

Schools move to distance learning, pass-fail grading

By **MATT RAWLINGS**
Of the Keizertimes

After weeks of speculation, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown announced on Wednesday, April 8 that all Oregon schools would be shutting down for the remainder of the year due to the spread of COVID-19.

"The best thing we can do for the health of our children, and thousands of educators across the state, is to give everyone certainty by announcing the decision today to close in-person classes for the remainder of the school year. School and remote learning will continue as best we can using remote means," said Brown during a press conference.

Brown also gave a heartfelt message to the parents of all Oregon students

"We have your kids, and every Oregon student, at the forefront of every decision we make about school. Their health, happiness and safety is a top priority," Brown said.

The Salem-Keizer School District started their distance learning plan on Monday, April 13.

Hours after the announcement, SKSD superintendent Christy Perry sent an email to students and families and sent her condolences to the nearly 3,000 seniors in the district.

"For the Class of 2020 - we see you. There is no world in which this is fair. We will not give up on finding creative ways to honor you and restore every amount of normalcy that we can," Perry said.

Decisions have yet to be made on special events like graduation ceremonies or prom, however, all seniors that were passing courses as of March 13 will receive a pass grade and full credits for those courses — seniors missing their final two months of school are losing less than two percent of their total K-12 education.

"I refuse to punish students because they couldn't attend classes to finish coursework," Brown said.

For those seniors who don't have enough credits as of March 13, the district will be creating individualized distance learning schedules to help students earn credits through the end of the school year to stay on track with the Class of 2020.

For the remainder of the school closure, the district will be moving to a pass, no grade system for all high school students.

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— Gov. Kate Brown

Students K-8 started their distance learning this week, but Perry said that the district "does not expect it to look like the school days we had only a handful of weeks ago."

However, Perry also shared that the priority of the district at this moment are the high school students, not just the seniors.

"We know this is unlike anything we as educators, parents or students have ever seen before. Since this emergency closure began, our priority has been and will continue to be our high school students.

Our educators and administrators are committed to being problem-solvers and partners for our high schoolers so their paths to graduation are not interrupted by this pandemic," Perry said. "We're grateful to our partners in neighboring districts, at the state and in higher education for taking extraordinary measures to help us provide individualized and unique learning opportunities.

Help trash collectors with a few simple precautions

By **ERIC A. HOWALD**
Of the Keizertimes

An interesting side effect of the stay home orders across the state: the realization that part of what we pay for when we go out to eat is not seeing the waste every meal creates.

Alas, for many, stay at home orders are resulting in more trash and Keizer's two waste management companies are noticing an uptick in requests for bulk bins.

"Everyone is home and bored so they're doing spring cleaning," said Greg Dittman, manager of Valley Recycling & Disposal. "Even my wife is on the spring cleaning kick."

Humor aside, the city's waste collectors are taking extra precautions and could use the help of Keizer residents as society battles the spread of COVID-19. Generally, commercial pick-ups are down, but multifamily buildings and long-term care facilities have produced enough to make up for the decrease.

John Sullivan, general manager of Loren's Sanitation, said collectors are wearing gloves that are changed every time they come in contact with open waste.

"We went through 1,200 pairs last week,"

Sullivan said. Collectors typically wear gloves, but the Loren's added an extra layer of precaution along with extra hand sanitizer in every cab. "The main thing we are trying to prevent is cross-contamination."

Loren's serves many of the long-term care facilities in Keizer, including The Oaks at Sherwood Park, the site of a large outbreak of COVID-19.

"At that site, we've asked them for a no-contact pick-up, but all that really means is they open the gate where they keep their bins so we can pick it up without having to handle the bins ourselves," Sullivan said.

The main thing Dittman and Sullivan need is the bagging of all waste going into gray receptacles at the corner.

"That prevents things from coming loose that the guys then have to go out and pick up," Dittman said. "If there are stray bags outside the container, don't be surprised if it's left behind for the next pick-up."

He stressed that bagging only goes for the gray containers, recyclables going in the blue bin should remain loose.

The other thing residents can do is leave extra space between containers at the curb. Collectors will stay safer if they don't have to leave the truck and create space for mechanical arms to lift bins.



puzzle answers

7	9	2	4	6	8	1	5	3
4	6	1	5	2	3	8	9	7
3	5	8	9	1	7	6	2	4
6	8	7	1	4	5	2	3	9
2	4	3	7	9	6	5	1	8
9	1	5	8	3	2	7	4	6
8	3	4	6	5	1	9	7	2
1	7	9	2	8	4	3	6	5
5	2	6	3	7	9	4	8	1

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E	R	I	E	S	P	E	A	R	R	O	L	L	
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