

Gladstone schools open their doors to open enrollment

Members of the Gladstone School Board unanimously approved implementation of House Bill 3681 (Open Enrollment) for grades K - 10 in the Gladstone School District at its meeting on February 8th. HB 3681 was enacted by the 2011 legislature and provides an additional method of school choice for Oregon Students with local school districts retaining control of whether to accept students using any of the methods of inter-district transfer. Gladstone School Board Chair, **Denis Whittet**, said his board saw few threats in opening up spots, which could bring more state funding to the district. Superintendent, **Bob Stewart**, said the decision was easy, partly because Gladstone has had an open enrollment agreement with the Oregon City School District since the mid 1990s which provided an opportunity for students reaching 7th grade to transfer between the two districts. "Because of the years we had this involvement and the openness of the enrollment policy, we have a pretty good sense of who actually takes advantage of that opportunity." Following is a recap of what this means for Gladstone schools, as well as answers to some frequently asked questions.

**Students residing within Gladstone School District do not need to apply for admission.
Students can always attend the school district where they live.**

HB 3681 took effect on January 1, 2012, but transfers using HB 3681 will apply to the 2012-2013 school year. Each year by March 1st school districts must announce the number of students they will accept for the next school year; by April 1st students must seek consent from those districts offering transfers. By May 1st school districts must provide a written notice to districts of residence that a student has received consent to transfer. Districts will learn how many of their students have been accepted for transfer to other districts by May 1st of each year.

The school board has determined the number of students the Gladstone School District will receive based on current enrollment, future enrollment projections, budget, staffing, district goals, and local district needs. Each district has the option of announcing they will accept no transfer students.

Kindergarten	35
1 st Grade	31
2 nd Grade	30
3 rd Grade	15
4 th Grade	41
5 th Grade	31
6 th Grade	73
7 th Grade	48
8 th Grade	28
9 th Grade	42
10 th Grade	24

Gladstone has established the capacity for each grade level. The table at the left indicates the available slots for the 2012-13 school year. Families interested in applying to the Gladstone School District should contact the district office at 503-655-2777.
Applications will be accepted until April 1, 2012.

Using the provision of HB 3681, the student's district of residence does not have a say in whether the student can move to a school that has offered a transfer. Bob Stewart said, "I think, in general, people want (their kids) to attend their neighborhood schools. This just gives families another option."

If a district receives more requests than the announced number of students that will be granted transfers, the district must conduct an equitable lottery (random selection process) to select the students that will be granted transfers. Districts must not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ethnicity, national origin, disability, terms of an individual's education program, income level, proficiency in English, or athletic ability.

Once a student has been accepted by a district, the student is considered a resident of that district until the student graduates from high school or enrolls in another school district.



Sports participation issues are the responsibility of the Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) and other interscholastic activities organizations. Districts cannot accept or decline students for transfers on the basis of sports ability.

Districts may choose to limit inter-district transfers via HB 3681 to a particular geographic area. Districts are responsible for transportation within their district boundaries. For questions or further information about HB 3681, please log on to <http://www.ode.state.or.us>, or contact a member of the school board.

Gladstone School Board

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The Gladstone School Board meets the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Gladstone High School demonstration room.

Gladstone High School welcomes exchange students

Mette Christensen is from Als, (pronounced else) Denmark (population 1,000). She finds the City of Gladstone to be very large! Mette is a senior here, but would be a junior in Denmark. She is looking forward to graduating with the Class of 2012 of Gladstone High School and can't wait to wear a cap and gown, since they don't do that in Denmark. She is being hosted by Mike and Amy Volker, Lexie (senior), and Katie, now a sophomore in college. Schools in Denmark start with "zero class" aka kindergarten and go through 11th grade; grade 12 is optional. Students of all age levels are in one school. College consists of three years (equivalent to our senior year and two years at community college).



From there, students go on to attend another college for 4-5 years where they focus on their major. Mette would like to be a lawyer. In Denmark, college is free because citizens pay for it through their taxes - and taxes are very high in Denmark. Mette's favorite classes at Gladstone High School are college-prep chemistry with **Rebecca Chitkowski** and Algebra II with **Lynnda Prom**. When asked what Mette likes most about Gladstone High School, she does not hesitate to say, "people accept each other; that's kind of cool."

