



**All our students can
achieve with Bruin
Pride**

Brookings-Harbor High School

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Mrs. Lisa Dion – Principal
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To: Scott Graves, Editor, Curry Coastal Pilot
From: Lisa Dion, Principal, Brookings-Harbor High School
Re: Op/Ed Submission
Date: February 7, 2017

I agree with the sentiment that was expressed in a recent Curry Coastal Pilot editorial regarding Oregon's overall low graduation rate. There is still much work to do to ensure all of Oregon's students graduate from high school ready for college and career. The official graduation rate for Brookings Harbor High School for the 2015-16 school year is 70.5 percent. This rate was released by the Oregon Department of Education on January 26, 2017, and can be found at this link: <http://www.oregon.gov/ode/reports-and-data/students/Documents/cohortmediafile2015-2016.xlsx> .

So yes, our improved graduation rate is a work in progress, but it is still something to celebrate. This is the first time Brookings-Harbor High School's graduation rate has been out of the low 60s since 2007-2008. Prior to that year, the graduation rate was calculated in a different manner, so accurate comparisons are difficult to determine. Getting past 70 percent means the work we have been doing at BHHS for the last 2.5 years is making a positive difference in the lives of our students. This work has been grueling — it has demanded blood, sweat, and tears from students and staff alike. We are not just changing numbers, we are changing a status quo.

We have no time to waste as we face the urgent need to make sure our students have opportunity and hope for their futures. We are redesigning credit recovery, developing early interventions for at-risk students, reintroducing Career Technical Education programs into the school, and continuing to offer more dual credit college classes.

My unwavering focus is to make sure all Brookings-Harbor High School students succeed.

In order to ensure every student graduates from high school, we need to continue to work together to meet our students' needs. "We" means every student, every family, every staff member in the Brookings-Harbor School District and the community at large. I am inspired by

our students and their willingness to step up to the higher expectations we have set for them in both academics and behavior. Our classrooms are busy places where students are engaged in their learning, asking questions and working hard to find answers. I am inspired by the support that our families and the community shows for our students every day. I am proud of the work our teachers and staff do as they dedicate themselves to ensuring all our students have the opportunity to learn and successfully finish high school.

Over the course of the next few years, I am fully confident that the BHHS graduation rate will continue to improve because the work that we are doing is affecting positive, sustainable change. I will not rest until Brookings-Harbor High School is a high-performing high school, showing excellence in all areas. Bruin Pride!