

Community Newsletter December 2023

Greetings CCCS Community Members,

I don't know how everyone else feels, but this school year is flying by for me. This being my 25th year as an educator, I know this to be a sign of a particularly great year. CCCS has reestablished the traditions and norms that have made it special throughout the past, and we are constantly working behind the scenes to continually improve. The support and encouragement throughout our little community makes this happen.

After we return from break we really get to the "meat and potatoes" of the school year's learning. I don't have any statistics in my back pocket, yet I am confident there are studies out there somewhere showing that some of the biggest gains happen between winter and spring break. As such, please keep in touch with staff if you have any questions, and keep up the good work getting our students here to school with tummies full and a smile on their face—we will try to return them similarly (although with less full tummies).

As always, please feel free to contact me directly at <u>direc-</u> <u>tor@coburgcharter.org</u> if you have questions, comments, or simply want to

'talk education'.

Dave Wallace

Important Links/Reminders

- ⇒ Website and Calendar
- \Rightarrow <u>Volunteer Form</u>
- \Rightarrow Lunch Program
- ⇒ <u>PCS webpage</u>
- ⇒ <u>CCCS Handbook</u>
- ⇒ <u>CCCS Facebook Page</u>
- ⇒ <u>CCCS Admissions Page</u>

Upcoming Dates:

- Dec. 15: Clothing Closet Open 8:10-8:45
- Dec. 18—Jan. 2: Winter Break
- Jan. 2: PD Day—No School for Students
- Jan. 3: School Resumes
- Jan. 5 & 19: Clothing Closet Open 8:10-8:45
- Jan. 8: Finance Oversight Committee Mtng
- Jan. 12: Returning Re-enrollment form opens
- Jan. 12: Educ. Excellence Committee Mtng
- Jan 12: Staff CPR/First Aid Training (PM)
- Jan. 15: No School— MLK Jr Day
- Jan. 18: Winter Concert
- Jan. 19: Staff Emergency Training (PM)
- Jan. 22: Board Mtng
- Jan 26: Sibling and New Student form opens
- Feb. 1 & 2: No School for Students
- Feb. 2: Returning Re-enrollment form DUE

OSAS State Assessment and optional opt-out notice

State Assessments are not the only measure of a CCCS student's success, but they are an important measure for the student as well as our school. Last year we were able to get results back in time to share with families before the school year let out. This year we hope to do the same, and have our Educational Excellence Committee use the scores to help drive the annual school improvement plan.

We strongly encourage all our students to take the state assessments in Spring, as it supports our message to students that *yes, you can do hard things*. Also, lack of participation reflects badly on the state school report card and at our annual charter review meetings with 4J

Families that choose to opt their student(s) out of state testing need to complete and return the form, also included on the back of this newsletter, prior to Spring Break.



Did you know that the USDA provides fun, healthy snack ideas for families?

Find this simple and charming recipe

<u>here</u>:



and find more recipes at <u>MyPlate.Gov</u>.

Some people like to know what is happening "behind the scenes" at the school, and others jump down to the pictures of the kiddos at the end—both are totally fine. In the interest of transparency and communication I'd like to share a couple key things each month with everyone. I encourage folks to join the <u>Board meetings</u>, talk to a Board member, or contact me however suits you best if you have thoughts or questions.



School Funding

Each year CCCS creates and approves a budget for the following year. As most folks know, CCCS get 80% of the state per pupil funding than that of a traditional neighborhood school. We are also dealing with the challenge of the loss of covid-era funding, which we have used for staffing to support student learning. The finance oversight committee will be working on budget topics over the next couple months, with a budget approved likely this spring.

Here is a recent article that explains Oregon school funding challenges.

Teaching and Learning:

The Math Curriculum Adoption Process is underway. Over the next couple months the committee will be reviewing curriculum material from 4 different publishers in order to determine the best resource "fit" for CCCS. We are looking at:

HMH Into Math; Curriculum Associates iReady; Eureka Math^{2;} McGraw Hill Reveal

Building & Grounds:

Over winter break Rexius will be excavating our playground areas that are mostly dirt and back-fill in with more bark chips. If you see activity here over the break that is likely what is happening.

