



*The Gorge is our classroom*

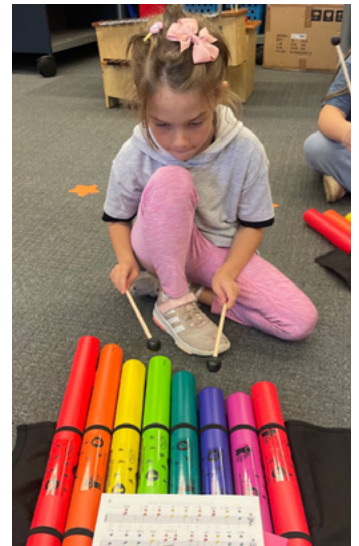
# SCHOOLHOUSE NEWS

Spring  
2024

## Exciting Opportunities in Band, Music, STEAM, and P.E.

Skamania School students have a robust extracurricular selection to choose from. This school year we have received a generous donation of nearly \$20,000 from community member Karin Ditzler. This funding enhanced and expanded our band program, bringing in new instruments such as xylophones, flutes, and saxophones. It also allowed for program expansion, which can now serve students as young as fifth grade. Music education offers many benefits, including improved academic performance for students who participate in music classes and band programs. Katie Chavarria, Head Teacher of Skamania School describes the impact the donation has had, "The entire Skamania School community is grateful for Karin's generosity and the positive impact it will have on the band program. This donation serves as a shining example of how individuals can make a significant difference in the lives of students and contribute to the overall enrichment of the community."

Beyond our band program, all our students participate in music, STEAM, and P.E. Having a variety of extracurricular activities is essential for promoting a balanced and comprehensive education. STEAM education allows students to complete projects that require collaboration, effective communication, and working toward common goals—all skills that will benefit them in their future careers.

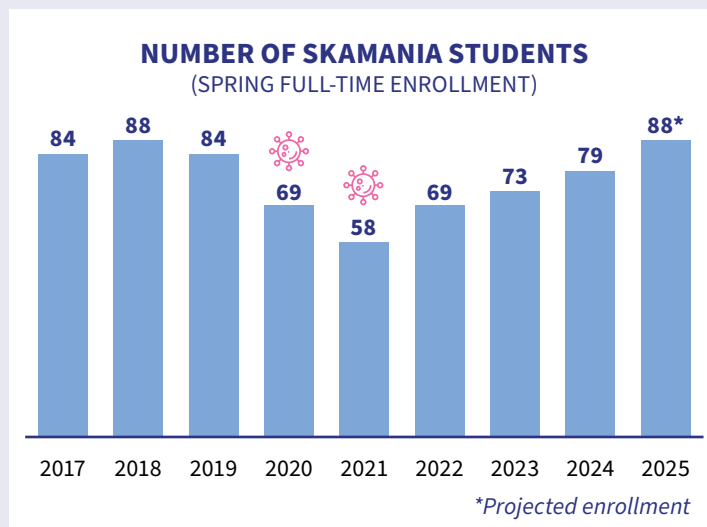


# School Board Message

Good news, but first a word of thanks...

The success of any school is built on the hard work of so many individuals. Our school is privileged with dedicated teachers, staff, administration, and PTO. Much of our school's success is built with the help of volunteers and personal time contributions of our employees. Our children's future is in good hands. The Board thanks you all for your hard work.

This is my third year on the board, and I've observed the most pleasing trend, our student census increasing every year. Take a look at the numbers:



If our student body gets into the mid-90s, we may be able to ADD another teacher. If you know of a family interested in our school, send them our way for a tour of what we have to offer.

Some time ago, I spoke with a former board member. They recalled a time when Skamania School had over 100 children. It may be possible to reach those numbers again in the next few years.

A substantial portion of our student body comes from Boundary Exceptions, families that make the conscious decision to choose our school over another school. We are so pleased those families found a home with our school. We all work so very hard to be worthy of that decision. We are your board too.

Our children are thriving. Our school is thriving. Your continued support and partnership as a community member is always appreciated and welcome.

Donald Collins, Chairman

# SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Another school year has quickly gone by. As I dive into preparations for the 2024-2025 school year, I find myself reflecting on 2023-2024. While we faced some challenges, they were certainly outweighed by the highlights.

*Challenges:*

- **Inclement Weather** – Snow and ice forced us to cancel five days this year. Fortunately, we had four make-up days on the calendar and have applied for a waiver from the state so we won't have to make up the fifth day.
- **Bus Driver Shortage** - Finding qualified bus drivers continues to be a challenge. For the last few months of the school year, we had to consolidate from two bus runs to one. We are actively recruiting at least one new driver.
- **Enrollment** - This year's enrollment peaked in the mid-80s, with a good chance that we will see the mid-90s next year. While this growth has brought us some financial stability, it will require creativity to keep class sizes low.

*And now for some highlights:*

- **Music Program** – Thanks to a generous grant from a local donor we were able to purchase new band instruments, allowing us to offer band to all 5th-8th grade students. Under the direction of Lori Caccavo, both the winter and spring musicals were exceptional.
- **PTO Shines** – Although our Parent Teacher Organization is small in numbers, they are a powerful group. PTO fundraising has brought new opportunities for our students, and their sponsored evening activities have brought families into our school along with their children.
- **Student Academic Growth** – While we don't have the final results of the state testing yet, preliminary assessments indicate impressive student academic growth.
- **Head Teacher Promoted to Principal** – Katie Chavarria has completed her principal endorsement and will see a title change **effective for the 24-25 school year**. Since I am on a part-time contract, it has been great having Katie here every day.

