

*Inspiring today's students to meet tomorrow's challenges*

# KLAMATH COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT



**2018-19**

## **Annual Report**

6,679 students. 410 high school graduates. 1,101 employees.  
23 schools. \$103.8 million annual budget. **#ProudtobeKCSD.**

# Klamath County School District ANNUAL REPORT



DENISE KANDRA, Board Chair

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The 2018-2019 school year has been one of transition and positive change for Klamath County School District. In July, Glen Szymoniak came to us from Alaska and began his first year as superintendent. Superintendent Szymoniak has done an outstanding job in his new position and facilitated the district's smooth transition under new leadership. The board is very pleased with Glen's performance and has complete confidence in his abilities to lead our district, continue our successes and create opportunities for growth.

In the coming year we look forward to working with Superintendent Szymoniak, administration, staff and community members in the development of the KCSD Strategic Plan. Through this plan, we will be committing to work strategically to improve our performance, provide safe learning environments and infrastructure, and seek innovative approaches to learning. We are extremely proud of our dedicated staff and students and their many accomplishments this year; our success as a district is a direct result of their hard work and perseverance.

We also would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to our many committed parents and community partners. Your support sends a powerful message to our students about the importance of education and we welcome your

continued involvement. The board is committed to providing the best possible education for every student and creating opportunities which allow them to thrive and achieve their maximum potential. Student achievement and quality instruction remain our highest priorities.

The KCSD Board of Directors strongly believes communication with our community is a critical factor in helping the district achieve its goal of a 100 percent graduation rate. The board invites stakeholders to stay informed about district governance by attending school board meetings. We meet the third Thursday of each month, with certain exceptions. The public is invited to attend and to offer public comment. The exact meeting schedule can be found below and on the district website at [www.kcsd.k12.or.us](http://www.kcsd.k12.or.us).

We hope you enjoy this publication and we look forward to another great year here at Klamath County School District.

*Denise Kandra*



Jill O'Donnell



John Rademacher



Steve Lowell



Robert Moore

## OUR DISTRICT BY THE NUMBERS

Our student enrollment has climbed steadily since 2014, increasing by 8 percent between May 2014 and May 2019. Our 23 schools include 12 elementaries, four 7th-12th grade junior-senior high schools, two junior highs, two high schools, an alternative high school and a charter school. We also offer an independent living and job skills training program for special needs students.

**\$103.8 million**  
2018-19 FISCAL  
YEAR BUDGET

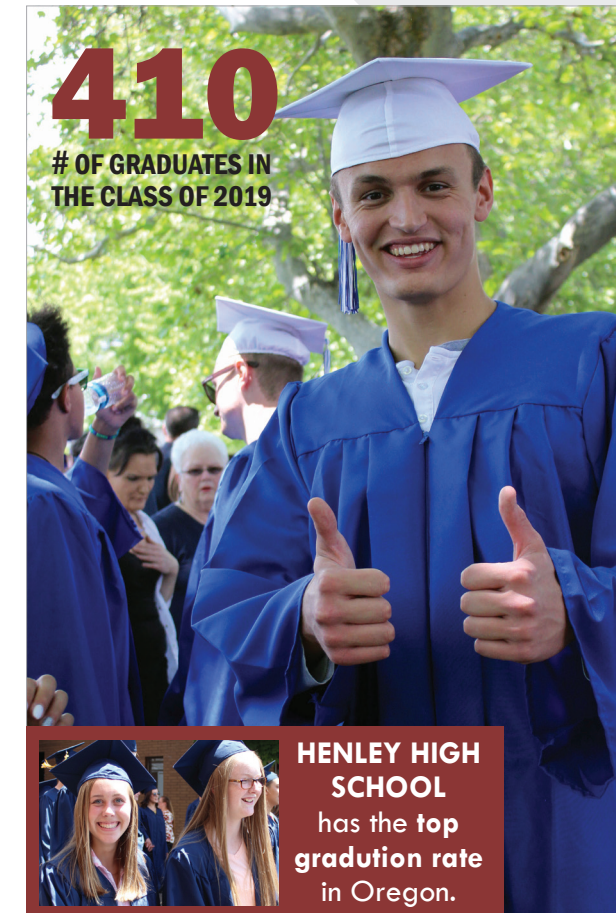
**6,679**  
STUDENT ENROLLMENT  
AS OF MAY 1, 2019

**1,101**  
NUMBER OF SCHOOL  
DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

**1,106,460**  
STUDENT MEALS  
SERVED IN 2018-19

**93.15%**  
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE RATE  
FOR ALL DISTRICT STUDENTS

**1.4 million**  
ANNUAL MILES LOGGED  
BY SCHOOL BUSES



**Klamath County School District**  
**CLASS OF 2019**

- 410** Estimated number of students earning a high school diploma
- 149** Number who plan to attend a two-year community college
- 103** Number who plan to attend a four-year college or university
- 75** Number who plan to enter the workforce
- 39** Number who plan to join the military
- 16** Number who plan to get vocational training

Numbers do not include plans of all graduates.

