



Clarkston

SCHOOL DISTRICT

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www.csdk12.org

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Clarkston, WA 99403

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August 2014

Superintendent's Message

I would like to personally say hello and welcome you back to another school year. I am excited to be part of this great district and community and I look forward to the many opportunities that are in front of us.

As we prepare to welcome students back in a few weeks, we refocus our vision not only on the job ahead of us for 2014 -2015, but also for growth and success in the many years ahead. With so many reforms at the state and federal level being implemented, it makes for a full plate for students and staff. As we look into the immediate future with new learning standards, state measurements of student learning and expectations placed on teachers and schools, we are faced with the challenges of meeting the targets to serve our students at the highest level.

What I find inspiring is that all of the new reforms have a common thread, which is centered on creating an environment that produces quality schools, quality staff and quality learners who leave the Clarkston School District ready to take on the challenges of a world in constant change. The foundation of our district is established on serving our students each and every day regardless of what is thrown our way. Our priority is to create a district vision that is intentional, relevant and

sustainable regardless of the next change that comes down the road.

The most valuable resource we have for the success of our students, our teachers and our schools is people and the relationships we build together. These relationships build mutual trust and respect that will allow us to know each other at levels that are deeper than a name and a place of employment. Through developing positive relationships, energy is created that supports movement and growth. Our desire is to create a culture that provides staff and students opportunities to be their best each day as we build on our past success for an even greater future.

We look forward to serving you in the upcoming school year and we are thankful for the partnerships we will create with students, parents, and the community. I am so excited to be a part of a movement that is going to take us places we have not seen before. This is an awesome time to be in Clarkston and an awesome time to be part of the Clarkston School District.

Sincerely,

Tim Winter,
Superintendent
Clarkston School District



Bridge Busters

Kids growing up in the Lewis-Clark Valley are no strangers to bridges. So why were the students in Grantham Elementary School's 21st Century program busting bridges this summer? That is because, in the true spirit of the FLUX Bridge Buster philosophy, students are learning to "celebrate failure."

The 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) Program at Grantham introduced Bridge Busters as a new activity for students during the 2014 summer session. Now entering the third year of the five-year grant, the 21st Century Program at Grantham operates during both the school year and summer break. The summer session rotates students through a variety of 30-45 minute activities each day, ranging anywhere from STEM journaling to indoor hockey. Bridge Busters, which is a product sold through the FLUX company co-founded by former Walla Walla 21st Century Site Coordinator, Brent Cummings, is a hands-on, inquiry-based activity that emphasizes the power of learning and growing from failure.

The introductory paragraph on the FLUX website states:

"Yes, we celebrate failure!

We want your students to fail! It's really that simple. Our mission is to foster a passion for life-long learning in all students through multiple opportunities to 'fail.'

Like Thomas Edison, Winston Churchill, and Abraham Lincoln, we know that success is a direct result of failure. Your students will fail. Accept it. Embrace it! Celebrate it! Your students' success depends on it!"

Bridge Busters is used by numerous 21st Century sites across southeastern Washington, and Grantham Site Coordinator, Stacey Kinnick, was eager for the opportunity to bring the activity to Clarkston's students this summer. Current fifth and sixth grade Grantham teacher, Tami Heath, served as the Bridge Buster instructor during this year's summer session.



"The real power and emphasis in the program is that it's all about learning from your mistakes and failures," said Mrs. Heath.

At the beginning of the Bridge Busters course, the instructor briefly discusses various types of bridges with the students, including what bridges the students have observed in their home town. Mrs. Heath and her class also looked at photographs of several bridges and discussed the various types and purposes, along with similarities or differences these bridges have. Each child was then given materials from the Bridge Busters kit, which includes six wooden sticks, a glue gun, a small wood StiKutter®, a ruler, and a pencil and piece of construction paper.

With only this minimal instruction and their current knowledge, students were asked to use these materials to build a bridge that was 1.5 inches wide and long enough to stretch across a 12 inch platform. The students had three days (30-45 minutes each day) to construct their bridge.

On July 9, this group of combined incoming 3rd through incoming 6th graders "busted" their bridges with an apparatus that tests the weight and capacity that the bridge can support. Demolishing the structures, however, is only the beginning of the lesson.

