

Re-opening

**SMALL SCHOOLS
HAVE THE ADVANTAGE
OF AGILITY & QUICKER
IMPLEMENTATION**



**LEADING THE WAY -
WE'RE BACK IN
CLASSROOMS.**



**CTE & BONDS RE-
INVIGORATE THE
SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY**



**OSSA Executive
Administrator,
R. Michael Carter**

OREGON SMALL SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

Spark for Learning



**Learning skills that
students can take
into living-wage
careers**

Students at Harrisburg High School have the opportunity to choose from multiple CTE programs and unique courses aimed at helping them explore and prepare for a variety of careers. Currently HHS offers a full range of courses in manufacturing and agricultural science. This year we also started offering medical terminology and are looking to continue to expand options for students that are interested in healthcare

related careers. In addition to our in-house course options, we also work closely with Lane and Linn Benton Community colleges through our SOAR program which provides Juniors and Seniors a chance to take college courses that we cannot offer. These earned credits can go directly towards career pathways, associate degrees, or be transferred to those attending four year universities. We also have multiple teachers that offer College-now courses which can be taken as part of their normal campus schedule. The goal is to be able to connect all of our students to post-secondary opportunities well before graduation.

The Harrisburg Middle School Robotics Club, organized and run by Elizabeth Rivas, is in the second year of existence. Ms. Rivas has done a fantastic job growing the robotics program. Initially, the robotics club started with 12 students. In order for students to be a part of the club they must fill out an application and get a reference from one of their teachers. The robotics club meets twice a week and, now, hosts approximately 20 students. Students who participate in club meetings learn how to build remote-controlled robotic cars. Each student must follow very particular instructions on how to build the car from the ground up. Students must also understand simple coding so they may program the controller to make the car go where they would like it to go. We would like to grow the program and build more complicated robots and travel to different competitions around the Willamette Valley.

Bryan Starr,
Harrisburg School District

Leaving a Legacy in Helix

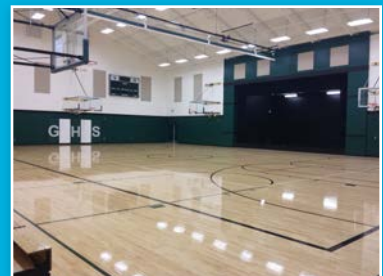
The Helix School District has been able to accomplish so much since our voters approved two GO bonds (2008 and 2012), during my tenure as the superintendent at Helix. These were the first bonds passed in the Helix SD since 1957. The upgrade, in part, included remodeling our 1923 high school (see right) and the addition of two classrooms (HS Science and HS Business/Computers). We were also able to add two classrooms to our elementary building (Kindergarten and Sped Resource Rm.). In addition, the bonds allowed Helix to build a new gym (see right), weight room, remodeled our main gym, upgraded our technology infrastructure and replaced the old boiler heating system with a computer controlled HVAC system throughout our district.

I have treasured my 27 years spent in the Helix SD. I was a full-time teacher for 13 years (HS Social Studies, 4-12 PE), then took on the superintendent position 14 years ago. Most people may not know Helix has only one administrator, which is why I have really relied on networking with the IMESD regional superintendents.

I have really enjoyed my experience at Helix and I'm fortunate to have all three of my children attend Helix from K-12th grade and graduate from Griswold HS. I will miss Helix, but look forward to the next chapter of my professional career as the Director of Facilities and Operation at the IMESD.

Darrick Cope,
Helix School District

*A bond can make
all the difference*



As a result of all of this, technology upgrades were completed, and the Helix School District was able to negotiate CDL effectively last spring and into this past fall. Resources from these bonds allowed a tremendous modernization in the district.

April 2021

To the members of the Oregon Small Schools Association,

I am writing to you as the President of the Board for the OSSA. This letter is to encourage you and all of your administrative team to attend the OSSA conference on April 29-30 at the Salishan Coastal Lodge. The OSSA has been leaders in this state as the first education organization to have a virtual conference which we had last spring, and we will be the first to offer an in-person/virtual option for a conference. I know I miss the opportunity to meet face-to-face with my colleagues, and I have heard it from so many other administrators.

I encourage you to sign up for the event whether in person or the online option. We are following all safety protocols necessary to have a safe event for everyone who attends via the in-person option. There will be lodging available for up to 120 event attendees.

Where else can you go to find information, share ideas, and collaborate together on issues we are facing as small school administrators? There will be a number of breakout sessions that are specifically directed to small school issues or how small schools are affected. We have dynamic speakers and leaders set up to provide a meaningful conference that will be worthwhile.

Please join me and the other board members at the conference. I look forward to seeing each of you either virtually or in person. For all the details, visit the COSA [event page](#). To download the event flier, click [here](#).

Eric Milburn

OSSA Board President



To join OSSA, or to request more information...

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Oregon Small Schools Association

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