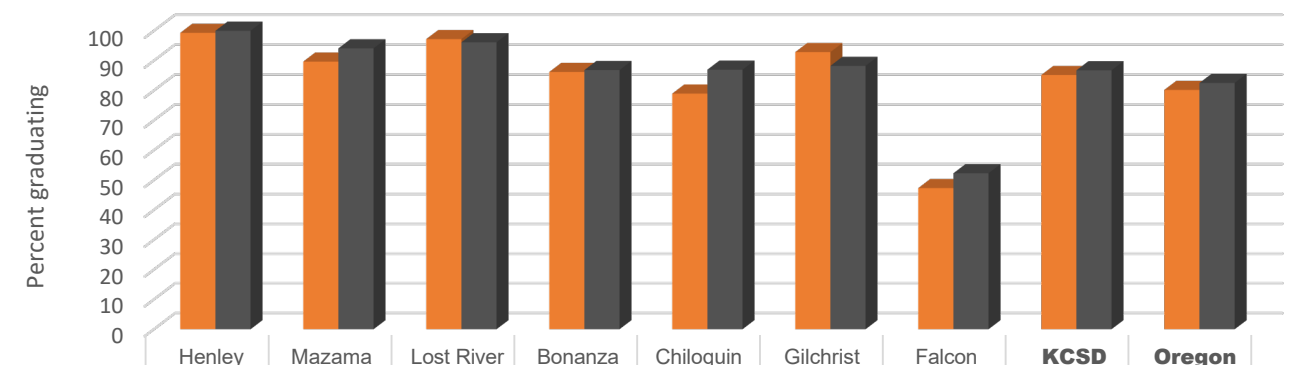
## 2019-20 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings begin at 5 p.m. at the KCSD Central Office, 2845 Greensprings Drive.

- July 18, 2019
- August 15, 2019
- September 19, 2019
- October 10, 2019
- November 21, 2019
- December: No meeting
- January 9, 2020
- February 20, 2020
- March 12, 2020
- April 16, 2020
- May 21, 2020
- June 18, 2020

## Klamath County School District graduation rates

Four-year cohort completers: The percentage of students who earned a standard high school diploma as well as those who were awarded an extended high school diploma or GED.



\* Falcon Heights is the district's alternative high school for students who are behind in credits or at risk of dropping out. It also offers GEDs.

## ANNUAL GOALS



GLEN SZYMONIAK

### MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

**As we close out the 2018-19 school year, I want to acknowledge the community, our students, and our staff** for a remarkable year. This year, more than 400 students earned their high school diplomas from the Klamath County School District.

Many people throughout the community, most notably our families, educators, and partners have supported our students along their journey from kindergarten to graduation. The Klamath Promise is an organization of community partners whose mission is to support the two local school districts in reaching our shared goal of a 100% graduation rate. These partnerships and community support continue to make a significant impact on our students. The Klamath County School District graduation rate exceeds the state graduation rate and has steadily increased over the past four years. This year, Henley High School had the highest graduation rate in Oregon.

**Klamath County School District enrollment has grown by 500 students and 50 employees in the past five years.** This growth has contributed to the community in jobs and district improvement. In 2013, voters passed a \$31 million bond to build new classrooms and repair aging facilities. District employees and local contractors did the work, and the projects came in under budget, allowing the district to leverage funds for seven additional projects, including lighting at Mazama, a bus loop at Henley Elementary and new HVAC systems at Lost River and Merrill.

It is important for taxpayers and stakeholders to know that we work hard to secure outside money in the form of grants and

special allocations to enhance our district. Seismic grants submitted by the district have brought in more than \$7.5 million from the state to improve the safety of our buildings. Writing a bill and working with our state representatives to lobby the Legislature for rural small schools funding resulted in preserving about \$2.5 million per year.

