

Parent Blast: 5.7.20

Real-time video now an option for grades 6 to 12

In order to provide the opportunity for group discussions between students and the teacher, teachers may now use live video conferencing for middle school and high school students. The goal is for students to be able to ask questions and interact with each other and with the teacher during distance learning.

Participation in live videoconferences is optional for students. Students participating will be informed of the rules. These sessions will all be recorded to students can view them on their own schedule.

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May 11 is a planning day for teachers

Monday, May 11, will be a planning day for teachers to prepare distance learning. There will be no new assignments given, and no contact from teachers.

If students need to de-stress or do something active, this is a good opportunity for them to take a break, read a book, or take a virtual field trip via a zoo or museum website.

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Register now for fall Kindergarten

Children who will be age 5 on or before September 1 are invited to enroll online for kindergarten for the 2020-21 school year. The link is posted here:

<http://gladstone.k12.or.us/center/>

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.

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Virtual calming room brings stress relief

School nurse Cindy Bakke invites families to sooth stress through a virtual calming room, an online resource that provides visual relaxation, sounds, music and guided meditation.

<https://sites.google.com/pps.net/pps-virtual-calming-room/home>

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Prevent Child Abuse

During these stressful times, it's more important than ever to look out for the safety of the children we interact with. Here are some resources for families:

Keeping Your Family Strong: https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/strong_ts_2020.pdf

Managing Stress: https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/stress_ts_2020.pdf

Oregon Child Abuse Hotline: 1.855.503.SAFE(7233)

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Gladstone freshmen make face shields for first responders

Gladstone High freshmen are learning about the COVID-19 virus. Besides studying the biology of the virus and how it spreads, they are making 70 face shields for the Gladstone Police and Fire Departments.

A team of three teachers teaches the new class in science, design, and manufacturing: digital multimedia teacher Brenden Thwing, science teacher Kevin Zerzan, and construction technology teacher Mike Leone.

Thwing has two of the school's Makerbot 3D printers at home and used them to create face shield parts for relatives who are medics. That gave him the idea to get his students involved through a distance learning assignment.

"We loved the idea of students and staff collaborating to benefit our first responders," said Thwing. "We can't be together in the classroom this spring, but we can still accomplish some important work for our community. That's what this class is all about."

The teachers are following all Personal Protective Equipment Guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control to make the face shield kits, sterilizing everything before mailing the kits to students. The parts are made from a PLA filament safe for disinfecting.

"We are grateful. The willingness of these students to support first responders and city staff demonstrates their innovation and kindness," said Police Chief John Schmerber. "We believe our kids are our future, and that's why we are proud to partner with our schools by assigning Officer Eric Graves as their School Resource Officer."

PHOTO: Teacher Brenden Thwing models one of the face shields his freshmen classes are building to donate to Gladstone first responders.

PHOTO: After learning the biology of the COVID-19 virus and how 3D printers are used to make parts, Gladstone High freshmen assembled facemasks using a sterilized kit sent by mail.

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