

K

HILANDER highlights

JANUARY 2024



Programs that keep
#KELSOSTRONG

Hilander Highlights is a publication of Kelso School District to keep community members informed about our schools. A print version will be mailed four times a year. You can read other issues online at bit.ly/ksd-hh.

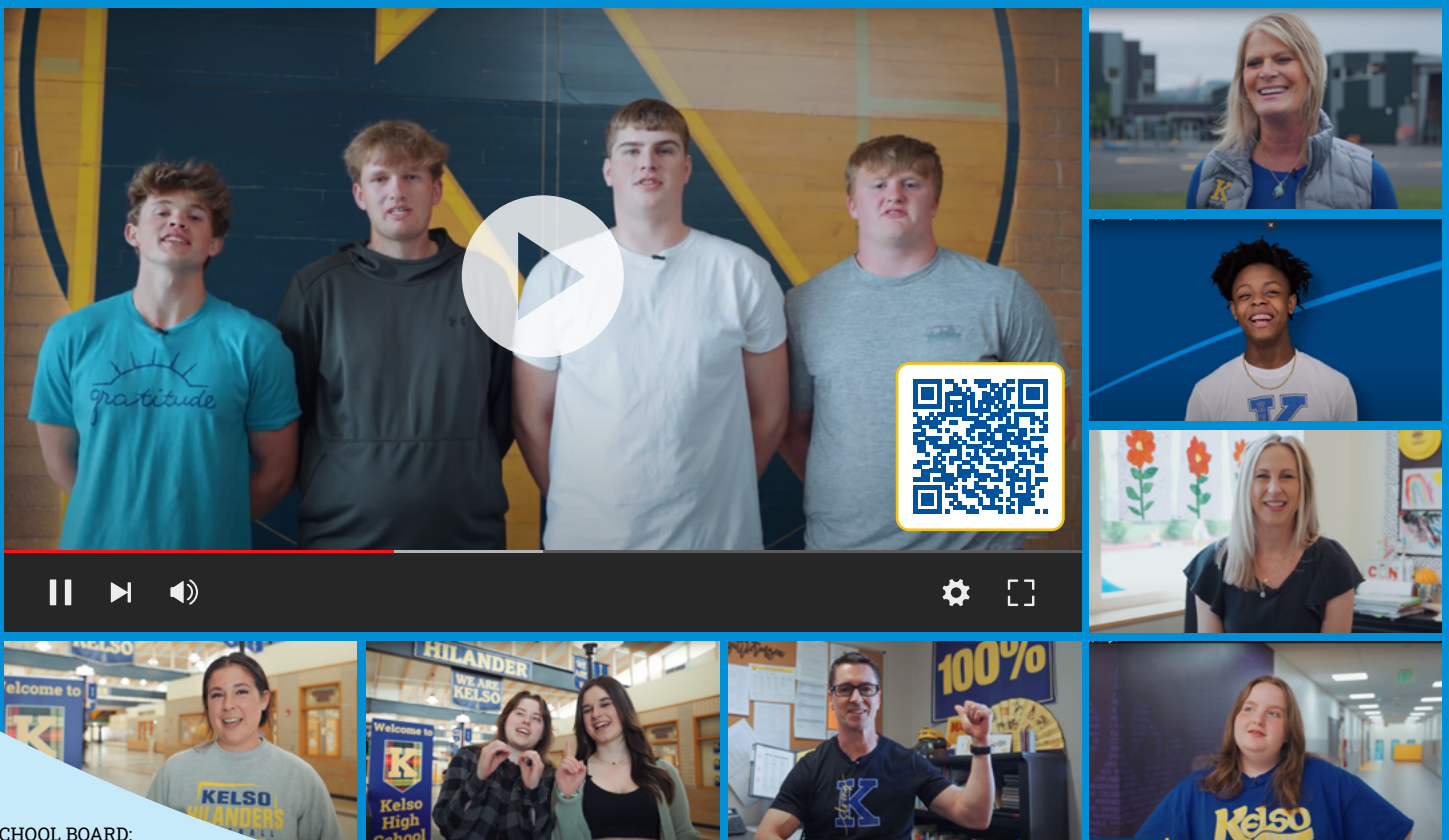
100 YEARS OF BLUE & GOLD

In this 100th year of blue and gold, Kelso continues to build on the tradition of excellence we started so long ago. Kelso schools are the heart of our community. And when we have strong schools, we have an even stronger community.

