



# LA GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

## 2015-2025 Capital Improvement Projects

*FINAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY*



**Dear La Grande School District Community, Families, Students, and Staff,**

We are proud to share our deepest gratitude and celebration with all of you — our valued community members — who have shown unwavering support for the La Grande School District over the years.

For nearly 160 years, the community of La Grande, Oregon has been a proud partner with the La Grande School District. This long-standing relationship has shaped generations of learners, and we look forward to continuing this partnership for another 160 years!

Since 2014, your commitment to education has been clearly demonstrated through the approval of two vital General Obligation Bonds for capital improvements. These bonds provided essential financial support that allowed us to invest deeply in the infrastructure, safety, and future-readiness of our schools. Your support has not only improved the learning environments for our students and the working conditions for our staff — it has uplifted our entire district.

Through careful planning, strategic grant acquisitions, and the intentional leveraging of every dollar, we've been able to stretch our resources further than we imagined. Since 2014, over \$70 million in General Fund allocations, Seismic Improvement Funds, Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching (OSCIM) Grant Funds, and Bond Funds have been used to improve facilities across the district — all while honoring our commitment to taxpayers by keeping rates below the promised \$1.99 per \$1,000 of assessed home value from the 2014 Bond.

Thanks to your generosity and trust, we've completed meaningful projects throughout the district — from modernized classrooms and secure school entrances to upgraded technology infrastructure and energy-efficient improvements — all of which directly benefit the students we serve every day.

This document highlights just a few of the many achievements made possible by your investment in our schools. We hope it reflects not only what has been built and improved, but also the deep gratitude we feel for our incredible community.

On behalf of our students, staff, and school leaders: **thank you.** Together, we are building a brighter future for La Grande.

With appreciation,  
**La Grande School District #1**



# Central Elementary School Capital Improvements



**Project Timeline:** Began May 6, 2016 – Completed September 14, 2017 – **2014 Bond Total:** \$15,274,338



The construction of Central Elementary School marked a major milestone in the modernization of La Grande School District facilities. Completed in September 2017, the two-story building was thoughtfully designed to support 21st-century learning with ample space for both academic instruction and collaborative small-group activities. The school serves students in kindergarten through fifth grade and includes 24 modern classrooms, a separate gymnasium, and a dedicated cafeteria. Multiple breakout areas throughout the building allow for flexible teaching and personalized learning. The project reflects a strong partnership between the district, the community, and external supporters, with additional enhancements completed in the years that followed through grants, donations, and LGSD funds.

## Facility Features

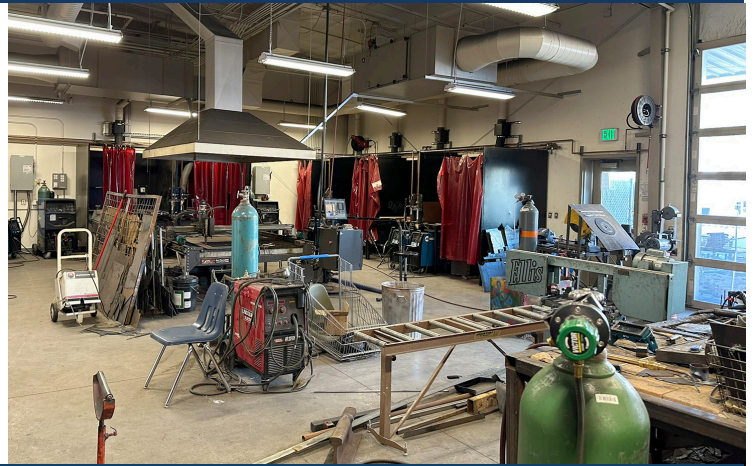
- Two-story academic building
- 24 classrooms serving K–5
- Separate gymnasium and cafeteria
- Multiple breakout areas for small group and individualized instruction

## Additional Enhancements Funded by Grants, Donations, and LGSD Funds

Alternate Bus Route implemented	Summer 2018	\$45,000
Parking Lot Conversion (from old tennis courts)	Summer 2018 & Summer 2023	\$150,000
Installation of Snow Guards	Summer 2019	\$16,000
Creation of Sensory Classroom	Summer 2020	\$20,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$231,000</b>

**Architect:** DECA Architecture | **General Contractor:** CM Company

# La Grande High School CTE Building Capital Improvements



**Project Timeline:** Began June 2016 – Completed March 2017 – **2014 Bond Total:** \$3,214,637

The La Grande High School Career & Technical Education (CTE) Building stands as a shining example of community partnership and forward-thinking educational investment. Thanks to the generous donation of primary construction materials by Robert Roberts, owner of RM Steel Company in Caldwell, Idaho, the district was able to expand the facility by an additional 5,000 square feet beyond the original plan. Completed in March 2017, the 14,500 square foot building provides students with access to cutting-edge learning spaces designed to prepare them for high-demand careers. It is home to a state-of-the-art welding lab, a biomedical classroom, a computer business lab, and a mechatronics program classroom. These facilities support real-world, hands-on learning that helps students graduate with both academic knowledge and valuable technical skills.