Mr. Kyler is keeping our little school bright and shiny each day, and is spending Fridays catching up on miscellaneous maintenance projects around the school.

Attendance Rate to date (12/10): 95%

Attendance is a critical factor in the success of individual students, and our school as a whole.

December is here and our Board Committees are well into their agendas!

CCCS is a community immersion charter school and has a self-governing board overseen by volunteer board members. We would like to extend a request for your time and expertise.

This is a great way to get involved, whittle down those required volunteer hours and, most importantly, make a positive impact on our school and for our students.

Committees at a glance: Please consider joining one of our committees and reach out to our committee chairs. Each committee is composed of board members, parents, and community partners. **We can't wait to hear from you!**

Committee/Contact	Objective	Meeting
Finance Oversight j.miller@coburgcharter.org	CCCS budgets, spending, supports long term strategic planning.	All Meetings at 2pm appox. 2 weeks prior to board meetings each month: 9/21, 11/13, 12/11, 1/8, 2/12, 3/11, 4/8, 5/6, 6/10
Educational Excellence d.villena@coburgcharter.org	Implement a shared vision of educa- tional excellence and a plan to achieve it, understanding academic achievement targets and reviewing learning outcomes to determine pro- gram effectiveness.	All meetings scheduled for the 2nd Friday of each month. 12:15 PM
Strategic Planning m.petewon@coburgcharter.org	Strategic planning and priority setting (formerly Board Goals). General align- ment across all committees to assure cohesively. May assist in coordination of fundraising and directly liaise with ED on ED Areas of Focus (Goals).	Dec. mtg held Nov. 28; Mission & Vision kick-off. Monthly mtgs to occur directly ahead of Board Mtg beginning Jan.

 \cdot <u>Click here to see who we are!</u> As you look for volunteer opportunities, we invite you to keep an eye out for board vacancies!

• The board meets every third Monday of the month. Occasionally, board meeting dates will change, or special sessions may be called. <u>The school calendar here has all of the board</u> <u>meeting dates</u>.

• Board meetings are held at the Coburg City Hall; agendas are posted the Friday before regularly scheduled board meetings. <u>Board agendas current and past can be found here</u> (scroll to the bottom).

PEOPLE FOR COBURG SCHOOL (PCS) NEXT PCS MEETING: Friday Jan 1211

The school's parent group!

We had a great turn out for the "Sip, Shop & Support CCCS" event at Johnson Brothers Garden Market; thank you to all who attended! Fun was had, great things were bought, and we raised money for the school! Big thanks to our leads Jen M., Danielle H., Mindi B., and Kelsev B.



10:45 AM





Bronco Bash Save-the-Date

Mark your calendars for our annual auction fundraiser:

Saturday, May 18th 2024

PCS Treasurer

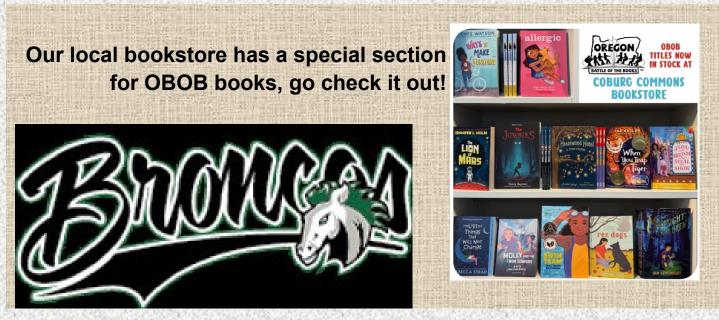
Thank you to Kelsey J. for all your work as treasurer these past few years! Welcome and thank you to Jamey R. for filling this role in the new year!

