FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 22, 2018

Media Contact:
Mark Witty, Baker School District 5J, 541-620-2109, mark.witty@bakersd.org

Work finishing up at
Brooklyn Primary and Baker High School

Crews from Griffin Construction and Baker School District staff toured Baker High School and Brooklyn Primary this week to look over remaining projects of the grant-funded seismic upgrades at both schools that ensure each building can better handle an earthquake.

The majority of the $2.6 million grant funds were spent on new roofs for both BHS and Brooklyn. In addition to weatherproofing and insulation, the new roof was created by laying plywood in a staggered pattern. This is more stable than the original straight boards that were susceptible to damage in an earthquake or strong wind, said Vicente Coria, who is with ZCS Engineering Architecture.

Visible changes at BHS include new windows on the west and north sides of the gymnasium. These replaced the original glass blocks, which could have cracked and fallen if an earthquake ever shook the building, said Mark Aleksich, field superintendent with Griffin Construction.

Inside, cables were added to existing trusses and and tension applied to make them compliant with current codes. In the locker and boiler rooms, pipes were outfitted with seismic bracing and several walls were secured with metal brackets.

“If an earthquake hits it has stabilization,” Aleksich said.

At Brooklyn, the most obvious change is in the cafeteria where new windows let in sunlight. Previously the spaces were filled with glass blocks painted to match the building. Other work included replacing 49 skylights located in classrooms and hallways.

“Skylights were infilled and structurally corrected,” Coria said.
Sheer walls were created in hallways and several classrooms. In the hall, this involved taking the wall down to studs and rebuilding in a way that secures it to the floor and roof. In classrooms, a section of windows was removed and replaced with a sheer wall.

Crews also worked on the brick walls at Brooklyn by adding stitch ties, which anchor the brick to the wall. This was done on all interior brick walls, as well as near all entrances.

Final work, clean up and painting at both schools continues this week. The exterior brick replacement at Brooklyn may take several more weeks to complete.

Staff returns Aug. 27. The first day of school is Tuesday, Sept. 4.

**About Baker School District 5J**

Nationally recognized Baker School District 5J (BSD) in Baker City, OR, is the largest of three rural school districts in Baker County, serving 1,700 students and employing over 235 educators and staff. District elementary schools include Brooklyn Primary School, Haines Elementary, Keating Elementary School, and South Baker Intermediate. Baker Middle School and two high schools, Baker High School and Eagle Cap Innovative High School, are also part of BSD. Additionally, BSD sponsors two charter schools, Baker Web Academy and Baker Early College, each offering teacher-supported online education. BSD provides next generation education for the future of Eastern Oregonians and launched Baker Technical Institute (BTI), a career and technical program that partners with regional employers and industry experts to provide an innovative education in hands-on fields. BSD believes strong schools are the foundation of strong and vibrant communities and is committed to prepare students to become successful life-long learner.

###
The Baker 5J schools exist to be the center of community vitality eliminating the barriers for gratifying individual educational experiences in order to have capable contributing citizens with character.