## Facility Features

Welding Lab (state-of-the-art equipment)

Biomedical Sciences Classroom

Computer Business Lab

Mechatronics Program Classroom



**Donated Materials:** Robert Roberts, RM Steel Company  
**Architect:** DECA Architecture | **General Contractor:** CM Company

# Plant Operations Building Capital Improvements



**Total Investment: \$1,100,000**

Using funds from the 2022 Bond, La Grande School District was able to expand and improve its operational capacity by acquiring and renovating a new Plant Operations facility. The district purchased the Adams Professional Building at **1805 Adams Avenue**, converting it into the central hub for maintenance, grounds, and facilities operations. The remodeling and relocation were completed in **June 2023**, providing the district with an efficient, secure, and professional space to support the day-to-day infrastructure needs of all LGSD schools. In addition to structural improvements, enhancements were made to strengthen security and district visibility.



## Facility Features

Front window signage – for improved security and school district branding: \$17,890

Installation of a digital sign – for communication and promotion: \$37,000

Exterior painting – refreshed and unified appearance of the building

# Wildcat Center Capital Improvements



**Project Timeline:** Began June 2023 – Completed September 2024 – **Total Investment:** \$10,000,000

The Wildcat Center stands as a powerful example of what can be achieved through community partnership and vision. Funded by the **2022 Bond** and greatly enhanced by a **generous donation from Mike Becker Construction**, the original plan for two gyms and four classrooms was expanded to include **three gyms and six classrooms**, creating a dynamic, multi-purpose facility that serves both La Grande Middle School and the broader school community. This major addition provides essential space for physical education, athletics, and classroom learning while supporting student growth and engagement. Additional improvements to the middle school campus have elevated the environment both inside and out.

## Wildcat Center Enhancements

Expanded from 2 gyms and 4 classrooms to 3 gyms and 6 classrooms thanks to Mike Becker Construction.



## Projects Completed with Grants, Donations & LGSD Funds

New Greenhouse: \$140,000

Exterior painting of the middle school building: \$125,000

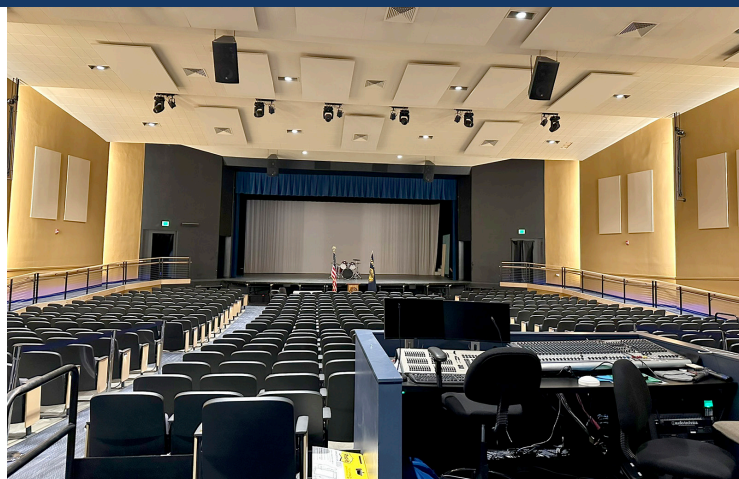
Athletic field updates to support outdoor programming and events: \$100,000

HVAC system upgrades for comfort and energy efficiency: \$40,000

Digital Reader Board Sign: \$43,000

**General Contractor:** Mike Becker Construction

# La Grande High School Gym, Auditorium, and Facility Upgrades



**2014 Bond Total: \$3,960,014**

La Grande High School has undergone extensive renovations and upgrades in recent years, thanks to seismic rehabilitation grants, district funds, and the generous support of community partners. Beginning in Fall 2017, seismic improvements to the gymnasium and auditorium laid the foundation for a series of enhancements that significantly improved safety, accessibility, and student experience. DECA Architecture led the design of many of these early efforts, while WRK Structural & Seismic Engineers and CB Construction Inc. took the lead on the 2024 seismic retrofit. Renovations extended beyond structural safety to include athletic facility upgrades, ADA improvements, classroom enhancements, and cosmetic improvements throughout campus. These projects reflect the district's long-term commitment to providing safe, modern, and engaging spaces for academics, athletics and student activities.