Blue Bag Drive

Thanks to all who turned in bags during the BottleDrop matching drive. We have raised over \$2600 so far this school-year. Please keep turning those bags in!



Follow PCS on Instagram or Facebook for reminders, updates, and fun pics.



Math Club for 5th Graders through 8th Graders (repeat)

We will be offering drop-in math support for homework or concept questions for 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th graders. Math support will be available on Tuesday through Friday mornings, 7:30am to 8:00am with Mrs. Rubash and Tuesday through Thursday afternoons, 3:15 to 4:00 with Ms. Dillon.

Mrs. Rubash will meet students at the back door by 5th grade at 7:30am and will release kiddos at 8:00 to class.

Ms. Dillon will be meeting with students in the library right after school and parents can pick up students at the front of the school at 4:00.

Please contact us if you have any questions!

Mrs. Rubash: k.rubash@coborgcharter.org

Ms. Dillon: j.dillon@coburgcharter.org

Meal Manage Resources & 'Most Ordered' Update

- Access the Meal Manage Home Page for Parents Here
- Meal Manage Parent Guide
- Meal Manage FAQ







Reminders and Requests (repeat)

Cell phones: We ask that students put away their cell phones and devices during the school day. These devices are simply a distraction to the learning environment. One thing we have noticed, particularly at our middle grades, is that students are using the devices during the day to communicate with each other and even to communicate with home. Our request is to contact the office to get messages to your student, save family texts until the school day is complete, and/or require your student to have their phone off during the school day—when they turn it back on at the end of the day messages are delivered and class interruption is avoided.

Dress Code: One the founding practices here at CCCS is our dress code. While the specifics have changed a bit over time, the benefits of the dress code have been a hallmark of our school, is a Board level discussion and policy , and is one of the expectations when families choose to attend CCCS. Teacher time taken to reinforce dress code expectations takes away from instruction time, so we ask that families *please please please please support* the school and teacher time by ensuring students are following the expectations before coming to school each day.

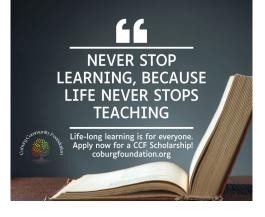
Morning Drop Off: Please know that our cafeteria is open at 7:45 each morning for early drop. We usually have staffing that allows students the choice of playground time or hanging out in the cafeteria.

At 8:10 we really want to have students in their class, listening to announcements, and the halls clear of students and parents so we can get started right away. Parents: if you are chatting with another parent please come down to the office area to avoid disruption in our tiny hallway (sounds carry), and if you need to catch a teacher please help them by concluding your discussion before that bell.

Typically Dave is at the front door, Alissa is roaming and helping students, and Danielle or Charity are hovering near the office to be available for lunch monies, medication drop off, or any of the other myriad of things they manage for our school. Please catch us if we can be of any help.



Popcorn Frídays are Back!!





Kindergarten — Ms. Dunmire

Wow! Just over the month of November, our Kindergarteners learned all about gratitude and did several projects relating to it, learned the science behind leaves changing colors and went on nature walks, did art projects relating to fall and the changing of seasons, more about the alphabet, focused on writing, and much more! We also started learning about ice and snow for the month of December and even made some fake snow for the kiddos to take home. Lots of buddy time as well!

Coming up for the rest of December and January, students will be learning more about weather, hibernation, winter animals, teen numbers, empathy, using oil pastels, a bit about gingerbread, and Holidays Around the World! There's always something going on in Kindergarten!





First Grade — Mrs. Young and Mrs. Boyum

1st Grade has been having so much fun celebrating all the holidays! In November we learned all about Dia de los Muertos. Students learned about mariposas, cempasuchil, and calaveras. On November 2nd we celebrated with pan de muerto, calaveras de azucar, and watched the intro to Coco so students could recognize the traditions they had studied!

We also focused on gratitude, adding leaves of gratitude to the school tree and sharing all the things we were thankful for each day in our community circle. We made apple turkeys with our 8th grade buddies, and agreed that we were all thankful for marshmallows.

