

## Keizer schools lag behind state averages (mostly)

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
*Of the Keizertimes*

Less than half (three of eight) of Keizer's elementary schools met state averages in language arts and math skills according to report cards issued by the Oregon Department of Education earlier this week.

Only three elementary schools — Clear Lake, Gubser and the Optimum Learning Environment at Forest Ridge — met or exceeded Oregon averages in both categories.

Clear Lake was the high-flyer among Keizer's elementary schools with 71 percent of students meeting or exceeding language arts standards and 67 percent doing the same in math skills. State averages were 51 percent and 43 percent, respectively.

Regular attendance was generally up across Keizer elementary schools in 2018-19.

At the middle school level, both Claggett Creek (CCMS) and Whiteaker middle schools showed high levels of individual student progress. However, CCMS lags behind state averages in both language arts and math skills.

McNary High School is a bright spot for the city despite being graded on different standards. Ninety-two percent of students were on track to graduate after their freshman

year, and 92 percent also completed their diploma or earned a GED within five years. The Celtics also beat state averages in on-time graduation with 86 percent of students making the grade, the state

average is 79 percent. Here's a school-by-school look at scores and some of the relevant circumstances:

### CLEAR LAKE

Clear Lake students showed

high individual student progress in addition to soaring past state averages in language arts and math skills. Language arts skills improved by 5 percent over the previous year and math skills made an enormous

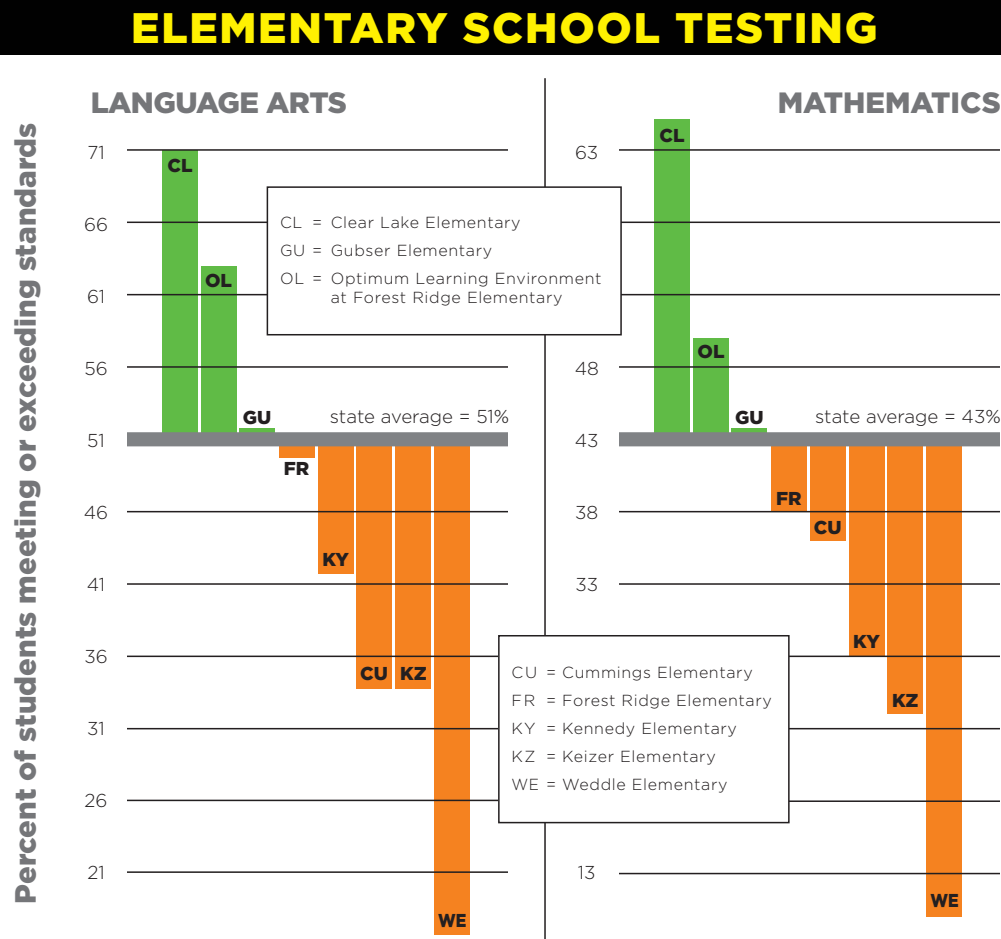
11 percent leap. The school's teachers and administrators managed the feat with one of the largest average class sizes for an elementary school in Keizer (26.5 students) and it was in the top tier of Keizer schools as far as average daily attendance. Clear Lake has the second-lowest number of students on free or reduced lunch programs in Keizer.

