



Blackcat News

Mission Statement:
“Educating Today for a Better Tomorrow”

VOLUME 21 ISSUE 72 SCHOOL YEAR 2016-2017 JANUARY 19, 2017



Dawn Warner

Letter From the Board President

Dear Dunklin R-5 Stakeholders:

Happy New Year!! We are halfway through the 2016-2017 school year. I hope everyone is prepared for winter, as here we are in January and I think winter is finally arriving. I want to give a shout out to our Maintenance and Transportation departments. Our maintenance department does a great job of clearing sidewalks and parking lots at the buildings in order to maintain a safe campus for our staff and students to utilize during these winter months. Our transportation department does a great job as well, keeping our bus fleet in good working order. They also work very closely with administration when the weather is bad, assisting in driving the bus routes of our district to ensure whether it is clear enough and safe enough to transport your children. Sometimes, it can be difficult to decide whether to cancel school or events due to inclement weather, but we would rather be cautious and do what is the safest for all staff and students. Please know that any decision the District makes is done keeping your safety in mind and the safety of our students and staff. When school is cancelled due to weather conditions, we utilize many platforms to communicate that information. A call goes out to all parents in our system, it is posted on twitter, shared on Facebook, listed on our website as well as shared by the local news media. We strive to communicate in everyway possible to make sure that everyone who needs the information is receiving it.

Recently, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) published Missouri schools Annual Percentage Rate (APR) which is how a district is scored for accreditation. Our district's score was 86.1%. While this is not where we strive to be, it is improvement. This score has risen by 6% over the previous two years. We improved in many areas and we are working on curriculum and processes to help increase that number even more.

As many of you are aware, the district had a proposition called Proposition Blackcat Pride that was presented to voters recently. This proposition was narrowly defeated in the August

election. At that time, the board made the decision to try again and put it on the November ballot. Unfortunately, the measure was defeated again. The Board of Education and Administrators are now faced with some very difficult decisions, especially regarding space issues at our Pevely Elementary building.

The district really wants to hear from our patrons. We have hired a company to do a phone survey to voters in our district to hear their thoughts about the Proposition and about the District. If you are called upon, please answer the survey; this information will be instrumental in Board discussions on what our next steps should be and how to meet the needs of our students without the funds that would have been generated from Proposition Blackcat Pride. When the Board makes those decisions, we will communicate and share the information with our patrons.

We appreciate and encourage community involvement, and our winter sports and activities are in full swing. From Basketball to Jazz Band, there are many opportunities to see our Blackcats in action. Check out our website for all the event schedules and come out to support our students!

To learn more about what is happening at Dunklin R-5, please visit our website at www.dunklin.k12.mo.us. Our Board of Education meets the third Tuesday each month at 7:00pm in the central office building and the public is always welcome to attend. Thank you for helping us achieve our mission of “Educating today for a better tomorrow”.

Sincerely,

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

Ways To Stay Informed and Connected to Dunklin R-5:

- ✓ Visit our website at: www.dunklin.k12.mo.us
- ✓ Sign up for Parent Portal: talk to your school's secretary

- ✓ Follow Asst. Supt. Dr. Mike Golden on Twitter: [@DrMikeGolden](https://twitter.com/DrMikeGolden)



- ✓ Like and follow us on Facebook:
 - Pevely Elementary School
 - Dunklin Bright Futures



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DUNKLIN R-5 SCHOOL DISTRICT

497 Joachim Avenue ▪ Herculaneum, MO 63048 ▪ (636) 479-5200
Stan Stratton, Superintendent Dr. Mike Golden, Asst. Superintendent ext. 1

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HERCULANEUM HIGH SCHOOL ext. 4

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Renee Richardson, Guidance Counselor, grades 11-12
David Cook, Guidance Counselor, grades 9-10 and A+

PEVELY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ext. 3

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Adam Dixon, Asst. Principal
Kimberly House, Asst. Principal
Lesa Cruzado, Guidance Counselor
Chelsey Dickerman, Guidance Counselor
Kathleen Stormer, Nurse

SENN-THOMAS MIDDLE SCHOOL ext. 2

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Christina Meyer, Nurse

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Nichole Seiver, Director of Food Service
Russell Waugh, Director of Maintenance
Tom Jordan, Director of Technology
Sue Sharp, Director of Transportation

Dunklin R-5 School District is an equal opportunity employer

Superintendent's Letter

Every year the District receives two reports from Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education- the Annual Performance Report (APR) and the District Report Card. The APR report is used to determine accreditation and receives publicity in both the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and the Leader. The District Report Card includes more information than is used for the determination of the APR score, providing some basic data about the state and district. Both reports are available on our district website. The most important fact that the report shows is that Dunklin R-5 School District is accredited. I would like to take this chance to share some of the other information from the report card that sometimes gets overlooked or may not be known by many of our residents.

