



Blackcat News

Mission Statement:
"Educating Today for a Better Tomorrow"

VOLUME 24

ISSUE 79

SCHOOL YEAR 2019-2020

November 7, 2019



HHS End-of-Course Assessment

	ELA I		ELA II
Herculaneum	89.2	Herculaneum	84.4
State Average	60	State Average	59
	ALG I		ALG II
Herculaneum	65.6	Herculaneum	72.7
State Average	45.3	State Average	50
	Geometry		Biology
Herculaneum	81.9	Herculaneum	Scores have not been released.
State Average	46.2	State Average	

ELA = English Language Arts

ALG = Algebra

Herculaneum High School students are scoring well above the state average on End-of-Course assessments.

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education requires all public high schools to give EOC tests for English Language Arts II and Algebra I. In those two areas, Herculaneum students had the highest and second-highest average score in Jefferson County respectively.

Blackcats did well on the other tests as well, but fewer schools participate in those subjects. For example, only Herculaneum and one other public high school in Jefferson County took the geometry test.

Superintendent Stratton believes the EOC assessments are valuable to the district and our students. He says, "They are good tools to know if we are meeting state expectations."

Missouri public schools start testing students in the third grade as part of the Missouri Assessment Program, known as MAP. Those tests run through the eighth grade. Once students reach high school, they take End-of-Course exams, which are not tied to grade level, but to the subject matter.

Prop S Update

In August 2018, voters approved Proposition S to expand Pevely Elementary School. The project includes adding 10 new classrooms and expanding the cafeteria. A wing of eight classrooms on the back of the building will also be a storm shelter. We received a \$1.4 million grant from FEMA to help with this addition.

The green, metal bus garage was torn down to make room for the new classrooms. All the rerouting of water and sanitary sewer lines has been completed. The footings and foundation of the storm shelter are in place, and the thick concrete block walls are being erected. The project is on track to be completed by August 2020, just in time to welcome back our students.

Construction of the new bus garage, located behind the football field, is underway. The soil was stripped away from the property, and clean fill was delivered, spread, and compacted. The foundation is completed, and the pre-engineered metal building should be delivered this week. The new bus garage is on track to be completed by February 2020.

Message from the Board President

Dear Dunklin R-5 Community Partners:

There are so many exciting things happening around the District. As I mentioned in our last newsletter, Taylor Early Childhood Center had been notified they were selected as the Early Childhood Program of the Year. This program is so beneficial to the children in our community and so much hard work has gone into this program since its creation. This was a well-deserved honor. They received their award from the Future Builders educational foundation at the Missouri School Board Association's Annual Conference in September. Many of the Board, Administration and Taylor staff were on hand for the event. It was truly awesome to have our Taylor team recognized for their achievements.

Something else to highlight is our Baldrige Continuous Improvement Project. This is a process we have been working on for a while now. This continuous improvement process has become our culture. It has helped us improve in many areas. At the MSBA Annual Conference in September, I had the privilege of presenting at one of the sessions along with Mr. Stratton, our Superintendent, Dr. Freeman, our Deputy Superintendent, and Mrs. Sharp, our Continuous Improvement Manager and Transportation Director. We shared with those in attendance about our Baldrige journey. The presentation talked about what it has done to help our district improve and move forward. We shared information on how our APR has continuously increased since we started the process. Attendance is better; staff retention, as well as staff/student engagement, have also improved. If you would like more information about the Baldrige criteria and framework, each month at our Board meeting we have a goal team presentation where they share status updates on their goal team area. Monthly board meetings are open to the public and you are more than welcome to attend. You can also find information regarding Baldrige on our website under the District tab.

Speaking of continuous improvement, the Board is also working on ways that we can continuously improve. We recently completed a Board Self Evaluation using a tool provided to us by the Missouri School Board Association. The reason we did this is to see where we are as a board to see if we are on the same page or if there are areas where we need to improve. The board met and discussed the results and out of that conversation we looked at the areas which we, as a Board, need to work on and improve. As a group, we selected four top priorities that the Board will really focus on in addition to our Strategic Plan goals. These priority areas are: Student and Staff Recognition, Connecting with our Community, Connection with Local Legislators and Superintendent Evaluation.