In science we learned about light and shadows and focused on the ideas of transparent, translucent, and opaque. Students explored the dark classroom with flashlights and categorized different materials.

After conference week, 1st grade jumped right into learning about Holidays Around the World. We began by preparing our passports and singing the 7 continents song, then strapped in as our classroom plane took off for Italy! We learned all about La Befana, and students tried traditional panettone. Class consensus: not their favorite. Next, we focused on German traditions. Students learned about Christmas pyramids and the legend of the Christmas Spider. They tried Stollen and marzipan, which were met with mixed reviews.

Next week we will be decorating German lebkuchen (gingerbread cookies), doing some Candy Cane Science, and creating Care Kits to share with people who need some extra help this time of year. In language arts we will be reading "The Gingerbread Baby" and "The Gingerbread Man," by Jan Brett. We will be comparing and contrasting the two stories along with other fun literacy activities. When we return from the break, we will be jumping right into a very exciting science unit about space!







Second grade — Ms. Smith

Math:

Last month 2nd grade worked on identifying the faces, edges, and vertices of 3D Geometrical shapes. Next, we used analog clocks to break down what the long and short hands mean, and how many hours/minutes there are between each number you see on the clock. The last week of November/beginning of December we began a measurement unit with a focus on feet, inches, centimeters.

We are continuing this unit in December and are writing the estimated measurements with ½ and whole numbers. Next we are learning about Proportion and Fractions using pie charts or graphs, folding paper strips (parts of a whole), and number lines.

Reading/Writing:

Last month we read informational texts to describe facts and cite details using our MyView textbooks and during small group instruction. Our spelling words relate to the phonics focus of the week. For example last week's focus was on the long e sound, so our spelling words had ee, ea, ey, and y in them for us to practice.

We will continue to work on writing complete sentences and discussing/ practicing the structure of sentences and paragraphs. 2nd grade will be moving back into fictional stories in our MyView textbooks to describe characters and plot.

Science/Other:

2nd grade has been learning about Holidays around the world with a focus in Italy and Germany. We share lessons/activities for this unit between the kindergarten and first grade classes. In November we learned about human body organs and their functions.

This month, we are accompanying our 7th grade buddies to Alton Baker Park to release the salmon that our buddies have been taking care of. We have been making fun crafts with them and using the school kiln to fire the clay art that they made together.







Third grade — Mrs. Rutter

It was so great getting to talk with families last month. We have been busy in math with our first unit on multiplication and division. The students have been working hard on count by's and word problems. We will be starting our harder count by numbers soon: 6, 7, and 8. In science we learned about predicting weather, and now we are learning about natural hazards. Students will do a research project on this to wrap up the unit. In writing we are finishing up our first big writing project, a snowglobe narrative, with an art project to go with it. In social studies we are working on our 13 Colonies readers theater to wrap it up. Next, we will get to learn about the history of the Pledge of Allegiance. We are almost done with our digital citizen lessons, and then we will get to start coding on Chromebooks. Students have been doing a great job with building stamina, working independently, and working in small groups. Have a great Winter break! I look forward to seeing the class in 2024.



Fourth Grade - Mrs. Sepulveda

The month of November has been a busy one in fourth grade. We've been working hard in all areas and it shows. We are finishing up our second novel, *Esperanza Rising, and it never ceases to amaze me how these kids can think so deeply when reading through a book. We also finished up our personal narrative in writing. We worked hard on a step by step writing piece and I'm so pleased with the writing these kids are producing. Fourth graders have chosen a country to research and are digging deep to learn all about it. They are putting together a project in order to present their country to the class when we come back from winter break. We've also worked on some art and are focused on our lights of kindness the last few weeks before break. Looking ahead to January we will be starting new novel groups, opinion writing, and our winter Olympic STEM unit. Lots of fun educational opportunities are coming up in the new year!*



Fifth Grade - Ms. Schneider

The fifth grade has been filled with entrepreneurial spirit as we prepare our merchandise for the Coburg Holiday Market. Between baking, staining, and planting, these kids have proved that they are motivated to earn the funds to cover the cost of their BizTown experience in March!

