

Skamania ranked in Washington top 20 for Prodigy Math Challenge

We are thrilled to announce that our small but mighty school has made a remarkable mark by ranking 16th in the state in the recent Prodigy Math Challenge. With an impressive total of 12,191 questions answered correctly, our students have showcased their exceptional math skills while competing against much larger schools.

In an era where engaging learners is crucial, Prodigy serves as the perfect solution. This innovative, game-based learning platform turns math practice into a thrilling adventure, enabling students to sharpen their skills in a fun and interactive way.

This achievement not only underscores the importance of math proficiency but also highlights the power of interactive learning tools in engaging students. As we celebrate this success, we look forward to continuing to foster a love for math and encouraging our students to reach new heights.

Students learn about conservation during annual planting of the Sams Walker Trail

We're proud to highlight a meaningful initiative in the Skamania School District that blends education, community service, and environmental stewardship. For the third year in a row, students are teaming up with Friends of the Columbia Gorge and the Forest Service for a native plant project that supports our local ecosystem.

It begins in the classroom, where students learn about native plants and

plant seeds. Once seedlings sprout, they visit the Sams Walker trail to transplant them, gaining hands-on experience in conservation.

A highlight of the project is seeing past plantings thriving, proof of their lasting impact. This partnership fosters environmental awareness and community engagement, and we're excited to continue this enriching tradition for years to come.



Superintendent's Message

I am trying to keep my emotions at bay as I write my "last" Skamania School Superintendent's Message. As many of our readers know, I submitted my retirement letter to the Skamania Board in February.

After 55 years of working in education with 40 years of service as a Superintendent, I have decided to pursue some other interests. Assuming that I can get through the VISA process, I plan to move to Madrid, Spain later this fall. The move will give me an opportunity to spend quality time with two grandkids—and their parents, all of whom live there.

Serving the Skamania School District for the past three years has been one of many career highlights. I will miss our supportive families and will certainly miss the children that we have served.

I am very pleased that the Skamania Board has appointed Katie Chavarria as the new Superintendent/Principal. She has been a great administrative partner and will do a superb job in her new role.

While trying to learn Spanish, I learned that you do not say Adios unless you don't expect to see a person again, but instead you say Hasta Luego, until we meet again.

Hasta Luego,

–Milt

School Board Message

It is with deep sadness that the Board shares the news of the unexpected passing of Angus Anderson on Friday, May 30. Angus was a dedicated leader who served as Board Chair and Position 1 Member for over 10 years. His financial expertise as a business manager for Oregon school districts was instrumental in helping Skamania School District navigate years of funding uncertainty. More importantly, his unwavering commitment to the children of our district left a lasting impact on our schools and community. We are profoundly grateful for his service and mourn the loss of a valued colleague, leader, and friend.

With Superintendent Dr. Milt Dennison's retirement announced, we thank him for his exceptional leadership. Originally hired to help us find a new superintendent, Milt stepped in as Interim when the search proved difficult, and stayed for three years. His calm approach and decades of experience were exactly what our school needed. Thanks to his guidance and the hard work of our staff, these have been truly successful years for our students. We wish him all the best in retirement.

It was our difficulty in finding a Superintendent that caused us to look inward for the future. The Board wanted to preserve our school's culture and maintain academic progress. To that end, the Board is pleased to welcome Principal Mrs. Katie Chavarria as our new Superintendent. Our school will continue to be vibrant with Mrs. Chavarria's style and vision. More importantly, we can make sure the best parts of us always stay the same.

–Donald Collins, Board Chair



A message from our new Superintendent

I am honored to step into the role of superintendent/principal for the upcoming 2025-26 school year, having previously served as the principal at Skamania School. With 16 years of experience in education, including five years at Skamania, I can sincerely say that this is a place I deeply cherish. One of the things I love most about our school is the strong sense of community we have. Every staff member knows every student by name, and the family-like atmosphere makes Skamania truly special.

My husband, Raymond, and I have three wonderful children—Emmalyn, Levi, and Landon, who keep our home lively and full of energy. When I'm not at school, you can usually find me on the baseball or softball field, cheering on one of my kids or spending time outdoors with my family.

My philosophy of education centers on the belief that every child deserves a nurturing and supportive environment where they can thrive. I am committed to fostering a love for learning, encouraging curiosity, and helping each student discover their unique strengths. Education should be a collaborative journey, where educators, families, and the community work together to support our students' growth and development. I look forward to continuing to support and nurture our students in every way I can.

–Katie Chavarria



STEAM NIGHT

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN IN ACTION

We had a fantastic time at STEAM Night on April 16th! Families joined us for an exciting evening themed "Exploring the Ocean." Attendees engaged in a variety of hands-on activities that showcased important principles of ocean life. From interactive experiments to creative projects, it was a night filled with discovery, learning, and fun for students and families.

Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make the event a success!

Skamania is the school of choice for many Gorge families

The Skamania School District has experienced significant growth in student enrollment over the past three years, bringing advantages and new challenges. While increased enrollment has provided some budget stability (state funding allocations are based on student enrollment counts), it has also presented capacity challenges for our facilities.