These videos highlight some of the programs that make—and keep—Kelso strong.

GOAL OF 100% GRADUATION RATE

Kelso School District is committed to 100% of students graduating high school. We asked students and staff why this is important, what 100% means to them, and how we get there.



SCHOOL BOARD:
Jeane Conrad, President
Mike Haas, Vice President
Rich Fletcher
Karen Grafton
Leah Moore

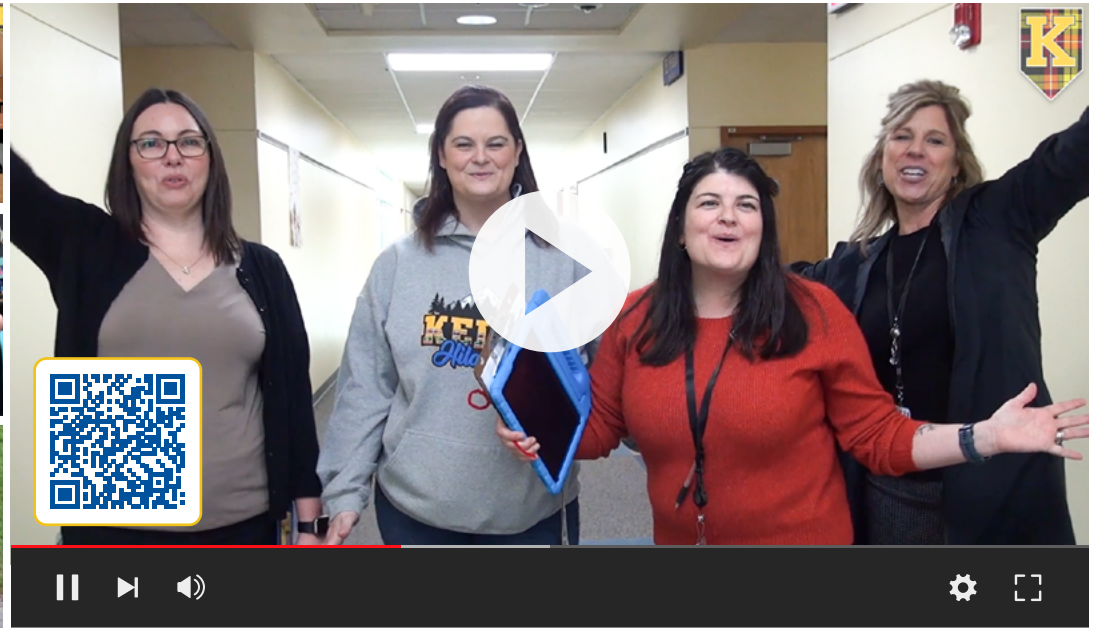
SUPERINTENDENT: Mary Beth Tack

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT: Kelso School District #458 complies with all federal rules and regulations and does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides

SPECIAL PROGRAMS



Approximately 16% of our students access some level of special education, which includes supports in the areas of academics, social-emotional, communication, fine and gross motor skills, vision, hearing, adaptive, life skills, health services, and more for ages 3 to 21. With the goals of providing access to education, increasing independence, and including students in the general education environment, Kelso's Special Programs provides a high-quality education where every student receives the opportunity to empower themselves in pursuing their individual greatness.



"When we start to work on a plan for a student we start with what are the student's strengths, what are they good at, what are they interested in. "

– Emily Jaskowiak, speech & language pathologist and special programs SEL coordinator

"I do it for my kids."

– Kelli Stewart,
special education teacher

"It's been nearly a decade here in Kelso School District where 100% has been our goal. For me, 100% means each and every Kelso student that enters our system graduates and not only graduates, but is post-secondary enrolled; which is a 2-year, 4-year, military, apprenticeship, or trades. As superintendent, I'm deeply committed to that goal and believe we will get there. It takes a team effort and I know if any district can do it, we can do it."

– Mary Beth Tack, superintendent

"Simply, 100% means to give it my all in anything I'm doing."

– Jasmin, 9th grade

"Graduating high school is one of the most important things you'll ever do in your life because it's your first major demonstration of a commitment to your future."

– Katie Surritt, teacher at Kelso High

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING (SEL)

The importance of social-emotional learning cannot be overstated. In this video you'll see what Kelso is doing for SEL and how it's making a positive impact in the lives of our students while helping us reach a 100% grad rate.