We started our third unit of study, which is one of my personal favorites. Our big question is, "How do the experiences of others reflect our own." We will explore this question



through realistic fiction in our ELA curriculum, the novel <u>Wonder</u>, and the novel <u>The Thing</u> <u>About Georgie</u>. This unit evokes great classroom discussion around empathy, curiosity, understanding differences, etc.

At the Museum of Natural and Cultural History we tied together all of our learning from the beginning of the year by exploring Oregon's archaeology. This museum is such an amazing resource in our community.

The kids are stoked to start science, we will be investigating matter and ecosystems. In writing, we will focus on opinion essays and in math we will be multiplying fractions.

Social emotional learning is a big piece of our classroom environment too. The kids are being pushed to grow their academic excellence, develop grit and be proud of their work. I am really looking forward to seeing where this group is at in June.



Sixth Grade - Mrs. DeRosia

6th grade has had a wonderful November! It was so great to see so many families at conferences and share our learning.

In math, we just wrapped up learning about algebraic expressions where we discovered the whole "new language" (as some of the students put it) that is algebra. We simplified expressions and related them to realworld problems. We are now working on geometry and polygons in coordinate planes. Fun!

We culminated our ELA unit on Imagination with writing a creative fictional narrative. For the past few weeks, we have been reading and discussing A Christmas Carol, which we will wrap up just in time for winter break. Our class was also eager to start our social studies unit, where we have been discovering ancient South American civilizations. The insightful questions and connections during this part of the day have been a joy to participate in!

I hope everyone has a nice and restful winter break!





Seventh Grade - Mrs. Epperson



7th Grade is finishing up their life science unit, and they are using evidence from our labs to explain where food is used in our bodies, how it gets there, and how there is a chemical reaction involving glucose and oxygen that releases energy. We helped our 2nd Grade buddies make some clay art related to their Winter Holidays Around the World Unit. Everyone in class has enjoyed watching our salmon mature from eggs to alevin, and we will soon team with 2nd to return the salmon to a local stream near Alton Baker Park. Students started sharing their self-directed learning projects, and it gives me so much hope for the future seeing how incredibly thoughtful and creative these kids are. Garden class also had quite a bit of fun collecting leaves around campus to use as a mulch cover for the garden beds after jumping into a few piles of course.







Eighth Grade - Ms. Monterrosa

Though we had a week off in the classroom, 8th grade was busy! In science, using an element of choice, students created a periodic table superhero or villain. An illustration and full backstory of the character was sub-

mitted. In social studies, we started our unit in the Cold War. Choosing a country, students created a chess piece to describe their country and its involvement in the Cold War. I received some very creative final projects in both science and social studies. And, as usual, a big highlight was meeting with their 1st grade buddies to help them create an 'apple turkey'. I think 8th graders had just as much fun as the 1st graders creating one!











PE & Health - Mr. Steve

In the lower grades we worked on running, skipping, hopping, and galloping relays. We also worked on the movements and techniques associated with throwing and catching. In the upper grades we worked on the fundamentals of hockey. We practiced how to properly hold a hockey stick and move with a puck. We finished up our hockey unit by learning the rules of hockey and scrimmaging.

