



# PHILOMATH School District 17J

*Our vision is for EVERY student to graduate and transition into a job, training or college.*



## Quick facts

**Enrollment:** About 1560

**Number of schools:** 6

- Clemens Primary School (PK-1)
- Blodgett Elementary School (K-4)
- Philomath Elementary School (Gr. 2-5)
- Philomath Middle School (Gr. 6-8)
- Philomath High School (Gr. 9-12)
- King's Valley Charter School (K-12)

**Number of teachers:** 88

**Number of support staff:** 54

**Number of administrators:** 6

**About our staff:**

- 99.9% of all classes in the district are taught by highly qualified teachers
- The average Philomath School District teacher has 13 years experience.

DEMOGRAPHICS 2015-16	CLEM. PK-1	BLOD. K-4	PES Gr.2-5	PMS Gr.6-8	PHS Gr.9-12
Regular Attenders	77%	80.6%	88.1%	85.4%	74.8%
Economically Disadvantaged	38%	52%	42%	34%	26%
Students with Disabilities	18%	*	15%	11%	12%
English Learners	*	*	<5%	<5%	5%
Different Languages Spoken	2	1	5	3	6

WITHIN-YEAR MOBILITY 2015-16	CLEM. PK-1	BLOD. K-4	PES. Gr.2-5	PMS Gr.6-8	PHS Gr.9-12
Students in Philomath SD	18.9%	3.1%	7.3%	7.1%	9.8%

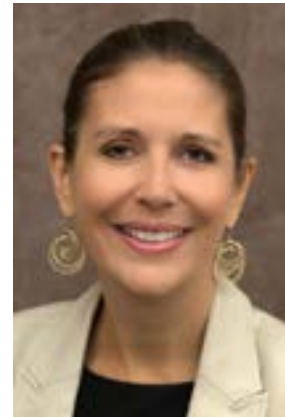
*It is the policy of the Philomath School District and Board of Directors that there will be no discrimination or harassment on the grounds of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, marital status, age, veterans' status, genetic information or disability in any educational programs, activities or employment.*

# Welcome to Philomath School District

We are proud to share this annual report with information about Philomath School District.

Our vision is to graduate EVERY student ready to transition into a job, training or college. We pride ourselves on creating a learning environment that honors the unique skills of each student and provides opportunities for growth in a wide variety of academics.

Our career and technical education programs are unrivaled, buoyed by strong partnerships with local industry that offer students extraordinary opportunities. The walls of the classroom extend to 20 acres of timber land for forestry students at Philomath High School, thanks to



one of these partnerships.

We are pleased that we are consistently outpacing peer districts in Benton County on assessments across most subject areas and grade levels. We are also proud to have an on-time graduation rate that is 17 percentage points higher than the state of Oregon overall.

Our staff engage in continuous improvement through weekly professional development, focusing on key success factors that will help us achieve our vision.

We invest in teachers, instructional assistants and counselors to ensure that relationships are the center of the supports we provide to students.

We recognize that our families trust us with their most precious resource, their children. We know educating our children is a shared responsibility with students, family and community.

We invite you to read about our schools here and reach out to individual principals if you wish to learn more about our continued success.

Sincerely,

Melissa Goff  
Superintendent

## Community Partners Provide Important Opportunities

They say it takes a village to raise a child, and that is true in Philomath School District. Educating students is a shared responsibility with students, families, schools and community.

Philomath students are fortunate to benefit from many opportunities made possible by community partnerships. One of the latest is an incredible gift from Emery Castle, a professor emeritus at Oregon State University. He donated 20 acres of timber land to the Philomath Community Foundation, so that Philomath students from kindergarten through high school can use the land as an outdoor learning space and working timber land.



“Timber is our history,” said Superintendent Melissa Goff. “Having this learning space where kids can explore different aspects of the natural environment is not only an amazing gift, but in many ways is what defines us.”

The impact of the Philomath Community Foundation is seen in considerable other ways -- from the college scholarships it awards to PHS seniors to assistance with events like the districtwide *Inspired* day that is held every year.

Many other partners help in additional ways. The Philomath Lions Club offers free vision screenings for students every year. The Philomath Chamber of Commerce recognizes high school students through a “Student of the Month” award. The Philomath Rotary Club does a monthly recognition of middle school students and offers college scholarships to graduates each year.

The Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians will be providing guest speakers and other opportunities for students to learn about the culture and history of native people in Philomath. The Philomath Pastors Fellowship hosts staff appreciation luncheons at the schools throughout the year.

The list goes on.

“Part of our strength as a district is our relationship with our community,” said Goff.



## High Expectations

Philomath School District has high expectations for all students. The goal is to provide instruction and support to help every student achieve academic and personal success.

- About 198 students receive Special Education services, ranging from speech and language assessments to specially designed instruction in their area of skill deficit.
- For students whose first language isn't English, the English Language Development program helps ensure that they develop a strong foundation of academic skills while learning a new language. The district serves about 25 ELL students.
- About 55 students are served through the Talented and Gifted program. Oregon students qualify for TAG when they are in the top 3% on any nationally normed test of achievement or aptitude and there is additional evidence suggesting high ability.

## District Prepares Students For Next Steps

English Language Arts*		
2015-16	District	State
Philomath High School	81.6%	70.0%
Philomath Middle School	68.8%	56.7%
Philomath Elementary	46.6%	52.4%
Blodgett Elementary	44.4%	49.8%

\*% meeting standard for Smarter Balanced and alternate assessments. Administered in Gr. 3-8, 11

Mathematics*		
2015-16	District	State
Philomath High School	44.9%	34.2%
Philomath Middle School	56.1%	42.8%
Philomath Elementary	46.7%	44.9%
Blodgett Elementary	66.7%	46.5%

\*% meeting standard for Smarter Balanced and alternate assessments. Administered in Gr. 3-8, 11

Science*		
2015-16	District	State
Philomath High School	66.1%	60.0%
Philomath Middle School	87.6%	63.8%
Philomath Elementary	63.0%	66.5%

\*% meeting or exceeding state standard. Administered in Gr. 5, 8, 11.

Students in Philomath School District 17J are at the top of the class when it comes to student achievement and other measures of school success. Consider this:

- 89.5% of students in the Class of 2016 graduated within four years, compared to 73.8% statewide.
- Philomath High School's dropout rate is 1.8%, compared to 4.3% statewide.
- Philomath students outperformed the state average in math, science and English Language Arts at nearly every grade level.
- Philomath students outpace their Benton County peers across most subject areas and grade levels.

*'Every time we hand a student a diploma, we are actually opening a door.'*

Melissa Goff  
Superintendent

Those results reflect the district's commitment to making sure every student graduates ready to transition to job, training or college, said Superintendent Melissa Goff.

"The reason graduation is important is not because of the diploma itself but because it opens doors to students' next steps," said Goff. "Our focus is to make sure students are well prepared. Every time we hand a student a diploma, we are actually opening a door."

## Technology Plays Important Role In Student Learning

Technology is entwined into almost every part of our lives, and that includes the classroom. At Philomath School District, our goal is to use technology to expand and amplify students' educational experience in a supported and reliable manner.

At Philomath Middle School, for example, staff use a variety of math skill building games and programs to help determine students' skill levels and help fill in gaps in their math knowledge, said teacher Carmen Martin. A program called Desmos enables students to have visual representations of math. Graphing calculator emulators enable teachers to show students how to graph equations, without the need for a classroom set of graphing calculators and the batteries to power them.

Technology plays similar important roles at every school in the district. The introduction of Chromebook carts provided additional access to technology to students throughout the district.

A team of staff and community worked last year to develop a new technology plan to guide the district. It outlines the district's goals for the types of devices and instruction needed at each grade level.

Ratio of Computer Devices to Students	
Clemens Primary	1:6
Blodgett Elementary	1:2
Philomath Elementary	1:4
Philomath Middle School	1:3
Philomath High School	1:1

## Individualized Attention Is Key To Student Academic Success

If you wanted to graph Philomath School District's success in graduating students on time and well prepared for their next steps, it might look like this:

*Individualized attention + low student-teacher ratio = Student academic success*

An individualized relationship between student and teacher is critical, said Superintendent Melissa Goff. She attributes the high school's high graduation rate – tops in Benton County and well above the state average – to the relationships staff build with students and knowing their needs.

"We are constantly evaluating how we can do that better," she added.