Rebecca Romo, is also a senior at Gladstone High School, but would be a junior in her hometown of Mexico City. (She will get to graduate twice!) Unlike Mette, she finds Gladstone to be very small - but thinks Gladstone High School is quite large compared to the private school she attends in her home town. There the entire student body totals about 300 students. Rebecca says private schools are much less expensive than in the U.S. and that more students attend private schools in Mexico than public schools. She is hosted by Bruce and Lana Jones; their children (Emily and Aaron) are graduates of GHS. Mr. Jones is the youth pastor at Gladstone Christian Church, and Rebecca enjoys "hanging out" with the youth groups there. She likes all of her classes here and finds them easier than in Mexico. When asked about some of the differences between our high school and hers, she said they don't have any assemblies, Spirit Week, or announcements - the principal goes from classroom to classroom and gives any announcements in person. Rebecca enjoys working with the youngsters at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families. She is fluent in English and is planning to learn Italian and French so she will know four languages and can become an interpreter.



Johanna Koopmeiners is from Cloppenburg, Germany, population about 33,000. Her host family is David and Tonya Finley and their daughter, Victoria, a GHS junior. Although Johanna is a senior at GHS, she would have been a junior at home. When she returns to Germany after graduating from GHS with the Class of 2012, she will be required to take her junior and senior year before graduating there. Johanna's mother is a teacher at the private school she attends. She said

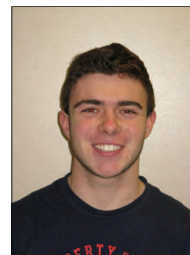


private school is much less expensive in Germany than it is in the U.S. and that it costs an average of \$60 - \$100/month. She finds classes much easier here. In

Germany, classes begin at 8 a.m. and end at 1:15 p.m. Lunch is not served at school. Since students get out so early, they eat when they get home.

Classes run about 45 minutes in length and are very intense and concentrated. Schools in Germany consist of one for kindergarten, one for grades 1 - 4, and another for grades 5 - 12. Johanna loves all her classes at Gladstone High School and is very happy saying, "there's good spirit here!" Plans for the future include attending college to pursue a degree in sports medicine.

John Thovar comes to Gladstone High School as a junior from Badajoz, Spain, population about 28,000. John (or Juan, as he is known in Spain), attends a private school of about 200 students, so GHS seems very large in comparison to what he's used to. He likes it here, finding the students friendly, the atmosphere fun, and the classes easy. As with several of our exchange students, private schools are popular and less expensive than in the states. The government pays for most college expenses and, consequently, almost all students in Spain attend college. John would like to go into engineering. When talking about the differences between GHS and his school back home, John said he goes to school from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. He goes home for lunch and returns to school from 3 - 5 p.m.



There are no sports in school, no Spirit Week, and students spend most of their time studying. John plays soccer after school some days. Students in Spain have no class choices - all take math, literature, PE, chemistry, social studies, physics, English, economics and, in their junior and senior years, they take computer science. Another major difference between our schools is that students remain in the same classroom all day, every day....the teachers move from room to room after each class.

The Glad Report is published by the Gladstone School District
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To view the Glad Report in color, visit www.gladstone.k12.or.us
Click on Community and Glad Report.

GLAD NOTES

The Gladstone Education Foundation welcomes Leslie Everson

Everson is not a new face to Gladstone - or to the foundation board, for that matter. Leslie, her husband Dave, and daughters Allison (GHS '09) and Emily (GHS '11), have lived in Gladstone for 18 years. Leslie served on the Gladstone School Board for eight years, was a member of the Gladstone Education Foundation Board, and has been an active school volunteer and member of the Booster Club. Leslie is a CPA and is currently Audit Manager for Delap LLP in Lake Oswego. In her limited free time, she enjoys traveling, cooking, watching movies, spending time with family, and gardening.



