

Sunnyside Christian School Newsletter

March 12, 2026

Calendar

- Thursday, March 12 - ELEM. HOT LUNCH – Taco Bell - **\$3.00 per item – Cash Orders Only**
- Pre-3 & K-8th Grade Class Photos
- SCHS Baseball vs. Grandview (1) @ Yakima Co. Stadium – 5:30 p.m.
- Friday, March 13 - ELEM. HOT LUNCH – Cheese Pizza - **\$2.00/slice**
- Foundation Gala – 7998 Vialago Pkwy., Zillah – 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 14 - SCHS Softball vs. Selah JV (2) @ Selah – 11:00 a.m.
- SCHS Baseball vs. Waitsburg (1) @ Waitsburg – 11:00 a.m.
- Monday, March 16 -
- Tuesday, March 17 - ELEM. HOT LUNCH – Pepperoni Pizza - **\$2.00/slice**
- SCHS Softball vs. Kittitas (1) @ Kittitas – 3:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 18 - ELEM. HOT LUNCH- Hot dogs, Nachos, Nuggets- **\$2.00 each**
- Thursday, March 19 - ELEM. HOT LUNCH – Taco Bell - **\$3.00 per item – Cash Orders Only**
- SCHS Baseball vs. Walla Walla Valley Academy (2) - Home – 2:00 p.m.
- Education Committee Meeting – Elem. Rm. #12 – 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, March 20 - ELEM. HOT LUNCH – Cheese Pizza - **\$2.00/slice**
- Transportation Committee Mtg. – Upstairs Faculty Rm. – 12:00 p.m.
- SCHS Softball vs. Weston McEwen, Or. (1) @ 11:00 a.m.
- SCHS Softball vs. Kittitas (1) @ 1:00 p.m.
-both games played at Kiwanis Park in Yakima
- Saturday, March 21 - SCHS Softball vs. Columbia/White Salmon (1) - 12:00 p.m.
- @ Kiwanis Park in Yakima

Advance Calendar

- March 23 - Society Meeting – Elem. Gym – 7:00 p.m.
- March 23 - Board Meeting – Elem. Rm. #12–immediately following society mtg.
- March 26 - Mom’s Hot Lunch – Pulled Pork, baked beans, chips, & cupcake
- March 27 - End of 3rd Quarter
- March 30 - SCHS Flower Fundraiser – Orders Due by today
- April 2 - K-8th Grade Chapel – Elem. Gym – 8:45 a.m.
- April 2 - Grandparents/Grandfriend Day – PreK-8th Grade
- April 2 - 11:30 a.m. Dismissal – K-12th Grade
- April 3 - NO SCHOOL – Good Friday
- April 6-10 - NO SCHOOL – Spring Break

2025-2026 School Theme – “Experiencing the Heart of Jesus”

March/April Theme – Experience the Prayer of Jesus

“Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep praying for all the Lord’s people.” Ephesians 6:8

Pre-3 & K-8th Grade Class Photos: will be taken today, Thursday, March 12th. Order forms went home with students on Monday, March 9th. If you would like to purchase via online, visit www.leosphotography.com. Our school's order code is GR3227583. Late fees are applied if purchased more than 24 hours after picture day.

Lunch Orders through the App: We are aware that some parents are experiencing difficulties ordering hot lunch through the app. Please know we are actively working with the company to resolve this issue and will update families as soon as we receive more information. If you are experiencing problems and have not yet notified the office, please contact the elementary office as soon as possible. In the meantime, you may place your hot lunch order by logging into your FACTS account through the website at www.factmgt.com.

School-Wide Community Outreach Project: With your generous support, we were able to surpass our goal of 300 cereal boxes! Thank you for your amazing support of our community outreach project to benefit our local food banks.

8th Grade Class Fundraiser: The 8th-grade class is selling oranges and grapefruits. These are fresh picked in CA and delivered to your doorstep for \$40 per 1/2 Bushel (approx. 45 oranges or 25 grapefruit). Please contact an 8th grader if you wish to purchase some or use the link below. There is a 5% fee for using the link and paying by credit card. The ordering deadline is March 30, and the fruit will be delivered after spring break!

<https://fundraise.theorangeuguy.com/SunnysideChristianFundraiser>

SOPHOMORE SPRING PLANT SALE: The Sophomore Class is currently selling flowers to earn money for their trip to Washington D.C. in 2027. Order forms are available at either school office, attached to this newsletter, and as an e-mail attachment. All orders and money need to be turned in to either school office or a sophomore student no later than **Monday, March 30th**. Questions? Please call Simona Lommers at 509-949-9879.