### CUMMINGS

Cummings fell below state averages in meeting language arts and math skill standards, 34 percent and 26 percent, respectively. Language arts performance improved by 1 percent over the prior year and math skill performance fell by 5 percent. Students did improve daily attendance by 3 percent last year. Overall individual student progress was rated average in its report card. Nearly 60 percent of students qualify for free or reduced lunch programs at Cummings.

### FOREST RIDGE

Forest Ridge suffered a precipitous 12 percent drop in language arts skills acquisition and increased math performance by 3 percent. Overall, 50 percent of students met or exceeded language arts skills, 38 percent



KEIZERTIMES/Andrew Jackson

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**Softball stars headed to D1 schools**  
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**Breaking ground at Chemawa Station**  
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A motorcycle club thunders down the road in 2018 as part of the parade.

File photo

## Parade hits River Road Saturday

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
*Of the Keizertimes*

The Keizer Chamber of Commerce's Toys and Tinsel Parade hits River Road North Saturday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m., but you should plan to arrive early — possibly very early.

The parade has brought as many as 40,000 additional visitors to Keizer, but In-N-Out will be adding to that traffic count throughout the weekend. The company's Keizer Station location was expected to open Thursday,

Dec. 12, at press time.

"We are encouraging everyone to use the Salem-Keizer Parkway to access River Road," said Danielle Bethell, executive director of the chamber.

There were no forecasts of expected burger traffic, but those seeking burgers, and those seeking the parade and those taking part in both are likely to snarl traffic throughout the city.

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**More of getting to know our neighbors**  
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## MR. WALKER GOES TO WASHINGTON



Submitted

Rep. Kurt Schrader and Jerry Walker, owner of the Salem-Keizer Volcanoes.

By MATT RAWLINGS  
*Of the Keizertimes*

Due to a new proposal from Major League Baseball (MLB), the future of the Salem-Keizer Volcanoes could be in jeopardy.

However, it's clear that the organization, and team owner Jerry Walker, aren't going down without a fight.

On Tuesday, Dec. 3, Walker traveled to Washington D.C. to participate in congressional

efforts to protect the future of the Volcanoes, as well as the other 41 minor league teams across the country that could be facing elimination.

Walker started the day off by meeting with U.S. Rep. Kurt Schrader (D-Ore.). Schrader was one of 105 members of the U.S. House of Representatives that sent a letter last month asking MLB commissioner Rob Manfred to participate in congressional

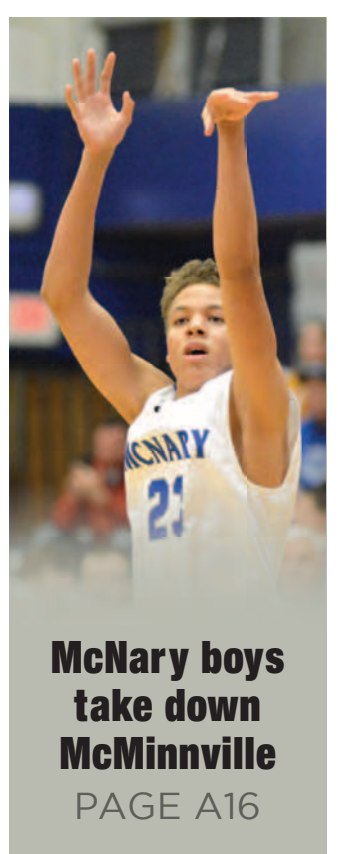
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*'The Snowman's Dance' takes the stage*

KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald

Alisah and Ilesha Brown take flight as part of City Dance Theater's annual *The Snowman's Dance* at McNary High School Saturday, Dec. 7. See Page A3 for more photos.



**McNary boys take down McMinnville**  
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