## Projects Completed with Grants, Donations & LGSD Funds

- Trophy cases installed
- ADA restroom upgrades
- Cooling system for upstairs classrooms
- Smoke exhaust system installation
- Security system improvements
- Classroom enclosures and door replacements
- Window replacement in the east building



## LHS Gymnasium

- Renovated locker rooms
- All bleachers replaced
- New gym floor
- Interior paint refreshed
- New scoreboard and video display



## LHS Auditorium

- New seating installed
- Upgraded sound system
- New ceiling tiles
- Lighting, rigging, and acoustical improvements
- Fresh paint
- Stage area upgrades



# Greenwood Elementary School Capital Improvements



**2014 Bond Total: \$21,884**



Greenwood Elementary has seen transformative improvements over the past decade, made possible through a combination of 2014 Bond funds, seismic grants, LGSD funds, and generous community contributions. These investments have significantly enhanced the safety, accessibility, and overall learning environment for students and staff. From structural seismic upgrades and ADA-accessible features to classroom additions and security enhancements, every project reflects a deep commitment to student success and well-being. The 2014 Bond was especially instrumental in launching many of these foundational improvements, and continued support has allowed us to expand and modernize the school to meet today's educational needs.

## Facility Features

- ADA-accessible entry improvements
- Addition of two kindergarten classrooms
- Awnings installed for weather protection
- Complete window replacement (included in seismic retrofit)
- Restroom renovations with ADA accessibility
- Interior and exterior security enhancements

## Projects Completed with Grants, Donations, & LGSD Funds

Gym Restroom Remodel	Summer 2017	\$14,000
Back Parking Lot Reconstruction	Summer 2018	\$55,000
Seismic Retrofit & Gym Renovations	Summer 2019	\$1.6 million
New Wheelchair Lift Installation	Fall 2019	\$25,000
Gym Landing/Stairs & Breakroom New Carpet	Summer 2021	\$35,000
New Walk-In Cooler Installation	Summer 2024	\$38,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$1,767,000</b>

# Island City Elementary School Capital Improvements



**2014 Bond Total: \$3,963,788**



## Improvements Funded by the 2014 Bond

Installation of new electrical transformers

New HVAC units for improved climate control

Replacement of the building's water heater

Enclosure of open classrooms with added doors

Addition of six new classrooms

Full kitchen addition for meal preparation on site

Security system and access control upgrades

Thanks to the 2014 Bond funds, Island City Elementary has undergone major improvements that have greatly enhanced its functionality, safety, and capacity to serve students. These funds enabled critical infrastructure upgrades such as new HVAC systems, electrical transformers, and a water heater replacement, while also supporting the addition of six new classrooms and a fully equipped kitchen. Classroom enclosures, door installations, and security enhancements further improved the learning environment and student safety. In the years following, through additional grants, donations, and LGSD funds, even more upgrades were completed to support the long-term growth and vitality of the school.

## Projects Completed with Grants, Donations & LGSD Funds

Lockers Added	Summer 2017	\$15,000
Additional Parking Lot & Sidewalks	Summer 2017	\$120,000
Façade Renovation	Summer 2018	\$120,000
Asphalt Repairs	Summer 2018	\$25,000
Radon Mitigation System Installed	Fall 2020	\$5,000
Additional Office Buildout	Summer 2021	\$15,000
Playground Equipment & Site Improvements	Summer 2023	\$23,000

**TOTAL \$323,000**

## District-Wide Capital Improvements

Across the La Grande School District, a wide range of impactful improvements have been made thanks to the support of our community through the 2014 Bond, as well as additional grants, donations, and district funds. These upgrades have improved facilities, enhanced safety and security, supported sustainability goals, and expanded learning and activity spaces for students. From athletic field enhancements to critical HVAC and lighting updates, each project reflects thoughtful investment in the future of our schools and community. These district-wide upgrades continue to benefit every student, staff member, and visitor in La Grande School District.

### Highlights of District-Wide Improvements

Turf Installed at Baseball & Softball Fields - <i>Pioneer Park</i>	Summer 2020	\$350,000
Safety & Security Upgrades - <i>Enhanced access control, surveillance, and emergency systems</i>		\$177,000
Modular Renovation - <i>Odyssey Center</i>	Spring 2021	\$245,000
HVAC Heating System Upgrades & LED Lighting Retrofit	Summer 2019	\$4.5 million
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,272,000</b>

## Willow Elementary & District Office Capital Improvements



Willow Elementary and the La Grande School District Office have benefited from targeted improvements funded through the 2014 Bond, as well as other grants and district resources. These projects have enhanced safety, improved infrastructure, and upgraded district workspaces. Security upgrades to exterior doors were made possible through the 2014 Bond, reinforcing our ongoing commitment to school safety and secure access. Additional improvements, from gym repairs to indoor air quality measures, continue to ensure safe, functional, and welcoming environments for students, staff, and visitors.