Since the start of the school year, we have developed plans for all four areas. For example, we have scheduled a workshop in November on Superintendent Evaluation. It is a refresher training on the process to ensure clarity and consistency as we evaluate the Superintendent. It will help us work with the Superintendent to set his goals and keep clear and continuous communication throughout the year on the status of those goals. This will be very beneficial as we transition to a new Superintendent. As you may or may not know, Mr. Stratton will be retiring at the end of this school year and the Board recently extended a superintendent contract to Dr. Clint Freeman, our current Deputy Superintendent, which begins July 1, 2020.

On our goal to Connect with the Community, we recently held our first Community Leaders Breakfast to help us improve in connecting with our community. Leaders from local businesses, city government, and churches were invited. A big shout-out goes to our HHS Student Council who helped serve breakfast that morning and to the students in our FACTS class who prepared all of the food. Everything turned out amazing. There were over 40 community leaders in attendance. We shared with them about the District and what we are doing to achieve our mission statement of Educating Today for a Better Tomorrow. We thanked them all for their support of our school, staff and most of all our students. We talked about what skills they need our students to have in order to work and thrive in our community. Many times the local businesses only hear from us when one of our clubs needs a donation. But at this breakfast, we weren't asking for money. We shared that there are many ways to partner with the local community that aren't monetary. Maybe a local business has internships that would be beneficial or maybe they would like to donate some time tutoring in the after school program. Maybe they want to come and present at one of our buildings for career day. There are so many ways to partner together to help the students of Dunklin R-5 succeed.

As you know, we have building projects going on at the Pevely and High School campuses. The projects are moving along well and we are excited to see all the progress. We again thank all of you for passing Proposition S which is how these projects were made possible. If you want to keep up with the progress of the projects, check out our website, Facebook or Twitter. Updates are posted frequently.

Our Board of Education meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in our Central Office. Meetings are open to the public and you are welcome to attend and hear all the awesome things happening around the District. All of us work hard each day to fulfill our mission statement "Educating Today for a Better Tomorrow" and remember, it's ALWAYS a great day to be a Blackcat!

Sincerely,
Dawn M. Warner, President, Dunklin R-5 Board of Education



Herculaneum Fire Visits Taylor

The Herculaneum Fire Department visited Taylor Early Childhood Center last month. Students, such as Leger Lott, got a plastic helmet and toured a fire truck. Next, the students learned what to do if there's a fire. They also saw a firefighter put on their gear one piece at a time, explaining the purpose behind each one. Hopefully, the preschoolers will remember the big person in the funny mask is there to help them.



DUNKLIN R-5 SCHOOL DISTRICT

497 Joachim Avenue • Herculaneum, MO 63048 • (636) 479-5200
Stan Stratton, Superintendent Dr. Clint Freeman, Deputy Superintendent

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dawn Warner, President Tammy Heidland, Vice President
Cheryl Aylesworth, Susan Hartmann, Michael Hicks, Jim Kasten, John Maddox

HERCULANEUM HIGH SCHOOL ext. 3

Dr. John Crabtree, Principal
Jon Roop, Asst. Prin./AD
Renee Richardson, Guidance Counselor,
grades 11-12
Calvin Kohler, Guidance Counselor,
grades 9-10 and A+
Connie Ward, Nurse

PEVELY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ext. 1

Angela Ritzel, Principal
Adam Dixon, Asst. Principal
Thomas Robins, Guidance Counselor
Chelsea Holdinghausen, Guidance Counselor

TAYLOR EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER ext. 5

Charissa Kappler, Director
Christina Meyer, Nurse

SENN-THOMAS MIDDLE SCHOOL ext. 2

Tracy Lewis, Principal
Stephanie Strohm, Guidance Counselor
Heather Shadowens, Nurse
Joycie Gonzalez-Meyer,
School-Family Liaison