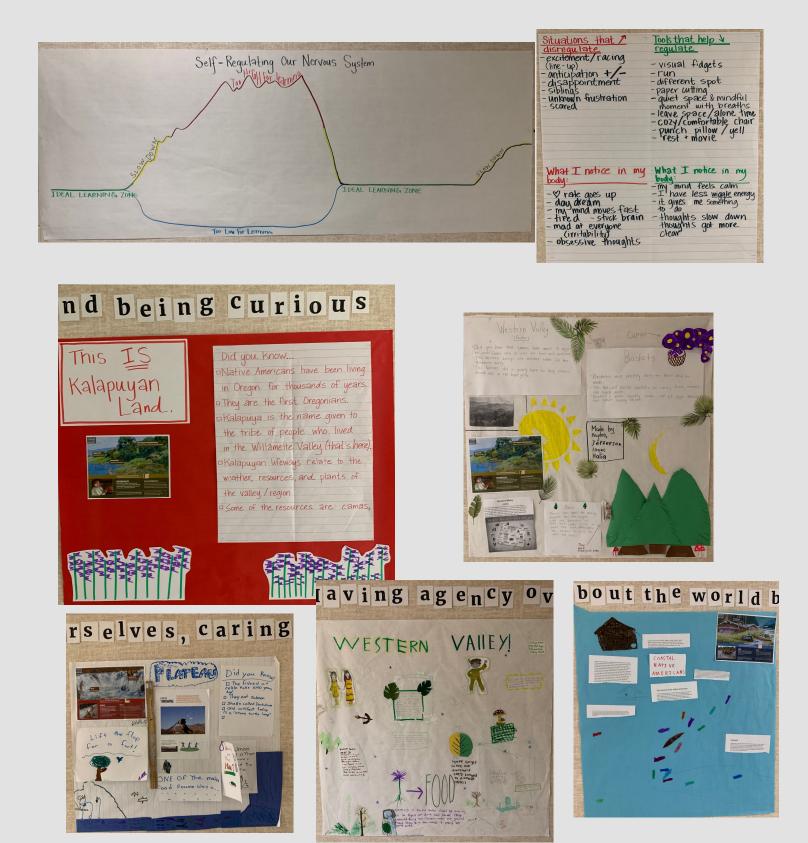


Current Bulletin Board Montage

I regularly make a point to walk the main hall and take a moment of appreciation for all the beautifully done bulletin boards. As a parent I would look for my child's work and delight in their growth. As the executive director I really appreciate the environment this sets up for our kiddos, and also appreciate this as a reflection of the care and effort our educators put into the students as well as the school as a whole. I hope you enjoy these, in person or electronically, as much as I do! ~Dave~



Current Bulletin Board Montage Special—5th Grade Edition





COBURG COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL

LUNCH MENU FOR DECEMBER 2023, GRADE: KG,1,2,3,4,5

NAME:	GRADE:		TEACHER:	
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				1
4	5	6	7	8
BAKED ZITI \$4.2	FRIED RICE \$4.25	CHICKEN DRUM \$4.25 STICKS	BAKED FRENCH \$4.25 TOAST	
SALAD BAR	SALAD BAR	MILK	MILK	
Shere brit	Sheho bhit	SALAD BAR	SALAD BAR	
11	12	13	14	15
CHICKEN \$4.2 NOODLE SOUP	G CHEFS MAC 'N' \$4.25 CHEESE	BBQ BRISKET \$4.25 SANDWICH	3 CHEESE \$4.25 PIZZA	
MILK	MILK	MILK	MILK	
SALAD BAR	SALAD BAR	SALAD BAR	SALAD BAR	
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29





30-Day Notice for Oregon's Statewide Assessment of English Language Arts and Mathematics

FOSTERING EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE FOR EVERY LEARNER

Oregon is committed to preparing every learner with academic knowledge and skills necessary for success beyond high school. Oregon's statewide summative assessment of English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics is fully aligned to Oregon's State Standards and provide students in grades 3-8 and 11, along with their families, one measure of academic achievement and growth.

OREGON'S STATEWIDE TESTS...

- o ...are created by educators in Oregon and across several other states
- o ...challenge your child to think critically and apply their knowledge across a variety of contexts
- o ...go beyond multiple choice and ask your child to explain their answers
- ...act as a snapshot of your child's progress that may be considered along with other pieces of information to determine your child's academic success
- ...help schools and districts evaluate their systems of teaching and learning, as well as identify groups of students whose academic needs may not be adequately met
- o ...help communities understand how well their public schools are performing

How long will it take my child to complete Oregon's statewide summative tests?