One way that happens is through professional learning teams. Staff meet in teams every Friday afternoon where they share instructional strengths with each other and learn new strategies to meet the needs of students.

Professional learning time is planned for secretaries and instructional assistants as well as teachers. That opportunity to share and learn together is valuable, said middle school secretary LouAnn Mergl.

"I think it is a win-win situation for both the district and certified personnel as well as the classified," she said.

Being included in professional learning opportunities "shows our district values every employee, regardless of their title," said Amanda Bauer, Special Education secretary.

That's a sentiment echoed by Goff.

"Everybody in our system is valuable to students," she said, "and everybody has a role in helping students progress and be ready for the next steps beyond high school."

**77 Philomath High School students are members of National Honor Society, maintaining a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.**

	Median Class Size					
	Elementary		Middle		High	
	DIST.	OR	DIST.	OR	DIST.	OR
Self-Contained	25.5	25.0	-	-	-	-
Eng./Lang. Arts	-	-	21.0	25.0	27.0	25.0
Mathematics	-	-	22.0	26.0	20.0	24.0
Science	-	-	28.0	28.0	26.5	26.0
Social Studies	-	-	25.5	28.0	23.0	27.0

Combined schools have grade configurations not falling within the elementary, middle and high categories (eg, K-12 schools)

### Did You Know?

- The basic technology in most classrooms is: Teacher computer, document camera, LCD projector and Smart Board.
- Field trip enrichment is provided to elementary students through support from the Parent Club.
- A variety of digital learning options are available for students K-12, based on their individual needs.
- One in every six high school students participate in a school play.
- One in every five high school students participate in choir or band.
- 45% of all Philomath Middle School students participate in after school interscholastic sports.
- One third of 7th and 8th graders participate in Band or Choir.



# Welcome to PHILOMATH HIGH SCHOOL

Home of the Warriors

## Quick Facts

**Principal:** Brian Flannery  
**Grades:** 9-12  
**Enrollment:** 459  
**Student/Teacher Ratio:** 18:1  
**Colors:** Gold and Black  
**Mascot:** Warriors  
**League:** Oregon West Conference

*'Everyone is very accepting and kind, and there isn't a lot of bullying. It's like we're all just a family.'*

Aubrey Casey, Freshman

*'I like how diverse the teaching styles are.'*

Keltin Benson, Junior

*'It's small, so students can have a better relationship with their teachers. I also love the facilities because it allows students to pursue their passions.'*

Claire Kepner, Senior

*'Our incredible students, staff and community members make this a place to learn, both inside the classroom and out in the world.'*

Christopher McMorran, Senior

## We Believe Every Student Can Achieve Academic Excellence

At Philomath High School our mission is to support the highest success of every student and every staff member, every day. We are committed to equitable practices and the deep belief that each student can achieve academic excellence. In partnership with parents, students and the community, we dedicate ourselves to the shared responsibility of meeting the diverse needs of each student as they work toward their goals.

### Rigorous academics

Philomath High School's rigorous academic program is accredited by the Northwest Accreditation Commission and the Oregon Department of Education. PHS offers Advanced Placement (AP) courses in English Literature, Government and Calculus.

Many PHS students get a head start on college by participating in programs that allow them to earn college credits while still in high school. Through articulation with Linn Benton Community College (LBCC), PHS students gain access to college level Physics and Writing. Through our Career and Technical Education programs, PHS students access *College Now* courses in a variety of academic areas. *Beyond PHS*, another college program in cooperation with LBCC, allows students in grades 11 and 12 to engage in early college experiences while in high school. *Beyond PHS* students take classes on both the high school and community college campuses and have the opportunity to earn up to an associates degree.

All PHS students apply their academic skills through participation in an authentic and challenging senior project as part of their graduation requirements. The senior project has a rich history, providing students the chance to design and

*Students can earn college credits while still in high school.*



implement a complex learning experience that explores their career interests and advances the knowledge and skills they have gained in school.

### Hands On Learning

PHS has five thriving state-recognized Career and Technical Education programs: Forestry, Health Occupations, Culinary Arts, Manufacturing and Office Management. These programs have established college credit course opportunities through partner community colleges. The duplicated student count for courses in our CTE programs this year is 724 (many students take multiple courses).

