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Gladstone expands middle school electives

To increase student engagement in school and to diversity learning opportunities, Kraxberger Middle School will expand daily elective options this fall.

“Electives are fundamental to building staff connections with students,” said Principal Becky Lukens. “Our goal is to highlight individual strengths by providing a rich array of options to meet the needs of students with different learning styles.”

Sixth graders will take a six class rotation: Art, Music, Health, and Physical Education, plus Technology and AVID. The AVID class teaches academic and leadership skills to prepare students for success in high school and college.

Elective options for seventh and eighth grade students include both full-year and trimester-long courses.

“New courses were planned based on a school wide survey of student interests,” said Lukens. “We want kids to have choices they are excited about.”

Full-year, daily options include Choir, Band, Spanish [2 levels], and AVID. Trimester options include Online Comics, Building Things that Move, Chinese, Advanced Art, Business, Digital Media, Family & Consumer Science, and Bike & Skateboard Repair.

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What’s your vision for Gladstone schools?

Gladstone Schools is hosting a series of community conversations about the future of schools. The Oregon Rising events are part of a statewide survey effort to gather input on a vision for public schools.

Parents, community members, and students are invited to attend any event. All forums begin at 6:30 p.m., with free childcare provided.

- **May 19** Kraxberger Middle School: 17777 Webster Road
- **May 25** Gladstone Center for Children & Families: 18905 Portland Avenue
- **May 31** John Wetten Elementary: 250 E. Exeter Street

Those unable to attend are invited to participate in the survey online at www.oregon-rising.org.

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Recreation program offers summer options

Sports or art camp? Drama or driver education? Music lessons or dance classes? Gladstone’s summer recreation program offers dozens of affordable options for families, whether they have toddlers or teens.

Registration is underway at <http://ow.ly/jWUR3007bmy>

For families on a tight budget, several free and low-cost options are available through the Gladstone Library and Gladstone Parks & Recreation. The activities schedule is listed at <http://ow.ly/hukm3007aRj>

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Gladstone Center to host family fun day for tots

Families with small children are invited to Family Fun Day at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families [GCCF]. The event features free activities for children under five and information about Head Start programs, including free preschool.

The event runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 21 at GCCF, 18905 Portland Avenue in Gladstone. For more information, call 503.675.4565.

The fun includes face painting, bubbles, games, and the chance to see a fire engine and police car up close. At 1 p.m., Alexander, Master of Marvels, will present a magic show. Free books, raffle prizes, and a free lunch will also be provided.

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Gladstone students raise funds for schools in Syria

John Wetten's Leopard Leaders joined some JWE elementary classes in the Healing Classrooms Challenge through the non-profit Students Rebuild. Together, the children made 292 pinwheels, raising \$584 to fund schools for children in Syria.

"We are proud of our students for stepping up as global citizens," said Principal Wendy Wilson.