Amber Jensen



Rylee Jones



Molly Webster

Amber Jensen, Gladstone High School junior, was named "Player of the Year for Class 4A all-state girls soccer. **Rylee Jones**, senior, was named to the first team, and **Molly Webster**, freshman, was given an honorable mention as goal keeper.

Gladstone High School's FIRST robotics team was a finalist in the recent Bunny Bot competition hosted by Catlin Gabel (2nd place out of 21 teams). The team led until the finale when alliance members suffered technical trouble. This is the third year the team has competed in this pre-season event. This year they built an omni-directional robot that acted as a bunny bulldozer and single axis nerf gun platform, leveraging a wireless camera feed for tele-operation and aiming. The design the team chose was successful because it respected the "KISS" principle and strategically leveraged its speed and agility. The driver was **Stephen Snellgrove**. The team will be working 3-4 days a week for the next 6 weeks during its "build season" in preparation for the regional competition in March.

Kraxberger students, **Samantha Webb** (trumpet) and **Bailey Green** (clarinet) have been accepted into the Oregon Music Education Association's All-State middle school honor band.

Grants of \$57,700 impact school district

- **The Gray Family Fund at the Oregon Community Foundation** has, once again, provided generous support for Kraxberger's Outdoor School (ODS). They are joined by **Metro**, a new donor to the District. The program is coordinated by **Patti Bisenius**, a 6th grade teacher at Kraxberger. Emphasizing sustainability in the Outdoor School curriculum underscores the District's commitment to increasing awareness and educating students about ways they can help protect and preserve the planet.
- **Target** has provided funds for **Marri Ashley** and her students to "Rock On!" This field trip will test students' rock-climbing skills as a choice for physical activities that promote healthy lifestyles.
- **The Bloomfield Family Foundation** and the **Autzen Foundation** have put the finishing touches on a major acquisition of permanent risers for the Dorothy Sawyer Fine Arts Center. Both foundations contributed to the project initially and then re-upped recently to complete it. **Mandy LeFebvre**, Gladstone High School choir director, then received funds from the **Gladstone Education Foundation** to pay for shipping the remaining parts of the risers. The risers will be assembled and in place this spring.
- **The Summer Lea Hillman Foundation** has, once again, provided support to the District by funding Saturday Opportunity School (aka SOS). This successful program is coordinated by **Patti Alexander**, Vice-Principal of Gladstone High School, and focuses on providing extra help for students who are being challenged by less-than-satisfactory grades in one or more of their classes.
- **The Henry Hillman Foundation** knows how to make **Brad Kuntz** grin! Kuntz, a Spanish and Environmental Learning teacher at Gladstone High School, has been working with his students on a campaign to reduce the use of plastic water bottles. Funds from the Henry Hillman Foundation will be used to install a water refill station in the cafeteria for refilling reusable aluminum bottles. The Hillman Foundations are located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
- A **Boeing** grant will pay for the FIRST robotics team's regional competition event registration and kit parts. The team is headed up by **James Ward**.

Walt Fitch, member of **Oak Grove Rotary**, presented a check to the Gladstone Center for Children & Families to support the Center's Thursday afternoon story hours. Shown left to right: **Susan Trone**, volunteer coordinator; **Kathy Hartlaub**, Center coordinator; and **Walt Fitch**.



Calendar of Events

February

- 9,16,23 Early Childhood Story Hour, 4:15 - 5:30 p.m.
Gladstone Center for Children & Families
- 11 8th Grade Grad Party fundraiser. Can & Bottle
Drive, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Wetten Elementary.
- 13,20,27 Free Parent Empowerment Program, 6 - 8 p.m.
Eastham Community Center, 1404 Seventh Street,
OC (dinner/childcare provided) 503-953-5329
- 16 & 23 Beginning & Adv. English classes, 6 - 7:30 p.m.
John Wetten Elementary Ms. Hoghova 655-3636
- 20 President's Day- NO SCHOOL
- 24 Gladstone High Schools hosts the OMEA District
solo and ensemble festival.