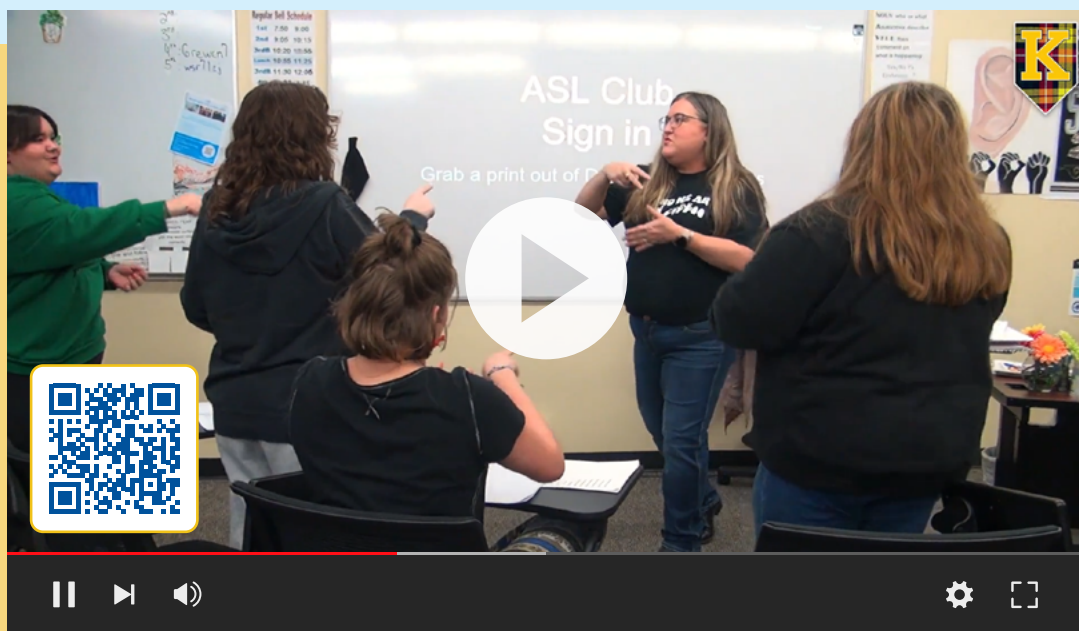


"Kelso School District has been one of the leaders in recognizing that SEL is like any other content area we teach in schools."

– Jake Alabiso, SEL coordinator

"SEL work is completely about that overall goal of 100% graduation. When we're looking at academics, we're looking at social, we're looking at attendance, behavioral... those are all things that SEL is really geared towards."

– Tom D'Aboy, dean of student safety at Coweeman Middle



VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

We have a robust variety of visual and performing arts options for students. Research shows arts in education engages students in learning, increases attendance and test scores, improves behavior and engagement, and strengthens community and sense of belonging.



"Arts in education is really important because all learners have access to the art experience regardless of their learning style."

– Charemon Smith, arts teacher at Kelso High

"Arts in education is so important ... whether that's telling a story, drawing, painting... something just to get a little bit of you out into the world."

– Arin, 10th grade

ATHLETICS, CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

With close to 5,000 students, Kelso School District is the heart of our Kelso community. From football to STEAM Club, DECA to wrestling, and everything in-between, our athletics, clubs and activities have a strong tradition of excellence.

"Participating in extracurricular activities and clubs is really important for students' well-roundedness. It can give them a sense of purpose, it can foster relationships...it improves the climate and culture of the school. Not only that, it's great for any post-secondary plan."

