

BeavertonValleyTimes

Schools attract businesses to Washington County

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Strong public schools are a huge part of why families and businesses choose to call Washington County home.

We'd like to second Kristine Baggett's commentary. We are fortunate to live and work in a community that is committed to helping students reach their highest potential. Despite significant hardships from the pandemic, our local business community is working together to come back strong, and as they fully reopen, they'll be in search of employees with the highest potential.

[Read Kristine Baggett's commentary, published online June 1, 2021, on keeping kids engaged and learning throughout the year.](#)

Helping kids thrive requires resources — both human and financial. Teachers and staff work to do their part, and in Beaverton, they're bolstered by the Beaverton Education Foundation (BEF). Through individual classroom projects that meet the unique needs of just one class or a broader multi-school initiative, BEF drives private philanthropy into Beaverton schools so students can aim high.

Private investments in BEF and a strong partnership with Beaverton School District led to the Safe and Sound 4 Student Success Program (S4) that supports critical and at-risk middle school students with academic support, mentorship and opportunities to play sports. In addition to increased school attendance and fewer disciplinary incidents, perhaps most impressive was the higher grades S4 students earned, compared to peers.

Our kids benefit from this collaboration between private and public partners. When public funding falls short, Beaverton schools benefit from BEF, which means our entire community benefits. We're supporters of BEF, and we encourage others to join us.

Betty and Jim Flad, Cedar Hills