Thank you voters for supporting our students and our schools and approving the 2016 school bond!

In November 2016, Gresham-Barlow School District voters approved a $291.17 million bond for capital construction improvements across the district. The bond funds safety improvements, better student access to modern technology, and improves learning environments through upgrades to every school across the district. This quarterly newsletter will highlight key projects and stories to provide the community updates on every project.

www.Gresham-BarlowBond.org
This spring, the Gresham-Barlow School District launched a new pilot project to engage students at all grade levels by partnering with the bond construction firms in an educator-industry exchange. This innovative new program is designed to provide increased collaboration between students and construction crews while ensuring that students receive not only updated learning environments and safety improvements but also an increased awareness of potential career opportunities.

The program has two stated objectives: to allow teachers and industry partners to integrate career exposure into academic programming, and to establish mutually beneficial partnerships between education and industry, which together build workforce development opportunities.

Gresham-Barlow School District’s Career and Technical Education Coordinator Sarah Dorn played a leadership role in putting this program together.

“The framework really focuses on an exchange between industry and teachers,” Dorn said. “Students are benefitting and our teachers and industry partners are benefitting as well to create and develop the curriculum.”

The pilot project has included students at all levels of education across the district. Students at Powell Valley Elementary School were visited by staff from Fortis Construction and asked to design a bench to create an outdoor learning space on the school campus. Students presented their ideas at “Pitch Fest” this past April - the bench will be constructed at an upcoming event this June.

Meanwhile, students at Gordon Russell Middle School (GRMS) have worked with Fortis Construction staff to model and design a house. Four designs by students will be created in a software program allowing students to virtually explore the plans in 3-D.

GRMS STEM Teacher Greg Gonzalez thought that students benefited from the opportunity to apply the skills they use in the classroom to potential real life jobs. “You never know how a project like this will impact the developing minds of young students,” said Gonzalez. “The seeds of interest that are planted in a project like this may grow into future career and life choices that will impact them for years. My students were granted exposure to possible career choices. Is there a future architect or trades worker in my class? The quality of projects that the students produced suggests that there is some true potential out there.”

Lease Crutcher Lewis partnered with two different classes of students from Sam Barlow High School. Students in Barlow’s marketing class visited the Lease Crutcher Lewis office in downtown Portland this past month and designed storefronts for future businesses, while students in the CTE construction class toured the Barlow construction site several times and assisted with pouring concrete.

Dorn is thrilled with the success of the program, and noted that she especially enjoyed watching Powell Valley students collaborate with Fortis’ staff. “Students worked in small teams to design benches, and watching them present their projects was incredible,” said Dorn. “They were professional, the drawings were amazing, and everyone was blown away by what students can accomplish when we give them opportunity and resources.”

DID YOU KNOW?

Over 900 students across the district will be in brand new elementary school classrooms next fall.
Construction progress on major campus renovations across district

1. **Gresham High School**
   - **In progress:**
     - 53 new classrooms to open this fall, including 8 science classrooms
     - New choir, black box theater, auto body shop to open this fall
     - New auditorium to open this winter

2. **Hall Elementary**
   - **In progress:**
     - Eliminate use of portables through capacity expansion
     - Internally locking door hardware at all classrooms
     - Secure front entry and office modifications
     - Construction set to be complete Winter 2020

3. **Hollydale Elementary**
   - **In progress:**
     - Expansion for increased capacity
     - Internally locking door hardware at all classrooms
     - Secure front entry and office modifications
     - Construction set to be complete Winter 2020

4. **Deep Creek - Damascus**
   - **In progress:**
     - Four new classrooms - campus addition, including a multi-purpose science classroom
     - New playground
     - Safety and security improvements throughout the building
     - Construction set to be complete Fall 2019
This month, students at East Gresham Elementary School wrapped up their academic year. When they return this fall, they will arrive to a brand new building, funded by the 2016 Gresham-Barlow School Bond. Kemmie Garrison is a second-grade teacher at East Gresham. Her classroom faced the construction, and her students have watched the new building go up over the last year. “It was literally right out our windows. The students got a close up view every single day,” Ms. Garrison said.

While Ms. Garrison conceded that leaving the old campus was “bittersweet,” she acknowledged that it was time to close the building. The heater and circulation fans were so noisy she had to use a microphone to teach her students. “We had buckets strategically placed in the halls to catch the rainwater that seeps in through the ceiling. It’s time.”

Ms. Garrison is confident that her students will be inspired and proud of their community in the new building next fall. Over 95% of EGES students are on free or reduced lunch, and Garrison believes her students will be more excited to come to school in a brand new building with modern technology and quieter classrooms. “I cannot wait to see the kids faces, especially those that have been going to East Gresham for years,” said Ms. Garrison. “It’ll push our kids to be 21st century learners. I think that’s really exciting as a teacher.”