(continued on P6)



Clarkston School District Welcomes New Staff

The start of the 2014-2015 school year brings many new faces to the Clarkston School District staff. We are happy to welcome the following new employees to the Clarkston Family:

New District Staff:

Michelle Aucutt

*Occupational Therapist
(Lincoln Middle School, Heights,
and Highland Elementary)*

Sherry Bergman

District-wide Bilingual Teacher

Andrea Dale

District Math Coach

Rebecca Lockhart

Special Education Director

John Morbeck

School Resource Officer

Julie Winchel

Transportation Director

Tim Winter

Superintendent

New Highland Elementary Staff:

Jenny Bergman

LAP Instructional Assistant

Carolyn McVicars

1st grade Teacher

Corina Vasquez

Kindergarten Aide

New Parkway Elementary Staff:

Carolyn Carton

LAP/Title I Assistant

Jennifer Centenari-Gelineau

1st grade Teacher

Crystal Hawkins

LAP/Title I Assistant

Victoria Pettijohn

Kindergarten Teacher

Tami Randles

Title I Teacher

New Clarkston High School Staff:

Brycen Bye

Math Teacher

Tenika Eddings

English Teacher

Carson Kachelmier

Math Teacher

Greg Kolar

Band and Choir Teacher

Rose Marie Schultz

English Teacher

Cindy Stoffregen

Science Teacher

Highlight an Alumni

Do you know a Clarkston graduate who is doing great things? We'd love to feature him/her in our next newsletter. Contact Communications Director Molly Curtiss at CurtissM@csdk12.org or 509.544.5787 for more information.

SAVE THE DATE

Clarkston School District Bus Tours



Sign Up Today for the 2014-2015 Clarkston School District Bus Tours

Dates are set and seats are available on the 2014-2015 Clarkston School District Bus Tours. Do you want to see inside our schools? Call or email today and we will save you a seat on one of our **FREE** tours.

What is a District Bus Tour?

Not unique to the Clarkston School District, bus tours are intended to provide community members with an inside look at what's happening in their schools. Bus tours typically begin at the District Office at 9:30 AM for a pre-tour presentation by the Clarkston School District Superintendent, and conclude back at the District Office around 12:30 PM. Participants board a Clarkston school bus at the District Office and travel to the designated schools for that particular date's tour.

Dates for the 2014-2015 District Bus Tours:

1. **Tuesday, September 30, 2014**
Clarkston High School and Highland Elementary School
2. **Wednesday, January 14, 2015**
Lincoln Middle School and Parkway Elementary School
3. **Thursday, March 5, 2015**
Heights Elementary School and Grantham Elementary School

Bus tours are a chance for any member of the community to interact with students, teachers, and principals while walking the halls and visiting classrooms.

To reserve your spot on one of these tours, or to learn more about the Bus Tours, contact Communications Director, Molly Curtiss, at CurtissM@csdk12.org or at 509.544.5787.

Important Dates & Reminders

See the complete Clarkston School District 2014-2015 calendar on page 7.

All Clarkston Schools:

August 26: First Day of School

All Elementary Schools:

August 15: Elementary school offices open

August 26-27: Kindergarten Parent Meetings

Parents bring their students for a short conference that teachers schedule. During this time, Para support is used to administer assessments for WaKids.

August 28: Back to school night, 6:00 PM

August 28-29: Kindergarten students leave campus at noon. (No lunch.)

September 2-5: Kindergarten students eat lunch and leave campus at 1:30 PM.

September 8: Kindergarten students come to school for a full day

Lincoln Middle School

August 18: Middle School Registration

7th grade: 9:00AM-12:00PM; 8th grade: 1:00-3:00PM

Middle school sports physical reminder: Students will need a physical to participate in sports at LMS.

School supply lists are available on the LMS website at www.csd12.org/lms.

Clarkston High School:

August 20: High school football begins

August 25: All other fall sports begin

High school sports reminders: Contact your coach for starting times. All forms must be in before practice. Forms may be found on the CHS athletic website. There is a two-day turnaround time after all forms are in. ALL forms must be in before students can participate. There is a new athletic code all students must sign due to the new policy regarding e-cigarettes and vapor.



2014-2015 CHS Registration Schedule:

	8:00-9:00AM	9:00-10:00AM	10:00-11:00AM	11:00AM-Noon
August 18	Seniors G-L	M-R	S-Z	A-F
August 19	Juniors G-L	M-R	S-Z	A-F
August 20	Soph. G-L	M-R	S-Z	A-F
August 21	Frosh. G-L	M-R	S-Z	A-F

Fees:

ASB card \$25.00

Science Lab \$5.00

Yearbook \$55.00

BRIDGE BUSTERS *(continued from P2)*

As promised by the program, students learn from the mistakes they made building their first bridge and are asked to construct a second bridge. The children determine what their misperceptions were during the first attempt and try again. The activity is contrary from the dated model in which a child may read about and practice a lesson, take a test, make mistakes, and then move on to a new lesson. Rather, the Bridge Busters activity maintains that youth are more actively engaged and have a deeper, lasting knowledge “when they are allowed to try their own ideas without fear of failure.”

