

BEV CLARNO
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Greetings to all Oregon teachers and administrators and welcome back to school. I am Oregon Secretary of State, Bev Clarno and my staff and I wish you the very best for the coming school year.

I am happy to announce the kick-off of the third year of Oregon's Kid Governor Program. We began in 2017 and in the first two years we have had hundreds of 5th grade classrooms and over 4000 students, participate in this innovative, statewide civics program. The program was started by the Connecticut Democracy Center in 2015 and adapted to Oregon when it became the second state to participate. It is slated to become a nation-wide program, helping 5th graders learn how state governments function and by promoting the development of future state and national leaders.

Every Oregon 5th grader is eligible to participate. If more than one student from a school or classroom wants to run for Kid Governor, then the school will hold a primary so that only one student from each school or home school will become a nominee. Each nominee will make a 1-3 minute video that will cover the following: 1) Why they are a good leader; 2) Why they want to be Kid Governor; 3) What issue they would focus on if elected; and 4) what three action items they will undertake to enlist other 5th graders to help promote the issue. From the pool of videos, an independent panel of judges will choose seven final candidates. Those seven videos will be placed on the Oregon's Kid Governor's website: orkg.kidgovernor.org/ for all to see, but only registered 5th grade classrooms can vote.

During the election, November 4-12, participating 5th graders will watch the seven candidate videos and vote. The winner will be announced before Thanksgiving, and an official inauguration ceremony will be held in January, 2020 here at the State Capitol in Salem. Oregon's Kid Governor serves for one calendar year (the actual time away from class is minimal). During their one-year term, the Kid Governor will work with my office on their issue and will meet with Oregon's leaders and legislators. In addition, Oregon's Kid Governor will do press conferences, television and radio spots and will create an online civics video.

Oregon's current Kid Governor, Erikka Baldwin (McCornack Elementary School) and Oregon's first Kid Governor, Dominic Peters (Willamette Valley Christian) have not only completed their 3-point plans but have brought much more to this program as ambassadors for Civics by showing leadership, thoughtfulness and a community minded spirit.

For more information about Oregon's Kid Governor Program or to register and access the toolkits (lesson plans) please go to orkg.kidgovernor.org/.

I hope you are as excited about the program as we are here in Salem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bev Clarno". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bev Clarno
Oregon Secretary of State