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News Release

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The McKay High School Athletic Booster Club, McKay students and staff, and Salem-Keizer Public Schools invite the community to join them in celebrating the opening of McKay High School's new turf athletic field at a special event on Friday, September 1, 2017.

The event opens with a BBQ at 5:30 p.m. and will be followed by a special ribbon cutting ceremony on the 50 yardline at 6:45 p.m. The McKay community and the booster club will recognize the major donors who made the installation of the turf field a reality. Nearly \$1 million in cash and in-kind contributions were needed to fund the installation of the field.

Following the ribbon cutting, the McKay Varsity Football team will host West Salem High in the first game on the new field. Kickoff is at 7:30 p.m. There will be a youth football team scrimmage at half-time of the varsity game.

McKay High School is Salem-Keizer's largest high school and serves more than 2,400 students. McKay is the final high school in the district to transition from natural to artificial turf. Upgrading the field from grass to turf will allow more opportunities for use by athletic teams, especially during the wet season. Other programs, such as marching band, also will benefit from the new field.

The new turf field is a point of pride for the McKay community. When asked about what the field means to them, students commented:

"I feel like this field will motivate us more. Not for just the people here (at McKay) but for the upcoming kids from middle schools."

"It makes me really happy that the community is supporting our athletics as well as our academics."

"To have this turf field, I feel like it's giving us hope."

McKay High School was recently ranked #27 within Oregon by U.S. News & World Report in its 2017 Best High Schools rankings.

For more information about the McKay Turf Field Ribbon Cutting event, please contact Danielle Bethell, turf project manager, at (503) 851-8617. For more information about McKay High School, please contact Rob Schoepper, principal at (503) 399-3080.

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