**Looking ahead, I am excited about our new district committees.** Working with administration, committee members will play important leadership roles in areas where they have a professional passion. These committees are intended to build leadership capacity, understanding, and personal investment in the district.

The Klamath County School District Board of Directors and previous Superintendent Greg Thede have been great stewards of public funds, and it is with great pride that I commit to carrying on that tradition. Additionally, it is critical for me to focus on the most vital aspect of our roles as school leaders: making sure we have quality interactions daily with our students.

As you read through this annual report, I will let the photos and articles tell the story. You will see pictures of smiling faces that were the result of hard work and accomplishment. You will see staff and community members passionately investing themselves in students. Most importantly, you will see students determined to forge a positive future for themselves, taking care of each other, and giving back to the community.

Respectfully,

## Resource Management



**Goal: Implement a system for prioritizing major maintenance and minor capital construction of facilities**

In the fall of 2018, a building walk-through was completed in all facilities by the superintendent, maintenance director, and building administrator noting all maintenance issues.

Maintenance issues were prioritized and coded based on:

- Existing threat to health and safety
- Violation or warning
- Phase of ongoing CIP project

- Imminent mechanical system or structure failure
  - Necessary to maintain essential services
  - Project will result in substantial savings
  - Project necessary in next 2-5 years
- Recommendations were made to the school board to approve projects based on the above criteria.

## ANNUAL GOALS

### Legislation: Communication and Community Relations

**Goal: Preserve special funding in state formula for the district's four small high schools.**

According to Oregon Statutes, Klamath County School District would lose approximately \$2.5 million in funding for small rural schools when the district exceeds enrollment of 8,500 average daily membership, weighted (ADMw). Enrollment trends indicate that we would reach that enrollment number next year.

In the fall of 2018, the district initiated communication with legislators by inviting them to a school board meeting to explain the small schools situation and request legislative assistance to increase the allowable enrollment number to 10,500 ADMw.

Rep. E. Werner Reschke was the chief sponsor for HB 2867, which would increase the maximum threshold for the small schools funding. Rep. Mike McLane and Sen. Dennis Linthicum were also sponsors.

Several students from our four small schools affected by the funding testified before the House Committee on Education in support of the bill and, along with the school board, lobbied individual legislators to preserve small schools funding for Klamath County School District.

Throughout the legislative session, Rep. Reschke, KCSD board member Steve Lowell, and the Oregon School Boards As-



Lost River Junior-Senior High School senior Nolan Britton shows a photo of two FFA steers that are part of the school's agriculture and FFA programs during his testimony before the House Committee on Education.

sociation lobbyist monitored and advocated HB 2867, assisting it through the various committees.

On June 19, 2019, HB 2867 passed the final hurdle, the Senate, and was sent to the governor to be signed into law.

## Curriculum Planning and Development

**Goal: Form an "Academic Freedom Committee" to research academic freedom practices and make recommendations to the Board by April 2019.**

In the fall of 2018, applications and a copy of the committee charge were distributed to eligible employees. Members of the committee were selected. At the first meeting, relevant issues were identified. Academic freedom refers to techniques, time, and materials for teaching.



Education Northwest drafted a survey using prompts from committee members. The anonymous survey was distributed to all certified teachers. Results were tabulated by Education Northwest and posted on the district website.

The committee analyzed the results of the survey and found common themes or responses. However, there seemed to be issues surrounding teachers' perceptions and actual expectations of supervisors and the curriculum department.

The solution to addressing the "academic freedom" issue was to clarify expectations for instructional techniques and classroom materials and post it on the district webpage for all to see rather than change language in the negotiated agreement. This solution was reported to the school board at its April meeting.

## Effective Management

**Goal: Implement an effective set of standards for managing student behavior related to student conflict, bullying, and harassment.**

Established expectations with administrators for the training of teachers, students, and parents in addressing student conflict.

1. Train students to exercise their control and not become a victim
2. Always do something if a student needs help
3. Gather evidence, testimony and assure accuracy (provide due process using a student interaction form)
4. Hold each person accountable for their actions

**Goal: Manage transactions more efficiently for lunch payments and student fees.**

In 2019, KCSD implemented an on-line credit card payment system for more efficient handling of transactions and customer satisfaction.