CONGRATULATIONS to the SCHS Boys Basketball Team: The Knights opened up the WIAA State 1B tournament in Spokane with a must win game against Neah Bay. Unfortunately, the Knights came up short, and their season came to an end. Thank you to all our athletes, coaches, cheerleaders, student section, and fans! Your dedication is appreciated, and we are proud of you all!

- *If you can assist financially to help pay the lodging expenses that occurred in Spokane, we would greatly appreciate your donation. Please contact 509-837-8995, Mr. Wagenaar, at SCHS as soon as possible.*

PEEK at PRESCHOOL will be held on Tuesday, April 14, for NEXT YEAR's 3-year olds and NEW 4-year olds. Potential preschoolers and parents are invited to stop by for an "Open House" between 8:30-10:30 a.m. to "peek" around the classroom. There will be preschool class and registration information available at the open house. If you would like your child to attend, please contact our office at 837-3044.

KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP: All families with children who will be five years old on or before the end of August 2026 are invited to register their children for our Kindergarten Roundup. This year's Roundup will be held on Friday, April 17, 8:30-11:00 a.m. Please contact the school office (837-3044) so that we can plan to include your child in the day's activities. If your child currently attends our 4 year-old preschool program, we include them in our Roundup Day plans unless you let us know differently. If you know of anyone who is interested in having their child attend Kindergarten Roundup, please have them call the elementary office.

SCS Booster Club Auction

Procurement packets: Please hand in forms no later than **April 6th** to allow sufficient time to get items entered.

The online auction, tentatively, will begin on Tuesday, April 28th at 6 PM and end Friday, May 1st at 10 PM. Items are to be picked up Saturday, May 2nd, at the high school gym from 9-12. Also, join us on Friday May 1st for a community event which includes the Sophomore class dinner, dessert auction, and browse online items in person.

Raffle: This year's raffle is starting. Tickets are available in the elementary or high school office. We are looking for families that are willing to sell tickets to friends and family. If you can help with this, please let the auction team know, and we will provide you with tickets. This is a great way to help, earn service hours, and we would greatly appreciate it! Tickets are \$5 each.

The prizes are as follows:

1st: 2 Magnum Cosmo E Bikes, 2nd: \$500 Costco Gift Card, 3rd: 70 Qt Igloo Cooler with Beef (Donated by Post 5 Cattle)

A special thank-you to the moms who have volunteered to coordinate class projects: Libby Tudor (K), Crystal Atteberry (1st), Robin Haringa/Christine Ricker (2nd), Corynn Koopmans (3rd), Kylee Kelley/Tamera Smeenck (4th), Erika Den Boer (5th), Fransisca Vander Meulen (6th), Misti Riel (7th), Dawn Wolfe (8th), Kendra Newhouse (9th), Jennifer Sanchez (10th), Misti Riel (11th), and Anita Van de Graaf (12th). The cost of the project should not solely be on the moms in charge, so please send in donations if requested.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to call/text Tamera Smeenck at (509) 830-3506, Misti Riel at (509) 830-4101 or Fransisca Vander Meulen at (509) 439-2538.

Thrift Shop News

Remember SC Thrift Shop as you do your spring cleaning! The Thrift Shop will take your gently used clothing, home décor, linens, etc. Please drop your donations off in the back of the store. Store hours are Monday through Saturday 10-4.

Do you need service hours for school? The Thrift Shop has laundry you can do in the comfort of your own home. One basket of laundry equals one service hour.

Do you have an abundance of hens & chicks? We are working on Booster Auction center pieces and would appreciate any extra hens & chicks you might have!

The Annual Society Meeting will be held on **Monday, March 23, 2026**, at **7:00 p.m.** in the elementary school gym. At the Annual Society Meeting, one of the responsibilities of the Sunnyside Christian School community is to vote on school board members for the 2026-2027 school year. Dave Andringa, Laura Eisenga, and Jason Smeenck will be completing their three year term of service. Our ballot for the three positions will include Laura Eisenga, Matt Haak, Jared Jech, Christine Ricker, Laura Schlenker, and Jesus Torres. Biographies for the nominees are in this week's newsletter. All entities of Sunnyside Christian School will present their annual reports. We will also provide an update on the Forward Together Campaign and present the proposed 2026-2027 budget and tuition rates for approval. Please mark this date on your calendar.

If you cannot attend the meeting and would like to submit an absentee ballot, the following guidelines will be applied:

1. Absentee ballots will be counted on the first ballot only.
2. Absentee voters must qualify to vote by constitutional standards.
3. Absentee ballots must have the name of the voter on the envelope. If there is no name on the envelope, the ballot is considered invalid.
4. Three names must be written on a piece of paper.

You are welcome to drop off your absentee ballot at either the elementary office or the high school office during office hours any time before the meeting.

