



# THE VIKING VOICE

March 2025

Follow us on social media:  
[facebook.com/ColtonSD53](https://facebook.com/ColtonSD53)

[www.colton.k12.or.us](http://www.colton.k12.or.us)



## EXPLORING PATHS

### New Course Offering: Exploring Healthcare Careers

Colton High School is thrilled to announce a new health sciences course designed to introduce students to Career Technical Education (CTE) programs in health professions. Launching next school year, this course will provide a pathway for students interested in pursuing high-demand, high-wage careers such as Medical Assisting, Dental Assisting, Phlebotomy, Medical Billing and Coding, Nursing, and more.

Students will explore various healthcare careers while gaining an overview of the knowledge, skills, and abilities required for success in the field. The curriculum will also guide students through postsecondary educational training requirements, helping them develop an academic plan and prepare for competitive program entry.

"The health sciences program will give students more options and allow those interested in health careers to explore opportunities and attain college credit," said Michael Towle, the course instructor.

#### Why This Course?

In rural communities, the demand for skilled healthcare professionals continues to grow. Colton High School is pursuing this new program to strengthen our current Health Science Program of Study, which already includes courses such as Anatomy and Physiology, AP Biology, and Medical Terminology. This increases access for all students by creating a clear pathway for students to earn certifications or accelerate their education through dual-credit opportunities.

The course is part of the Healthcare Careers Pathway Certificate at Clackamas Community College, contributing to the 14-credit certificate program. Students will gain a strong foundation in health sciences, preparing them for myriad employment opportunities in the healthcare industry.

#### What Will Students Learn?

Students will gain a comprehensive understanding of healthcare career pathways, including the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities required for success in the field. They will identify both the academic and non-academic requirements for entry into

postsecondary Health Science Programs and learn how to develop an academic plan tailored to their career goals.

This exciting new offering represents a significant step toward bridging the gap in healthcare education and preparing students for rewarding careers in a vital industry. Stay tuned for enrollment details as Colton High School launches this transformative program next year!

## BUILDING STRENGTHS

### Tri-River 2A League Champions: A Season of Hard Work and Team Spirit



The Colton High School varsity football team clinched the Tri-River 2A - Special District 2 league title this year, capping off a memorable season. They ended with an overall record of 7-3 and an undefeated 3-0 league record.

Under the guidance of a new coaching staff, the team not only found success on the field but also fostered a culture of excellence that was noticed throughout the school and community. The coaches quickly honed in on and nurtured each player's potential. Head Coach Brian Faulhaber explained the team's guiding philosophy: "We taught the kids about the idea of 'chasing best,' which means you try to do your best on the field, off the field, in school, and in life." That mindset forged a strong, positive team culture and pushed players to excel in every aspect of their lives.



30429 S Grays Hill Rd, Colton, OR 97017  
(503) 824-3535 | [www.colton.k12.or.us](http://www.colton.k12.or.us)

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*\*  
POSTAL CUSTOMER

NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PORTLAND OR  
PERMIT NO. 3142

### *(Tri-River 2A League Champions Continued...)*

In addition to their athletic success, the team demonstrated academic strength as well. The overall average GPA for all team members during Fall term was 3.11, which garnered 8th place in the entire state at the 2A level. Also, the players exemplified personal character all season long through their commitment to service, including cleaning up after volleyball games and tutoring younger students. Their leadership was appreciated throughout the community.

A newly introduced tradition, the "passing of the torch" from seniors to kindergarten students, symbolized the values of community, legacy, and inclusion. The team's journey was highlighted by their Homecoming Game, where the Rose City Corvette Club provided the cars for the court's grand entry. Moments like these showcased the strong school and community support surrounding the program.

Coach Brian Faulhaber credits "trust" as the main ingredient for the team's success. "The kids really bought into the coaching and to each other, and that led to a strong team culture," he said. The players' hard work, discipline, and cooperation were evident in their performance, which led to them earning the league title.

