FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 14, 2018

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

Students Commemorate the 17 Individuals Who Lost Their Lives in Parkland, Florida

(Baker City, Ore.) – Baker School District had two student bodies participate in the commemoration of the students and staff who lost their lives in the Parkland, Florida. Approximately 60 students at Baker Middle School and approximately 55 students at Baker High School participated in the 17-minute event. The event was monitored by Baker School District administrative staff as well as our Student Resource Officer and local law enforcement to ensure safety. The students at the high school formed a circle by the track where a statement was read by one student followed by 17 minutes of silence. A similar activity occurred at Baker Middle School by the flagpole of that facility. Students were respectful during the student led event and then went back to class immediately afterwards.

Witty stated that “The event was organized by students which was similarly done throughout Oregon and the United States. Our student bodies were respectful throughout the event and stayed within the timeframe of the 17 minutes representing those who lost their lives in the horrific event at Parkland, Florida.”

About Baker 5J School District

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 110 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 lifelong learners.

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.