## FINANCIAL EXCELLENCE

# Budgeting for growth

**In 2018-19, KCSD added 8.5 full-time teaching positions to accommodate increasing enrollment.** Last year, 100 more students walked through the doors of our schools, continuing a five-year trend. The budget also included replacing the track at Henley High School, opening a school-based health center on the Mazama High School campus and completing and continuing modular replacement projects at Peterson Elementary and Henley Middle schools.

Next year, the district anticipates an increase of 25 students, and its new budget reflects that. In 2019-2020, the district will add 4.5 full-time teaching positions, purchase new textbooks, increase mental health services, and continue needed maintenance and construction projects.

The \$108 million budget, adopted June 20, funds the district's top priorities, which include controlling class sizes, purchasing updated textbooks, supporting early learning, and continuing capital improvement projects.

It also maintains all programs, including college-aligned pathways, engineering, STEM&M, and co-curricular activities such as FFA, FBLA, DECA, HOSA, drama, yearbook, music and robotics.



The new classroom building at Peterson Elementary School opened in September.

## AWARD-WINNING TEAM



For the fourth year in a row, the Klamath County School District received a **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting** from the Government Finance Officers Association of the U.S and Canada for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. The district was one of 22 of 197 school districts statewide to receive the award, considered to be the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.



Gilchrist seniors walk down Main Street during the Graduation Sensation parade.



Chiloquin Junior-Senior High students and staff greet students as they leave for the day.



Bonanza High School FFA students compete in a regional soils contest.

### 2018-19 BUDGET ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Received multiple seismic grant awards**
  - \$1.5 million for Peterson Elementary
  - \$1.5 million for Henley Middle
  - \$580,910 for Henley Middle cafeteria
  - \$1.5 million, Merrill Elementary
  - \$2.5 million, Henley High's two gyms
  - \$25,000 Technical Assistance Grant
- **Added 8.5 FTE in teaching staff**
- **Opened school-based health center on Mazama High School campus.**
- **Opened GED satellite location at Chiloquin**
- **Completed modular replacement project at Peterson Elementary School; started modular replacement project at Henley Middle School**
- **Established new partnership pathway programs with OIT**
- **Replaced track at Henley High School**
- **Implemented PaySchools on-line and in-person debit credit card program**
- **Nearing completion of \$34.6 million in G.O. Bond projects.**