Most students complete their ELA test in 1.5 to 3 hours and their Mathematics test in 1 to 1.5 hours. Because there is no time limit on Oregon's statewide summative tests, your child can take as long as they need to fully demonstrate what they know and can do.

What do the results mean and where do I get my child's results?

Test results identify your child's strengths and areas for improvement in English Language Arts and Math. Each subject will be broken into categories and will show how well your child performed in each area. The tests measure student learning on a scale that allows for comparisons across time. The Oregon Department of Education has set four achievement levels along this scale that generally describe student academic performance. Your child's school will share your child's scores with you at the end of the current school year or the beginning of the next to help support your child's success as they move from grade to grade.

Why does my child's participation matter?

While no single test can give a complete picture of your child's progress, having your child take the statewide summative tests provides educators and administrators with one source of information about what educational approaches are working and where additional resources may be needed. Your child's participation is important to ensure schools and districts receive the targeted resources they need to help all students succeed.

When will my child take the test?

Your child's school will determine the specific dates your child takes the tests within the statewide testing window. The statewide testing windows for English Language Arts and Mathematics apply to the general and alternate statewide summative tests.

Grades 3-8	Grades 9-12
04/02/2024 — 06/14/2024	02/06/2024 — 06/14/2024

STAY INFORMED

Visit Oregon's Starting Smarter webpage (<u>https://or.startingsmarter.org</u>) to learn more about what your child should know and be able to do in English Language Arts and Math, to view sample test questions, and to read more about your child's test results. Contact your child's teacher or school principal with questions.



Annual OSAS Opt-Out Form (2023-24)

DESCRIPTION OF RIGHTS

Oregon law (ORS 329.479) permits parents/guardians and adult students* to annually opt-out of Oregon's statewide summative tests in <u>English Language Arts (ELA) and/or Mathematics</u> by submitting this form to the school the student attends. The school shall provide any student who is excused from a statewide ELA or mathematics test with supervised study time while other students are testing.

To opt-out of OSAS statewide summative tests in English Language Arts (ELA) and/or Mathematics, this section must be completed by the parent/guardian or adult student:

Student's Legal Last Name:	
Student's Legal First Name:	
Student's Enrolled Grade:	_
Student's School:	

Please indicate the OSAS statewide summative tests you are opting out of:

English Language Arts

🗆 Math

To help your child's school efficiently plan for the administration of tests, please submit this form to your child's school at least a week prior to the first day of testing. For students who enroll after the statewide testing window begins, you are encouraged to submit the form within 2 weeks of enrollment. This form is only valid for the current school year.

I understand that by signing this form I am opting my child out of OSAS statewide summative tests indicated above for the current academic year only.

Parent/Guardian Signature**:	 Date:	
Parent/Guardian Printed Name**:		

This form may be submitted any time prior to the close of the test window. If the student has already tested, the test will be invalidated; their test data will be removed from state data systems; and they will count as a non-participant for this year's testing. Requests submitted after the final day of the test window cannot be honored.

*Adult students (age 18 and older) may sign on their own behalf and do not require a signature by a parent or guardian.

**Typing your name into the signature box in the digital form indicates your official signature.

HEALTH COVERAGE for you and your family

2

5

Have Oregon Health Plan (OHP)? Keep your address up to date. Keep checking the mail for your renewal letters.

Free coverage may be available to kids, teens, and adults through the **Oregon Health Plan**.

Financial help is available through the Marketplace for both monthly and other out-of-pocket costs.

Find out what **coverage and savings** you can get at **OregonHealthCare.gov**.

Find free, local help at OregonHealthCare.gov/GetHelp.

Need help getting started? Call 855-268-3767 (toll-free, all relay calls accepted).



This fiver is not endorsed or sponsored by the school district.