On a personal note, I love being a part of the Skamania School community. In February, the Skamania School Board asked if I would consider returning for one more year. It didn't take me long to say yes, so I will be returning next year on a part-time basis.

This summer, I will head to Europe for about three weeks. My grandchildren and their parents have relocated from Turkey to Spain, so I will be off to Madrid.

Wishing everyone a happy and safe summer.

Milt Dennison, Superintendent



# Building School Community

Throughout the spring, students participated in a range of after school clubs and activities, each offering opportunities for fun and learning. From roller-skating to outdoor adventures, chess & checkers to Gaga ball, there was something for everyone to enjoy! The success of our spring activities is a reflection of the dedication and enthusiasm of our students, as well as the support of our staff and community. We're proud to offer these opportunities for our students to explore their interests, develop new skills, and forge friendships that will last a lifetime.



## SCHOOLHOUSE HIGHLIGHTS

### North Bank Books Partners with Skamania School for Book Fair

For the first time, Skamania School teamed up with local bookstore, North Bank Books, to run the "Magic and Fantasy" book fair. The event captured the attention of young readers by offering stories of magic and adventure. By promoting imagination, we aim to foster a lifelong passion for reading. The partnership also highlights the importance of the community coming together to support a local business. Together, we aim to encourage a love of reading in our students, ensuring that the magic of storytelling continues to thrive for generations.

### Impressive English Language Arts Growth on State Test

This past year, Skamania School students in grades 3-8 demonstrated remarkable progress in English Language Arts (ELA), with an impressive 62.1% of students showing high growth. This achievement far exceeded the state average of 33.5%, and reflects the dedication and commitment of our students and educators to academic excellence.

### Transition to Kindergarten Enrollment

Transition to Kindergarten (TTK) is a kindergarten program for children not yet age five who do not have access to high-quality early learning experiences before kindergarten. Eligible TTK participants are identified by the school district through a screening process or other assessments as needing additional preparation to be successful in kindergarten the following year. For more information or to register, contact Amber Warren at: 509-427-8239 or [awarren@skamania.k12.wa.us](mailto:awarren@skamania.k12.wa.us)

# 2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT

## 2022-23 Revenues & Expenditures

### Revenues by Source

#### LOCAL

Levies .....\$237,434  
Non-tax .....\$12,316

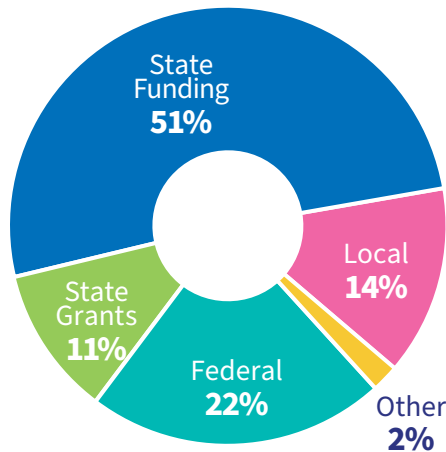
#### STATE

Funding .....\$915,513  
Grants .....\$193,842

**FEDERAL** .....\$397,909

**OTHER** ..... \$32,359

**TOTAL: \$1,789,372**



### Expenditures by Activity

#### TEACHING - \$993,708

Classroom and extracurricular activities, library, guidance and counseling, professional development, curriculum

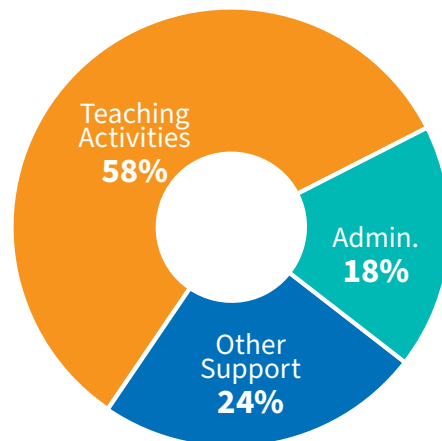
#### OTHER - \$420,763

Maintenance, custodial and grounds work, utilities, insurance, food services, transportation and public activities

#### ADMINISTRATION - \$307,426

Principal/supt., office manager, supplies, materials, school board expenses, elections, audits, outside contracts, supervision of transportation/food services/maintenance

**TOTAL: \$1,721,898**



**2022-23 EXPENDITURE PER STUDENT = \$24,164**

## District Data

**79** students enrolled  
(As of May 2024)

Black/African American - **1.2%**

Hispanic/Latino - **19.3%**

Asian - **2.4%**

Two or more races - **9.6%**

White - **67.5%**



**43%** of our students qualify for free or reduced-price meals.

## Our Staff

**9** support staff

**9** teachers/certificated staff

**1** district administrator

### STUDENT : TEACHER RATIOS

**1:7** TK-K

**1:8** 1st-2nd

**1:9** 3rd-5th

**1:14** 6th-8th