The first set of information is about student enrollment and demographic information, which has changed substantially for Dunklin R-5 over the years:

- K-12 enrollment for the 2015-16 school year was 1,591 students. This is an increase of 14.6% from 2011-12 school year when the enrollment was 1,388.
- The percentage of Dunklin students that qualified for free and reduced lunch last year was 55.9%, which is above the state average of 51.7% and even more significantly higher than the Jefferson County average. This percentage has dramatically increased since 2000 and is the biggest change in demographics for the district. In the 2000-01 school year only 25% of our students qualified for free and reduced lunch. In the following ten years that percentage more than doubled to reach 51.1% during the 2010-11 school year and has averaged 55% the last five years.

The next three pieces of data all relate to the district finances:

- The current expenditure per ADA (average daily attendance) is \$9,842. This is the amount the district is spending to educate each student. This is below the state average of \$10,631. Five years ago it was \$9,355 so we have seen a 4.9% increase over five years. A significant part of that increase can be attributed to expenses required by the Affordable Care Act, which last year alone increase our expenditure per ADA by \$188.
- Last year the local assessed valuation of the district was \$151,755,077. In the 2011-12 school year it was \$159,994,873, which amounts to a 5.2% decrease. This affects local tax revenue for the district.
- The last item I would like to share is where our revenue comes from. Last year 48.63% of our revenue came from local revenue and 43.69% from state revenue. The state average is 55.91% for local revenue and 34.93% for state revenue. In 2011-12 school year local revenue accounted for 53.78% of our revenue and state was 34.68%.

I hope this information helps to give you a clearer picture related to some often overlooked aspects of managing our schools. As you can see, while the district enrollment has increased significantly and the needs of our students have increased over the years, our assessed valuation and the percentage of revenue from local sources has decreased. However, our district is spending less than the state average to educate our students as we try to be good stewards of your tax dollars. I truly appreciate the support that the district receives from the community as we carry out our mission of educating today for a better tomorrow.

Stan Stratton, Superintendent

Taylor Early Childhood Giving Back to the Community

During the month of December, staff, students, and their families participated in “Three Weeks of Giving” by sending in donations for various causes to assist those in need in our community. During the first week of giving, students filled boxes with non-perishable food items for Brendan’s Backpack. The second week we collected toiletries for children including diapers, wipes, diaper creams, lotions, toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc. These items will be housed at Taylor Early Childhood in our Blackcat Community Closet specifically for students who attend Taylor Early Childhood. Finally, during our third week of giving, we collected donations of coats, hats, gloves, mittens, underwear, socks, amongst other clothing items. Most of these items will be housed in Blackcat Community Closets throughout the district. We were overwhelmed with donations and greatly appreciate all those that participated.

To celebrate our three weeks of giving, we finished off the third week with a visit from Santa during our family holiday parties. Santa was able to give a book to each student at Taylor Early Childhood and all siblings that attended the holiday party. We were able to give out over 200 books to families in our community thanks to the First Books book grant

These three pictures were taken at holiday parties.



TAYLOR EARLY CHILDHOOD ADDS NEW CLASSROOM

Due to our increasing enrollment we have added a new classroom at Taylor Early Childhood. We would like to give a warm welcome to our new teacher, Mrs. Sierra Callahan. Mrs. Callahan has previously worked at Pevely Elementary in the Title 1 program and we are excited to welcome her on a new journey! We would also like to welcome four new para educators to our team: Jamie Miller, Megan Smith, Abby Hayden, and Ashley Aiken. Welcome to the Dunklin and Taylor team everyone!

TITLE ONE PRESCHOOL

Are you a Dunklin R-5 School District resident? Are you interested in FREE preschool for your child? Child who will be 4 years old by July 31, 2017 may be eligible for our free preschool program. (Income & other guidelines apply)

To schedule an appointment please contact our office at 636-479-5200, ext. 5103.

Screening dates: March 21, 22, & 23, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Appointments are necessary.



