

BeavertonValleyTimes

Letters to the Editor: Sept. 23, 2021

Preparing students to return to classrooms

I couldn't agree more with Kinnaman Elementary School Principal Ashlee Hudson's description of having students back at school for the first time in a year and a half as "pure magic" ("[Back-to-school in Beaverton brings mixed emotions](#)," Sept. 8, 2021).

My daughter was eager to return to Rock Creek Elementary, and I credit her readiness to her participation in Beaverton School District's summer learning program — Camp Achieve.

Camp Achieve is more than reading and math. Students engage in social and emotional interactions — especially important after last year's distance learning.

Like all parents, I did my best to support my child during distance learning, but there is no replacement for being around peers.

From African drumming to basketball to art, Camp Achieve students were exposed to learning in a way that made them look forward to school starting in September. During her weeks at Camp Achieve, I watched my daughter's confidence return, and I knew she was prepared to return to the classroom.

As a parent in the Beaverton School District, I want to do everything I can to make a difference in the lives of my daughter's peers. I recently joined the Beaverton Education Foundation (BEF) Board so that I could do more.

From after-school programs for middle school students, to more books in school libraries, to technology support for families with connectivity challenges, BEF supports programs big and small to fill in gaps in district funding. Camp Achieve is one fitting example of BEF's commitment to finding solutions.

Nearly a decade ago, Camp Achieve started as a summer program at one elementary school with support from a BEF grant. This summer, Camp Achieve put the magic back into education for thousands of our children.

Chanel Sheragy, Rock Creek