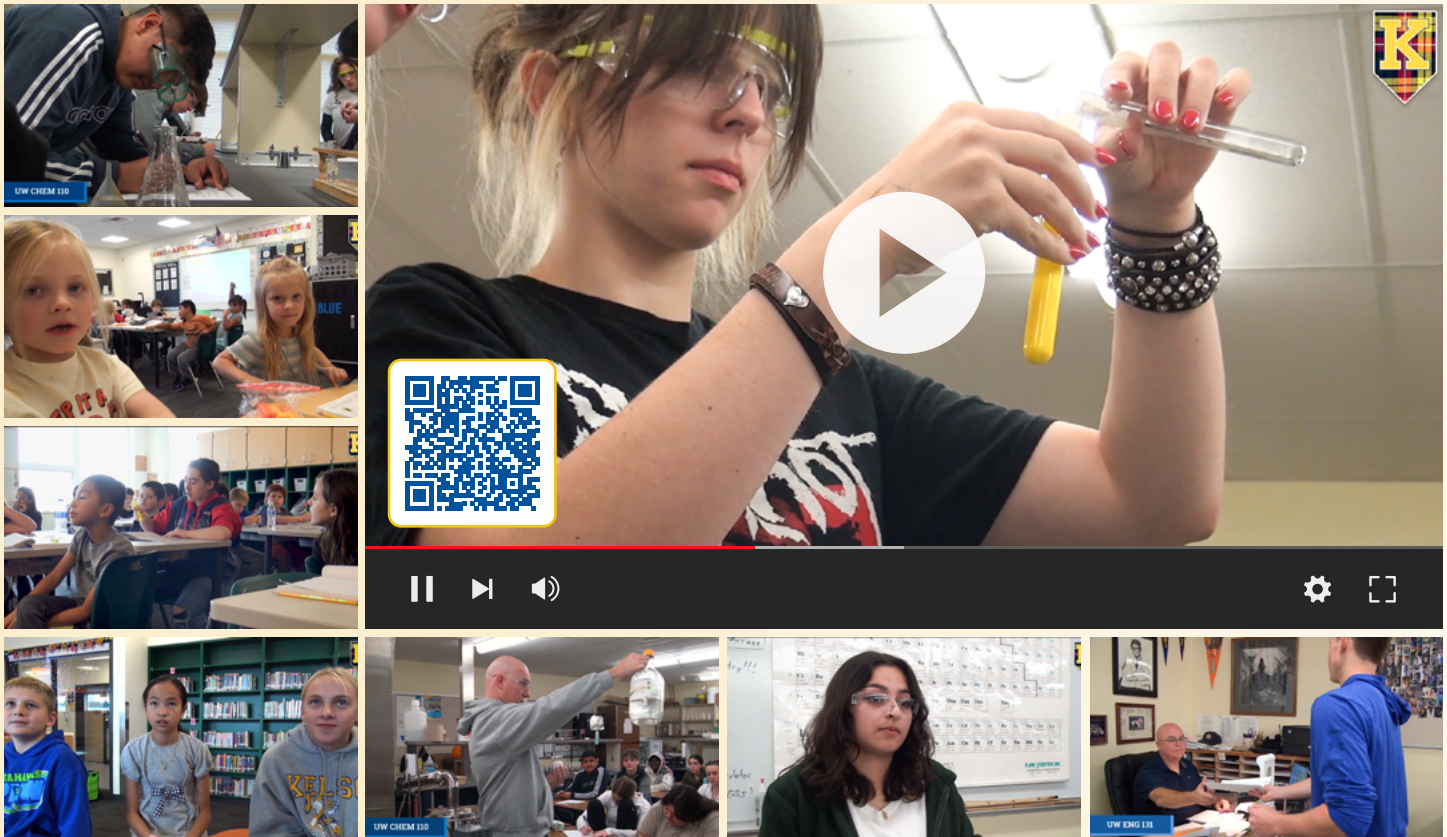
– Hayley Cox, ASB secretary at Kelso High

"Participating in sports throughout the school career is critical to the development of kids because it's important for them to understand adversity, work ethic, and determination to achieve their goals. Without question, the impact of sports helps develop a sense of community and pride."

– Scott Ruhland, parent

TEACHING & LEARNING

In Kelso School District, we are committed to ensuring strong achievement and growth for each and every student. Our guaranteed and viable curriculum is taught by dedicated staff through robust, comprehensive instructional materials and relevant technology.



DUAL CREDIT OFFERINGS:

8

Advanced Placement (AP) classes

W
9

University of WA College in the High School classes

31

Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes

"In Kelso School District we have high-quality vetted materials aligned to state standards in all academic areas."

