



November 4, 2013

KFCS' District Newsletter

By Paul Hillyer, KFCS' Superintendent

The Klamath Promise: Bringing Hope to the Community

About a year ago, a group of over 20 leaders from many organizations in Klamath Falls began meeting with our school district to determine ways that different sectors of the community could support students and help schools accomplish our 100% graduation-rate goal. Since that time, the group has expanded to 33 and now includes both local school districts, KCC, and OIT. They meet monthly to devise strategies that can be used by people throughout the community to further this cause. Part of their work also has included learning from other communities and from similar initiatives across the nation.

Their work, called the Klamath Promise Initiative, was one of 12 such regional collaboratives to receive a \$40,000 state grant to further their efforts. They will unveil their plans at a free community event at the Ross Ragland Theater on Tuesday, November 19, 2013, starting at 7:00 p.m. (sign-ins will start at 6:30 p.m.).

All of you are invited and encouraged to attend. The one-hour program will include an explanation by the superintendents of the city and county school districts, and the keynote address will be given by Klamath Community College President, Dr. Roberto Gutierrez. Local school choirs will be providing entertainment, and a dessert reception will follow in the Ross Ragland Cultural Center. Your invitation is attached to this newsletter.

The success of this effort is critical to the success of the area's students. With the community behind them, young people will have the encouragement, help and support they need to go on to graduation and to successful adult lives. This will be made possible through a change in community culture from one resigned to failure to one driven to success.

Such a cultural change will provide hope for many young people who are now living in despair. It will help many whose only prospects after dropping out are welfare or prison to a new personal vision of self-sufficiency and endless possibilities.

Making this change possible for each of our children also brings hope to a community still suffering from underemployment and economic decline. A key step to making a community prosperous and successful is the foundation of the educational success of its young people. This success makes a community an attractive place to locate a business or an industry. It also goes a long way toward making an area one in which new young families want to move to raise their children.

Thus, the success of the Klamath Promise Initiative is critical both to our young people and to our whole community. In other words, everyone in the community has a stake in helping launch this effort by becoming a Klamath Promise Partner and contributing to educational success. Please come to the November 19th event and learn more about this exciting new hope for Klamath Falls.

Other News:

1. It has been an exciting week as both our girls' soccer team and boys' football team earned Sky Lakes Conference co-championships. The boys did so through a last minute goal line stand and the girls through an exciting reversal of fortune in appealing their eligibility by the state athletic association and following that with a convincing victory. All are invited to cheer on these teams in their playoff games. An up-to-date schedule can be found on the KU website: <http://www.kfalls.k12.or.us/Schools/kuhs.asp>.
2. Also, find on the district web page information on the Common Core State Standards that are now taught in all our schools: <http://www.kfalls.k12.or.us/ccss.asp>.
3. Another important website link gives ongoing information on our after-school programs. Fees have been reduced to \$30 per year per student and \$50 maximum per family. This includes 2.5 hours of after-school programming each school day that consists of a supper, an hour of academic support and homework help, and an hour of enrichments. Bus transportation will also be provided for those qualifying for transportation services during the regular school day. If you wish to sign up, you may do so at parent-teacher conferences or by picking up registration forms at the school offices. <https://sites.google.com/a/kfcityschools.org/21st-century-community-learning-center/>. The YMCA is still looking to hire more staff for the enrichment hour. Please contact them if you or someone you know is interested. Roosevelt currently does not have a program due to not having a high enough free and reduce percentage last year. This year it appears that they do qualify and we are considering how we can add a program there down the road as well.
4. Inclement weather announcements will be made through our School Reach phone system. School cancelation information is also found daily on our district web page. <http://www.kfalls.k12.or.us/>.
5. Also on our district web page are our daily Tweets. Here is the link to keep track of them: <http://www.kfalls.k12.or.us/resources/twitter.asp>.