NEWS FROM “THE LUNCH BOX”

The Food Service Department has updated our communication methods with you. Starting in October 2016, we have been able to generate low lunch balance emails, which means we can now alert you that your student is nearing a negative balance via email. These emails are used bi-weekly alerting you if

your students balance hit \$5.00 or below. It is important for us to have current and updated email addresses on file. If there are any changes or you would like to have your email address added, please notify the building secretary to make these changes. You do not have to have parent portal to receive an emailed lunch balance notification.

We also want to remind you of the option of making online payments as an easy and convenient way to make a deposit to your student's account. Please note: **online payments hit your student's account instantaneously.** That's right, when you make an online payment it hits your student's account when you hit submit! No more sending money to school with your student!

Access our online payment system by going to www.dunklin.k12.mo.us and clicking “ Online Payments” in the quick links menu. When logging in, you must use your parent portal username. If you do not have parent portal or you have forgotten your login information, notify your school buildings secretary.

Nichole Arnold, Director of Food Services



Pevely Elementary News

Pawsome Points Reward Days

Smiles and laughter filled the building as Pevely Elementary students earned Pawsome Points and were rewarded with a day of bounce houses, a dance party, games, and a movie. Students earn the points during first semester for academic achievement, good attendance, and positive behaviors. Pawsome Points start over for second semester, so students can earn another chance to participate in the reward day at the end of the school year.



Bright Futures Dunklin R-5 Hosting community Kick-Off Event

What is Bright Futures?
Bright Futures is a framework that helps bring together businesses, human service agencies, faith-based organizations, parent groups, and individuals in an effort to create lasting connections to help all kids succeed.

By engaging in a community, we can create a learning atmosphere that enables students and teachers to focus on education and achieving success. Bright Futures operates under the belief that when communities invest their time, talent, and treasure in their schools, students are more likely to stay in school through graduation, have a higher degree of self-worth and confidence, and set and reach goals for the future. In turn, these students grow up to be better neighbors, quality employees, and impactful leaders in their communities.

Why Bright Futures?
Because every child needs a champion....
As educators and community members, our priority is to provide the best education to our students, but more importantly to keep our students safe and secure. We have many students in the Dunklin R-5 School District. Each one of them has a name, face, and a story. 58% of them live in poverty, and each and every one of them have hopes and dreams, and each and every one of them deserve a bright future.

Meeting the basic needs of our students is vital to the success of not only our school district, but our entire community. Bright Futures is about cultural change and building a community where education is important and valued. By connecting with resources, our kids can focus and learning, so they can graduate and have a bright future.

Bright Futures Dunklin R-5 is about taking all of the great things that the community and school already do and help organize those efforts for the common goal of helping our kids and strengthening our families and communities by effectively engaging the time, talent, and treasure of our community members.

Ways to get involved...
Bright Futures will be hosting its community kick-off event January 24, 2017 from 9:00- 10:00am at the Herculaneum High School Theatre. This event will provide more information on the program along with information on the many ways to be involved. If you would like to participate in this event or any of the programs we have available, please contact Joycie Gonzalez-Meyer at 636-479-5200 ext. 2008 or by email at jgonzalezmeyer@dunklin.k12.mo.us.

SEE BRIGHT FUTURES FLYER ON PAGE 7

First Grade Holds Pie Social



The First Grade held their annual "Pie Social" to celebrate Thanksgiving. The seven classes ate pie together, dressed up as pilgrims or Native Americans, and donated pies to the Recue Mission. Thank you for all the pie donations! They were greatly appreciated! In the picture to the left, you

can see the pies that were donated to the Rescue Mission for needy families.

First Grade Students Give the Grinch a Heart



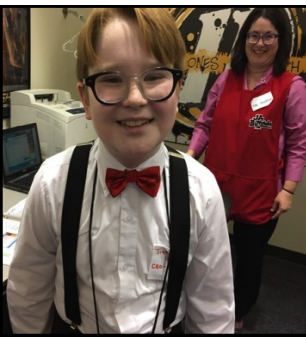
The First Grade classes collected money between Thanksgiving and Christmas for their "Give the Grinch a Heart Project." The students were asked to do odd jobs around their homes to earn money for local families. As each student earned money, they added hearts to The Grinch to make his heart grow. By the end of the project, the first grade collected \$189.63 total. The First Grade Team would like to thank all the families for the generosity!