### 2019-20 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

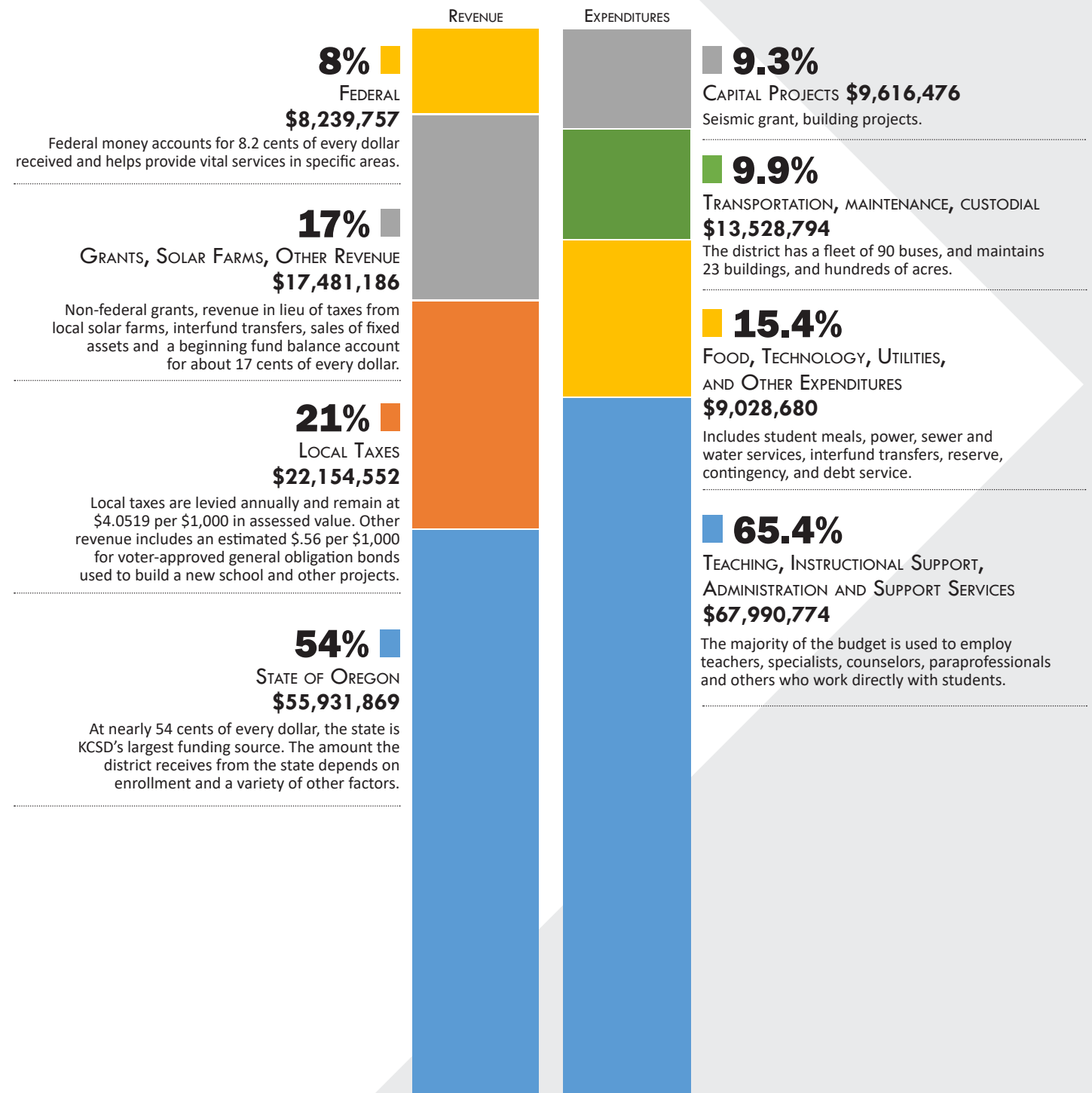
- **Adds 4.5 FTE in teaching staff**
  - Ferguson Elementary (1.0 FTE)
  - Brixner Junior High School (.5 FTE, social studies; .5 FTE, AVID)
  - Falcon Heights (1.0 FTE, 5th- 8th-grade)
  - Henley High School (.5 FTE, social studies)
  - Lost River Junior-Senior High School (.5 FTE, health/math)
  - Mazama High School (.5 FTE, language arts)
- **Covers PERS increase of \$2.5 million**
- **Increases school building allocations (\$300,000)**
- **Funds Chiloquin Big Gym renovation**
- **Funds Bonanza drainage and well house projects**
- **Continues modular replacement program at Stearns Elementary School**
- **Allocates \$25,000 to maintain Play2Learn programs for pre-kindergarteners.**
- **Increases Lutheran Community Services contract for mental health services**
- **Purchases textbooks for elementary science and secondary world language**

## FINANCIAL EXCELLENCE

2018-19 KCSD FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

# \$103.8 million

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?  WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



## INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

**In 2018-19, Klamath County School District** continued to offer dual high school and college credit and work experience courses through partnerships with Klamath Community College and Oregon Institute of Technology. It also continued its partnership with the Oregon Air National Guard at Kingsley Field, which provides on-site tours through Henley High School's Project Lead the Way, an engineering and aerospace curriculum.

A partnership with Oregon State University Klamath Basin Extension Service promoted Farm-to-School education in the district's elementary and high schools.

**The district also started new partnerships** – adding opportunities and programs for its students. The district, Klamath Community College, and the Klamath Tribes joined forces to offer GED courses at Chiloquin High School. Mazama High School piloted Leadership Klamath Youth, a new partnership with the Klamath County Chamber of Commerce. And next year will be a dual college credit business program pathway with Oregon Tech – Diploma to Degree: Jump Into Business.



Henley students who presented at the Project Lead the Way conference in Anaheim are from left: Grace Parker, Sean Wolf, Thys deHoop, Dylan Huynh, Michael Molineaux and Alyssa Michaelis.

### Henley's Project Lead the Way leads the way

**Henley High School's aerospace and engineering programs continued to grow**, earning recognition this year when its students were invited to present at the regional Project Lead the Way educators' conference in Anaheim, Calif. The school was the only one in Oregon and one of five schools in the Western region invited to present at the three-day event. Project Lead the Way provides the curriculum for the district's engineering programs.

The district added the PLTW curriculum in the 2016-17 school year, and in 2018-19, more than 110 of Henley High School's 650 students were involved in engineering classes. In addition, student-led youth outreach programs provided hands-on engineering curriculum to more than 300 elementary and middle school students.

