

Seaside students get new online science curriculum

Students learn by doing, not just watching

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Students at Seaside High School will see big changes this fall with a newly adopted science and technology curriculum.

A science program, STEM-scopes, helps kids get experiential learning to meet national standards. A computer science program developed by Microsoft helps students get the kind of computer training needed to understand advanced programming.

The program was developed by teachers and scientists at Rice University in Houston to meet national standards for science, known as the Next Generation Science Standards.

"Teachers were very excited during the training today," Sande Brown, the Seaside School District's curriculum director, said after a teacher training at the high school Wednesday. "We know



Submitted Photo
Clockwise from top left, teachers Erin Meyer, Chuck Albright, Danielle Reese and Toni Paino at a training in Seaside School District's new technology curriculum.

that excitement will translate to the students once school starts. Excited students are engaged students, and engaged students are learning."

The program focuses on connecting science to reading, writing, speaking and math and helps students prepare for careers in science and technology, Brown said. Students learn by doing, not just watch-

ing, and kids work in groups to solve problems.

"We are also excited about this curriculum because it is our school district's first completely online curriculum," Brown said. "By purchasing this online curriculum instead of textbooks, we were able to save money and use some of that money to purchase computers and science materials and

equipment for the classrooms."

Although the curriculum is online, teachers have the flexibility of downloading and printing paper copies of worksheets, information pages or tests online in a program that varies by grade level.

"The focus, however, is to have students doing science, not just be on the computer," Brown said.

'We know that excitement will translate to the students once school starts.'

Sande Brown,
Seaside School District's curriculum director

The text is in both English and Spanish, and the computer can read out loud text in both languages.

The "textbook" language is differentiated by grade level, above grade level, and below grade level so students of a range of reading levels can access the new learning. It also has a connection to news and other books on relevant science topics.

The program is easily updated and the company makes corrections or suggested revisions quickly.

The program focuses on what educators call the "5 E's"

of science education, Brown said: engage, explore, explain, elaborate and evaluate.

"This is a big leap forward in having the new bonus of having an online resource," Seaside School District Superintendent Sheila Roley said.

The school district typically buys new textbooks every seven years. The online component will provide the opportunity for continuous updates, she added.

"The critical thing to take away is that we still believe that science instruction is a process of discovery for students," Roley said. "The heart of the program is still science."

Oregon cleans up a Medicaid eligibility backlog

More than 50,000 removed from program

By CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The Oregon Health Authority said Thursday that it has cleaned up its Medicaid rolls, terminating more than 54,000 people from the program.

In recent months, state auditors raised concerns that the Oregon Health Plan — the Medicaid program that provides health care coverage to the poor and other qualifying groups — was providing benefits to people who no longer qualified.

Oregon Health Plan patients must go through an annual process — called "redetermination" — to have their eligibility confirmed. Oregon had fallen behind on those redeterminations and by late May had a backlog of roughly 115,000 people.

Of that group, the agency announced Thursday that it found that 60,353 people were still eligible for the program.

But 22,937 plan participants were found to no longer qualify, while 31,895 cases were closed due to a lack of response from the recipients.

Altogether, the agency says that the closures due to patients no longer qualifying for the program account for less than 2 percent of the more than 1 million people on the Oregon Health Plan and will not affect the state's two-year budget.

Auditors said in May that each Medicaid enrollee in Oregon costs, on average, about \$430 per month.

Additionally, the agency claims that all current participants are now on a regular review cycle, and a backlog will not continue.

According to the Oregon Health Authority, Oregon Health Plan participants will have their eligibility rechecked automatically by the state's new system, which is an effort to integrate the eligibility determination process for various safety net programs administered by the health authority and the state Department of Human Services.

It seems that the Oregon Health Authority is eager to put the episode behind it. In the report detailing completion of the project, the agency pinned the backlog issue on the failure of Cover Oregon, which was supposed to be a state-run health insurance marketplace. Cover Oregon,

a costly failure under former Gov. John Kitzhaber, was also expected to perform eligibility renewals for Medicaid.