PHS is fortunate to have one of the only high school Forestry programs in Oregon. This year 20 percent of our students took a Forestry class. Many former students have gone on to careers in Forestry or take college level Forestry and Natural Resources courses.

PHS cultivates strong partnerships with area businesses to provide mentoring and internship opportunities.

### Arts, Activities and Athletics

PHS arts, activities and athletics programs represent abundant opportunities for students to

compete and perform on a state and national level. Students also select from a wide range of clubs -- from Cinematic Arts to Robotics. Each year about half of our students take part in either our visual performing arts classes or programming. Our students and staff have been recognized on many occasions for their achievements in the arts and athletics.

The PHS performing arts program has won two GRAMMY Signature Schools Awards. This program recognizes top U.S. public high schools that make an outstanding commitment to music education during an academic school year. Each year only 10 schools are recognized from more than 16,000 schools that apply.

PHS has also been recognized for its athletic achievements, winning the Oregon School Activity Association's Oregonian Cup in 2010-11 and being ranked in the top 10 for 4A schools for the past 11 years. The Oregonian Cup recognizes overall excellence by schools in academics, activities and athletics.

## Did You Know?

- Local organizations provided \$150,000 in college scholarships to seniors in the Class of 2016.
- Philomath High School offers Advanced Placement classes in English Literature, Government and Calculus.
- Students can take college level Physics and Writing classes through articulation with Linn Benton Community College.
- About 65% of Philomath High School graduates continue their education at a two- or four-year college.
- More than one-third of Philomath High School students are involved in the performing arts.
- PHS offers strong Career Technical Education (CTE) programs, including Forestry, Health Occupations, Culinary Arts, Manufacturing and Office Management.
- PHS offers 17 OSAA-sponsored athletic teams. One third of the student body participates in sports.
- PHS has a strong athletic tradition, winning 212 league championships and 29 state titles over the years.

### Student Outcomes

What are students achieving?	PHS 2015-16	State 2015-16
Freshmen on track to graduate (within 4 years)	91.9%	83.5%
Graduation rate (within 4 years)	90.9%	73.8%
Completion rate (within five years)	89.7%	81.6%
Dropout rate	1.8%	4.3%
Continuing education (Enrolled in 2- or 4-year school within 16 months of graduation)	64.9%	59.4%

## Quick Facts

Principal: Steve Bell  
 Grades: 6-8  
 Enrollment: 349  
 Student/Teacher Ratio: 19:1  
 Colors: Blue and Gold  
 Mascot: Braves

*'The whole Philomath Middle School experience has been just incredible.'*  
 Sydney Burton, 8th grade

*'I always feel like I can talk to my teachers and coaches about anything.'*  
 Eli McLennan, 8th grade

*'The teachers are super nice and helpful. I can't pick a favorite because I like all of them.'*  
 Claire Skinkis, 8th grade

*'What I like about middle school is all the relationships that I have and am building with the many people around me.'*

Devn Vogler  
 7th grade

*'People respect one another and care about each other.'*  
 Alek Russell  
 7th grade

## PHILOMATH MIDDLE SCHOOL

*Focus is personal relationship with students and families*

*Philomath Middle School is a positive, respectful and student-centered learning community. We are dedicated to preparing all students for success through times of growth and change by focusing on academic excellence and social responsibility.*

Philomath Middle School is an excellent school with a veteran staff. We have personal knowledge of every student and make it a priority to develop caring and genuine relationships with students and their families. We strive to fuel a focus for learning and growing by creating a school environment where students *want* to attend. It is this focus that guides our decisions and programs to meet the needs of all our students.

At the middle school there is a wide spectrum of students in various stages of academic learning, social experience and maturity. It is the variety and growth of students that makes middle school an exciting time in the student's life. It is our goal to guide and accelerate the growth of each student and in doing so provide an environment that reflects the community's values and expectations.

### Safe and Caring Environment

Each month we focus at least one day on a "Be Kind" activity and award students a shirt and bracelet for being kind. Annually, school staff facilitate HERO Challenge, focusing on "Helping Everyone Respect Others." *Connections* is a program that partners 6th and 8th graders to share lunch together at least one day a week. The purpose is to give 6th graders an opportunity to get to know an older student through a positive experience.