DIRECTORS

Nichole Arnold, Director of Food Service
Steve Copeland, Director of Maintenance
Tom Jordan, Director of Technology
Matt Lichtenstein, Communications Director
Tom Moreland, Director of Special Services
Sue Sharp, Director of Transportation

Board Meetings are Open to the Public

The Dunklin R-5 Board of Education meets on a regular basis on the third Tuesday of each month. The meetings are held in the Dunklin R-5 Central Office beginning at 7:00 p.m. The meetings are open to the public. Patrons may view agendas and items from the meetings by going to our website www.dunklin.k12.mo.us, clicking on the District tab and clicking on "Paperless Board Meetings."

Dunklin R-5 School District is an equal opportunity employer

Lil' Cat Club PTO

The parent-teacher organization at Pevely Elementary School has a new leader. Becky Appelbaum took over as president of the group in September. Appelbaum says it's a great bunch of volunteers and an excellent way to become more involved with her children's school. The Lil' Cat Club organizes the Back to School Bash, runs the Book Fair, and will host Santa's visit on December 13th at the elementary school.

Past-president Megan Dixon has this advice for all PTO leaders. She says, "Just remember it's for the kids, to make them happier and to feel appreciated." Dixon will continue to run the book fair. She says they sell a lot of titles to students, but it's not an even distribution. Some students walk away with four or five items, while others leave empty-handed. That changed this year as the PTO put money from the book fair back into the book fair. They made sure every student left with a book last month.

Media Coordinator David Hamtil says they host a total of six events every year, and they give back in other ways. They have cleaned up school areas, planted flowers, and even helped with office work. Hamtil says, "We break down most events into smaller chunks, so someone doesn't have to work the entire event."

The PTO runs on volunteers, including parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and siblings. While most members put in a couple of hours at an event, others are needed to fill leadership roles. Hamtil coordinates the Back to School Bash, however, his youngest child is in the fifth grade, and that means he will be transitioning away from the Lil' Cat Club.



Pictured: Megan Dixon and Becky Appelbaum

Anyone who would like to help can attend their next meeting on November 20th at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria at Pevely Elementary School. Any questions can be sent to lilcatclub@gmail.com, and they have a Facebook page called Lil' Cat Club PTO.

Open for Business

The most unlikely group will soon be selling Blackcat shirts, hats, and mugs. They are in the process of opening an in-house shop to customize products. The seed money is in place and the equipment should arrive soon. This isn't a student council project or a fundraiser for the National Honor Society. Students in the special education classes at Senn-Thomas Middle School are spearheading this venture.

The idea of making Blackcat clothing came out of conversations between Special Education Director Tom Moreland, Activities Director Jon Roop, and Special Education teachers Stephanie Headrick and Jennifer Crump. All four credit each other with the original idea. In actuality, it's a great example of synergy as they all played a role to envision a different method for teaching students. When broken down into small tasks, the project involves math, science, language, and social skills.

Headrick and Crump brought the idea to Principal Tracy Lewis, who encouraged them to make a formal proposal. Before moving forward, the teachers thought it was time to gauge the interest in their classrooms. Crump says, "The students were ecstatic when we filled them in on the idea." It took off, according to Headrick. She says, "They immediately began discussing all the different items we could sell, different names for the store, and ways to sell the items." The momentum grew as they started making sample designs, researching vendors, and putting together a



Pictured: Stephanie Headrick and Jennifer Crump

presentation for the administration. Crump says, "We were in awe watching the collaboration and teamwork that was happening." The students recorded a detailed video presentation that was approved by Superintendent Stratton.

The Blackcat Merch Market should be open next month with some sample products for sale. The goal is to make affordable clothing for our community while teaching basic skills to the students. Any profits will help support special education in the Dunklin R-5 School District.



