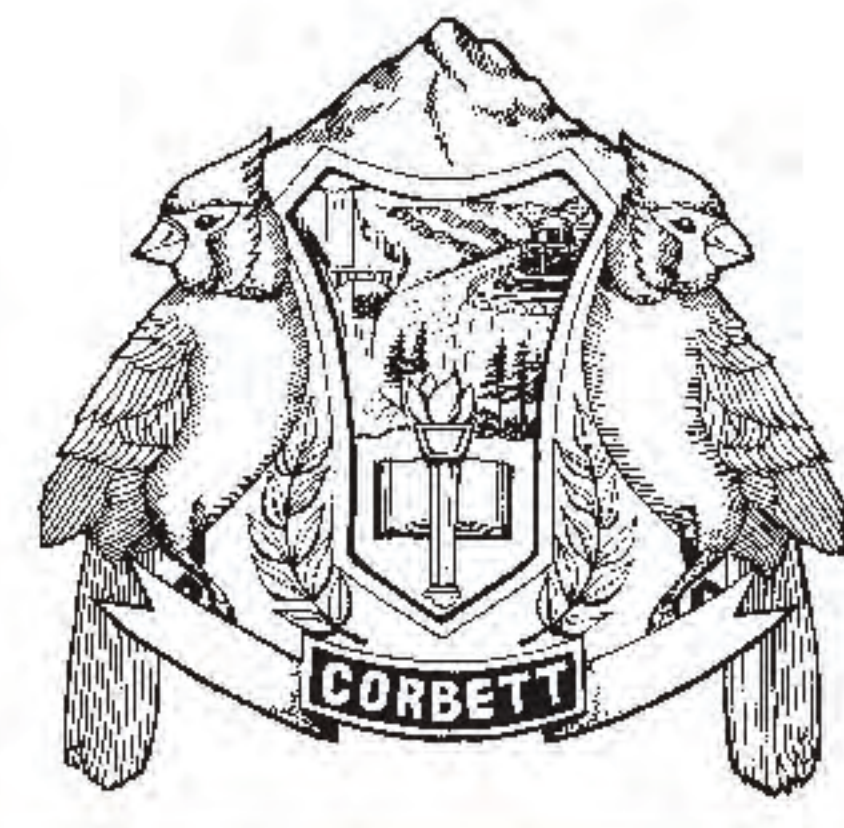


Corbett School District News



February 2020

Where Students Explore, Discover, and Grow Their Passions

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Student Success Act Update

by **Holly Dearixon**
Curriculum Coordinator

LAST MAY the Oregon Legislature passed the Student Success Act (SSA). This law will provide historic levels of new funding to Oregon schools. At the heart of the SSA is a commitment to improving access and opportunities for students who have been historically underserved in the education system. When fully implemented, the SSA is expected to invest \$1 billion in education each year.

Of those funds, \$200 million will go into the State School Fund and the remaining will be distributed into three accounts: the Early Learning Account, the Student Investment Account, and the Statewide Education Initiatives Account. At least 50% of the funds will be dedicated to the **Student Investment Account (SIA)**. The SIA will distribute funds directly to Oregon school districts through non-competitive grants. The SIA establishes five priority areas for improvement:

- Reducing academic disparities for students
- Meeting students' mental or behavioral health needs
- Providing equitable access to academic courses



Superintendent Trani (4th from left) joins Multnomah County superintendents and Oregon state legislators to discuss SSA. Pictured to his left is Tina Koteck, Oregon Speaker of the House, and to his right is Ken Richardson, Superintendent of David Douglas. Also pictured are Parkrose Superintendent Michael Lopes-Serrao, State Representative Carla Piluso, and Reynolds Superintendent Danna Diaz.

- Allowing teachers and staff to have sufficient time to collaborate for student success
- Strengthening partnerships

Corbett School District is working on the application for this grant. The process requires districts to reach out to students, staff, families, and community members for suggestions as to how this new money should be allocated. In October, we held a community engagement evening to explain the SIA and ask for initial feedback on the five priority areas for improvement. Over 100 parents and community members attended the event and we received 110 survey responses. For each of the 5 priority areas we asked:

- What is working well?
- Where do you see challenges?
- What suggestions do you have for improvement?

Overall for strengths the respondents mentioned the caring and dedicated staff, a welcoming school environment, and an engaging, rigorous curriculum. The challenges mentioned most often were a lack of resources and funding. Suggestions for improvement included increasing staffing and support for students, curriculum revisions, and additional community engagement.

The initial feedback was incorporated into a more targeted survey that was conducted early in January. Parent/guardians, students in grades 6-12, staff,

and community members were invited to complete this survey. In addition, families of students from historically underserved populations were especially encouraged to participate. The survey was translated into Spanish, and Eliza Miller and Jeanne Swift held a session to assist Spanish speaking families to complete the survey. Eliza Miller also called families who could not attend this session and helped them complete the survey over the phone. The survey asked for specific ideas for how we should plan to spend the SIA money in four areas:

- Class size reduction
- Well-rounded education
- Instructional time
- Health & safety

We are in the process of analyzing the survey results and will incorporate the ideas into our final grant application. The application will be presented to the school board for approval at the March meeting. Then the grant will be submitted to the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) for review. Once the application has been approved by ODE we will hold a community engagement event to update all interested parties on the plans for the 2020-21 school year.

Corbett CTE Development

by **Dr. Phil Pearson**
Corbett High School Principal

AT THE NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING, the community was introduced to John Niebergall. John was recommended to the Corbett School District as a potential CTE (Career & Technical Education) consultant by Rob Saxton. At the board meeting, John presented his analysis of the district's current CTE efforts and recommended areas in which the district could quickly expand CTE opportunities for students. John identified four primary areas for potential programs of study as being areas which offered high-wage and high demand opportunities for program completers. In each of those four areas, he evaluated the district's current programs in terms of teacher readiness, facility costs and current availability, equipment costs and current availability, sustainability, and entrepreneurial opportunities available in each area. Taking those things into account, John assigned a current readiness number from 1-10 in each area. The results of his analysis are summarized below:

	Commercial Construction	Health Services	Engineering + Advanced Manufacturing	Computer Science
Current Readiness (1-10)	3	4	7	8

Seeing that the district was already well along in its development of CTE pathways in Engineering and Computer Science, the decision was taken to point our next efforts at more fully realizing programs of study in those areas. With John's help, the district also completed and submitted a CTE Revitalization grant application to the Oregon Department of Education for the 2020-2021 school year which was aimed at more fully funding those CTE pathways. While certainly not the final word in Corbett CTE, we believe that these next steps John has helped us identify represent an important next phase in the development of our district.

Medieval Festival & Feast

by **Rhiannon Young & Lucas Houck**
Middle School Teachers

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS have been studying medieval history and just before winter break capped things off with a Medieval Festival and Feast. Students joined guilds and sold their wares for an activity fundraiser, others built catapults, and many joined with their families for an evening banquet complete with turkey legs served by our culinary arts students. The school was transformed into a medieval hallway with 3D models and the night was full of performances.



Calligraphy Guild



Printmaking Guild



Music to accompany festival



Launching the catapult



Catapult competition



Music to accompany feast