

NR 052318

### **Gladiators bag medals at State track meet**

Gladstone High athletes made a strong showing at the 4A State Track and Field Meet, with several students bringing home medals.

In the Para Athlete competition, junior Adin Williams, who has dwarfism, took first in the 100 meters, as well as second in the 400 meters.

On the boys' team Konnor Hathaway took first in the 800 meters. The 4x100 relay team of Alfred Dorsey, Spencer Boyd, Josiah Bitter, and Deltric Thornton took third. The 4x400 meter relay team had a fifth place finish thanks to Josiah Bitter, Spencer Boyd, Deltric Thornton, and Konnor Hathaway.

Successes on the girls' team included a third place finish in triple jump for Grace Campbell and a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish in 300 hurdles for Brianna Lewis.

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### **Gladstone teacher transforms Spanish class using technology**

How is classroom learning changing with more computers in schools? Gladstone High Spanish teacher Brad Kuntz is a frontrunner in trying new strategies. This fall he created a student-centered classroom program that includes a flipped classroom instructional model, student choice, self-pacing, and gamification.

First, Kuntz created a series of on-line video lessons and activities that students can work through independently on Chromebook computers.

"The flipped classroom model changes the teacher's role from the sage on the stage to the guide on the side," said Kuntz. "Delivering more content electronically freed me up to circulate through the classroom to work one-on-one with students who need help."

Each unit offers several levels of difficulty, allowing students to challenge themselves and build skills at their own pace. Advanced students could move through coursework by starting at a higher level, and students who need more practice to master a concept can get more practice before moving on.

Kuntz knew a game-like instructional model would engage students through competition, encouraging them to challenge themselves and stay on task. He designed his course around the theme of a trip through Ecuador, with each language lesson focused on a different location.

Cultural topics related to each location were embedded in the curriculum with maps, photos, and videos. The more challenging the lesson or test, the more miles a student

earns, allowing them to “level up” from sightseer or tourist to backpacker or trailblazer as they move through the journey.

The benefits of this instructional model include more time for one-on-one student/teacher interactions, the opportunity for advanced or academically-challenged students to move at their own pace, and increased student engagement through student choice and a competitive aspect.

“Most students — over 84 percent — were really happy with the program, and 75 percent did better on tests using this instructional model,” said Kuntz. “I really had students engaged because it was new, exciting, and different.”

**PHOTO: Gladstone High freshmen Cierra Hunter-Flynn [left] and Joanna Mitzel learn Spanish using self-paced online curriculum developed by teacher Brad Kuntz.**

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**Summer recreation program offers sports, arts, day camps**

Gladstone’s community schools program offers low-cost summer classes, day camps, and activities for children, teens, and adults.

Youth classes range from theater, guitar, hip-hop and ballet to martial arts, sports camps, day camps, driver education, and babysitting classes.

Adult courses include watercolor, mosaics, and garden art as well as canning, yoga, first aid, investing, ukulele, and much more.

To register, visit [www.gladstone.k12.or.us](http://www.gladstone.k12.or.us) or call 503.650.2570.

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**Gladstone High students tour public works**

Environmental Science students from Gladstone High School toured the City of Gladstone’s Public Works Department. They had a chance to learn more about the environmental issues surrounding the management of sewer systems, storm water management, roads, road sanding and leaf pickup.

“This tour provided opportunities to explore careers in public works, while also helping students understand the ways a city’s basic services impact our environment,” said science teacher Kevin Zerzan.

**PHOTO: Gladstone Water Division employee Jeff Shepherd talks to students from the environmental science class at Gladstone High School.**