Senn-Thomas Activity 6th Grade Students Visit JA BizTown

The students in 6th grade learn and complete the curriculum for JA BizTown over the course of a quarter and then attend a simulation to apply their skills and concepts. On December 15th, forty students attended this quarter and it was a huge success. The students truly enjoyed themselves and I received compliments all day about how well behaved and mannered they were.



Through this program, we focus on real-world applications that include: the financial literacy skills needed to use financial institutions, including managing spending and savings accounts. Students are also introduced and practice their soft skills such as teamwork, problem solving, and business ethics. Finally, students practice formal business greetings, letter writing, job application skills, and in many cases job interviewing. The early development of these important skills will help students as they enter the world of work and begin to manage their personal finances. With the help of the JA BizTown curriculum our STMS students gain an understanding of market-based economics and free enterprise for a better understanding of business management, loans, saving and investing, and taxation. After completing the coursework, the students better understand how the world works and their future roles as employer, employee, consumer, saver, and investor. I look forward to continuing this program with my students to continue their growth and understanding of concepts that will assist them in their future.



STMS COMMUNITY

STMS Community Service Club Has Busy First Semester

The STMS Community Service Club has had a great start to the new school year. One of the first orders of business was electing new officers for the 2016-2017 school year. The new officers have been doing a great job leading our club.

The following students were elected to the following offices:

President – Kaylee Reed	Vice President – Paige Drinen
Secretary – Madelyn Bartosch	Treasurer – Kaylee Jones
8th Grade Rep – Breanna Boone	7th Grade Rep – Kyrsten Britton
6th Grade Rep – Haley Smith	

The club has been extremely busy since the beginning of the school year. We have hosted or participated in many events around the community. The students who make up this club are dedicated and passionate about helping others. The STMS Community Service Club has been involved in the following events:

6th Grade Sampler Day – Club members assisted incoming 6th graders with touring STMS and providing guidance for the new school year

9/11 Event – Hosted by the Herculanum Fire Department – Club members assisted with handing out programs and setting up for the candlelight vigil. Students also created original art pieces and wrote essays about 9/11.



Battle for Shruthi – Club members sold t-shirts and wristbands to raise funds for Shruthi Reed, a student at Pevely Elementary, who was having major spinal surgery. The club was able to sell over 50 t-shirt packs and 200 wristbands for a total of \$1115.

Fire Engine Rally – Club members assisted Mayor Haggard at the Annual Fire Engine Rally.

Spreading Christmas Cheer Around Senn-Thomas Middle School

Mrs. Gonzales, our writing teacher, assigned the whole class a project about the Great Depression. We got a special project that included showing some respect for our bus drivers. Rickey Johnson, Dylan Black, and Hanna Burch, were assigned to do a good thing for all the bus drivers since we were talking about the busses in class the week before. It took us sometime, but we finally came up with a plan to make hot chocolate for them. We all helped come up with the ingredients. We all pitched in to make this possible. Once we came up with the recipe for the hot chocolate, we put it all in the jars. Then we added our extra ingredients such as the marshmallows and chocolate chips. It took two whole class hours, but we finally came up with the 13 hot chocolates. We all walked out with the help of Luke Liles, Ethan Hoskins, Kayla Greer, and Jack Shadowens to pass out the hot chocolates. Giving these to the bus drivers made us all very proud. We are hoping that the bus drivers that day felt a little more important.



Submitted by Hanna Burch, STMS student



Homecoming Decorating – Club members decorated the STMS campus for Homecoming and refreshed the front entrance to the building.

Taylor Fall Festival – Club members helped with the Fall Festival at the Taylor Pre –K building. Students assisted with running games and helping in areas of need.



Mismatch Sock Day – Club members and STMS students wore crazy socks to participate in a nationwide event promoting Anti Bullying.

Custodian Appreciation Week – Club members celebrated our hard working custodians at STMS. They made cards and brought snacks in for our building custodians.



Veteran's Parade – Club members entered a float into the City of Herculanum's Annual Veteran's Parade. The STMS Community Service Club float was voted winner of the "Best Organizational Float".



SERVICE CLUB



McNutt Street Clean Up Day –
Club members assisted Herculeum Today and Tomorrow with a trash clean up of areas in Herculeum.