Congratulations to the league champions for their outstanding season. The future is bright for this program!

## FORGING CONNECTIONS

### Colton High School Honors Veterans with Moving Assembly

Colton High School commemorated Veterans Day with a heartfelt assembly organized by the freshman class, paying tribute to local veterans and their families. The event began with a special welcome in the cafeteria, where freshmen greeted the veterans. The veterans were then escorted into the gym, beautifully decorated in red, white, and blue, as the Colton High School Band performed.

Each veteran was honored with an introduction that included their name, years of service, and military branch. The program included a solemn reading of the military branches, and an explanation of the symbolic POW/MIA table.

Adding a personal touch, students prepared gift bags with the help of the art teacher that included signed cards for each veteran. The band delivered a moving musical tribute. Student speakers shared heartfelt readings, and the keynote address emphasized the importance of recognizing the sacrifices and contributions of veterans to the nation.



Principal Dr. Shane M. Bassett closed the program with a sincere thank-you, expressing pride in the students and gratitude to the veterans. The assembly concluded with refreshments in the cafeteria, where students and veterans had the opportunity to connect and share stories. The event was a powerful blend of education and appreciation, leaving a lasting impression on all who attended.

## Colton High School Expands Career Opportunities with Generous Donation and Equipment Upgrades

Earlier this school year, Colton High School's Career and Technical Education (CTE) Department received a transformative donation of four Miller Deltawave 652 welding power sources from Cascade Corporation. These industrial-grade machines provide students with invaluable hands-on experience. After minor upgrades, the machines were integrated into the school's welding facility, significantly enhancing its capacity to serve students pursuing careers in welding and manufacturing.

Previously, the school lacked sufficient Shielded Metal Arc Welding machines to support all welding stations. With the donation, more students can now participate in advanced welding pathways. Additionally, the school is finalizing an agreement with Clackamas Community College (CCC) to offer students college credit and certifications while still in high school. These opportunities will help students work toward associate degrees or entry-level certifications, giving them a competitive workforce advantage.

The enhancements were guided by a Regional Needs Assessment in Clackamas County, which identified critical gaps

in manufacturing education. With funding secured by Thomas Brown, Career Connected Learning Systems Navigator at CCC, Colton addressed these needs, upgrading its facilities significantly. Improvements included replacing the horizontal bandsaw, repairing a wood planer and manual mill, restoring a metal lathe, and assembling a fully functional Tormach CNC mill.

The lab also benefited from a prior donation of hydraulic and pneumatic trainer stations from CCC, valued at approximately \$100,000. CTE teacher Brian Gilmore assessed the equipment and determined that minimal investment could make it operational. Once upgraded, the lab will provide comprehensive training in advanced manufacturing techniques.

Colton High School's enhanced CTE program, supported by partnerships with CCC and industry leaders, ensures students graduate with the skills, certifications, and experience to succeed in welding and manufacturing. These efforts establish a strong pathway from high school to college and career, preparing students to meet the demands of the modern workforce.

## Jog-a-thon: A Community Tradition Supporting Colton Elementary

Since its inception in 2018, the Jog-a-thon has become a cherished tradition for Colton Elementary School. Initiated by Mrs. Groat, this annual fundraiser was inspired by the success she observed at her own children's elementary school. Her vision was to create an event that would unite the community while providing essential support for the school.

The first Jog-a-thon was met with great enthusiasm, and the event has continued to grow each year. Over that time, the Jog-a-thon has raised an impressive \$60,000 to directly benefit Colton Elementary School students.

Funds from the Jog-a-thon have been used to enrich the educational experience in numerous ways. Thanks to the community's generosity, the school has been able to fund assemblies, field trips, and purchase science supplies, music and band materials, PE equipment, and reading books. Additionally, the fundraiser has provided TVs, CD players, and other resources that support learning and engagement.

This year's Jog-a-thon promises to continue the tradition of bringing the community together for a great cause. The event not only raises critical funds but also fosters school spirit and highlights the remarkable support of the Colton community.

