

Grad rate high and rising at Gladstone High

Gladstone’s class of 2017 had a district graduation rate of nearly 86 percent. That is 9 percent over the state average, and more than an 8 percent increase for the district in five years.

"I give credit to our students and teachers working together to achieve this success in the classroom. We've worked hard to address the individual needs of students," said Principal Kevin Taylor. "This year we changed our school schedule to provide daily after school teacher support and also added a new credit recovery program."

Several student groups showed strong increases over time. Special education students had more than a 29 percent increase in graduation rates over the past five years and this year topped the state average by 17 percent.

Gladstone’s economically disadvantaged students made a gain of more than 16 percent in three years, with 2017 graduates beating the state average by nearly 10 percent.

Gladstone boys also had improved graduation rates, with an increase of 13 percent in three years. This year they beat the state average by nearly 9 percent. Underserved races and ethnicities in Gladstone also outpaced the state average, by over 5 percent.

"We are proud to show continuous improvement and achieve a graduation rate among the best in the state," said Superintendent Bob Stewart. "Our goal is that within 3 years our graduation rate will exceed 90 percent. We believe that we have put necessary student supports in place to achieve this goal."

PHOTO: The Gladstone School District had a 2017 graduation rate 9 percent above the state average.

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Rotary donates to Gladstone Backpack Buddies

A \$3,200 grant from Gladstone/Oak Lodge Rotary will provide 14 weekly food deliveries to 75 families with children in Gladstone Schools.

"Our goal is providing nutritious foods so families are stabilized and children learn better," said program coordinator Leslie Robinette. "Need is increasing as rents rise. This generous grant will allow us to expand the number of children we serve."

Partners in the project include Bob’s Red Mill, Dave’s Killer Bread, Gladstone First Baptist Church, The Source Church, The Table Church, Gospel Fellowship Community Church, St. Stephen Lutheran Church, and Gladstone Christian Church.

Photo: Coming soon

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Tooth Taxi serves Gladstone kids

The Tooth Taxi visited the Gladstone Center for Children & Families, providing free dental care to some who had never before visited a dentist.

The program screened 149 children and then provided additional care for 27 people, valued at over \$14,000, including cleanings, fillings and tooth extractions. Most of those served were preschool and kindergarten students.

The program is funded by the OEA Choice Trust, Moda Health, and the Dental Foundation of Oregon.

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