### Growing Farm-to-School

**Lost River Junior-Senior High School implemented a new farm-to-school initiative in 2018-19** in which ag science and FFA students grew their own food – including raising and harvesting two steers – and then served it their school cafeteria. Meghan Miller, agriculture science teacher and FFA advisor, pursued grants and community support needed to raise and harvest the steers and purchase feed and equipment. She applied for and received a \$3,000 National FFA Living-to-Serve grant, which jump-started the programs, and has pursued other grants and community support for the school.

Area farmers and ranchers, once they heard about the program, pitched in with expertise and donations. The school this

## INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS



Forty freshmen signed contracts for Mazama High School's STEM&M program, which partners with OIT so students can study pathways in science, technology, engineering, math and medicine.

year built a barn, installed an underground irrigation line to its pastures and built corrals. A 70-chicken coop provides eggs for the cafeteria. FFA members package and sell eggs at Martin's Food Center as well.

The school also has a pig – which loves to eat pears from the tree that grows on campus – and more than a dozen sheep, which by February had given birth to more than a dozen lambs. The greenhouse also was up and running this year, selling vegetable starts, perennials and hanging baskets.

### STEM&M: Science, Technology, Engineering, Math & Medicine

**Forty freshmen – the largest class so far – signed contracts** this spring and were inducted into Mazama High School's STEM&M program, which partners with Oregon Institute of Technology so students can study specific academic pathways in science, technology, engineering, math and medicine. The students signed contracts stating they will maintain 3.0 GPAs, take four credits of pathway coursework and take 10 STEM&M OIT credits. Students who complete the program, receive \$9,500 in scholarship funds from OIT, preferential selection into some of OIT's competitive programs, and recognition at graduation.

### Mazama pilots Leadership Klamath Youth

**Mazama High School's business program** was chosen to pilot a new Klamath County Chamber of Commerce program that aims to build strong community leaders.

The program mimics the adult Leadership Klamath program, which started 29 years ago and has graduated more than 300



Leadership Klamath Youth students listen to a local rancher talk about his business.

community members. As part of the program, the students spent a day each month touring and learning about a different industry in the Klamath Basin.

Community experts talked to the students about their industries – examples include agriculture, government, and public safety – and gave them a chance to ask questions and get hands-on experiences.



Oregon Tech President Dr. Nagi Naganathan and Klamath County School District Superintendent Glen Szymoniak sign a memorandum of understanding for a new business academic pathway.

### Diploma to Degree: Jump Into Business

**Starting in fall 2019, students interested in business** will be able to take dual high school and college credit courses and participate in an accelerated pathway to a college degree. KCSD this spring signed a memorandum of understanding with Oregon Tech that will allow program participants who enroll in a business program at Oregon Tech after high school graduation to receive seamless transfer of course credit and full tuition discounts on their first term and their last term towards their degree.

Dual credit courses taken as part of the program also would transfer to other Oregon colleges and universities.

## INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS



A group of Chiloquin-area residents form a circle during an activity at the Character Strong event in November at Chiloquin Junior-Senior High School. Character Strong, an organization co-founded by John Norlin, aims to incorporate relationship-building into school curriculum. Chiloquin Schools have adopted the curriculum as part of its Chiloquin Rising initiative.

### Character Strong: Uniting Chiloquin

More than 100 Chiloquin community members joined KCSD students and staff last fall for a district-sponsored all-day training focused on building one-on-one relationships and creating a positive culture in the midst of discouraging stereotypes facing area youth.

The event was facilitated by John Norlin, co-founder of Character Strong, and included circle games aimed at providing participants insight into individual perspectives on different issues.

Chiloquin Junior-Senior High School leaders have worked all year to spearhead positive change using the Character Strong curriculum, which promotes leadership and character development. They also implemented an initiative, Chiloquin Rising, which promotes kindness, personal responsibility, and community service.

The district purchased the Character Strong curriculum with help from a \$150,000 grant acquired as part of the Tribal Attendance Pilot Project.

### New CTE pathway: Farm-to-Table

Mazama High School next fall will offer a new career and technical education pathway in food production and processing, aligning classes with agriculture and culinary arts courses at Klamath Community College.

The new CTE program includes starting an FFA chapter at the school. FFA is a student-run organization that focuses on agriculture science, business, and leadership.

