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Glad Report

Gladstone Schools — Growing great people.

Teachers identify needs, help students get on track



Across Gladstone, schools are bustling with hands-on projects, science labs, class discussions, and athletic events. Full-time, in-person learning is back.

"When teachers connect with students in-person, understanding increases dramatically," said Gladstone High Principal Kevin Taylor.

This fall, teachers identified learning gaps and social-emotional needs so they can help students get on track.

At GCCF, Kindergarten used the Ages and Stages Questionnaire to pin-point social skills, and found 38% of students need support.

To address this, the GCCF launched a Discovery class that gives children bi-weekly small-group activities to build collaboration skills with peers.

Wetten Elementary used STAR Math and DIBELS tests to evaluate academic progress. They are also evaluating students for Talented and Gifted services.

"We found our youngest students need to focus on reading skills while grades 3-5 need more work on math computations and fluency," said Principal Michael Clutter.

"To meet student needs, we added a month-long summer school, reduced first grade class sizes, and doubled math and reading intervention time."

Kraxberger used iReady exams to assess skills. Middle school students' top needs are vocabulary building, reading comprehension, algebraic thinking, and math operations.

The middle school offered a month of summer school, added small-size intervention classes, and is reinforcing math and reading skills in science and history classes.

At Gladstone High, transcript analysis revealed which students need support. Summer school classes helped students earn credits to get them back on track for graduation. It also helped advanced math students keep pace to take calculus by senior year.

The school doubled down on academic support for incoming freshmen, from a new ninth grade math class and success coaches to a new class on how to succeed in high school.

"Catching students up won't happen overnight," said Kraxberger Principal Heather Bailey. "But with the effort we see from teachers and students, we will get there."

Teachers and staff honored

Six educators were honored with cash awards for their outstanding service to students and the school community.



Yesenia Boschetto is a bilingual family liaison at GCCF. She connects K-12 Latino families to resources and helps them communicate with schools.



Brendan Thwing teaches technology and graphics at GHS. His team created GATES, teaching freshmen science, construction, and technology.



Frances Severson is Kraxberger's library assistant. She worked to help school leaders reimagine the library and make it more inviting



Mary Parnell is a veteran 7th grade science teacher with high expectations for students. She offers students innovative, engaging projects.



Joel Libron is head custodian at GHS. He takes pride in his work and has protected student health through furniture spacing and intensive cleaning.



Lauren Thompson is a third grade teacher who connects well with students and families. She is a leader who steps up to help colleagues.



7th grade explores marine life

The seventh grade class was a blur of activity as enthusiastic young scientists presented their research to small clusters of students. Two boys performed a puppet show about great white sharks, while nearby, another student read a poem about the critically-endangered axolotl.

Each student chose a different sea animal to research. Next they created posters and models to add interest to their presentations. An enormous stuffed sea otter, a paper maché octopus, and a delicate ceramic fish were some of the items on display.

"I just love these kids, and I'm so excited about their work," said science teacher Mary Parnell. "This the best project they've ever done. It's the first time in 18 months they've had the chance to present, and they are doing it so well."

Students explained the role the species plays keeping ecosystems in balance, and how each creature is impacted by water pollution such as microplastics.

Education Foundation raises \$17,000



Thirty teams joined the Gladstone Education Foundation golf tournament in July. The annual event raised \$17,000 for Gladstone schools.

To contribute, visit www.gladstonefoundation.org/

Counselor helps students plan for college & careers

As Gladstone High's College & Career Counselor, Alison Howell's job is helping students make a plan for their next steps after high school graduation.

Howell works with juniors and seniors to research trade schools, apprenticeships, and universities. She holds college application workshops, and explains how to apply for financial aid. She also organizes mock interviews and college visits.

Her monthly newsletter keeps parents and students informed about upcoming opportunities like FAFSA workshops, scholarships, and student opportunities.

"Many families are intimidated by the process and don't know where to begin," said Howell. "I'm here to guide them every step of the way. Working with students in small groups can make it easier."

She also helps freshmen and sophomores explore career opportunities and tour university campuses so they can make a plan for their future.

Students who pursue college or trade school on average earn 25% more than students who do not. At Gladstone High, 55% of students go on to pursue higher education after they graduate, and that number is growing thanks to the school's College and Career program.



Gladstone School Food Pantry

Thursdays - 3:00 to 5:30 p.m.
6460 Glen Echo Ave.
behind Hillside Fellowship

We welcome:

- Families in Gladstone schools
- Residents of Gladstone, Jennings Lodge & Oak Grove

Gladstone Kids Clothes Closet

Open Saturdays 10 a.m. to noon

Gently-used clothes, jackets, and shoes for babies, kids & teens

On the north side of Gladstone High School off Nelson Lane

Gladstone High vaccine/booster clinics open to community

Since June, Gladstone High School [GHS] has hosted five COVID-19 vaccine clinics, providing 429 free vaccines and boosters to students and community members.

"Vaccines are the best tool we have to combat COVID-19," said Clackamas County Health Officer Dr. Sarah Present. "Vaccination gives us hope for a return to normalcy and keeping students in school."

More clinics are planned at Gladstone High School from 4 to 7 p.m. on these Wednesdays:

- November 10
- November 17
- December 1
- December 8

To make a vaccine appointment, visit wwwbit.ly/3lhzaTN

By November 9 the district will announce whether vaccines for children age 5 to 11 will be available at the November 10 and 17 GHS events.

Pfizer will be the booster offered for those who qualify:

- age 65 and older
- age 18+ with certain medical conditions
- residents of long-term care facilities
- people in high-risk professions: healthcare workers, firefighters, police, congregate care staff; education staff and daycare workers; food and agriculture workers; manufacturing workers; corrections workers; U.S. Postal Service workers; and public transit workers.

"We are grateful to Clackamas County Health, Providence Health Services, and the Gladstone Fire Department for partnering in this," said Superintendent Bob Stewart.

Elementary school amps up exercise

Students in grades K-5 are getting added exercise each week thanks to new funding from Oregon's Student Investment Account.

The goal is increasing physical activity and mental well-being to counter the stresses of the pandemic.

Students now attend P.E. classes up to three times weekly. They practice pushups, jumping jacks, burpees, and planking, or run laps and learn ball skills like throwing and blocking.

Students also get a healthy dose of daily outdoor exercise, with organized activities like kickball, red light/green light, wall ball, and freeze tag.



Discovery builds kindergarten social skills

To counteract pandemic isolation, the kindergarten program has introduced a Discovery class to build social-emotional skills.

As they play, teacher Rachel Gannon asks guiding questions to help children build communication, observation, and thinking skills.

Students visit Discovery twice a week in groups of 10-12, choosing their own small group activity.

- **Maker Space** -- design and building
- **Light Table** -- patterns and colors
- **Art Center** -- creating with clay
- **Reading Corner** -- sharing books
- **Big World** -- construction with large blocks
- **Small World** -- dramatic play with animals and figurines
- **Loose Part Collage** -- designing patterns and images
- **Looking Closely** -- observing and asking questions

"They are learning core skills that help us live fulfilling, connected lives -- autonomy, problem-solving, and exploration," she said. "My hope is that children develop a joy in learning and identify themselves as investigators and communicators."

The program provides teachers with different ways to understand what individual students need in the classroom. Once children learn social-emotional skills like collaboration and compromise, they are more likely to succeed academically.

The Glad Report is published by Gladstone Schools to keep our community informed of school happenings.

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Gladstone Schools

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