Blackcats Dig Pink



The Dig Pink volleyball game to help in the fight against breast cancer was October 17th against Valley Park. The Lady Blackcats were decked out in pink uniform tops and pink socks. The gym was decorated with posters, banners, and balloons. A brief ceremony was held before the varsity game. Players lit a candle to honor those fighting cancer and those who have been lost to the disease. Another candle was lit to honor volleyball team mom Jesse Metcalf, who was in intensive care recovering from serious health issues.

The program raised \$700 by accepting donations and selling both shirts and snow cones. The money was for two Herculeaneum

volleyball players who lost their moms to breast cancer in the last six months. The team also used this game to collect canned goods that were donated to the Jefferson County Rescue Mission in Pevely.

"Go Blackcats"

Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Our district is required to inform you of information that you, according to the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015(Public Law 114-95), have the right to know.

Upon your request, our district is required to provide to you in a timely manner, the following information:

- Whether your student's teacher has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
- Whether your student's teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.
- Whether your student's teacher is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

In addition to the information that parents may request, a building receiving Title I.A funds must provide to each individual parent:

- Information on the level of achievement and academic growth of your student, if applicable and available, on each of the State academic assessments required under Title I.A.
- Timely notice that your student has been assigned, or has been taught for 4 or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who has not met applicable State certification or licensure requirements at the grade level and subject area in which the teacher has been assigned.

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA) COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

This guide explains how to file a complaint about any of the programs¹ that are administered by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (the Department) under the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA)².

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Complaint Procedures for ESSA Programs Table of Contents	
General Information	
1. What is a complaint under ESSA?	
2. Who may file a complaint?	
3. How can a complaint be filed?	
Complaints filed with LEA	Complaints filed with the Department
4. How will a complaint filed with the LEA be investigated?	6. How can a complaint be filed with the Department?
5. What happens if a complaint is not resolved at the local level (LEA)?	7. How will a complaint filed with the Department be investigated?
	8. How are complaints related to equitable services to nonpublic school children handled differently?
Appeals	
9. How will appeals to the Department be investigated?	
10. What happens if the complaint is not resolved at the state level (the Department)?	

This entire document can be found on the Dunklin R-5 website under the District tab. Copies are available upon request at the Central Office.





STMS XC Conference Champs

The future of cross country looks bright after the middle school runners won the JCAA Conference Championship. There were 95 students crossing the finish line on October 18th in West City Park. The first four were Blackcats. Nathaniel Wright (7th) turned the fastest time (8:09.84) for the mile and a half course. Eighth-grade students Damian Luther, Sam Vaughn, and Dillon Maddox followed him. The next two Blackcats were Kyle Taylor and Landon Boyer. We had 14 runners compete that day to give Senn-Thomas the team victory. Rounding out the top three teams were Hillsboro and De Soto.

There are miles and miles between a middle school competition and a competitive varsity team at Herculaneum High School. Coach Jim Kasten says, "The future depends on whether they stick together and put in the work."



Blackcat Hall of Fame Inductees

In September, Ryun Kasten, Ronald Jarvis, and Andrea Politte were inducted into the Blackcat Hall of Fame. All three were introduced to the crowd before a Friday night football game and given proclamations. The following evening was the Hall of Fame Banquet held in the decorated high school cafeteria.

Jim and Tina Kasten introduced their son Ryun (Class of 97). Jim was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2014, but he says it was Tina who taught their son how to be a man. Ryun Kasten grew up running cross country and being coached by his dad. The younger Kasten ended up teaching at Herculaneum for 10 years and coaching cross country teams to nine state titles. During the banquet, Kasten said he never envisioned being part of the select group of people in the Blackcat Hall of Fame. He said, "These were people I grew up listening to stories about, idolizing, mentors for me, and to be included in that is truly a humbling honor."

Ronald Jarvis taught and coached in the district for 10 years before becoming the first full-time principal of Senn-Thomas Middle School, where he served another 14 years. He was known for combining discipline, compassion, and honor to guide students into becoming productive young citizens. His granddaughter, Samantha Jarvis (Class of 2016), told the audience that he has a souvenir from his days as a principal. Hanging in his kitchen is the "board of education."