Plans are for horticulture and ag science students to team



Students in Laura Estes' class at Mazama High School work in the school's greenhouse. Next year, students will be able to take classes as part of a pathway in the school's new food production and processing program.

with culinary arts students to grow, raise, process, and produce food, including vegetables, milk, cheese and eggs. Horticulture students began planting vegetables and flowers in the school's greenhouse this spring. Eventually, the program will include raising small animals.

Plans also include expanding Pro Start, the culinary program's catering business for advanced students, and partnering with local businesses.

The courses offered will earn students college credits and certifications as well as high school credits. The new food production will add to the CTE offerings at Mazama, which include automotive, manufacturing and business pathways.

## STAFF HIGHLIGHT: 2019 Crystal Apple Awards

### Nine Klamath County School District teachers and staff earned the district's highest honor, the Crystal Apple Award.

The annual award is given to certified and classified staff who inspire and help students of all backgrounds and abilities. Honorees were nominated by co-workers, community members and current and former students. Meet our 2019 winners.



#### Sergio Cisneros

**Business teacher, FBLA advisor, Mazama High School:** "I have always been a person who has valued a growth mindset when it comes to education," he says. "I tell my students, 'You're not competing against anyone else here, you're focusing on you – where you're starting and where you want to finish, and my job is to help you get from where you are now to where you want to be.'"

#### Willem DeJong

**Bus driver, Bonanza Schools:**

"I love kids so I think my job is great. I enjoy the people I work with, and I love this place," he says. "You try to imagine a world without kids and that's just one miserable world."



#### Robin De Long

**Resource special education teacher, Brixner Junior High School:** "I don't believe in the word can't," she says. "The kids I work with face challenges, but they're very capable so I'm always looking for the positive, helping them develop confidence and to believe in themselves ... My job is to help them figure out how they learn so they can go on to be the best that they can be."

#### Randy Denson

**Head teacher, Klamath County Transition Program:** "We're always trying to figure out other places in the community where we can be and what opportunities they have that can teach us," he says. "It's really about experience. If we can just have three years of a student having the best experience they can, those create opportunities for them after the program."



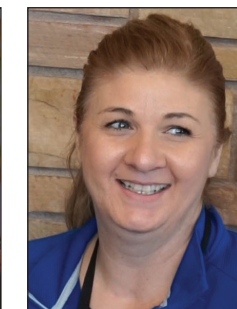
#### Vitalina Malakar

**School-home consultant for migrant and EL students and families:** "Through the years I've been very blessed to meet a lot of families -- families from El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, and of course Mexico," she says. "... I love my job. Working with these families and being their voice, and seeing these students grow and become someone, that's my reward."

#### Dena Morosin

**Fourth-grade teacher, Shasta Elementary School:**

"Perseverance is a big one in our class," she says. "The class has two sayings that relate to that lesson -- 'Got grit?' and 'The struggle is real.' ... That's when real learning happens, when you're struggling. If things come really easy to you then you're not learning so 'the struggle is real' is a big part of my classroom."



#### Chris Rajnus

**Paraprofessional/substitute teacher, Klamath County Transition Program:** "If I can't smile and laugh a handful of times during the day, then I'm doing something wrong. To see one success whether it's small or large ... it makes my day. ... Some take a little longer to process and some just need different ways to learn, so my philosophy is to come and see what the day brings."

#### Geralyn Smith

**Kindergarten teacher, Peterson Elementary School:**

"I believe when a child enters the classroom, they give me their best part and I try to move from there," she says. "I try to find the best part in every kid, and hopefully I can use their skills to guide them to become a life-long learner."



#### Carlos Becerra

**Art teacher, Henley High School:** "When they accomplish something amazing, your heart just explodes, not because you think you taught them something, but because they realize they did something great," he says. "It's just the joy that art brings to kids. There's nothing like it."



**Klamath County School District**  
 2845 Greensprings Drive  
 Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601  
 (541) 883-5000; [www.kcsd.k12.or.us](http://www.kcsd.k12.or.us)

Bonanza Elementary, Bonzana Junior-Senior High, Brixner Junior High, Chiloquin Elementary, Chiloquin Junior-Senior High, Falcon Heights, Ferguson Elementary, Gearhart School, Gilchrist Elementary, Gilchrist Junior-Senior High, Henley Elementary, Henley Middle, Henley High, Keno Elementary, Lost River Junior-Senior High, Malin Elementary, Merrill Elementary, Mazama High, Peterson Elementary, Shasta Elementary, Stearns Elementary, Klamath County Transition Program, Sage School

