

# Welcome to Columbia River Elementary School

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## Mission Statement

We provide a safe and diverse learning environment to create productive risk takers, who are problem solvers and independent thinkers.

## Vision Statement

We guarantee to provide a viable education preparing students for the demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with ownership of their:

- Social and emotional health
- Resilience and persistence
- Ability to embrace the culture and individuality of others
- Creativity for solving problems in a cooperative manner
- Future with confidence and hope

## Background Information

*Columbia River Elementary was named for the mighty Columbia River which gives life to our area. The river rises in the Rocky Mountains of British Columbia, Canada. It flows northwest and then south into the US state of Washington, then turns west to form most of the border between Washington and the state of Oregon before emptying into the Pacific Ocean. The river is 1,243 miles long, and its largest tributary is the Snake River. Its drainage basin is roughly the size of France and extends into seven US states and a Canadian province. The fourth-largest river in the United States by volume, the Columbia has the greatest flow of any North American river entering the Pacific.*

*The Columbia and its tributaries have been central to the region's culture and economy for thousands of years. They have been used for transportation since ancient times, linking the region's many cultural groups. The river system hosts many species of anadromous fish, which migrate between freshwater habitats and the saline waters of the Pacific Ocean. These fish—especially the salmon species—provided the core subsistence for native peoples. We will open our doors (virtually) for the first time to school on September 1, 2020. Our school opens in the middle of a pandemic which will keep students from enjoying in person attendance until the pandemic is more under control in Benton and Franklin Counties.*

Columbia River Elementary is 72,000 square feet and built to serve 800 students. The total cost for the project is \$28.5 million. This school is built completely from local bond money and there is no state matching money. Columbia River houses 30 general education classrooms and 4 special education rooms. It holds a full gymnasium, stage and cafeteria. The playground is comprised of a fully inclusive play toy and is the second in the Pasco School District.