

December 14, 2016

## Increasing kindergarten student success

Oregon Trail School District has been awarded a \$10,000 Kindergarten Partnership Innovation grant through the Clackamas County Children, Youth and Families Division. The funds will further advance district efforts to provide high-quality early-learning opportunities at Sandy Grade.

Funds will provide time for Sandy Grade preschool and kindergarten teachers to collaborate on strategies that will help students gain the skills and confidence necessary for a smooth transition to kindergarten. Teachers will be able to partner on developing and implementing effective instructional practices in both the preschool and kindergarten settings. Parent meetings will be jointly hosted by preschool and kindergarten teachers, focusing on ways parents can support and increase their child's kindergarten preparedness.

### Preschool options

This fall the district was awarded funds to open a new Oregon Promise Preschool at Sandy Grade School. The free preschool is a full-day program that runs on the same schedule as Sandy Grade – 5 days per week, 6 hours per day – and serves 4-year old children entering kindergarten the following year. Sandy Grade also offers three Head Start preschool classes for children age 3-5. This half-day program operates Monday through Thursday.

Sandy Grade preschool students participate in a wide range of activities that prepare them for kindergarten, including: early literacy and math, art, dramatic play centers, music, and activities that support social emotional and motor skill development.

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