Board Nominee Biographies:

Laura Eisenga: As an alumna, a former employee of SCS, and a current parent, I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve a second term on the school board. During the past three years, I've served on the Vision Committee, Education Committee, and the SCCC board. As we continue to work on the Forward Together campaign, I felt called to pursue another three years as a board member. The success of this campaign and the unification of our campus is incredibly important to the future of Sunnyside Christian. Equally important is the support of our administration, teachers, and staff and the growth of our students. My husband, Ben, and I have twins who are juniors at SCHS and have been enrolled at SCS since preschool. Ben works for Columbia Bank, and I work for Dordt University. We are both members of the Sunnyside Christian Reformed Church.

Matt Haak: Thank you for considering me for service on the SCS board. Having attended Sunnyside Christian from kindergarten through 12th grade, I've experienced firsthand the lasting impact of Christ-centered education. After graduating, I attended Calvin University, where I met my wife, Michelle. We are now grateful to have two of our own children at SCS – one in 3rd grade and one in 5th grade. We attend Sunnyside Christian Reformed Church and believe strongly that education works best when school, church, and family are aligned. I currently serve on the SCS Foundation board and the Vision committee for the building campaign and have appreciated being part of planning for the school's future in that role. If given the opportunity to serve, I would seek to support the board in thinking carefully about the future while remaining faithful to the school's mission. My desire is to help ensure SCS remains strong, grounded in truth, and well-positioned to serve families for years to come. Thank you for your consideration.

Jarrad Jech: It is with great enthusiasm that I submit my interest in serving on the Sunnyside Christian board. My wife, Nicole, and I began our family's journey with Sunnyside Christian in 2008. We now have two graduates of the school and a current fourth-grade student. I previously served on the board during the COVID era, a period marked by significant and unique challenges that required adaptability, discernment, and steady leadership. Nicole currently serves on the Promotions Committee and volunteers wherever she is needed, and together we remain committed supporters of the school community. My background includes four years of service in the U.S. Air Force and 25 years in law enforcement. I currently serve as an Administrative Sergeant with the Benton County Sheriff's Office, where I oversee several programs and supervise a diverse group of specialized deputies. My goal in returning to the board is to support the staff of Sunnyside Christian and contribute to the continued success of the work already being done. I am committed to serving with integrity, collaboration, and a heart for the mission of the school.

Christine Ricker: Thank you for considering me to serve as a board member for SCS. I was born and raised in Spokane, Washington, where I attended public school and developed a strong appreciation for community-centered education. I attended the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, where I earned my business degree with an emphasis in accounting. After graduating, I moved to the Lower Yakima Valley, where I began my career in public accounting in 2015. My work in public accounting has taught me to look at complex information from multiple angles, ask thoughtful questions, and find practical, well-grounded solutions. Combined with the perspective I gained growing up in Spokane's public schools, I've learned to approach challenges with both creativity and clarity. These experiences help me think outside the box while still grounding decisions in accuracy, transparency, and strong governance. We are members of the Sunnyside CRC. My two daughters, Jaclynn (7) and Bella (4), currently attend Sunnyside Christian Elementary School, in 2nd grade and 4PreK, and faith based education has been something their dad and I have truly loved for them. We believe it plays an important role in nurturing their growth and deepening their love for God. In my role on the board, I would work to bring a balanced and fresh perspective with contributing new ideas that help the school continue to grow.

Laura Schlenker: It's an honor to be nominated for the school board. My husband, Andy, and I believe that quality Christian education is the key foundation to our children's educational journey. I'm a fifth-generation farmer, mother of three SCS students, and an SCS alum. I earned a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Washington State University. My experience as a business owner, teacher, former high school softball coach and junior high basketball coach has helped mold my belief in discipline, teamwork, and high expectations. With strong community roots and years of experience mentoring youth, I am committed to advocating for students, supporting teachers, and strengthening academic excellence. It would be a privilege to be able to serve as an SCS board member and be able to give back to our community.

Jesus Torres: I am honored to be considered for nomination to be a part of the SCS school board. Born in Coahuila, Mexico and raised in Del Rio, Texas, I moved to the beautiful State of Washington in May 2005 with my wife Ivonne. My wife and I are blessed with three children Joseph (10th), Benjamin (8th), and Faith (7th) all attending SCS. We are members of The Good Shepard Church (El Buen Pastor) in Sunnyside. We operate our own tax preparation business in Sunnyside (Jit Tax Solutions LLC). Sunnyside Christian School has been a very important part of our family's lives not only because it is a Christ-centered educational institution, but also because of the high academic level in every grade. It would be my honor to give back to this school while having the opportunity to serve as a board member.