

(Above left) Mahala Spino will graduate from Bridges and go on to earn a bachelor's degree so she can explore a career in film and video editing. (Above right) Chance Stwyer is interested in a career in carpentry.

Leadership Corner

A Message from Rick Molitor
Superintendent



It is with mixed emotions that I write this last message as superintendent for JCSD 509J. It has truly been an honor to partner with staff, students, families and community members to raise the bar for education in Jefferson County. I am proud of the progress we've made and the partnerships we've built to support our kids. There is still much work to be done and I am confident that Ken Parshall's leadership will take us to the next level.

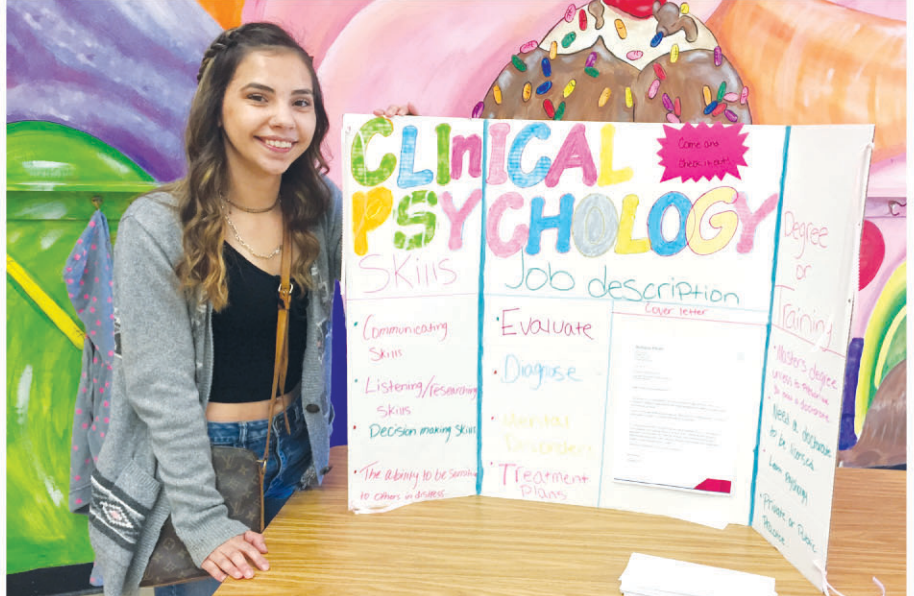
As we wrap up the school year, I'd like to invite and challenge our community members to become champions for equity and excellence in education. Our communities will shine when each and every student succeeds – regardless of his or her cultural, racial or economic background. Our diversity is what makes us great.

With your support and the talent of our JCSD team, I know that all of our students throughout our district can be successful.

Thank you for all of your support. I hope you have a happy and safe summer and I look forward to seeing you around town.

Rick Molitor, JCSD Superintendent

Bridges sophomores get excited about careers



Richayla Elliot is interested in a career as a clinical psychologist.

Local leaders make high school internships possible

Thanks to support from local business and community leaders, Bridges Career and Technical High School students now have access to internships that help them learn job skills and gain experience.

According to BCTHS Principal Caron Smith, the school has been building partnerships with local business owners, EDCO, the Madras Chamber of Commerce, COCC and The High Desert Education Service District's Better Together program to help match students with internship opportunities.

Bridges sophomore Lakin Kurtz recently completed an internship with the Great Earth Deli in Madras. Kurtz is interested in owning her own café or bakery one day.

"It was pretty exciting to be part of the morning baking. I learned a lot of different things like how to bake scones, keep the areas clean and stock shelves."

— Lakin Kurtz, Bridges sophomore

According to Cory Phifer, Great Earth's bread maker who helped supervise Kurtz, she did well at the deli.

"Lakin was very interested in what we were doing and seemed to enjoy the hands on training," said Phifer. "She was good at observing and learning and able to replicate what we were doing. It was a good experience for us and we would definitely be willing to work with an intern again."

"The community support has been incredible," said Smith. "Our local leaders are truly stepping up to support these kids as they explore their futures."

