

# Sunnyside Christian School Newsletter

## March 19, 2026

### Calendar

- 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
- Monday, March 23
- Society Meeting – Elem. Gym – 7:00 p.m.
  - Board Meeting – Elem. Rm. #12 – immediately following society mtg.
- Tuesday, March 24
- ELEM. HOT LUNCH – Pepperoni Pizza - **\$2.00/slice**
  - SCHS Baseball vs. Dayton (2) NL @ Dayton – 2:00 p.m.
  - SCHS Softball vs. White Swan (2) - Home – 3:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 25
- ELEM. HOT LUNCH- Hot dogs, Nachos, Nuggets- **\$2.00 each**
- Thursday, March 26
- Mom’s Hot Lunch – Pulled Pork, baked beans, chips, & cupcake
- Friday, March 27
- ELEM. HOT LUNCH – Cheese Pizza - **\$2.00/slice**
  - End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter
- Saturday, March 28
- SCHS Softball vs. DeSales (2) @ Walla Walla – 11:00 a.m.
  - SCHS Baseball vs. Touchet (2) @ Touchet – 11:00 a.m.

### Advance Calendar

- March 30
- SCHS Flower Fundraiser – Orders Due
- March 30
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Citrus Fundraiser Orders Due
- April 2
- K-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Chapel – Elem. Gym – 8:45 a.m.
- April 2
- Grandparents/Grandfriend Day – PreK-8<sup>th</sup> Grade
- April 2
- 11:30 a.m. Dismissal – K-12<sup>th</sup> Grade
- April 3
- NO SCHOOL – Good Friday
- April 6-10
- NO SCHOOL – Spring Break
- April 14
- Peek-at-Preschool Open House – 8:30-10:30 a.m.
- April 17
- Kindergarten Round-Up- 8:30-11:00 a.m.

***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*

**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](http://www.factmgt.com).

**SC Knights Baseball & Softball Gear:** SC Knights Baseball and Softball gear is now available through the online store in the links below. Get your orders placed before the store closes **TONIGHT**, Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> **at 10:00 p.m.**

Softball: <https://schssoftball.hurrdatbrandgoods.com/>

Baseball: <http://schsbaseball.hurrdatbrandgoods.com/>

**8<sup>th</sup> 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.theorangeguy.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 30<sup>th</sup>**. Questions? Please call Simona Lommers at 509-949-9879.

**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.

**Security:** At Sunnyside Christian School, we are continually seeking ways to enhance our procedures and strengthen campus safety. Our vision is to create a safe, peaceful learning environment. We partnered with ESD105 to enroll in the SSOCC (school safety operation control center) to assist in increasing safety. As part of this ongoing effort, we are hoping to hire a school resource officer to provide a security presence between both campuses. This position will be privately funded and not part of the general budget. If you know of anyone interested, retired police officers or other trained professionals, please contact Del Dykstra.

**2026-27 Staffing Needs:** This is the time of year where we begin planning for the next school year. We are not certain of our teaching/staffing needs yet. If you or someone you know is interested in teaching at SCS, please fill out an application (available through our website). If you have questions, please contact Del Dykstra or Dana Clark.

**SCS Annual Reports:** are being sent home with students today. Please take a moment to read through them prior to the Annual Society Meeting on Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in the **SCS Elementary School gym.**

**COOKIES NEEDED:** We need dozens of baked, unfrosted, cut-out sugar cookies for Grandparents Day! Cookies will need to be at the elementary school by Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. Please let the elementary office know if you are able to provide cookies by calling 509-837-3044 or emailing sheryl.duim@sunnysidechristianschool.org. This is a great service hour opportunity.

**CHAMP CAMP Basketball Registration:** The basketball camp is open to students (girls & boys) who will be in grades 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> next year. Camp will be held Monday, June 8-Wednesday, June 10. Camp times for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will be 8:00-9:15 a.m., 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders will be 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m., and 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders will be 1:00-3:30 p.m. Cost is \$30.00 for 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and \$60.00 for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders, which includes the camp fee and a t-shirt to be given to participants on the last day of camp. The order form is attached to this newsletter. Return the order form and money to the elementary office by Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. The camp is run by SCHS Girls Basketball Head Coach, Stormee VanBelle, and the Lady Knights!

## SAVE THE DATE

for

### Grandparents and Grandfriends Day

Join us at **8:45 a.m.** on **Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>** for chapel in the elementary gym.

After chapel, enjoy a variety of activities throughout the elementary campus.

Join us back in the gym at 11:00 a.m. for K-8th closing Chapel.

Dismissal will be at 11:30 a.m.

We hope to see many of you there!

*On behalf of the SCS Foundation Board,*

*We would like to thank you for attending the annual Gala dinner. It was a wonderful night of food, fellowship, and entertainment. Your support, prayers and financial donations are so very much appreciated. The Foundation would not be as successful as it is today without your faithful support. Many families have been blessed through the generosity of your giving – through financially helping with tuition assistance or needs of the school. All of you have been and will continue to be a blessing to Sunnyside Christian School in so many ways! Thank you, again!*

*The SCS Foundation Board*

## **SCS Booster Club Auction**

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

The online auction, tentatively, will begin on Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM and end Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 10 PM. Items are to be picked up Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the high school gym from 9-12. Also, join us on Friday May 1<sup>st</sup> 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:

1<sup>st</sup>: 2 Magnum Cosmo E Bikes, 2<sup>nd</sup>: \$500 Costco Gift Card, 3<sup>rd</sup>: 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 (1<sup>st</sup>), Robin Haringa/Christine Ricker (2<sup>nd</sup>), Corynn Koopmans (3<sup>rd</sup>), Kylee Kelley/Tamera Smeenck (4<sup>th</sup>), Erika Den Boer (5<sup>th</sup>), Fransisca Vander Meulen (6<sup>th</sup>), Misti Riel (7<sup>th</sup>), Dawn Wolfe (8<sup>th</sup>), Kendra Newhouse (9<sup>th</sup>), Jennifer Sanchez (10<sup>th</sup>), Misti Riel (11<sup>th</sup>), and Anita Van de Graaf (12<sup>th</sup>). 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and one in 5<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 (10<sup>th</sup>), Benjamin (8<sup>th</sup>), and Faith (7<sup>th</sup>) 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.