March

- 2 Bingo Night and spaghetti at the Gladstone
Center for Children & Families, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
- 2 Mt. Tabor Choral Festival @ Warner Pacific
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. This is a state-qualifying event.
- 5 & 12 Free Parent Empowerment Program, 6 - 8 p.m.
Eastham Community Center, 1404 Seventh Street,
OC (dinner/childcare provided) 503-953-5329
- 8 8th Grade Grad Party fundraiser. Five Guys
Burger & Fries, 4 - 9 p.m. (15% of proceeds)
- 8 - 10 FIRST Robotics Reg. Competition, Mem. Coliseum
- 9 Inservice Day - NO SCHOOL
- 1,8,15 Early Childhood Story Hour, 4:15 - 5:30 p.m.
Gladstone Center for Children & Families
- 1,8,15 Beginning & Adv. English classes, 6 - 7:30 p.m.
& 22 John Wetten Elementary Ms. Hoghova 655-3636
- 13/15 Wetten Elementary music performance (grades 3
& 5), 7 p.m., Gladstone High School
- 16 'Everybody Reads Day' at Wetten Elementary.
Volunteers are needed for reading to a class.
Angela Johnson 503-656-6564 x 265
- 22 8th Grade Grad Party fundraiser. Noodle & Co.,
4 - 8 p.m. (25% of proceeds)
- 23 Reduction Day - NO SCHOOL
- 26-30 Spring Break - NO SCHOOL

April

- 2 Reduction Day - NO SCHOOL
- 5,12,19 Early Childhood Story Hour, 4:15 - 5:30 p.m.
- & 26 Gladstone Center for Children & Families
- 26 Inservice Day - NO SCHOOL

May

- 3,10 Early Childhood Story Hour, 4:15 - 5:30 p.m.
Gladstone Center for Children & Families
- 25 Reduction Day - NO SCHOOL
- 28 Memorial Day - NO SCHOOL

June

- 4 Baccalaureate, 7 p.m., Gladstone High School
- 6 8th Grad Recognition, 6:30 p.m. Gladstone H.S.
- 7 Graduation, 7:30 p.m., Peter Stott Center, PSU
- 18 Gladstone Education Foundation Annual Golf
Tournament, 1:30 p.m., Stone Creek Golf Club.
Tammy Tracy 503-650-2577.

Come play with us!
Free for all families with children ages birth - 5
Gladstone Center for Children & Families
Mondays 12:15 - 1:45 p.m. & Fridays 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Indoor play park setting with a covered outdoor play area.
Spanish & English speaking.

State rule change regarding OAKS retesting

Gladstone schools are in the process of administering the annual required state OAKS assessments. The Oregon Department of Education allows students to have multiple opportunities to meet state standards and/or to improve their score no matter whether they 'do not meet', 'meet' or 'exceed' on their first test attempt.

Recent action by the State Board of Education allows parents of any student, in grades 3-8 who has already met or exceeded the state standard for their grade, to request that their student not be retested to improve the student's existing score. This action does not change the school's obligation to administer a state test to all students in grades 3-8 at least once each year in each subject.

Requests to not retest must be made using a form that will soon be available at John Wetten Elementary School and Kraxberger Middle School. Completed request forms should be submitted by March 2nd. Additional information will soon be posted on the school district website: www.gladstone.k12.or.us and included in school newsletters. Please contact Susan Olds oldss@gladstone.k12.or.us 503-655-2544 or Bill Stewart stewartw@gladstone.k12.or.us 503-655-2777 if you have questions.

Gladstone Center for Children & Families introduces 'Early Childhood Story Hour'

Beginning February 9th, the Gladstone Center for Children & Families will host a weekly Thursday afternoon Story Hour. The program is designed to include children from birth through kindergarten, accompanied by an adult. In addition to being a time for social interaction, play time, and snacks, Story Hour is a time for children to get pre-reading skills in place with a goal that each of them is reading by the end of 1st grade. Story Hour runs from 4:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. every Thursday, with few exceptions. All children attending will receive a free book to add to their home library. The Gladstone Center for Children & Families is located across from the high school at 18905 Portland Avenue. For further information, contact Heidi Smith at 503-496-3939.