Bridges student Richayla Elliot, who is interested in a career in clinical psychology, also interned with Three Rivers Humane Society.



Lakin Kurtz recently worked as an intern for Great Earth Deli. She plans to own her own café or wedding cake shop in the future.

This month, sophomore students from the new Bridges Career and Technical High School hosted a Career Fair as their final class project. The students dressed to represent the careers that interest them.

Richayla Elliot is interested in a career in clinical psychology. She was inspired by her own experience with anxiety and a counselor who really made a difference in her life.

"I can help other people so they don't feel so alone because I can relate," said Elliot. "There is so much about the brain we don't know and I think it's so interesting,"

Elliot said that before coming to Bridges, she only had two high school credits and had never really thought about what she wanted to do with her future.

"Now I want to get to my doctorate degree," she said.

According to BCTHS Principal Caron Smith, the event pulls together the career and core subject work the students have been doing throughout the school year.

"It has been an amazing first year for our new school and this event helped to showcase how the kids are getting excited about the future and graduating from high school," said Smith.



(Above left) Raelyn Jim excels at drawing and painting and plans to teach art to children.



(Above right) Justin Florez (left) is interested in exploring a career in the music industry specializing in recording and mixing. Ruiben Gonzalez plans to draw on his summer work experience to become a heavy equipment operator.

Students thriving at new Bridges high school

In its first year, the JCSD Bridges Career and Technical High School has made a big difference in the lives of more than 125 students in Madras and Warm Springs. The new high school offers project-based, hands-on learning for students who struggle in a traditional school setting.

"We are working with some amazing students who need help overcoming some big personal challenges," said BCTHS Principal Caron Smith. "Some are dealing with homelessness or difficult personal situations and they need help getting their basic human needs met so they can come to school and learn. At our Bridges campuses in Madras and Warm Springs, we create a safe space where we can meet them where they are and help them build from there."

Smith said the students are learning to work together in a respectful, supportive environment.

"I think I'm doing so much better than I was at Madras High School," said Rosie Benitez, grade 10. "I'm caught up, I turn everything in and I'm getting really good grades thanks to the teachers."

This first year, more than 37 students from Madras and Warm Springs successfully graduated and Smith expects that number to climb as the program grows.

"As we begin working with more sophomores and juniors, we'll be able to support them so they don't fall so far behind," said Smith. "They will also learn how they learn best and that will make a big impact on their confidence and success."

Madras High School Vice Principal HD Weddell has been a close partner with the BCTHS team, helping to identify students early and get them the support they need.

"They really help you and they care," said Bridges 10th grader Richayla Elliot. "I feel more comfortable and I don't feel dumb."

Smith said the Bridges team has enjoyed watching the students grow.

"We're seeing them become more confident. They are starting to believe they are smart enough to graduate from high school and be successful in careers."

— Caron Smith, BCTHS Principal



Rosie Benitez is succeeding at Bridges and plans to attend Phagans Beauty School after she graduates. She wants to open her own salon in the future.

Warm Springs K8 receives \$2.5 million grant

Warm Springs K8 is one of four schools in the Pacific Northwest to receive a \$2.5 million grant to increase STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) learning for Native American students. The project, called ISTEM, is led by the Washington State University team in partnership with three Pacific Northwest Plateau Tribes, including the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (Warm Springs Tribe), the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (Colville Tribe), and the Coeur D'Alene Tribe.

According to WSU research lead and associate professor Paula Groves Price the "I" in ISTEM stands for Indigenous, integrated, iPads and technology, internet, imagination and innovation.

ISTEM entwines tribal knowledge, culture, language and land with western science.



Students at WSK8 learn science and get ready for the solar eclipse by testing a mini-satellite payload.

JCSD Alumni: Where are they now?

Do you know a JCSD alumni who has moved on to college and/or career success? We are looking to feature our graduates in future *Schools in Action* updates. If you know of a former student, contact the District office at (541) 475-6192.

PAC Calendar

July 20
The New Old Time Chautauqua/7 pm

August
21 The 2017 Eclipse Across America



Visit the District website at
jcsd.k12.or.us

Calendar

June
26 School Board Meeting District Office/7 pm