### Projects Completed with Grants, Donations & LGSD Funds

Gym Roof Replacement	Summer 2017	\$45,000
Radon Mitigation System Installed	Fall 2020	\$25,000
Board Room Remodel	Summer 2021	\$35,000
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$105,000</b>

### Improvements Funded by the 2014 Bond

Security Door Upgrades - *enhanced safety and access control*

## Additional LHS Upgrades Funded by Grants, Donations & LGSD Funds

Track Reconstruction	Summer 2017	\$460,000
Commons/Kitchen Flooring Replacement	Summer 2017	\$45,000
Fire Alarm Upgrade (East Building)	Summer 2018	\$120,000
Asphalt Repairs	Summer 2018	\$200,000
Track Bleachers	Spring 2018	\$65,000
Concession Stand Remodel	Spring 2018	\$35,000
Tennis Court Replacement	Summer 2018	\$385,000
LHS Greenhouses	Summer 2018	\$20,000
Culinary Arts Remodel	Summer 2019	\$275,000
Gym Seismic Renovation	Summer 2019	\$1.75 million
<i>Engineer:</i> WRK Structural & Seismic Engineers (Vancouver, WA)		
<i>Contractor:</i> CB Construction Inc. (La Grande, OR)		
<i>Funding:</i> Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority & Seismic Rehabilitation Grant		
Trainer's Room Renovation	Summer 2019	\$8,000
Track Sidewalk & Shed Renovations	Summer 2018 & 2019	\$75,000
West Slope Landscaping	Summer 2020	\$25,000
Gym Entrance Concrete Replacement	Summer 2020	\$17,000
Gym Signage	Summer 2020	\$5,000
Water Main Replacement	Summer 2021	\$17,000
Front Entry Concrete Replacement	Summer 2021	\$25,000
Front Office Remodel	Summer 2021	\$7,000
Library Remodel, Phase 1	Summer 2021	\$15,000
Inner Courtyard Landscaping	Fall 2021	\$6,000
Boiler Burner Replacement	Fall 2021	\$115,000
Storage Shed Painting	Summer 2021	\$3,000
New Concession Stand, Restrooms & Storage (Tennis/Track Area)	Summer 2023	\$331,000
<i>Donated by:</i> Grande Ronde Hospital		
Digital Reader Board Sign	Summer 2023	\$49,000
LHS Track Resurfaced	Summer 2022	\$34,000

**TOTAL \$4,087,000**



**La Grande**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

1305 North Willow Street  
La Grande, OR 97850

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PENDLETON OR  
PERMIT NO. 23

## RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

# Capital Improvements Board and District Leadership

### Board Members

**Merle Comfort** (2014 to Current)  
**Danelle Lindsey** (2015 to Current)  
**Michelle Moore** (2017-2021) (2023 to Current)  
**Randy Shaw** (2017 to Current)  
**Bruce Kevan** (2019 to Current)  
**Jake Hanson** (2021 to Current)  
**Robin Jolin** (2023 to Current)  
**Joe Justice** (2014-2022)  
**Mike Frasier** (2014)  
**Dayneen Koopman** (2014-2017)  
**Greg Blackman** (2014-2017)  
**Chris Woodworth** (2014-2019)  
**Greg Bogard** (2014)  
**Robin Maille** (2015-2023)

### Current District Leadership

**Superintendent George Mendoza**  
**Melissa Reagan**, Business Director  
**Chelsea Hurliman**, Principal, La Grande High School  
**Eric Freeman**, Assistant Principal, La Grande High School  
**Chris Wagner**, Principal, La Grande Middle School  
**DeAnna Williams**, Assistant Principal, La Grande Middle School  
**Scott Carpenter**, Assistant Superintendent  
**Erika Dockweiler**, Special Education Director  
**Monica West**, Principal, Central Elementary  
**Sam Fiorito**, Assistant Principal, Central Elementary  
**Dr. Madeline Koenig**, Principal, Greenwood Elementary  
**Brett Smith**, Principal, Island City Elementary

### District Leadership *November 2014-2017*

<b>Superintendent Larry Glaze</b>	<b>John Tolan</b> , Principal, Island City Elementary
<b>Brett Baxter</b> , Principal, La Grande High School	<b>Reta Doland</b> , Title Programs/Federal Programs/Curriculum Director
<b>Scott Carpenter</b> , Assistant Principal, La Grande High School	<b>Carol Byron</b> , Special Education Director
<b>Kyle McKinney</b> , Principal, La Grande Middle School	<b>Chris Panike</b> , Business Director
<b>Brett Jackman</b> , Assistant Principal, La Grande Middle School	<b>Joseph Waite</b> , Facilities and Bond Manager, December 2015
<b>Suzy Mayes</b> , Principal, Central Elementary	<b>Michelle Glover</b> , Business Director (2021-2024)
<b>Mike Gregory</b> , Principal, Greenwood Elementary	