FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 14, 2018
Media Contact: 
Mark Witty, Baker School District 5J, 541-620-2109, mark.witty@bakersd.org

Construction Begins

From: Baker School District
Re: Seismic Grant Money Spurs Construction This Summer
Date: May 14, 2018

Construction is set to begin on the Baker High School Gym and the Brooklyn Elementary school on May 15th according to Griffin Construction senior project manager Samuel Griffin. "It will be a soft start the first couple weeks as we deploy employees, materials and equipment to both job sites", says Samuel.

Both sites will be undergoing a seismic upgrades thanks to funding from two grants that were awarded to the Baker School district over the the last two years. The Oregon Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program (SRGP) was created to help fund seismic upgrades for educational institutions and emergency services buildings including hospitals, fire stations, and police stations. The purpose is to reduce losses in the case of a major seismic event. This program focuses on the safety of K-12 children and their educators, first responders, and hospitals that are expected to be operational following an earthquake.

Not only will the buildings be safer during a seismic event but they will also receive valued functional improvements including things like new roofs, increased energy efficiency, new windows, and some new finishes.

"We are thankful for the grants that give us an opportunity to improve the safety of our schools while at the same time allowing us to get a few extra benefits like new roofs, says Mark Witty, Baker School District Superintendent. "With work starting in May and lasting right up to the time staff return in August, this project will require patience from staff, parents and users of the building during the construction phase", according to Witty.

Weekly updates on the progress of both sites will be provided on social media and on the Baker School District website.

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.