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Harrisburg School District



May 14
District Board meeting

May 17
High School Green day

May 22
Budget Committee meeting

May 29
Budget Committee Hearing

June 10
High School Graduation

June 11
District Board meeting

June 12
8th grade promotion

June 14
Last Day of school



Spring

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THOUGHTS FROM THE Superintendent

The end of the school year is fast approaching. Every year in April and May we must administer the state assessment to our 3-8th grade and 11th grade students in Language Arts, math and science. We will assess all students through the 10th grade using the Measuring Academic Progress, (MAP) assessment towards the end of May.

Harrisburg School District core beliefs are Inspired Opportunities, Collaboration and Effort, Cultivate Character and Invest for Success. These beliefs along with the mission statement helped us develop strategic goals and performance indicators. One of our goals is centered on attendance where we believe every student will attend 95% or more school days. Two years ago Harrisburg School District was in the top ten districts in Oregon for students with chronic absences. I can proudly say we are no longer on the top ten list for chronic absences. Our elementary school attendance rate through March is 94.04% that is up from last year at this time. Our middle school attendance rate was 95.6% for 6th grade, 95% for 7th grade and 93.4% for 8th grade. This is a vast improvement from one year ago. The high school average attendance thus far is 91.87%.

Students should miss no more than 7-8 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful and on track to graduation. Attendance is an important life skill that will help your child graduate from college and keep a job. We will reward students at the end of the school year who have met the strive for five or less days absence.

The Harrisburg School District budget will be presented at our first budget meeting on Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. This budget will include a few reductions from this past year due to enrollment decline, budget shortfalls from 2017-18 and the need to increase our contingency fund for increased bond rating.

Harrisburg School District recently learned we were awarded our seismic rehabilitation grant for the high school and multi—purpose room. The total dollar amount of the grant is \$2,499,530. This is very exciting for the school district. We will wait to see what happens with the bond election next week before beginning any work with contractors.

I want to thank the parent clubs at both our elementary and middle schools. Your work on activities and fundraisers can go unnoticed and all of us appreciate your volunteerism to make our schools great. The elementary school carnival was a huge success once again thanks to our parent club.

Our dedicated staff care about the students who walk through our front doors everyday. Thank you for partnering with us as your children grow. It is truly an honor to serve as Superintendent of Harrisburg Schools.

Go Eagles!!

Summer Food Program

We will begin serving breakfast and lunch Monday, June 18 through Thursday, August 2, 2018.

Breakfast will be 8:30—9 a.m. Monday through Thursday
Lunch will be 11:30—12:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday

May 7-10 Teacher Appreciation Week

To celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week, I would like to spotlight the wonderful educators we have in our school district who are making a difference in the lives of students. It's hard to find anyone who doesn't have a soft spot for a beloved educator. Like firefighters and pediatricians, in this partisan time they are one of the few professions with high approval ratings.

Yet many wonder what makes a good teacher. It's a job that defies description, because most of the educators we remember fondly stepped beyond the bounds of the professional definition of the job. They had so much joy for Shakespeare that it seeped out of them and into you. They were able to sneak hard learning past you with enjoyable, understandable chunks. They stopped you on your way out of class to ask if you are okay. They complimented your work. They opened a window to the world of adulthood and all the knowledge, doubt, beauty and terror that resides there.

Teachers teach skills. Sometimes those skills are letters and numbers, multiplication tables and vocabulary, laws of science and important historical dates. Sometimes those skills are passion, determination, thirst for knowledge, social and group interaction, a sense of self-worth and esteem.

A good teacher marries both. They impart and perfect the little building blocks of knowledge that allow us to master the basic skills needed to successfully navigate the world. But they also impart the ineffable traits that makes us good human beings, and push us down the path that will hopefully bring us happiness and contentedness.

As you think of that standout teacher or your son/daughters current teachers, lets remember to honor the daily sacrifice they make to work with the youth of the Harrisburg community. To all of the educators in Harrisburg School District, we thank you for teaching our kids.