"These nearly 1 million Medicaid renewals conclude and complete the state's recovery from the failure of Cover Oregon," the report said, adding that Cover Oregon's collapse and the dramatic expansion of the state's Medicaid population under the Affordable Care Act "overwhelmed" the state's health system.

The report caps off the tenure of Lynne Saxton, who was asked to resign as the health authority's director by Gov. Kate Brown after revelations of a public relations and media campaign to discredit a Portland-area Medicaid provider surfaced in early August.

Patrick Allen, formerly the head of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, has been named acting director of the health authority.

BROWNSMEAD CORN FEED
SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 10TH
2-6 PM
GET YOUR CHOMPERS READY!
Follow the signs from the Logger Restaurant in Knappa.
Adults \$10
Kids (under 12) \$8
A COMPLETE HAM DINNER AND ALL THE CORN YOU CAN EAT.

In observance of
Labor Day...
WE WILL BE CLOSED
MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 4th
DISPLAY ADVERTISING DEADLINE
Monday & Tuesday editions: **THURSDAY, AUGUST 31ST**
CLASSIFIED DEADLINES:
Monday edition: **10AM, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST**
Tuesday edition: **12PM, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST**
THE DAILY ASTORIAN

BRING IN THIS COUPON FOR
15% OFF
YOUR ENTIRE ORDER!
Expires 9/8/17
FLOWER | CONCENTRATES | EDIBLES
PREROLLS | ACCESSORIES | TOPICALS
MEDICAL RECREATIONAL
hi
Mystic Roots Cannabis
hi Casual Cannabis • 193 Marine Dr., Astoria, OR 97103 • 503.325.4078 • hiAstoria.com
Mystic Roots Cannabis • 38012 Highway 26, Seaside, OR 97138 • 971.225.7420 • MysticRootsCannabis.com

TIMBERLANDS CLOSED
DUE TO HIGH FIRE DANGER
Lewis & Clark Timberlands
are **CLOSED** as of **August 1, 2017** to all public entry and will remain in effect until further notice.
For up-to-date information please call our
RECREATIONAL HOTLINE
503-738-6351 Ext. 2
LEWIS & CLARK
TIMBERLANDS™
MANAGED BY
GREENWOOD RESOURCES®
TIMBERLANDS CLOSED

WANTED
Alder and Maple Saw Logs & Standing Timber
Northwest Hardwoods • Longview, WA
Contact: John Anderson • 360-269-2500

Volunteer
pick of the Week
Gertie
Senior Yellow Labrador Retriever
This sweet girl gives more than enough love to make up for her special needs.
Please call the shelter for details
(More on <http://Petfinder.com/>)
Sponsored By: *Winnipeg-Delano Lumber & Glass*
CLATSOP COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER
1315 SE 19th Street, Warrenton • 861-PETS
www.dogscats.org Noon to 4pm, Tues-Sat

EMERALD HEIGHTS APARTMENTS
Astoria, OR
NEWLY REMODELED
STAINLESS STEEL APPLIANCES
NEW CARPET/VINYL FLOOR
2-BEDROOM APARTMENTS
No smoking or pets
\$770 monthly
All Rents Include: Electricity • Garbage • Water
1/2 OFF FIRST MONTHS RENT
(with credit approval)
AN AFFORDABLE PLACE TO CALL HOME
Monday - Friday 9-5
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY
for more information call **325-8221**
Email: emeraldheights@charter.net
or visit our website: emeraldheightsapartments.com

Your Ticket TO THE
The Oregon Coast
7-Day Pass... **ONLY \$30**
The NW Connector is your ticket to the Oregon Coast. No car, no problem. Bike the coast?...why not! Short stay long stay... okay!
Explore the scenic Oregon Coast with the NW Connector's daily, round trip buses running from Astoria to Yachats. Affordable three and seven-day passes with unlimited **FREE** transfers all along our beautiful coast.
Plan your trip at:
www.nwconnector.net
(Oh yeah...did we mention we've got bike racks?)
nw CONNECTOR