### Music and Drama

The arts are an important part of the culture at PMS. Consider this:

- More than 20% of students participate in the annual school drama production, either acting or part of stage crew or technology crew.
- Nearly half (about 45%) of all students participate after school interscholastic sports.
- One third of 7th and 8th graders participate in Band or Choir. All 6th graders are enrolled in a music class.

### Outdoor School

Students experience nature and learn about the ecosystem during the annual week-long Outdoor School, which is held at Camp Tadmor near Sweet Home.

## Quick Facts

Principal: Susan Halliday  
 Grades: 2-5  
 Enrollment: 395  
 Student/Teacher Ratio: 18:1  
 Colors: Blue and Black  
 Mascot: Falcons

*'There are such great teachers here.'*  
 Reagan, 4th grade

*'Our school is amazing.'*  
 Skyler, 4th grade

*'A great place to learn and be yourself!'*  
 Melissa Patterson, Teacher



## PHILOMATH ELEMENTARY

*Provides unique blend of supports to promote success*

*Together we nurture, respect and challenge all individuals as they grow into responsible, life-long learners.*

In the office at Philomath Elementary School hangs a picture, created by all staff members, that proclaims that "Philomath Elementary is Our School." Our students and staff believe this is true each and every day.

Philomath Elementary School is a supportive, caring community of 2nd through 5th grade students. We provide a unique blend of supports to promote success and belonging to students, families, and staff.

- Teamwork is the glue that defines "Together" in our school mission statement. Commitment to this belief is paramount to success.
- The needs of each and every student are met in a variety of ways. Students participate in the lessons and activities they need, and teachers are flexible when planning learning opportunities.
- All students participate in regular Music Education and Physical Education, provided by staff members licensed in these areas of expertise.
- Students have access to two computer labs and a classroom cart of wireless computers.
- Small class sizes are maintained as a focus to support each and every student on their pathways to success as a learner, individual, member of a team and citizen.
- It is OK to make mistakes at PES. Each person learns through persevering through struggles in order to solve problems or reach a positive result.
- Students are recognized, in ongoing ways, for successes in school.
- A healthy dose of appropriate humor from both students and staff is demonstrated often. Learning can be very fun!
- PES employs a kind and caring staff. Adults in our school provide respectful support to all students. Teaching students to have the courage to try and to persevere through struggles is a great lesson for learners of any age.
- Student safety is evidenced by students and staff supporting acceptance and promoting a belief in self and others.
- At the conclusion of the daily announcements, all school community members are asked to "Please Be Kind." This statement permeates the school as a focus for all to strive toward and model.

## Quick Facts

Principal: Susan Halliday  
 Grades: K-4  
 Enrollment: 32  
 Student/Teacher Ratio: 16:1  
 Mascot: Wildcats

*'I like Blodgett School because kids care about other people.'*  
 Grant, 1st Grade

*'The kids are super nice.'*  
 Clara, 2nd Grade

*'It's a small school and you get more learning time with the teachers.'*  
 Zoey, 4th Grade



## BLODGETT ELEMENTARY

*History of serving students in small, caring environment*

**Together we nurture, respect and challenge all individuals as they grow into responsible, life-long learners.**

Blodgett Elementary School is a small, rural school nestled in the foothills of the coast range. Established in 1850, we have a long history of serving students in a rich, supportive, safe environment. With only 32 students, we offer a friendly, caring environment where students and their families are welcomed personally, and we get to know them well.

Blodgett serves students in kindergarten through 4th grade. Two classroom teachers, with the help of support staff, blend student classes to best meet the needs of all students in a small environment. Currently, there is a class for kindergarten through 2nd grade students and a class for 3rd and 4th grade students. We provide a unique combination of supports to promote success and belonging for all students.

- Teamwork is the glue that defines "Together" in our school mission statement. Commitment to this belief is paramount to success. Students constantly model the ability to work together as an entire school community.
- The needs of each and every student are met in a variety of ways. Students participate in the lessons and activities they need.
- All students participate in regular Music Education and Physical Education.
- Students have access to technology in the classroom and the library.
- Advances are being currently being made in the area of wireless technology.
- Our rural setting offers a unique opportunity for our students to use the outdoors as a learning environment.
- It is OK to make mistakes at Blodgett. Each student learns through persevering through struggles in order to solve problems or reach a positive result.
- A healthy dose of appropriate humor from both students and staff is demonstrated often. Learning can be very fun!
- Blodgett employs a kind and caring staff. Adults in our school provide respectful support to all students. Teaching students to have the courage to try and to persevere through struggles is a great lesson for learners of any age.
- Student safety is evidenced by students and staff supporting acceptance and promoting a belief in self and others.