Bright Futures Dunklin R-5 - The STMS Community Service Club intends to continue to partner with Bright Futures Dunklin R-5 to meet the needs of our community. Our students believe that they can give their time, talent, and treasure to help the community. The students did an excellent job collecting items for the Blackcat Closet, which is a Bright Futures resource. The STMS Community Service Club received a \$1500 grant last spring and is going to purchase hygiene items and other needs for the Blackcat Closet.



These are just a few examples of events that our group has been involved in during the fall semester. Many of the club members received individual service hours for projects or events that they participated in outside of the club. We are looking forward to the spring semester with new events and challenges that await our group. We will be having our Annual Bowling Lock In on January 13th to celebrate this past year's accomplishments. Lastly, we will be undergoing a name change within the next month, so be on the lookout for our new name!

This group is dedicated to inspiring positive change in our community. If there are any questions please feel free to call at 636-479-5200 ext. 2101 or email at wreece@dunklin.k12.mo.us.

Thank you,
Mr. Reece, Service Club Sponsor



Christmas Cards for Nursing Homes – Club members and STMS students created over 150 Christmas cards that were delivered to Autumn Ridge, Scenic, and Festus Manor nursing homes.

Board Meetings 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".

Service Appreciation Week & Veterans Celebration

STMS recently held a "Service Appreciation Week" leading up to Veteran's Day. The school designated days to show their appreciation and honor local first responders from November 7th – November 10th. Representatives from local departments visited with students and provided information about the services that they provide to our community and general information about their job responsibilities. In addition, each local department was presented with a certificate of appreciation for the service that they provide to our community.

The following departments were present to visit with students and receive their certificates:

Monday - November 7th:

Joachim Plattin
Ambulance District



Tuesday - November 8th:

Herculeum Fire Department
Dunklin Fire Protection (not present)



Wednesday – November 9th:

Jefferson County Sherriff's Department
Herculeum Police Department, Pevely Police Department,
Dunklin R-5 Public Safety Department



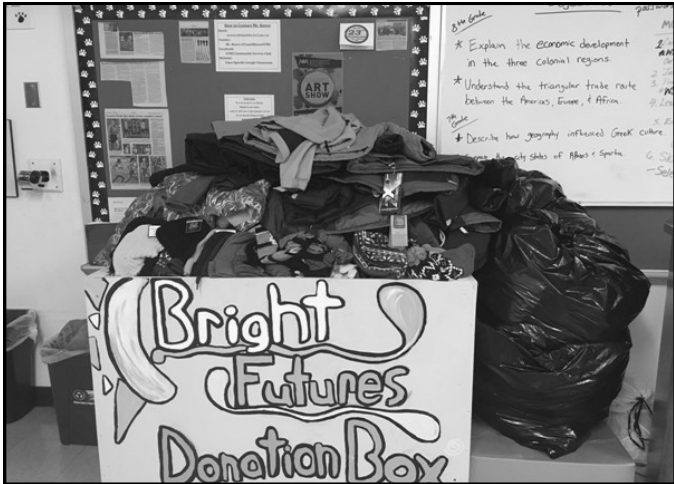
Veterans Celebration

On Thursday, November 10th, Senn-Thomas Middle School held their annual Veteran's Celebration. The celebration was well attended by students, staff, local veterans, and guests. The celebration was highlighted by speeches and artwork from STMS students. In addition, the STMS 7th and 8th grade concert band and choir performed various arrangements. The celebration was capped off by a great message from our guest speaker, Staff Sergeant Zachary Chand, from the local Army recruiting office. This was the perfect ending to our focus week of service. Many of the local departments that attended earlier in the week came back for the Veteran's Celebration. We want to once again thank our local first responders and veterans for their service to our community, region, and country.

You can watch the Veteran Celebration on YouTube at the following link: <https://youtu.be/8tUGZDCCfbA>



STMS NEWS



STMS Bright Futures Donation Box

Senn-Thomas Middle School would like to send a huge thank you to Steve Copeland, Mike Barczewski, and Graham Schoonover from maintenance. They did an excellent job of

constructing our new donation box for Bright Futures. They took Ms. House's vision and made it a reality.

Also, we would like to thank Ms. Watkins and the STMS Art Department for designing and painting the donation box!

