



Philomath School District 17J

Benton County School District No. 17J, 1620 Applegate Street Philomath OR 97370 (541) 929-3169

October 14, 2020

To: Philomath Students, Parents, Alumni, and Community
From: Mike Bussard, Philomath High School Principal
Susan Halliday, Philomath School District Superintendent

Thank you to Philomath for being such a wonderfully caring community! It is obvious to us just how passionate our community members are about our schools. Most recently, this has been expressed in concern about the graduation class pictures that grace the athletic hallway at Philomath High School (PHS). As a result of the community input and questions, we have taken the opportunity to slow down to discuss plans relating to moving forward while preserving history.

Following conversations today, it is our combined hope that we can address the needs of Philomath High School while supporting our loyal community members. To that end, we are planning the following:

- At this time, all class photographs will remain hanging on the walls at Philomath High School.
- At a later date, a committee will be established for purposes of discussion and planning for both maintaining history and moving forward.

As shared by Mr. Bussard, there are a number of items being considered at Philomath High School:

- Preserving integrity of class photographs at Philomath High School from fading, damage, and/or falling from wall mountings;
- The athletic trophy cases are beyond capacity, asking us to consider which trophies and accolades we would choose to move to storage; and
- Promoting the continued belief in the Philomath Warriors—“Once a Warrior, Always a Warrior”—including recognition of our connection to the Siletz Tribe.

We are committed to continued engagement in conversations about preserving history as we move forward together. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions.