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**Gladstone High engineering program takes off**

Career-technical learning opportunities at Gladstone High School continue to expand with the addition of a new engineering program. The program includes classes in engineering technology, robotics, and renewable energy to prepare students for both careers in the trades and university engineering programs.

Engineering Technology classes teach students hands-on skills in manufacturing processes, industry standards, applied mechanisms, mechanical fabrication, electrical systems, robotics, pneumatics, hydraulics, and household electrical systems. Students apply their skills in researching, designing, and constructing a hovercraft and a can crusher. Each student is placed on a project team and becomes a subject matter expert on selected technical learning systems.

Robotics students learn the fundamentals of robot design, construction, and programming. They build robots that can follow lines, solve mazes, and react to their environment.

Renewable energy students explore clean electron energy technology through a lab and theory class, with a focus on clean energy systems such as wind turbines, solar PV and hydrogen fuel cell sources.

“We’ve had students who went on to apprentice in machine shops, and others hired by Boeing, which provided them with a 4-year college education at company expense,” said teacher Mike Leone. “Whether they are interested in local employers like Precision Castparts or pursuing a college engineering degree, the program provides excellent preparation and a wealth of practical, hands-on experience.”

**PHOTO: Engineering students at Gladstone High are constructing a functioning hovercraft powered by leaf blowers and fans.**

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**Gladstone seeks volunteers for Lunch Buddy program**

If your New Year's Resolution includes volunteering, please consider being a lunch buddy for a student at John Wetten Elementary School. The program matches each adult volunteer with an elementary student to provide friendship, support and positive role modeling by having lunch and spending special time together at recess once a week or twice a month during the school year.

Nationally, studies of students who meet regularly with a mentor show that:

- 64% develop more positive attitudes toward school
- 59% achieve higher grades
- 46% are less likely to start using illegal drugs
- 27% are less likely to start drinking
- 33% are less likely to engage in violence

“There are many students waiting for a lunch buddy mentor but not enough volunteers to meet the need,” said Volunteer Coordinator Theresa Schmidt.

To volunteer, contact Theresa Schmidt at 503-656-6564 or [schmidtt@gladstone.k12.or.us](mailto:schmidtt@gladstone.k12.or.us)

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**Arrow Dental van offers free dental services in Gladstone**

Families with no dental insurance can get free dental care for adults or children at a Gladstone event sponsored by the Arrow Dental van. Families covered by ODS Community Dental or Delta Dental are also welcome. The van will be at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families [18905 Portland Ave.] on January 23 and 24. To make an appointment, call 503.653.4093.

Services include dental cleanings and exams, X-rays, fillings, simple extractions, fluoride treatments, and sealants.