



# HILANDER highlights

AUGUST 2025

Welcome  
**BACK TO SCHOOL!**



**KELSO SCHOOL DISTRICT**



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](https://bit.ly/ksd-hh).



# BACK TO SCHOOL CHECKLIST



## ENROLL YOUR STUDENT



If you haven't already, enroll your student. Visit [bit.ly/enrollatksd](http://bit.ly/enrollatksd) to get started.

## ATTEND YOUR OPEN HOUSE



**PRESCHOOL:** August 29. Look for your assigned time in an email.

- **Barnes:** August 25, 4:30-6:00 pm
- **Butler Acres:** August 25, 5:30-6:30 pm
- **Carrolls:** August 25, 5:00-6:00 pm
- **Lexington:**  
August 25: Grades 1 – 5  
» Last names A-L: 5:30-6:30 pm  
» Last names M-Z: 6:30-7:30 pm
- **Rose Valley:** August 25, 5:00-6:30 pm
- **Wallace:** August 11, 4:30-5:30 pm
- **Coweeman:** August 26  
» 6th grade – 8:00-9:00 am  
» 7th grade – 9:00-10:00 am  
» 8th grade – 10:00-11:00 am
- **Huntington:** August 25  
» 6th grade – 12:00-1:00 pm  
» 7th grade – 1:00-2:00 pm  
» 8th grade – 2:00-3:00 pm

### SCHOOL BOARD:

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

**SUPERINTENDENT:** Mary Beth Tack

## GET SCHOOL SUPPLIES



School supply lists vary by school and grade. You can find these on your school's website or find multiple school lists in one spot on our district website at: [bit.ly/ksd-supplies](http://bit.ly/ksd-supplies)

## FIND YOUR BUS ROUTE



You can find your bus route and pick-up/drop-off times by visiting the Transportation webpage at [bit.ly/ksd-bus](http://bit.ly/ksd-bus). Times can change, please check back often. If you live in an extended area or there isn't a bus stop close by, call Transportation at 360.501.1352. A ridership form with emergency contact information will need to be filled out for each rider.

## FILL OUT THE CNEEB FORM



The Child Nutrition Eligibility & Education Benefits (CNEEB) form can be filled out in 10 minutes and helps to support essential programs for our schools while reducing fees for students' education. Find the form on our Nutrition Services page: [bit.ly/ksd-meals](http://bit.ly/ksd-meals).

## UPDATE IMPORTANT INFORMATION



Things can change. It's important to check the information we have in Skyward for you and your student each year to make sure it's correct, including:

- **Email and Phone Numbers**
- **Emergency Contacts**
- **Medical & Immunization Records**

## SIGNUP FOR ALERTS




Subscribe to FlashAlert to receive weather-related schedule changes by email and/or text. Push notification is available with the FlashAlert app. To subscribe, look under the "How do I" tab on our website: [kelso.wednet.edu](http://kelso.wednet.edu).

## FOLLOW US



You can stay in the know about events, accomplishments, and all kinds of great things happening in Kelso School District by following us on social and downloading the Kelso School District App.

 FaceBook, Instagram, and X:  
**@KelsoSchools**

 YouTube:  
**@KelsoSchoolDistrict**

 Kelso School District App for Android and iPhone.



## SCHOOL CALENDAR

(Except Wallace):



## WALLACE SCHOOL CALENDAR



## SAVE THE DATES

You can find 2025-26 calendars on the district website ([kelso.wednet.edu](http://kelso.wednet.edu)) in the Quick Links section. Some important dates include:

- **First Day of School:**  
August 12: Wallace  
August 27: All other schools
- **Elementary School Conferences:**  
November 24-26
- **Middle School Conferences:**  
November 5-6, March 30-31  
April 1-2
- **High School Conferences:**  
October 15, January 21, April 22
- **Kinderpalooza:** May 5
- **Graduation:** June 13

## GET INVOLVED

Whether it is after school, on field trips, or in the classroom, studies show there are countless benefits to children, their parents, and their school when parents get involved. Learn more about volunteering here: [bit.ly/ksd-volunteer](http://bit.ly/ksd-volunteer).

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Regular school attendance is crucial for academic, social, and future success. Consistent attendance ensures students grasp lessons, participate in class, and build strong academic foundations. It also fosters social skills through interaction with peers and adults. Students who attend regularly are more likely to graduate, pursue higher education, and secure stable employment.







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ECRWSS

## Postal Patron

# MEET DUCK, THE SAFETY DOG

As part of our commitment to maintaining a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment, we are introducing a Safety Dog Pilot program at Kelso/Loowit High School. Duck, a trained and certified detection dog, will work alongside school staff to help deter and identify dangerous items while remaining friendly, non-intrusive, and respectful.

Duck is a 2-year-old Labrador Retriever working with Charon K9. Trained and certified through the International Police Canine Association (IPCA), Duck specializes in detecting narcotics, firearms, and contraband, helping to maintain safe, drug-free school environments.

Duck brings both skill and personality to the job. While he's focused and methodical when working, off-duty he's a goofball who loves having his hind end scratched and will kick his back legs like a bull when playing tug-of-war. He's also known for jumping up for behind-the-ear scratches and happily bouncing through tall grass just for the joy of it.



## MORE ABOUT SAFETY IN KELSO

The safety and well-being of our students and staff is a top priority in Kelso. We continually collaborate with local first responders and regional emergency management officials to stay updated on best practices. Learn more about safety in Kelso at [bit.ly/ksd-safety](https://bit.ly/ksd-safety).



# WE ARE A CENTURY STRONG

2025-26 marks the 100th year of the Hilander as Kelso High's official mascot. In honor of this milestone, we unite under the powerful theme this year: A Century Strong—Honor, Courage, Grit. For a century, Kelso has stood firm on these values, and we plan to continue. Here's to another hundred years of strength in tradition and excellence in education.