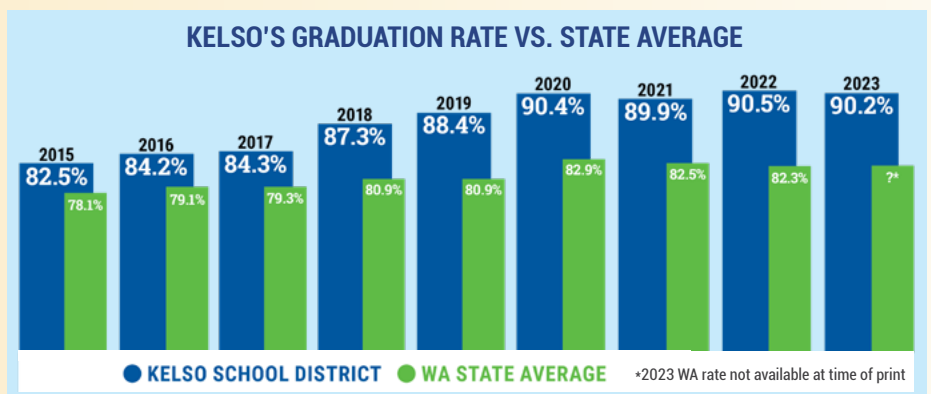
– Kim Yore, director of teaching and learning

"We're learning math with our counters and our cubes. And we learn math with our fingers, too."

– Rosalie, kindergartener

"These classes are free, so it allows me to get out there and get after it inside high school, which gives me a head start at college."

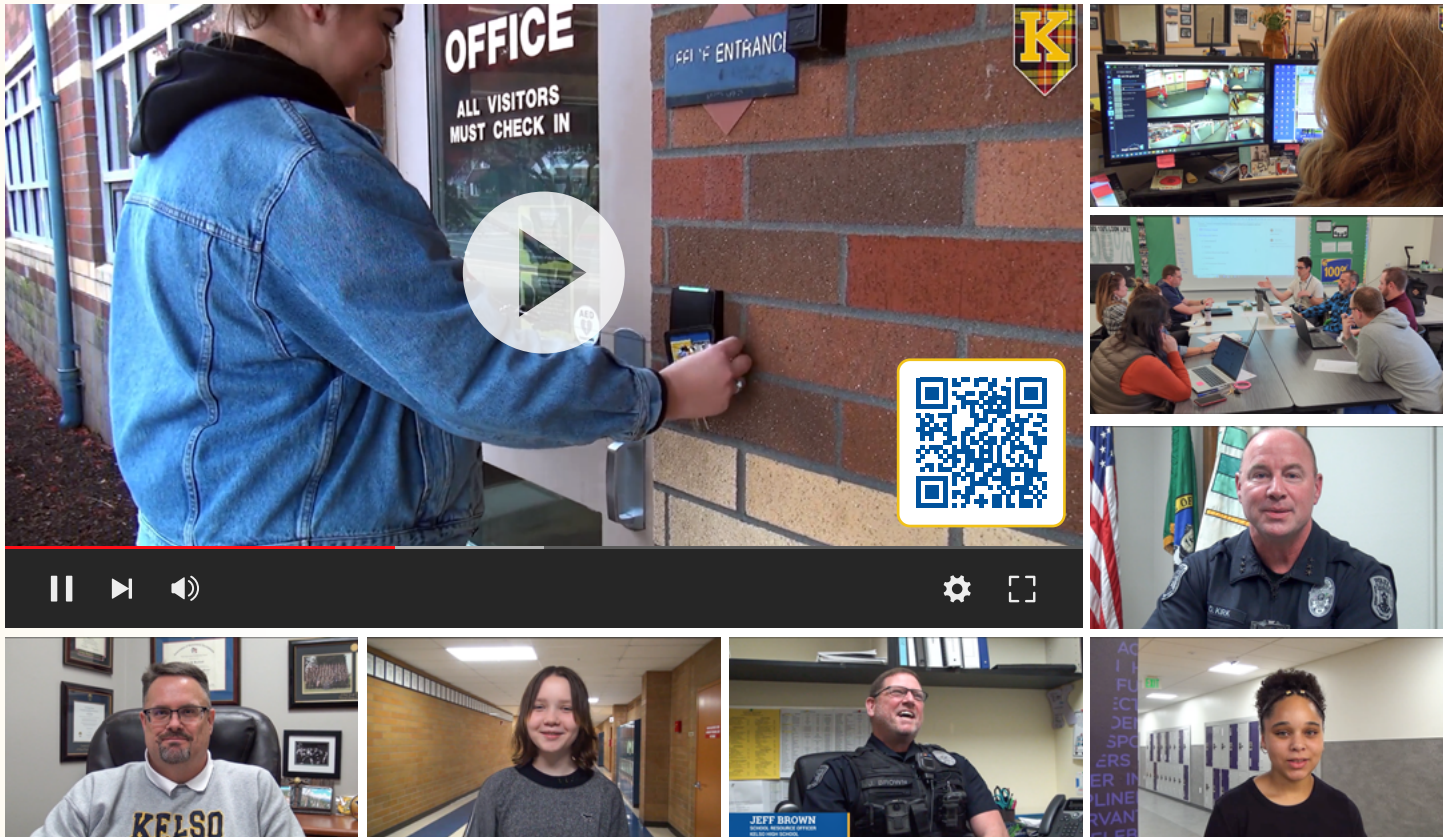
– Bannick, 12th grade, about dual credit courses