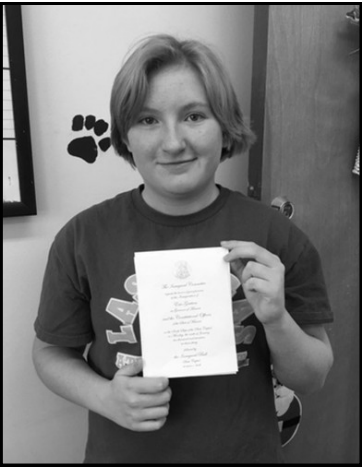
It has already been put into service with the STMS Community Service Club's "Blackcat Closet Collection".

STMS Student Receives Personal Invitation to Inaugural Ball

It all started when eighth-grade student, Kursten Sivell, bought a book at the STMS Book Fair titled, *The Warrior's Heart: Becoming a Man of Compassion and Courage*, authored by Eric Greitens. Greitens is a politician, author, humanitarian, former Navy SEAL and the Governor-elect of the state of Missouri. After reading his book, Kursten knew she had to meet him so she looked him up online and contacted him through his campaign website. Shortly thereafter, she received a call from his campaign manager inviting her to come down to his headquarters. It was there that she got to meet Greitens face-to-face and heard his speech where he officially announced his candidacy for Governor of Missouri. He even signed her copy of his book!

Greitens also told Kursten how proud he was of her for her work with the Sea Cadets, which is a U.S. Navy-based youth organization that teaches young people about sea-going military services. She spent a year trying to convince her mom to let her join before she was finally permitted to in December of 2015. The Sea Cadets meet once per month at the Missouri Air National Guard base for physical training (PT), marching, color guard and community service projects that teach young people the understanding of discipline and teamwork.

After he was elected, Greitens personally invited Kursten to attend his "Salute to Service Inaugural Ball" which will be held on Monday, Jan. 9th at the Capitol building in Jefferson City. As for Kursten, not only is she more interested in joining the military as ever, the experience has also peaked her interest in politics.



8th Annual Officer Appreciation Luncheon

On October 18th, Senn-Thomas students hosted their 8th Annual Appreciation Luncheon for the Herculaneum firefighters and police officers. STMS

students/staff appreciate all that our first responders do for us in keeping The officers spend students. This between the officers thankful to our and their service.



our school and community safe. time eating and visiting with the promotes a positive interaction and out students. We are so very officers for attending the luncheon

The Nest on Festus Main Street Provides Gallery Space to Young Artists at STMS

Please come and support the Senn-Thomas Middle School art students on Saturday, January 21, 2017 from 12pm-5pm at The Nest of Cryptic Winged Photography at 108A East Main Street, Festus, MO (not handicap accessible). The Nest is located in the heart of Festus Main Street on the 2nd floor of the historical Alexander Building.

Local art gallery owner, Shawna Jones of The Nest, has graciously opened her doors to Senn-Thomas Art Students to display their art in her very unique and engaging space. The gallery spans 2,000 square feet and will be filled floor to ceiling with art pieces by young artists who are exploring and expressing their many talents.

Under the guidance of Joni Watkins, art teacher at STMS, students have been working diligently to create pieces that display their talents ranging from drawings, paintings, photographs, and even



fabricated items from various materials. Some artwork will be on display while other pieces will be for sale ranging from \$5-\$20.

Jones and Watkins teamed up in hopes to showcase the talent of these budding artists and to encourage them to always keep art in their daily lives. In addition, it will give them the recognition they deserve and will allow them to feel valued by our community.

You may purchase tickets from any first semester art student or pay at the door. Pricing is as

follows: \$5 General Admission, \$3 Students, and ages 4 and under are free. Students who have artwork in the show, do not have to pay admission. All proceeds will go to rental fees and art supplies for STMS. We look forward to seeing you! Thank you for supporting our future artists and encouraging them to always keep art in their heart.

If you have any questions, please contact Joni Watkins at jwatkins@dunklin.k12.mo.us or at 636.479.5200 x2111.

PBIS Leadership Squad

The PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support) Leadership Squad is up and running! These 25 7th and 8th grade student representatives were nominated by teachers, completed an essay and participated in an interview process. These students represent and model positive behavior at STMS and work with all students to help develop a positive and healthy school climate and culture. The students are separated into five different committees, which include the Anti-Bullying Committee, New Student Committee, Reporters, Lesson/Assembly Planning, and Random Acts of Kindness. Each committee is working hard on getting jobs done to help make STMS a great place to learn and succeed! The leadership squad is organized and ran by Mrs. Dawn Vaughn, School Counselor, and Mrs. Debbie Stein, Librarian.

