

October 12, 2021

Dear Knappa Community:

Welcome to the start of Homecoming Season. The high schoolers began their festivities this week and are looking forward to home volleyball and football games this week.

KHS Graduation Rates. Last week, the state published its annual school and district report cards. While many of the traditional data points were not included (due to state embargos tied to COVID testing participation volatility), one point of reference that was reported was “freshmen on track rates” and “graduation rates.” In both of these areas, Knappa performed well better than the state and county. Our on-time graduation rate is 93% (The state average is 83%), and our ninth grade on-track rate is 90% (The state average is 74%). While we recognize that there are a myriad of great post-high school options, Knappa’s college attendance rate is 67% compared with 62% state-wide. These results can be attributed to a number of factors. Education starts at the early learning level and progresses throughout the 13 years of school until students graduate. All of our educators deserve credit for graduation success. Our dedicated high school staff works hard to mentor our students each year, starting at ninth grade to stay caught up. They track data, build relationships, and find ways to successfully shepherd students through the four years of high school. Our ninth-grade on-track team is led by Amanda Isom under the school leadership of Laurel Smalley. This team involves multiple teachers and students and is showing success. We also must credit the fact that we were able to offer in-person instruction for a majority of last year. Again, this was due to the dedication and perseverance of our employees.

We have jobs! Have you ever wished you could have the same work schedule as your students’ school schedule? Have you ever wished for a short commute? Have you felt a calling to help your community and get paid for it? We currently have several open positions in the Knappa School District that might work for you. If any of the following interest you, please call us at 503-458-5993 x301 or visit the website at www.knappa.k12.or.us.

- Bus mechanic. (must be skilled as a diesel and gasoline mechanic and be capable of getting certified as a state approved bus mechanic. Student CDL endorsement preferred.
- Program assistant. Help students with their learning needs in the classrooms and provide general student supervision on campus.
- Bus driver. We still need a few bus drivers. We provide the training. There is a \$500 signing bonus paid upon completing 80 hours of work.

Athletic Update. During the Saturday game against Douglas High School in Stayton, the Loggers won 42-0. The volleyball team won 3-1 against Nestucca last night. The cross country team took second place at the Rainier Invitational. Congratulations to all of our teams! The football team plays at home against Sheridan on Friday and the volleyball team plays against Mannahouse Christian on Thursday. Cross Country will run at the Lewis and Clark Invitational on Saturday as well.

Bond Information. You should receive your ballot this week. There is information available on our website and you should have received a mailing last week with key facts about the bond. This measure will address safety, maintenance, and learning needs for the schools. The tax rate per thousand will be slightly less than it was for the previous bond. Please read up on this and remember to ***VOTE***. The ballot drop box is located along Old Highway 30 at the driveway to school. We encourage you to vote early so your voice can be heard.

COVID-19 Information. As for COVID-19 cases, we have three students who have tested positive and are not at school. There are no additional students quarantining at this time. The county case rate is at 324.42 per 100,000 this week which is still far lower than the peaks in August.

Conferences. Please don't forget to sign up for conferences next week.

We continue to enjoy working with all of our students. As a public school system, we remain committed to meeting the needs of *ALL* students, regardless of their background, family heritage, and beliefs. In these times, people have many divergent opinions. As a pluralistic school system, we are a place that places high value on showing respect for all and respecting human dignity for every person we serve. Thank you for your ongoing parental support.

Sincerely,

Bill Fritz, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Knappa School District #4