Andrea Politte (Class of 82) was inducted for her service to the community. She is an entrepreneur who owned and operated successful salons and rose to the top of her industry. She applied her skills to top figures in the film and television industries. When her son, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, came home after several tours with PTSD and other injuries, it changed the trajectory of Politte's life. She has since founded Fore Honor Golf & Event Center, formerly Deer Creek, to create an oasis for patriots and first responders. During her speech, she connected foundational experiences at Herculaneum High School with challenges in her life. For example, the delivery of her first child was beyond exhausting, but her mind kept recalling cross country coaches calling out, "You can do it." Politte also took the time to correct a mishap from over 30 years ago. Her sister Gabrielle Crocker ran cross country and was a team manager but moved away before getting her varsity letter. Politte made a few phone calls and that evening surprised her sister with the large, red, cloth "H" in a clear plastic sleeve. For those in the audience, it felt like both ladies had come full circle reconnecting with Herculaneum High School.



Business and community leaders attended a breakfast at Herculaneum High School last month. Those in attendance got an update from Superintendent Stratton and learned more about our graduates from Deputy Superintendent Freeman. The Dunklin R-5 Board of Education organized the breakfast. Their goal is to strengthen our partnerships with local employers and area leaders. We thank the individuals, businesses, and organizations that made time to join us, and we hope to see you soon.

Amvets, Ardagh Group, Bloomsdale Bank, Buren Chapel Church, City of Herculaneum, City of Pevely, Doe Run, First Baptist Herculaneum- Pevely, Fred Weber RCP, Herculaneum United Methodist Church, IBEW Local 1, Joachim Golf Club, Sapaugh Motors, Thomas Industrial Coatings, Town and Country Bank, Twin City Toyota, Victory Church, Vinyard Funeral Home, and Zion Lutheran Church in Pevely.

Dunklin R-5 Notebook

Substitute Teachers – Work close to home -- Apply now on the Dunklin R-5 website – Look for Careers under the District tab.

Join us for the Veterans Day Breakfast at Herculaneum High School tomorrow morning (Nov. 8th) from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. in the high school cafeteria, with parking next to the football field. Veterans and their family members are welcome to stay for our assembly honoring veterans at 9 a.m. in the theater.

The Veterans Assembly at Senn-Thomas Middle School is tomorrow (Nov. 8th) at 1 p.m. in the gymnasium. All veterans are welcome.

The State Cross Country Meet is Saturday in Columbia, Missouri. Go Blackcats!

There is no school on Monday (Nov. 11th) for Veterans Day.

The NHS Fall Blood Drive is Tuesday (Nov. 12th) in the high school gym. Give the gift of life!

The Third Grade Fall Concert is Thursday, Nov. 14th.

The Dunklin Color Dash (Nov. 16th) is in Herculaneum City Park. See page 8 for more information.

Do you want to represent your company during Career Day at Senn-Thomas Middle School from 8-11 a.m. on Nov. 20th? Call Stephanie Strohm at (636) 479-5200, Ext 2005.

The Chess Team will be in the Maplewood-Richmond Heights Tournament on Nov. 23rd.

The fall play, Larceny and Old Lace, opens Dec. 6th at 7 p.m.

Winners announced at the HHS Renaissance assembly. Congratulations to the Staff Member of the Quarter: Calvin Kohler, Teacher of the Quarter: Erin Graves, Freshman of the Quarter: Dylan Black, Sophomore of the Quarter: Paige Drinen, Junior of the Quarter: Alexis Jenkins, and Senior of the Quarter: Tori Hutt.

Matt Lichtenstein
Communications Director
Dunklin R-5 School District
Office: (636) 479-5200 Ext. 1010, Cell: (314) 409-8271

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK ON THE BLACKCAT NEWS!!!!!!

