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Press Release: Brookings-Harbor Celebrates Class of 2018

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BROOKINGS, Ore. -- Brookings-Harbor High School will celebrate the achievement of 108 new graduates at the annual ceremony from 2 to 4 pm. Saturday, June 9, at Elmer Bankus Field, the BHHS football and track and field stadium.

At the ceremony, Principal Lisa Dion, Superintendent Sean Gallagher, and select board members will make the presentations for honors for academic excellence. This year's Valedictorians are Mia Adams and Emma Leonard. Salutatorian is Savannah Goetze.

For the second year in a row, the senior class students selected economics and American government and policy teacher Gregory Scott as "Teacher of the Year." He will share remarks with the graduates, followed by a keynote address from Principal Lisa Dion and Vice Principal Alex Merritt.

Senior Class President Abby Farmer will read the roll call of students receiving diplomas. [To see the full list of this year's graduates and honors](#), visit www.brookings.k12.or.us.

The Class of 2018 is projected to earn the highest graduation rate for the Bruins in a decade, likely to break into the 80th percentile according to BHHS Principal Lisa Dion.

The official four-year graduation rate for Brookings-Harbor High School Class of 2017, released by the Oregon Department of Education in January was 76.98 percent, compared to the statewide rate of 76.65 percent. Last year was the first time that Brookings-Harbor surpassed the statewide average since the state began tracking the graduation rate in its current form in 2008-09.

The Class of 2016 had a graduation rate of 70.50%, but in the previous seven years to that the BHHS graduation rate languished in the low 60s and high 50s percentage-wise for students finishing high school in four years.

According to Principal Dion, the school district has made strides in the past three and a half years toward establishing a graduation culture that starts in elementary school, keeps students on-track along the way in middle school, and focuses on immediate interventions for at-risk students in high school.

The current freshman-on-track rate is more than 90 percent and is a good leading indicator that graduation rates could continue to climb in the near future. In 2013-14, the freshman-on-track rate was just 59.3 percent.

“We’ve realized that the best thing we can do is to make sure that all students pass classes the first time. Our staff gets together and looks at ‘at-risk’ data,” Principal Lisa Dion said. “We work in small groups to come up with interventions to help the student. For example, they might go to the extended school day to get help or peer tutoring, they might be encouraged to work one-on-one with a teacher during their office hours.”

This year, BHHS expanded its extended school day program to three days per week and hired a coordinator for the program to grow and improve efforts to track student progress and get parents involved in success strategies.

“With the progress we’ve made over the last three years in our freshman-on-track and graduation rate, new issues will continue to arise that need to be addressed,” said BHHS Principal Lisa Dion. “From my seat, I feel that there is a ton of work still to do.”

In addition to catching students up, the district has also expanded options for getting ahead with advanced credit and certifications. Dozens of students will graduate on Saturday with more than a high school diploma, having already earned valuable certifications or credits toward college degrees.

Partnerships for dual credit and career training opportunities have been forged with higher education institutions such as Southwestern Oregon Community College, Oregon Institute of Technology, Southern Oregon University, and others. In recent years, additional Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) and Career Technical Education (CTE) classes have been added in addition to the traditional college writing, history and advanced math classes available at the college-level.

At this time, BHHS students can take classes and receive valuable certifications, such as the Allied Health Certificate in partnership with SWOCC, the CompTIA Professional Information Technology certificates, and numerous Graphic and Digital Media Art professional software certificates.

Across the state, students who participate in Career Technical Education (CTE) classes show a higher graduation success rate than their peers, underscoring the importance and impact of the Brookings-Harbor School District’s current investments in growing and improving its CTE

program and career pathway opportunities. This includes joint investments in vocational training classes such as welding with SWOCC.

Mirroring this statewide trend, the 2016-17 four-year graduation rate for BHHS students who participated in CTE classes was 93.02 percent according to Oregon Department of Education data.

“We are now at a ‘new normal,’ which gives us a starting point for continued innovation,” said District Superintendent Sean Gallagher. “We are very excited to be on track to leap past a projected 80 percent four-year graduation rate with the Class of 2018, although we won’t have the final verified numbers from the state until next winter. Our work is to continue to address the question, what will it take to make the next leap past the 90 percent four-year graduation rate? I believe that we are capable of getting there and giving all students the best possible chance for success in school and life.”

Four-Year Graduation Rate Data for Brookings-Harbor School District:

This year’s graduation rate is projected to continue an upward trend.

BHHS GRADUATION RATE ALL STUDENTS
*2017-18 Projected to be 80 to 84% (BHSD data) **

2016-17	76.98%	(76.65% statewide)
2015-16	70.50%	(74.8% statewide)
2014-15	62.20%	(73.8% statewide)
2013-14	63.64%	(72.0% statewide)
2012-13	61.33%	(68.7% statewide)
2011-12	57.42%	(68.4% statewide)
2010-11	63.03%	(67.7% statewide)
2009-10	65.31%	(66.4% statewide)
2008-09	65.60%	(66.2% statewide)

Oregon Department of Education graduation cohort data available at:
<http://www.oregon.gov/ode/reports-and-data/students/Pages/Cohort-Graduation-Rate.aspx>

Brookings-Harbor School District: “Every Student Can Succeed”