The following students should be recognized for their hard work and dedication to helping make STMS a great place to succeed:

Tristan Byers
Emily Lamb
Claudia Rhodes
Krysten Britton
Sammie Maddox
Lillian Malugen
Taylor Freeman
Evan Enghauser
Emily Gruhula
Preston Estes
Katie Derque
Tristan Watson
Katelynn Armbruster
Madelyn Bartosch

Janei Jackson
Abby Kosteki
Kenzie Montgomery
Maddie Williams
Laura Maddox
Kaylee Reed
Hunter Gross
Alexis Jenkins
Cole Myers
Elijah Garrett
Breanna Boone

BLACKCATS IN NEED FUND

Do you want to make a difference in the community? Are you looking for a way to help students or families in need, or wanting to make a donation to our Blackcats but not sure how? One way is through the Blackcats in Need Fund! The district has a fund that accepts donations to be used to feed students who might otherwise not have access to hot lunches. Donations can be taken at each school in the café, or you may make a donation at any school office and specify that you want that donation to be applied to the Blackcats in Need Fund.

The 2016-2017 School Calendar can be found on the District Web Site www.dunklin.k12.mo.us under the Calendars tab.



High School Events

LETTER FROM HERCULANEUM HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and was able to enjoy some relaxing time with their families and friends. The beginning of the second semester brings a new start to the school year. It is important that students do not fall behind in their assignments and lessons. I also encourage parents/guardians to utilize the parent portal system to keep up with their student's grades and attendance. I feel that it is very important for parents/guardians to stay involved with their student's education and the parent portal is a way to do so. If you experience any difficulties using the program, you may contact the high school office.

Beginning with the second semester the district is implementing a new attendance policy at all of the district campuses. The new policy can be found on the district website. A letter was also sent home explaining the policy with all students in December. If you have any questions about the new policy, please contact the high school office.

We have already closed school for inclement weather. This will affect the schedule for the school year. The snow make-up days can be found on the Dunklin R-5 web page under the calendar tab. It is important that all families have their current phone numbers updated with the school. The district uses the Alert Now telephone system for special announcements including school closings. When the decision is made to cancel school, a message is sent to the phone number on record for each student. Please contact the high school office to update contact information if needed.

We are now in the middle of the winter sports season. We would like to invite everyone to attend some of our athletic contests. The student/athletes of Herculaneum High School work very hard, and the coaches and players always appreciate the support of the community. Scores and other information of all events are posted on the Blackcat Twitter account. Sporting event cancellations are updated on the website as well as announced on local radio stations and the Blackcat Twitter account.

We encourage parents to stay involved in their children's education. The staff at Herculaneum High School is always ready to speak with parents about their students. If parents have any questions regarding their children, please feel free to call or email the school. The district website has email contacts for all staff members.

Following are important upcoming dates:

- January 27 - First 3rd quarter progress reports sent home
- February 6 - No school for students/Professional development for teachers
- February 15 - Second 3rd quarter progress reports sent home
- February 20 - No school for Presidents Day
- March 10 - End of the 3rd quarter
- March 16 - Parent/Teacher conferences 1:00 pm - 8:00 pm

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and has a great 2017!

Sincerely,
High School Administration

BLACKCAT BAND EARNS MULTIPLE HONORS 1ST SEMESTER

Marching Band Highlights

Potosi Marching Festival October 8, 2016

- 1st Place Class 1A Parade
- Outstanding Music Caption Award
- 4th Place Class 2A Field Show
- Drum Major Award (Drum Majors - Joey Widger and Bailey Fischer)

Park Hills Marching Festival October 15, 2016

- 2nd Place Class 2A Field Show
- Percussion Caption Award

Ste. Genevieve Marching Festival October 22, 2016

- 1st Place Class 2A Field Show
- Outstanding Auxillary Award
- Music Caption Award

Other Honors

The following students auditioned and were selected to the High School All-District Concert Band & performed at a concert on November 5, 2016 at Sullivan High School:

- Joey Widger - baritone saxophone
- Jessica Hezel - trumpet,
- Rafi Gil-Díaz - clarinet

The following students were selected to the Middle School All-District Concert Band & performed at a concert on November 5, 2016 at Sullivan High School:

- Douglas Moloney – clarinet
- Maya Avila – clarinet
- Blake Thomson - alto saxophone
- Elijah Garrett - tuba

Joseph Widger was selected to the High School All-District Jazz Band, and earned Honorable Mention in the All-State Jazz Band. The concert was held on December 10, 2016 at Jefferson College.

