

## Grading

Continued from A1

These hyper-specific rubrics also remove any confusion about why a student earned a particular grade, or how the student can improve, said Steve Stancliff, principal at Pilot Butte Middle School.

"It really clarifies for the family and the student where they're at in regards to a particular criteria," he said. "There's no guess work."

Pilot Butte, which also has instituted standards-based grading for about five years, uses a 0-8 grading scale to better match the schoolwide International Baccalaureate curriculum, Stancliff said.

Standards-based grading doesn't penalize students who start the semester or school year slowly, Stancliff and DuVal said.



Students work on a project in a computer science class in January 2019 at Cascade Middle School in Bend. Bulletin file photo

Projects and tests at the end of the year are weighted more heavily than those at the beginning, to reward students who finally understand a concept, they said.

The system also distinguishes between simple mistakes and completely misunderstanding a concept, said McKae, the math teacher at Cascade. "Not all errors, par-

ticularly in math, are created equal," he said. "So you can have a precision error on a problem versus a conceptual error, and if you grade them the same way, you're not going

to get a sense of where the misunderstanding is."

Bend-La Pine isn't going to immediately force this grading style onto the 10 middle and high schools that don't use it, Legace said. Still, district leadership is hoping to reform secondary grading techniques to create a system that emphasizes knowledge acquisition, rather than solely memorizing answers and being well-behaved.

"It's important to fall of us, as educators, to reflect on, what is the purpose of grading?" Legace said. "I think it's important that a letter grade represents what a student learned at the end of the term."

Sarah Barclay, president of the Bend Education Association teachers' union, said in an email that teachers in the few schools with standards-based

grading support it.

However, if Bend-La Pine wants to institute something similar district-wide, Barclay said that change must happen carefully and with plenty of teacher input. An immediate mandate — like the district's decision on Dec. 1 to not allow teachers to give grades lower than 50% — isn't the best idea, she wrote.

"Our educators are professionals with years of experience, training, and education that must be harnessed to make a systematic change like this successful and meaningful," Barclay wrote. "Educators are asking for a genuine seat at the table for this conversation and (teachers' union) members are not experiencing that at this time."

Reporter: 541-617-7854, jhogan@bendbulletin.com

## Arts

Continued from A1

"He was commenting that over the last three months, he's had something like three gigs or so," Schuurman said. "And so it got me thinking, OK, is there anything that I might be able to do in my own way to help support them? I had been familiar with NPR's Tiny Desk Concert series, and I thought that that might be an interesting model to see if that might work here."

Using equipment he purchased for a documentation project, Family Heritage Connects, he set up a socially distanced studio in his home. The Bulletin got involved, and a donation drive effort in partnership with arts collaborative Scalehouse, the Central Oregon Creative Artists Relief Effort, followed soon after.

The effort will raise donations to help Central Oregon's creative artists — musicians, visual artists, performers and creative workers — by offering grants and a platform to bring attention to the talent that needs help to continue thriving in this community throughout the pandemic and beyond.

With the assistance of local sponsors and help from The Tower Theatre and KPOV, CO CAREs will bring recognition to a different artist each week with a video on The Bulletin's website and a prominent feature story in GO! Magazine. Schuurman's house concerts will feature acoustic, solo or duo musicians, while videos captured by The Bulletin at the Tower Theatre and other locations will feature visual artists, bands and other performers. The videos will be similar to NPR's Tiny Desk Concerts or GO! Magazine's Anatomy of a Song series.

People can give tax-deductible donations to the charity GoFundMe CO CAREs account or to the featured artists' independent account. Links with opportunities to donate or apply for a grant will be available at the top of the website beside the launch video describing the effort. The fundraising goal for a first round of grant-making is \$40,000.

"Our tagline is 'Empowering our community,'" Wright said. "The performing and the creative arts and the whole fabric of this community is very important. If we're going to be part of the community, whatever we

can do to help, that is part of our responsibility. We've got an audience that I think is caring and perhaps can help support this effort. It just made sense."

Scalehouse, the fiscal sponsor of the project known for hosting the Bend Design Conference in the fall and for helping to launch the city's Creative Laureate program, will handle the grant application process and distribution of funds. The collaborative launched its own Creative Relief Fund in October funded by a grant from The Bend Foundation and will roll that into CO CAREs.

Grant determinations will be made by an advisory board made up of artists, designers and performers from outside Central Oregon, including artists from Portland and Eugene.

The application, which can be found on The Bulletin's website, will ask for the artist's creative discipline, proof of creative artistic practice and a three-sentence artist statement about their work. Applicants will also need to provide a declaration of need stating lost income due to COVID-19 and how the grant will help.