The Blackcat News is a quarterly communication tool that we use as one way to keep you informed about Dunklin R-5 School District. We want this publication to be useful to you as a patron of our schools -- "Must-Read Material"!

Is there...

Something you've read that you don't understand?

Information that you would like to see included that is not?

Something you want to see more often or less frequently?

We value your input. Please email your feedback to our Communications Director, Matt Lichtenstein, at mlichtenstein@dunklin.k12.mo.us

Don't use email? Call Matt Lichtenstein at 636-479-520, Ext. 1010



Fox 2 Pep Zone Visits Herculaneum High School



Herculaneum students started arriving in the dark, two hours before the start of school, to show their Blackcat pride. There is always a lot of energy surrounding homecoming, but when you add in live morning broadcasts from the Fox 2 Pep Zone, the intensity could register on a seismograph. On Friday, September 27th, there were several teaser updates starting at 6 in the morning, with longer segments at 6:50 a.m., and 7:25 a.m. About 75 percent of the student body participated, and several middle school students joined the fun. Fox 2 asked that the cross country team show up in their candy-striped shorts. In one segment, Tim Ezell revealed his own matching pair of running shorts and then jogged down the track with the athletes. The band, cheerleaders, and dance team all performed for the crowd that was bearing school colors. The full-throated football players in the stands dialed up the school spirit. Two of them, Chance Jenkins

and Austin Huson, participated in some wacky contests. Joining them and Tim Ezell were Ashley Croom and Lily Stauder.



Full-time drivers enjoy district paid benefits.
Drivers Wanted
Competitive Pay, Work Part-time or Full-time, Paid Training.
Apply on the Dunklin R-5 website.
Look for Careers under the District tab.



Alternative School Commencement Ceremony



The second commencement ceremony for the Herculaneum Alternative School took place last month. The graduates participating were Zackary Lodike, Madyson Jamirson, Morgan Oberkramer, Destinee Rawlins, and Austin Oldenburg.

School Board members were seated on the theater stage, along with the superintendent and deputy superintendent.

Herculaneum Principal John Crabtree was the master of ceremonies, and the guest speaker was Mark Holman, who works with the students.

Members of the band and choir enhanced the short ceremony that ultimately ended with proud family members getting pictures with their new graduates.

The Alternative School is for students who fall behind on credits but still want to get their high school diploma.



Dunklin R-5 Color Dash

**All proceeds will go toward the Bright Futures High Needs Fund to help Dunklin R-5 students in need

Date & Location

Saturday, November 16, 2019
Herculaneum City Park

Events

1-mile fun run start time 9:00 am
5k start time 9:30 am

Registration

Turn in this form to your child's school. Cash or check payable to Dunklin R-5 Bright Futures. The registration fee includes registration and a T-shirt!

Registration Fee-

1 Mile fun run- \$12, 5k- \$15

Course

Throughout the course, participants will experience color splash zones where you will be doused in color

Time Limit

The course will be set up for 2 hours. No timing is provided for the fun run. The 5k will be timed.

Pictures

Share your pictures after the event the Bright Futures Facebook page and Dunklin R-5 Facebook page!
#dunklincolordash #everychildneedsachampion

There is a limited amount of time left to register.

Find out more by emailing Joycie at jgonzalezmeyer@dunklin.k12.mo.us or go to the Bright Futures Dunklin R-5 Facebook page.



District Calendar

No School
1st, 11th, 27th-29th
1st P.D. Day
11th Veterans Day
27-29th Thanksgiving

November 2019						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

No School
2nd, 23rd-31st
2nd P.D. Day
20th Early Release,
End of 2nd quarter
23-31 Winter Break

December 2019						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

No School
1st-3rd, 6th, 20th
1-3rd Winter Break
6th P.D. Day
7th Classes Resume
20th MLK Day

January 2020						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Larceny and Old Lace



Opens December 6th at 7 pm
in the Dunklin R-5 Theatre
Adults \$5 Students \$3