

Superintendent lunches with students

When you've been a school district leader for 20 years, understanding today's teens can be a challenge. That's why Bob Stewart makes a point to have lunch with a different group of Gladstone High students once each month.

"I talk with six or seven students from a different grade level each month," said Stewart. "It's interesting how different their thinking is at each level."

This month, Stewart shared sandwiches with six sophomores, including some athletes, a few dedicated scholars, and a budding filmmaker. Principal Kevin Taylor and Assistant Superintendent Jeremiah Patterson also joined in the conversation.

The sophomores agreed that in their close-knit school, the best teachers are those who connect, and care about their lives beyond the classroom. They also appreciate the teachers who take extra time to help them work through schoolwork when they feel stressed. They get excited about lessons that relate to real-world issues.

With 35 college-level courses at Gladstone High, by sophomore year, many are already taking Advanced Placement U.S. History. Despite the fast pace and challenging workload, they are proud when they succeed, and hope to take more advanced classes for college credit.

On the flip side of the coin, students emphasized the importance of practical courses that teach life skills such as cooking, managing finances, auto mechanics, and maintaining life balance.

"I talk with such a wide variety of kids, and I always learn a lot about ways we can make Gladstone schools better," said Stewart. "It's important to hear what students are really thinking."

PHOTO: Sophomore Avery Marshall tells Gladstone Superintendent Bob Stewart about the importance of having teens help with community service projects.

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Gladstone invites public to review new science curriculum

The Gladstone School District is recommending the purchase of new education materials for high school science classes. Parents, students, and other community members are invited to review and comment on the curriculum.

"Due to funding cuts, it's been well over a decade since we last had new science

materials in schools,” said Assistant Superintendent Jeremiah Patterson. “We invite the community to come and take a look at what we hope to have in our classrooms.”

Materials will be on display in the School District Board Room, 17789 Webster Road, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays through May 10.

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Gladstone releases school calendar for next year

School attendance boosts student achievement. To help families plan ahead so students don't miss school, Gladstone Schools has released their calendar for the 2017-18 school year. Here is a summary of key dates.

A printable version of the calendar is available here: <http://bit.ly/GSDcalendar>

School start & end dates

- September 5, 2017 -- First school day for grades K-9
- September 6, 2017 -- First school day for grades 10-12
- June 15, 2018 -- Last school day & graduation ceremony

Non-School Days

- October 13 [school closed]
- October 16 [staff work day]
- October 27 [Conferences]
- November 10 [Veteran's Day Holiday]
- November 22-24 [Thanksgiving Break]
- December 1 [report card day]
- December 18 to January 1 [Winter Break]
- January 15 [Martin Luther King, Jr. Day]
- January 29 [staff work day]
- February 19 [President's Day Holiday]
- March 9 [report card day]
- March 26 - 30 [Spring Break 2018]
- April 20 [staff in-service day]
- April 30 [staff work day]
- May 28 [Memorial Day Holiday]