René Mitchell of Scalehouse said the art collective was in-

spired by Portland's Regional Arts & Cultural Council initiative to provide resources for artists and creative workers greatly impacted this last year. "Our role is to identify and recognize the need, confirm that applicants are working artists and provide the awards," she said. "We are not here to critique the work — we want to support those who entertain us, inspire us and create a sense of community."

This relief is desperately needed by many Central Oregon artists. Bend Burlesque co-founder Mehama Kaupp, who features in the CO CAREs launch video, said the effort "feels like a really nice little jump-start with things opening back up a little bit too. Just get creative juices flowing and hopefully remind everybody we're still out there."

"It's been really super difficult because we were performing once to twice a month, and we've been completely shut down," Kaupp said. "It's affected the business completely. We don't have an office space; we can't pay bills; we have no income coming in. I am on the verge of, do I shut this down or do I keep fighting? It's not been easy."

Eric Leadbetter, one of the first artists to record a video and House Concert with Schuurman, became a father during the pandemic. At the same time, most of his work as a full-time musician and music educator was wiped out.

"When you dedicate your life to something you love — in my case, it's music — (you're) not obviously doing it to make a fortune," Leadbetter said. "Obviously it would be nice to sell some records and whatnot, but the art itself is part of the gratification of doing it and also helps you get out of bed in the morning. Before the pandemic, in 2019 I played 256 shows that year and

taught at least 100 lessons, probably more. It's still really hard to make a living even with that much work, especially now that I'm supporting a family."

CO CAREs may be coming a year into the pandemic, but it will not be pandemic-specific. The effort will continue beyond COVID-19.

"Performing artists and creative artists are going to need ongoing support for the next 6 months to a year," Wright said. "... We're going to see how we do with the first push over the next six weeks, get funds distributed and go from there."

Reporter: 541-617-7814, bmcclhiney@bendbulletin.com

## Reverse Mortgages



Life in reverse... financial longevity and peace of mind.

**Debbie Tallman**  
Reverse Mortgage Advisor

NMLS-248704  
(541) 390-0934

debbie.tallman@financeofamerica.com



FINANCE OF AMERICA  
- MORTGAGE -

©2020 Finance of America Mortgage LLC. All rights reserved. Equal Housing Opportunity | NMLS ID #1071 (www.emb.com) | 100 Wells Road, Building 5, Norwalk, PA 19064 | 302-555-5626. For licensing information go to: www.emb.com. This is not a commitment to lend. Price, guidelines and minimum requirements are subject to change without notice. Some products may not be available in all states. Subject to review of credit and/or collateral, not all applicants will qualify for financing. It is important to make an informed decision when selecting and using a loan product. Make sure to compare loan types when making a financing decision. This document is provided by Finance of America Mortgage. Any materials were not prepared by FIA or any Government Agency (other than the loan and interest payable, some or all of the equity in the property that is the subject of the reverse mortgage or longer term loans, who may need to sell the home or otherwise repay the loan with interest from other proceeds. The lender may charge an origination fee, mortgage insurance premium, closing costs and servicing fees (added to the balance of the loan). The balance of the loan grows over time and the lender charges interest on the balance. Borrowers responsible for paying property taxes, homeowner's insurance, maintenance, and related taxes (which may be substantial). We do not establish an escrow account for disbursements of disbursements. A rate table account can be set up to pay taxes and insurance and may be required in some cases. Borrowers must occupy home as their primary residence and pay for ongoing maintenance, otherwise the loan becomes due and payable. The loan also becomes due and payable (and the property may be subject to a tax lien, other encumbrance, or foreclosure) when the borrower, or eligible non-borrowing surviving spouse, dies, sells the home, permanently moves out, defaults on loans, insurance payments, or maintenance, or does not otherwise comply with loan terms. Interest is not tax-deductible and the loan is partially or fully repaid.

# SPRING SAVINGS EVENT

Mattresses • Recliners • Sofas • Sectionals • Bedroom Sets • Dining Sets • Accessories

**Chofa**  
Just  
**\$549**



**Lift  
Chairs**  
From  
**\$699**



**Swivel  
Glider  
Recliner**  
Just **\$549**



**FREE  
Foundation or  
FREE Pillows  
with  
Purchase**



Since 1962  
**WILSONS of Redmond**  
Still The Oldest & Largest Furniture  
Store in Central Oregon!



**FREE DELIVERY  
& SPECIAL  
FINANCING  
AVAILABLE\***

**Wilson's  
MATTRESS  
Gallery-Bend**

\*Subject to credit approval. See store for details

2071 S. Hwy 97, Redmond 541-548-2066 • www.wilsonsofredmond.net • 63485 N. Hwy 97, Bend 541-330-5084