

Future business leaders ready for the test

By Katherine Lacaze
Seaside Signal

Seaside High School's new co-curricular Future Business Leaders of America chapter will help students put their business, entrepreneurship, technology and management skills to use in their classrooms, community and, eventually, careers.

"The best part of FBLA is giving students a real-world connection with what they're learning in the classroom," said Mike Verhulst, the new business and technology teacher.

Verhulst comes to Seaside High School with 13 years of experience at the Parkrose School District in Portland. He is replacing teacher Mike Brown, who retired at the



KATHERINE LACAZE/FOR SEASIDE SIGNAL

Mike Verhulst, the incoming business and technology teacher, is starting a Future Business Leaders of America chapter at Seaside High School this fall.

end of the school year.

With him, Verhulst also brings his experience as an adviser for FBLA, a national organization through which students participate in career development programs with other young leaders across

the region, state and country. FBLA's partnership programs at the middle school- and college level are Middle Level and Phi Beta Lambda, respectively. Through the program, students have access to a variety of schol-

arships, cash awards and individual and chapter recognition programs.

Putting knowledge to the test

Verhulst, who got his undergraduate degree from Idaho State University, is developing the Seaside FBLA chapter as "a blend between a club and a class." The activities and competitive programs offered through FBLA will complement students' classroom experiences.

At the State Business Leadership Conference, to be held in Portland in April 2017, students can participate in one or two of more than 60 competitive events that test their knowledge and skills in a wide range of business and career-related

areas. Students will prepare for competition throughout the year.

Some of the events require a judged presentation using equipment to demonstrate a social media campaign, public service announcement, graphic design portfolio or sales presentation. Speech events include impromptu speaking and two levels of public speaking. Other events include submitting a report or project to be prejudged, in addition to presenting in front of judges at the conference. Students also can take a 100-question multiple-choice objective test in accounting, business communication, business law, personal finance or 18 other topics.

Depending on the category, events require participation as an individual, team or chapter. Students can compete in one performance event and one written or online test, which Verhulst referred to as the bonus events, or two written tests.

Verhulst encourages all his students to compete in a public speaking, interactive role-playing or project development event, as those more rigorously prepare them for successful careers by testing their knowledge and skills in a workforce-simulated competitive environment.

"Watching students grow in their presentation abilities is a huge piece within FBLA," he said.



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