

Kindergarten registration begins April 23

Children who will be age 5 on or before September 1 are invited to enroll for kindergarten for the 2020-21 school year. Online Registration will open on April 23, 2020. The link will be posted on the Gladstone Center for Children and Families [GCCF] website <http://gladstone.k12.or.us/center/>

While there is no registration deadline, families are urged to register as soon as possible so teachers and staff can prepare to welcome new students. If you have any questions, contact school secretary Heidi Smith at smithh@gladstone.k12.or.us or leave a message at 503.496.3939.

“Kindergarten in our small community is a magical time of exploration and hands-on learning,” said GCCF Director Jere Applebee. “Beyond the foundation of math and reading, we want each student’s first school experience to include art, science, music, P.E., play, and social skills.”

The GCCF is a state-of-the-art school designed to meet the unique needs of young learners. Besides classrooms and playgrounds, it offers an array of medical, dental, mental health, and family services located on-site.

Families who reside outside of the Gladstone School District boundaries and may wish to transfer into the Gladstone School District should email Natalie Weninger at weningern@gladstone.k12.or.us

PHOTO: The Reptile Man shares a science lesson with Gladstone kindergarten students.

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Car parade kicks off distance learning

Gladstone educators wanted to do something special to celebrate the first day of their new distance learning program. Honking and cheering, they slowly drove the streets of Gladstone, waving at their students. The car parade came in waves, starting with teachers and staff from John Wetten Elementary and the GCCF. Next came the middle school staff, the high school team, and employees from the district office.

Along the route, families came out to wave from their driveways as the parade went by. The children were excited to see their teachers for the first time since schools closed a month ago. Some decorated their driveways with sidewalk chalk or waved brightly colored signs that said, “We miss you!”

“Because we can’t be together, it’s more important than ever to find ways to connect with our students,” said event organizer Emmett Pearson. “What a fantastic morning! The energy was electric, and it was amazing to see so much support from our students, families, and community.”

PHOTO: A Gladstone student made a colorful sign for school staff participating in the car parade that kicked off the district’s new distance learning program.

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Schools loan computers to students for distance learning

The past two weeks, the Gladstone School District distributed nearly 900 Chromebook computers on loan to students participating in distance learning.

Before distribution, each device had to be gathered from classrooms in four buildings, sanitized, and tested, with the bar code for each device matched to check out paperwork.

Staff distributed devices through a drive through process to minimize social distancing. Walk-up service was also provided.

“A wide range of staff participated, from technology specialists and interpreters to principals, secretaries, and teachers,” said Assistant Superintendent Jeremiah Patterson. “This was a fantastic team effort.”

Student spent their first week of distance learning using online tools like Seesaw and Google Classroom to receive lessons from teachers.

“We’ve been excited to see so many of our students actively participate, including some students who previously struggled to engage in regular classroom learning,” said Kraxberger Assistant Principal Charlie Mikulski.

PHOTO: Technology specialist Jo Strong distributes computers to Gladstone students.

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Gladstone High joins #BeTheLightOR to honor Class of 2020

With an array of senior class celebrations transformed or delayed, Gladstone High School is honoring their Class of 2020 graduates by participating in the statewide #BeTheLightOR campaign.

Each Friday night from now through mid-June, the lights at Dick Baker Stadium will be turned on at 8:20 p.m. [20:20 military time] for 20 minutes to honor and support the Class of 2020 and all our Gladstone students during this trying time.

“We are joining more than 100 schools across Oregon in this each week,” said Athletic Director Cody Aker. “Though we don’t know yet what graduation will look like, this is a way to celebrate our seniors and show them we’re thinking of them.”

Those who pass by to view the lights are asked to maintain social distancing and avoid congregating for the safety of all concerned.

PHOTO: Gladstone High School will light up Dick Baker Stadium each Friday night through mid-June to honor the graduating class of 2020.

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Gladstone District sets 1-day record for free school meals

Last week Gladstone Schools provided 7340 free meals to kids – five breakfasts and five lunches each for 734 people. A record 6,880 of those were distributed in a single day, a big feat for a district with only 1,960 students.

Free meal pickup is provided 9 a.m. to noon each Wednesday at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families [GCCF]. Meals are for any youth age 1 to 18.

To make drive-through distribution go quickly, families are asked to have their trunk or hatch popped open, car doors unlocked, and windows down on arrival so staff can speak to them and load food boxes into cars. Please stay in your car.

Students may pick up food without an adult. Pedestrians may want to bring a wagon or backpack to haul their food because the boxes are heavy, including large cans of food and milk by the gallon.

“We are very grateful to our school cooks, groundskeepers, and other staff who are hustling to order and deliver supplies, prepare food, pack boxes, and load cars,” said Superintendent Bob Stewart. “They were literally running last week to get a record-setting number of meals out the door in a single day.”

PHOTO: A staff member loads free meals and milk into a waiting vehicle at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families.