Each child comes to the lesson with different ideas and knowledge about what might work. Once the participants experience the process of testing and “busting” their bridges, however, they glean knowledge from the many triumphs and failures that each student experienced.

These days, we concentrate so strongly on tests and the implication that somehow if you don't pass the test, you're not succeeding.

Mrs. Heath explained that the Bridge Busters activity aligns well with the Next Generation Science Standards that emphasize argument-based inquiry. Much research indicates that we learn better from our mistakes, and that knowledge has a more profound and lasting impact when students are first given the tools and basic concepts, then allowed to test their own theories and make new discoveries.

Following their first round of bridge busting, the 21st Century students made several new discoveries. The first lesson students took away from breaking the bridges was the need to pay closer attention to building specifications. Additionally, many students had initially built their bridges from the top down, interested more in the design of the arch structure. These students came to understand just how important the base structure of the bridge is and spent more time focused on building a better surface platform during their second construction.

Another discovery that resulted from the first demolition was the differing strengths of various shapes. Students concluded that squares and rectangles bent more easily and became weaker when pressure was applied, compared to triangles that better held up to the pressure. The second set of bridges built by the students featured many triangles.

One young girl concluded on her own that the smaller the triangle, the greater its strength. She adjusted her second design to include several small triangles based on this conclusion.

Competition continued as students tested their newly-built bridges, and winners were declared based on the bridge's weight and the amount of pressure it could withstand. The winner for the first round of building was incoming third grader, Olivia. Manuel, entering fourth grade, won the second bridge busting contest.

“These days, we concentrate so strongly on tests and the implication that somehow if you don't pass the test, you're not succeeding,” said Mrs. Heath. “The kids really enjoyed this project. It's going to



be a cool way to start off the year because they learn right off the bat that it's OK to fail.”

Grantham Elementary School's 21st Century Program plans to incorporate the Bridge Buster curriculum into the program again this fall. Mrs. Heath would also like to incorporate the Bridge Busters activity into her own classroom curriculum at Grantham Elementary in the near future. While the kit was initially geared toward the middle school level, its mathematical and scientific concepts can be applied to multiple grades, and Mrs. Heath is looking forward to sharing this engaging lesson with her colleagues.

Learning that success may be achieved through the process of failure may be a life-long lesson for many. At Grantham Elementary, students are well on their way to reaching this discovery.



August - 2014						
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September - 2014						
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October - 2014						
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November - 2014						
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December - 2014						
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28	29	30	31			

January - 2015						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Clarkston

SCHOOL DISTRICT

2014-2015

CHS Graduation	Conferences (check grade level)
Holiday	Early Release (check grade level)
No School	First & Last Day of School

8/26/2014 First Day of School

9/1/2014 Labor Day

10/3/2014 No School (Professional Development)

10/6 -10/2014 Elementary Conferences

Elementary Students Dismissed at 12:00 PM

11/11/2014 Veteran's Day

11/13/2014 Conferences (LMS Only)

LMS Students Dismissed at 12:25 PM

11/21/2014 Early Release (K-6) Grade Prep

Elementary Students Dismissed at 12:00 PM

11/26/2014 Early Release - Thanksgiving Break

11/27-28/2014 Thanksgiving Break

12/19/13 Early Release - Winter Break

12/22/2014 - 1/2/2015 Winter Break

1/19/2015 Martin Luther King Day

2/16/2015 President's Day

2/19-20/2015 Student-Led Conferences (CHS & LMS)

CHS Students Dismissed at 11:40 AM

LMS Students Dismissed at 12:25 PM

3/6/2015 Early Release (K-6) Grade Prep

Elementary Students Dismissed at 12:00 PM

3/18-20/2015 Elementary Conferences

Elementary Students Dismissed at 12:00 PM

3/30/2015 - 4/3/2015 Spring Break

4/24/2015 Asotin County Fair

5/25/2015 Memorial Day

5/30/2015 CHS Graduation

6/5/2015 Last Day of School - Early Release

7/4/2015 Independence Day

EARLY RELEASE TIMES: Elementary: 12:00 PM
Lincoln Middle School: 12:25 PM
Clarkston High School: 11:40 AM

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Adopted 2/10/2014

February - 2015						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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March - 2015						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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April - 2015						
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May - 2015						
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June - 2015						
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July - 2015						
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NONDISCRIMINATION: The Clarkston School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employee has been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Title IX Coordinator, Roger Trail, Executive Director of Human Resources, 1294 Chestnut, Clarkston, WA 99403 (509)758-2531 trailr@csdk12.org; Section 504/ADA Coordinator, James Fry, Executive Director for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment, 1294 Chestnut, Clarkston, WA 99403, (509) 758-2531, fryj@csdk12.org. For more information regarding grievance procedures related to nondiscrimination please refer to our website.