SAFETY & SECURITY



The safety and well-being of our students and staff is a top priority in Kelso School District. We have comprehensive safety plans and features in place, and are continually refining and adapting them in these changing times.



"Over the last couple of years since our bond passed, we've invested close to \$10 M in safety and security."

– Scott Westlund, chief financial officer

"We have the most advanced technology safety system, amazing cameras, we practice, we collaborate, refine. My message is always to be prepared and not scared."

– Lynette Oswald, assistant principal at Lexington Elementary

"The importance of having security cameras in schools is it gives a level of reassurance to our students and staff."

– Paul Richie, maintenance and facilities supervisor

"Each school has a safety plan and an emergency binder."

– Gunnar Guttormsen, director of student services and assessment

"Feeling safe at school helps me think better."

– Kaniyah, 8th grade

**KSD SAFE SCHOOLS
EMERGENCY INFORMATION**

LOCKDOWN
DEFINITE THREAT OF VIOLENCE OR HARM

- CLOSE/LOCK external entrances
- CLOSE/LOCK classroom doors - stay out of sight
- HEAD COUNT & collect students
- BARRICADE / defend / run
- MONITOR communications

SECURE & TEACH
POTENTIAL THREAT OF HARM

- CLOSE/LOCK classroom doors
- HEAD COUNT & collect students
- CONTINUE TEACHING as usual
- MONITOR communications
- PREPARE to upgrade response
- WAIT for "all clear"

SHELTER IN PLACE
HAZARDOUS OUTDOOR ATMOSPHERE

- SHELTER in a safe area
- ISOLATE your environment
- SHUT OFF HVAC / air systems
- HEAD COUNT & collect students
- MONITOR communications
- PREPARE to evacuate
- WAIT for "all clear"

EVACUATE
FIRE / INTERNAL THREAT

- EXIT building to nearest rally point
- IF RALLY POINT is unsafe, go to a safe area
- HEAD COUNT & collect students
- PREPARE to reunify

KEY REMINDERS

- NO PROPPED OPEN DOORS
- MAINTAIN ADULT VISIBILITY
- SEE or HEAR SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING

EMERGENCY CONTACTS
911

SUICIDE HOTLINE	1.800.273.8255
COWLITZ CO. CRISIS LINE	360.425.4064
KELSO POLICE	360.423.1270
SHERIFF	360.577.3092
SEXUAL ASSAULT HOTLINE	1.800.656.4473
CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICE	360.501.2600
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	1.800.799.7233 or text LOVEIS to 22522
POISON CONTROL	1.800.222.1222
DRUG/ALCOHOL HOTLINE	1.800.442.4357

911 INFORMATION

SCHOOL	<input type="text"/>
ROOM #	<input type="text"/>
ROOM PHONE	<input type="text"/>

IN AN EMERGENCY:
1 CALL 911 2 CALL THE MAIN OFFICE @



601 Crawford Street
Kelso, WA 98626
360.501.1900
www.kelso.wednet.edu

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
KELSO, WA 98626
PERMIT NO. 40

ECRWSS

Postal Patron

#KELSOSTRONG

We asked students and staff what makes Kelso strong. With 45 voices, there was one clear answer.



"We are Kelso means something to people ... We have arts, we have music, we have athletics, we have incredible academics, and so there's a place for every kid here, and I think that's what makes us strong."

– Lacey DeWeert, associate director of teaching and learning

"We are Kelso Strong because we are here for each other and we are a good community."

– Abigayle, 5th grade

Strong Schools, Stronger Community

On Tuesday, February 13, 2024, Kelso School District residents will vote on an issue affecting children in our community: a four-year RENEWAL educational program and operations levy.

For more information, visit wearekelso.org

