



Gladstone Schools Employee Newsletter

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Celebrations

Proficiency builds focus at Kraxberger

Kraxberger Middle School staff are working to build student achievement through an emphasis on proficiency when evaluating student work.

“This strategy shifts the focus from earning points to mastering the concept,” explained Principal Nancy Bailey. “Students realize that if they do not demonstrate proficiency the first time they are assessed, they keep working until they do. In addition to increasing academic content knowledge, students gain skills in responsibility and perseverance.” Here’s how it works:

- 1) **Students get added chances to show proficiency** when they have completed an agreed-upon study plan.
- 2) **Grades are based on mastery** of the learning goal, not behavior. Students don’t pass or fail based on extra credit, attendance, or participation.
- 3) **Additional help** to achieve proficiency is available before and after school.

“Over time, we help each student develop as a self-directed learner,” Bailey said. “This strategy is preparing kids to strive for excellence in high school challenges.”

GHS graduation rates rise, rival state’s best

In 2013, graduation rates at Gladstone High (GHS) increased to 84 percent, up 5 percent from last year, and 15 percent over Oregon’s current state average of 69 percent. GHS graduation rates rival Riverdale, Wilson, Lincoln, and Clackamas.

At GHS, 95 percent of Latino students graduated on time, vs. 61 percent statewide. In addition, 86 percent of low-income students graduated on time, compared with 60 percent statewide.

At GHS, 58 percent of Special Education students graduated in 4 years with a regular diploma, surpassing the state average of 37 percent.

“As a small school, we have a personal connection with each student,” said Vice Principal Patti Alexander. “We are relentless in supporting our students and urging each one to meet requirements.”

By making Saturday School a weekly opportunity, Principal Natalie Osburn School hopes to help even more students graduate on time.

\$80,000 grant builds trauma resilience at John Wetten

An \$80,000 grant from CareOregon will launch a ground breaking effort at John Wetten, supporting students who suffered traumatic events in early childhood. The project goal is improving health and learning.

A Kaiser Permanente study in 1995-97 revealed that individuals who faced childhood experiences such as abuse or domestic violence have dramatically increased life-long risks from health issues and depression.

Principal Wendy Wilson has been studying education and counseling strategies to help students coping with ACEs. Research has shown that constant stress impacts brain development in young children.

“Children are impacted by toxic stress in different ways. Some have difficulty regulating emotions, while others show attention-deficit syndrome, impulsivity, or extreme passivity,” explained Wilson. “For these children to develop in healthy ways, they need connections to caring mentors and strategies to self-regulate their emotions, behaviors, and attention.”

The project will help Wetten educators learn trauma-sensitive, strengths-based classroom approaches.

Calendar

School Board Meeting
@ 6:30 p.m. March 12

Kindergarten assessment shows value of GCCF

Are Gladstone children ready for kindergarten? Data from the state’s new kindergarten assessment shows that on kindergarten entry, Gladstone kids knew more letter names and sounds, and correctly answered more basic math problems than children in communities without extensive early childhood programs.

“Oregon’s new kindergarten assessment is a call to action for communities to prepare children for the social skills, self-control, and pre-academic skills needed for success in modern kindergarten,” said Lennie Bjornsen, Director of Student and Family Support.

“By supporting parents and meeting the most basic needs of families, we boost the odds for children to develop on track,” explained GCCF Director Don Brown. “We are working alongside agencies and care providers to get more kids ready for kindergarten, and we are excited to see some early indications that this collaboration has paid off.”

Brown added that the new assessment is a catalyst for planning, innovation, and ultimately better kindergarten preparation.

Board News & Employee News

From the February 12 Board meeting

Board Members present :

Kristin Eaton, Chair
Sharon Soliday, Vice Chair
Rod Cole
Susan Cronin
Jay Schmidt
Bruce Wadsworth

The Board:

- Discussed art work made by kindergarten students.
- Approved a travel request for the Gladstone High baseball team to travel to a tournament in Newport.
- Approved a travel request for the Gladstone High softball team to travel to a tournament in Newport.
- Approved a notice of intent not to withdraw from the Clackamas ESD.
- Approved personnel changes.
- Heard about recent happenings at Gladstone High from student representative Cassidy Olsen-Schulz, who requested a change in reimbursement procedures for student funds, given that not every student has the ability to personally front the costs for large events such as a dance.
- Heard reports from school and district administrators on recent efforts and successes.
- Received the monthly financial report, and a change in the district insurance coverage that will result in cost savings of \$1,000.
- Appointed an alternate member to the Budget Committee.
- Discussed the results of the Kindergarten Assessment.
- Discussed district graduation data.
- Discussed language changes to policy as part of the second reading of policies on Injury/Illness Reports, Graduation Requirements, Restraint and Seclusion, and Administering Injectable Medicines to Students.

Kudos from our Community

“With the permission of the person who took the video of the staff/teachers during the spirit week assembly, I would like to send the video in to KATU news, have a reference of what happens at Gladstone High, and show off how much the teachers interact with the student body. I want to express what a good environment GHS truly is, and how it’s not just a learning institution, but also a place where kids truly want to be.”

-- GHS student

“Gladstone High School has an amazing staff and fantastic teachers. My child is very supported and is thriving. Grades on assignments are entered into the online grading system. If I have any questions, my emails or phone calls are returned promptly. We have only had positive experiences.” — GHS parent

“My daughter has dyslexia and ADHD with testing anxiety. In the year it took to have her treated and diagnosed, every one of her teachers went the extra mile to help her succeed. They watched her take tests to get insight into her testing issues. They orally tested her, and they retested her. This was all without a diagnosis -- no 504 or IEP in place. This was simply extraordinary teachers going the extra mile. I simply can’t say enough guys about Gladstone, the teachers and administrative staff.” — Gladstone district parent

211 info links families to support

For educators seeking support resources for families and students, calling 211 for information is an easy way to track down local supports for family stability and youth development success, or parenting advice for every age and stage.