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Gladstone High partners with Oregon Shakespeare Festival

Gladstone High School is launching a new three-year partnership with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival [OSF]. It will bring the school opportunities for teacher training, school performances, student workshops, and student travel to watch performances by the nationally renowned drama company in Ashland.

“Previously, I had written a grant for the initial school visit program, where 2 actors spend the day with students,” said drama teacher Emmett Pearson-Brown. “On that day, our school was invited to apply for the partnership program, and seeing the amazing opportunities it could provide for the school, I jumped at the chance.”

Pearson-Brown and Siri Carlson will attend a weeklong workshop for English and drama instructors, including attendance at five Festival plays. The theater-based training will help them discover ways to make the works of Shakespeare exciting and accessible for students.

Next year, the school will participate in three days of learning with Festival actors designed to expose students to live performances by one of the oldest and most respected theater companies in the nation.

This fall, the teachers will work with Festival artists alongside English and drama faculty from the Gresham and Oregon City School Districts. Together they will find new ways to incorporate Shakespeare’s plays into classroom learning.

In the 2021/2022 school year, OSF will provide a scholarship for 50 Gladstone High students to visit the Festival to attend plays, tour the theaters, and participate in drama workshops with festival actors.

PHOTO: Gladstone High students Isaiah Garcia, Austin Senn, D.J. Adolf, and Sadie Klause participate in a December 2018 drama workshop with actors from the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.