Thank you to everyone who has participated, volunteered, and contributed to the Jog-a-thon over the years. Your efforts make a lasting impact on our students and help create opportunities for learning, growth, and success.



## Meet Our New Principal Shane Bassett

Colton School District is proud to welcome Dr. Shane M. Bassett as the new principal of Colton High School. A Massachusetts native who has called the Portland area home for over three decades, Dr. Bassett brings 27 years of educational experience to his new role, including work as a teacher, reading coach, principal, and K-12 director of federal programs. Most recently, he served as a middle school principal at a U.S. Embassy-affiliated international school in South America, where he also mentored and supported the high school leadership team. Dr. Bassett is committed to fostering a supportive school climate and collaborating with the Colton community to ensure the success and life-readiness of every student. "I am very glad to be here in Colton serving this school community. The community has welcomed me warmly and I look forward to doing everything possible to support the students, teachers, and parents."

## Colton High School Art Program Receives Pottery Wheel Donation

The Colton High School art program is thrilled to announce the donation of a pottery wheel from the graduating classes of 1974 and 1975. Dedicated as the "Meiser-Lundberg Wheel," it will feature an engraved plaque with this heartfelt message:

**"Life is like the potter's clay. It gets shaped by our own hands."**

This generous contribution supports hands-on creativity and the growth of our young artists.

Under the leadership of Art teacher Courtney Huske, additional efforts are underway to enhance the art space, with faculty, students, and community members collaborating to expand opportunities for Colton High's talented students.





## Colton High School Hosts Job and Career Information Fair

On December 18th, Colton High School welcomed over 30 professionals from a variety of industries for its annual Job and Career Information Fair, an event organized through the school's ASPIRE program. Mrs. Nina Baurer, a Colton parent, took the lead in organizing the fair, and securing the fair presenters, assisted by parent Mrs. Lacey Smith and parent/school board member, Mr. Tim Behrens.

Trades and apprenticeships were prominently featured alongside careers in healthcare, cybersecurity, engineering, and many other fields. The fair offered students a chance to interact with industry experts, explore potential career paths, and gather insights about the qualifications and experiences needed to succeed in different professions. It is notable that three school board members were among the professionals who presented to our students - Jeremy Baurer, Eric Dilg, and Cezanne Decristoforo!

"The goal is for every Colton student to graduate with a plan," said school counselor Rebecca Barton, who leads the ASPIRE program. "This event helps them start thinking about their future and the steps they need to take to achieve their goals." Throughout the day, students rotated through the fair during school hours, engaging with representatives from organizations such as Walen Construction, Providence, NECA IBEW Local 48, Gresham Ford, Colton Fire District, Molalla Police, Benchmade, and the U.S. Army. The event also introduced students to lesser-known opportunities, such as manufacturing apprenticeships and specialized training programs.

The Job and Career Information Fair is part of a larger effort by Colton High School to expand its ASPIRE program, which focuses on college and career readiness. Under Barton's leadership, the program has seen significant growth. With more than 15 years of experience working with ASPIRE, Barton is passionate about helping students prepare for life after high school, whether that involves college, trade school, entering the workforce, or joining the military.

In November, ASPIRE hosted its "Launch and Lunch" week for seniors, helping them begin applications for the Oregon Promise, meet with college representatives, and connect with ASPIRE mentors. Upcoming events include a FAFSA workshop, scholarship application sessions, and a series of Senior Seminars featuring speakers from local fire departments, law enforcement, and other industries.

"It's exciting to see students discover their interests and start mapping out their futures," Barton said. "We're working to expand ASPIRE to serve the entire student body in the coming years, so every Colton student has access to these resources."

The Job and Career Information Fair and the ASPIRE program reflect Colton High School's commitment to empowering students to explore their passions and graduate ready to succeed in whatever path they choose.



**COLTON VIKINGS** STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE BY:  
EXPLORING PATHS • BUILDING STRENGTHS • FORGING CONNECTIONS