

**NR 1.23.20**

**Gladstone District graduation rate reaches historic high**

The Gladstone District four-year graduation rate is 89.57%, a historic high. The district rate is over 11% higher than 5 years ago, and 9.56% above the state average. Gladstone High School’s graduation rate was 91.25%, among the best in Oregon.

“Over the past three years, new support programs and high-interest electives helped propel our graduation rate,” said Gladstone High principal Kevin Taylor. “Our students, teachers, staff, parents, and community working together have made a real and significant difference in student success. As a small school with big opportunities, we are immensely proud of our students' accomplishments, well above the state average.”

Gladstone again showed strong district wide performance by historically underserved groups. In 2019, nearly 78% of students with disabilities graduated in 4 years, a rate more than 14% above the state average. That’s a district improvement of nearly 28% in the past five years.

Of Gladstone’s Hispanic/Latino students, 84.62% graduated in four years, a rate 8.42% above the state average. That’s a district improvement of 12.62% in the past five years.

Over 82% of the district’s economically disadvantaged students graduated on time, a rate 7.85% above the state average. The district improved their graduation rate 18.77% in the past five years.

"This is a proud day for Gladstone, with a record high graduation rate," said Superintendent Bob Stewart. "While we won't be satisfied until every student has a diploma, we're excited to see the impact of our new support programs and our work on culturally responsive teaching."

**PHOTO: Gladstone High’s Class of 2019 had a four-year graduation rate of 91.25%, one of the best in the state.**

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**GHS students shine at All State Band**

Six students from the Gladstone High School Band joined the ranks of 150 outstanding musicians from across Oregon for the State Symphonic Band performance at the recent Oregon Music Educator Association conference in Eugene.

The group included Kallie Obermire [flute], Izzy Rizzuti [flute], Jordyn Layton [clarinet], Trevor Leach [trombone], Braedon Akers [tuba], and Grace Christiansen [flute].

“These students rehearsed for 17 hours under the direction of Dr. Paul Popiel from Kansas University,” said GHS band director Seth Arnold. “Then they put on a wonderful performance, including music by Gustav Holst and other world-famous composers. I am extremely proud of these talented and hard-working kids.”

**PHOTO: Six musicians from the Gladstone High School Band had the opportunity to perform with the All State band in Eugene. Participants included Jordyn Layton, Izzy Rizzuti, Trevor Leach, Braedon Akers, Grace Christiansen, and Kallie Obermire.**

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### **Gladstone High Key Club hosts blood drive**

The Key Club at Gladstone High School will host a blood drive on Wednesday, January 29 in partnership with the Red Cross. The event will take place from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the school, 18800 Portland Avenue.

In addition to student blood donors, the group invites community members to donate blood. To schedule an online appointment, visit <http://bit.ly/GHSblood>

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### **Kraxberger robotics teams compete**

The two robotics teams from Kraxberger Middle School had a strong start to their competition season after 19-round contest in Philomath.

Team 8132 earned the Think Award for removing engineering obstacles through creative thinking, and Finalist Alliance Award for making it to the final match. Team 8188 earned the Innovate Award for bringing their ideas from concept to reality, and took third place in the Connect Award for connecting with their local STEM community.

“Both teams worked really hard and our robots performed with grace,” said coach Shawn Price. “Now the Gearheads are busy making repairs and working on programming to prepare for the Super Qualifier round.”

**PHOTO: Both robotics teams from Kraxberger Middle School had a strong finish in their first competition of the year, where they won several awards.**