Our district has seen a steady increase in student numbers, with a growing percentage of "Choice" students—those residing

outside our district boundaries, but enrolling in our school. This growth has prompted us to carefully consider grade-level capacity when accepting new Choice students.

WHY FAMILIES CHOOSE SKAMANIA

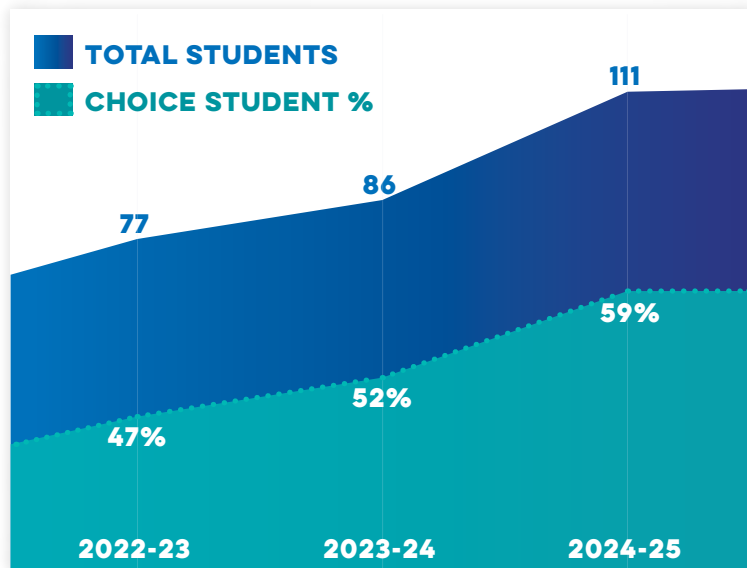
Parents have shared various reasons for selecting our school, including:

- Convenient location for work
- Preference for a smaller school environment
- Quality time with teachers due to small class sizes
- Diverse offerings such as clubs, field trips, and support services
- A supportive and engaged community

As one parent put it, "From the day our daughter transferred to Skamania School, she has walked out of the building with a smile on her face. There are no more 'I don't want to go to school' discussions every morning as she now feels safe, welcomed, and supported by everyone she interacts with."

CHOICE STUDENT REGULATIONS

Washington State says Choice students must reapply every year, and acceptance depends on space in certain grades. We try to accept as many students as we can, but students who live in our district get first priority. As our school grows, we're still focused on keeping the caring, high-quality learning environment that families love.



SKAMANIA SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND PERCENT OF CHOICE STUDENTS HAS GROWN

2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT

2023-24 REVENUES & EXPENDITURES

REVENUES BY SOURCE

LOCAL

Levies \$273,251
Non-tax \$30,590

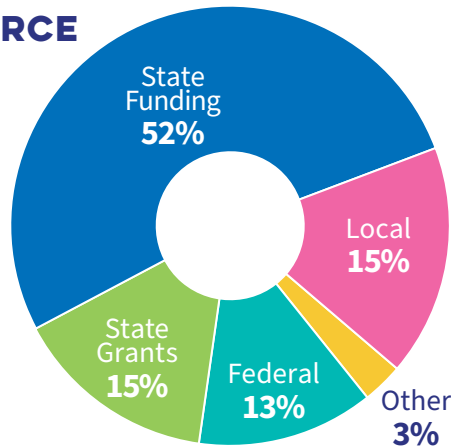
STATE

Funding \$950,925
Grants \$275,430

FEDERAL \$246,816

OTHER \$63,261

TOTAL: \$1,840,272



EXPENDITURES BY ACTIVITY

TEACHING - \$978,523

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

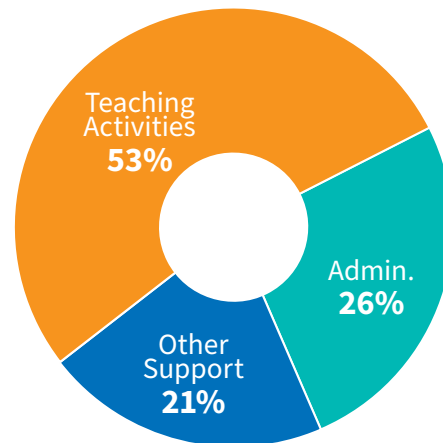
OTHER - \$474,892

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

ADMINISTRATION - \$378,434

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

TOTAL: \$1,831,848



2023-24 EXPENDITURE PER STUDENT = \$22,302

DISTRICT DATA

OUR STUDENTS

84 students enrolled
(As of May 2024)

Black/African American - **1%**

Hispanic/Latino - **19%**

Asian - **2%**

Two or more races - **10%**

White - **68%**



45% of our students qualify for free or reduced-price meals.

OUR STAFF

8 teachers

7 support staff

2 district administrators



STUDENT : TEACHER RATIOS

1:17 TK-K

1:19 1st-2nd

1:19 3rd-5th

1:20 6th-8th

