





# Want to get involved?

We are thankful to have a local parent teacher organization supporting our schools and students. The Santiam Canyon SD PTO is a wonderful group of parents and community members who do a variety of things to support our students, staff and programs. They have a Facebook page and can also be contacted by calling the schools. They are always looking for help with a variety of projects or support, so please come help this worthy group!

PTO President Angela Moreno accepting recognition on behalf of the group from Board Chair Rich Moore.



**Santiam Canyon School District Office**

503-897-2321

Superintendent:  
Todd Miller

**Santiam Elementary School**

503-897-2368

Principal:  
Margo Williams

**Santiam Junior/Senior High School**

503-897-2311

Principal:  
David Plotts

## Calendar of Events

February 1-11	SES Post Office	SES and SJSHS
February 10	School Board Meeting	6:30 at SES
February 11	Jr. High Valentines' Dance	Class periods 5-7
February 13	Lion's Sweetheart Dance	6:00 at SJSHS Commons
February 15	President's Day	No school
February 19	Friday School Day	Make-up for Monday holiday
February 22	NAEP Testing	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade at SJSHS
February 25	Distinguished Scholar	6:30 at Auditorium
February 26	Teacher In-service	No school for students
March 2	Read Across America Day	SES
March 7-11	Classified Appreciation Wk.	District-wide
March 2-31	PTO Read-A-Thon	SES
March 9	School Board Meeting	6:30 at SES
March 11	Teacher In-service	No school for students
March 15 and 17	SJSHS Conferences	
March 17	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Grandparent's Day	SES
March 18	Teacher Trade Day	No School
March 21-25	Spring Break	No School
March 21-26	Missoula Children's Theater	SJSHS Auditorium