## Quick Facts

Principal: Cindy Golston  
 Grades: PK-1  
 Enrollment: 157  
 Student/Teacher Ratio: 16:1  
 Colors: Purple and Gold  
 Mascot: Bear Cubs

*'CPS has such a great staff and friendly people. They adjust for every student, whatever their needs are, and address them through an open door policy and responsive staff.'*

Michael Chambers, Parent

*'I enjoy working in a school that is focused on early learners and where we only have two grade levels. We really get to know our students.'*

Kendall Lord, 1st Grade



## CLEMENS PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Dedicated to serving the district's youngest learners*

In the fall of 2000, Philomath School District opened its doors to a gift from Philomath voters: a school dedicated to the district's youngest learners. Clemens Primary School currently serves children from toddler age up to first grade. Early childhood education is a critical component of preparing students for academic and social success.

### Community Partnerships for Young Children

Partnerships with Strengthening Rural Families and Linn Benton Community College help Clemens Primary School to provide preschool opportunities and family learning activities for Philomath families and children. The goal is to enable children to easily transition from pre-K to kindergarten programs. The Philomath Youth Activities Club provides after school care on the CPS campus for kindergarten through 4th grade students.

### Developmentally Appropriate Academics

Our academic program focuses on teaching children developmentally appropriate Language Arts and Mathematic skills. We strive to ensure that ALL students receive a solid academic foundation. We offer programs that tailor learning based on individual skill development, including English As A Second Language, Special Education and Title 1 reading supports.

### Balanced Educational Opportunities

Twice-weekly physical education and music classes for our kindergarten and first grade students, as well as weekly library visits, are important in providing a balanced educational program. Our school counselor works with students individually, in small groups and with entire classes. Every classroom is equipped with modern technology, including Smartboards, document cameras, projectors and sound bars. Students learn basic computer skills in our netbook computer lab.

### Connections Are Vital to Well-Being

Building relationships with more than one adult is key to understanding the many strengths and needs of each child. From the moment students are dropped off to when they are escorted to cars and buses, they experience multiple interactions with our teachers, instructional assistants and other school staff members.

## School Board

**Tom Klipfel, Chair**

541-929-4035

[tom.klipfel@philomath.k12.or.us](mailto:tom.klipfel@philomath.k12.or.us)

Term expires June 2017

**Don Cruise, Vice Chair**

541-602-1345

[don.cruise@philomath.k12.or.us](mailto:don.cruise@philomath.k12.or.us)

Term expires June 2017

**Shelly (Morris) Brown**

541-929-7399

[rachael.brown@philomath.k12.or.us](mailto:rachael.brown@philomath.k12.or.us)

Term expires June 2019

**Jim Kildea**

541-929-7430

[jim.kildea@philomath.k12.or.us](mailto:jim.kildea@philomath.k12.or.us)

Term expires June 2017

**Rick Wells**

541-929-4361

[rick.wells@philomath.k12.or.us](mailto:rick.wells@philomath.k12.or.us)

Term expires June 2019

## Get Involved: Be A Volunteer

There are plenty of reasons why volunteers are critical to the success of schools, but this may be number one: Research shows that students do better in school when their parents and other adults are actively involved in their education. Adults demonstrate through volunteering that they take school and education seriously and respect learning.

Every school in the Philomath School District welcomes and appreciates volunteers.

“We rely on our volunteers,” said Superintendent Melissa Goff. “For every person who wants to donate their time, we will have an important job for them to do that will make a difference in the life of a child.”

There are numerous ways you can volunteer --assist in a classroom, be a guest speaker, serve on an advisory council (such as the Special Education Advisory Council or the Emerging Bilingual Advisory Council), join the Philomath High School Booster Club, attend Parent Club meetings, participate on your school's Site Council, just to name a few. To volunteer, call your school office.



Philomath School District  
1620 Applegate Street  
Philomath, OR 97370  
Office: 541-929-3169  
FAX: 541-929-3991



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