Joseph Widger was also selected to the Missouri All-State Concert Band. This is the 2nd year he has been selected for this honor. More that 1,000 of the best high school musicians in Missouri auditioned for this band. The concert will be January 28, 2017 at Tan-Tar-Ra Resort.

Herculaneum High School Renaissance Spring Flea Market

Herculaneum High School will be hosting the first annual Renaissance Spring Flea Market on Saturday May 6th, 2017 from 8 am to 3 pm. This fundraiser is anticipated to be the single largest fundraising effort for the Renaissance program which recognizes outstanding HHS students, teachers and staff members. The Renaissance Program also funds the Blackcat Scholarship which awards one \$1500 scholarship and additional \$500 scholarships to deserving graduates.



Declutter your home while supporting a good cause-register for a spot today! Additional information and applications can be picked-up in the HHS office or downloaded from the Dunklin R-V website.

*Remember to attach any pictures that go with the article and to submit before the deadline in this format in a Word document. Do not send a Google Doc as all items must be formatted in Word for submission for publication.

Blackcat Community Connection Working to Help Our Community

The Blackcat Community Connection was able to provide a meal for a HHS family in need for Thanksgiving. The meal was all-inclusive and was delivered to the family by Dr Bradshaw and Mr. Cook. The BCC also was able to adopt a family of 4 in need for Christmas and provided gifts for the children as well as the parents.

The BCC will be providing 2 scholarships of \$500 cash each, one to a graduating male, and one to a graduating female. The application for the scholarship will be distributed to the Senior class during school hours.

Thank you to the participating members of the BCC for helping members of our school community in times of need.

If you would like to become a member of the BCC, meetings are the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 in the HHS library. Please come join us in supporting our school and community.



See BRIGHT Futures article on Page 3



You are invited...

Bright Futures
Community Kick-Off Event

Tuesday, January 24
9:00 - 10:00 am

Herculaneum High School Theatre
1 Blackcat Dr.
Herculaneum, MO 63048

Refreshements will be provided

RSVP by: January 17, 2017
To: Joycie Gonzalez-Meyer, 636-479-5200 x. 2008
or jgonzalezmeyer@dunklin.k12.mo.us

Community and Parent Organizations Working with Our Kids



This section of the Blackcat News is reserved for Parent/Community Organizations that work with and/or help our students, but that are not sponsored by the Dunklin R-5 School District. If you would like to request to place something in this section in future editions, please email Dr. Mike Golden at mgolden@dunklin.k12.mo.us.

Blackcat Community Connection

Dunklin R-5 Patrons:

Looking for a way to get involved
in our school?

The Blackcat Community Connection has the mission to actively promote academic and all board-approved activities, to provide parents with school-related information, and to serve as a liaison between the school and community.

We meet regularly the 1st Tuesday at 6:30 PM in
the HHS Library

Our next regular meeting will be
February 7th at 6:00 PM

Lil' Cat Club P.T.O.

Pevely Elementary Parents:

Looking for a way to get involved
in your child's school?

Why not join the Lil' Cat Club,
the Parent Teacher Organization of Pevely
Elementary School?!!

We meet regularly every 6th Wednesday at 6:00
PM at Pevely Elementary

Our next regular meeting will be
February 22nd at 6:00 PM
in the PES Library

Community Board

80's Theme Trivia Night

All Proceeds Benefit Project Prom
Herculaneum



Break out your parachute pants and leg warmers and come have a fun night of
Trivia to benefit Project Prom for the Students of Herculaneum High School!

Date: February 25th 2017

Time: Doors Open at 6pm / Trivia will start at 7pm

Location: Mississippi River Eagles in Crystal City

Cost: \$100 in advance / \$120 at the door (8 to a table)

Table Decorating
Contest

(any theme for table decorating)

50/50 Ticket Raffle

Bring Snacks for your
table – Drinks available
for purchase

THE 80's ARE BACK

Raffle Baskets
Mulligans 10 for \$10
Dress in Your Best
80's Gear

At least one round of
Trivia will test your 80's
knowledge

Contact Dawn Warner at 314-448-2621 to reserve your table today!

Your Blackcat News Designer:
BK Graphics,
Brenda King ♦ 636-789-2096

