



# Blackcat News

**Mission Statement:**  
**"Educating Today for a Better Tomorrow"**

VOLUME 22    ISSUE 74vSCHOOL YEAR 2017-2018    JANUARY 25, 2018



## R-5 Police Department

An underutilized state law allows the Dunklin R-5 School District to have its own police department. It employs one person, Officer Mark Grobe. He has the authority of any police officer, but he can cross jurisdictional lines within the school district boundaries. That includes Pevely, Herculaneum and parts of unincorporated Jefferson County. He can also travel with students to help provide security at events like prom or graduation.



board policy. He's a guest speaker in government classes about the creation, interaction and enforcement of laws. He's even been known to stop by Mrs. Graves class on forensics. What's hard to measure is the positive influence both Officer Grobe and Officer Kyle have on the students.

The Missouri Legislature first allowed the Blue Springs School District to hire a police force about 12 years ago. Blue Springs is a huge district south of Kansas City. They have 10 officers covering 22 schools in three different cities. The narrow law was expanded in 2013 and signed by Governor Jay Nixon to allow all school districts the same opportunity. Today only Blue Springs and Dunklin commission their own officers but inquiries are on the rise. A school district in Springfield operates a similar force, but they are commissioned through the local Sheriffs Department.

With close to 23 years under his belt, Mark Grobe has a vast amount of experience that would make him valuable to any agency, but he enjoys being a Blackcat. While serving as a deputy, he spent a couple of years as a school resource officer for the Northwest School District and loved the environment. He has that same interaction with students today, but the bonds run deeper. Officer

Mark Grobe has two grandchildren in the Dunklin R-5 School District.

Officer Mark Grobe says, "My job is to make sure all four campuses remain safe and to make sure everyone goes home at the end of the day." To accomplish this goal he relies on School Resource Officer Chris Kyle of the Herculaneum Police Department and the Pevely Police Department for dispatching services and use of their jail. His connections extend to the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department where he worked for 18 years. The school district supports him with a patrol car and with improvements to video surveillance on every campus.

While safety is paramount, Officer Grobe enhances other aspects of the district. He has been consulted about school

### DUNKLIN R-5 SCHOOL DISTRICT

497 Joachim Avenue • Herculaneum, MO 63048 • (636) 479-5200  
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#### 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](http://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*



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# 2018 Brings a Centennial Celebration and Other Important Events

Dear Dunklin R-5 Stakeholders:

Happy New Year to everyone. 2018 brings a new year, but also brings a milestone to Herculaneum High School. The graduating class of 2018 will be the 100th four year graduating class from HHS. If you haven't seen the flyers and postings, there is a Centennial Class Celebration committee that has been formed. They are doing events in conjunction with this milestone. You can find more information on their website [www.hhs100.com](http://www.hhs100.com). Also something the board has approved for this year, weather permitting, is we will do graduation more "old school" style and have the celebration on the football field outside. Jefferson College will be the rain plan back up. We are very excited to celebrate this milestone with a great group of seniors.

There are lots of awesome and news worthy things happening around the district. While I can't possibly mention everything I do want to mention a couple. Recently, the area Superintendents hosted their Annual Legislative Breakfast. This year's event was held at Dunklin R-5 in our fine arts building. It was very well attended by local legislators. Our district's food service department did a great job of providing breakfast for the event. Mr. Smelser and our HHS Jazz Band sounded awesome providing the music. We represented our district well. TRANE will soon be finishing up their work on the HVAC Energy Efficiency project. These much needed upgrades will be so beneficial to our buildings while saving money on our energy cost. Our varsity girls and boys basketball teams have been having great seasons despite cold & flu season and injuries. Our wrestling team has been finishing strong also. At each of our buildings, the teams are making progress with curriculum writing as well as doing some great things during professional

development days. Blackcats in every area of the district are doing things to learn and improve as individuals and as a district. It is that commitment that brings me to the next highlight I wanted to point out, our district's APR.

I am happy to report that our APR score is at 90.7%. We have seen several years of steady improvement to increase our score from an 80% in 2014 to the 90.7% you see today. This tells me that the changes we have been implementing are working in many subject areas. However, while we do see improvement, we are not where we want to be.

The staff and administrators at all of our buildings have been studying the data from the APR and are working on plans to improve the couple of key subject areas where we know we need to get better. But in doing this, we will not lose focus on the areas where we are doing well. It is a balance that we need to work out, but I believe we are implementing strategies and curriculum that will keep us moving in the right direction.

Please know that the board's focus in the decisions we make is to do what is best for the kids and families we serve at Dunklin R-5 and to support our mission statement, "Educating today for a Better Tomorrow".

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



## Anchors Away James Moloney

The son of Mike and Ann Moloney could be headed to the United States Naval Academy, pending the results of a physical. This is quite an accomplishment because only 9% of applicants get the chance to become midshipman. While all elite institutions require academic excellence, the service academies want well rounded students that will lead our armed forces.

James maintains a 3.9 GPA, while playing football and basketball. In the spring he likes pole vaulting for the track team. He cracked a rib during the football season and doctors at the academy want to make sure it healed properly before offering a final acceptance. His resume includes student council, band, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and he was in the Leadership Class last fall.

The first time James took the ACT he scored a 23. The last time he took the test, he scored a 33 in Math and 32 in English. The scores are just one example of a persistent young man challenging himself. He says, "I take pride in hard work and believe it will get you there."

James grew up in a big family, with competitive siblings and plenty of wrestling matches inside their hilltop home in Barnhart. His parents never served in the military, but his grandparents are part of the greatest generation. James has five older brothers and sisters. The eldest joined the Navy out of high school, another became a Marine and his three sisters joined the Air Force. Bootcamp is difficult for everyone but the Moloney girls knew how to handle the physical demands. They ran for Coach Jim Kasten and were part of the winning streak that has put the girls cross country team on the podium at the state meet for 14 straight years.

The Army, Navy and Air Force all have service academies, but James wanted to go to Annapolis. He says, "I want to be the best leader I can be and the Naval Academy has the best training." Upon graduation midshipmen choose a specialty. Some will fly jets, others will join the nuclear submarine fleet, there will be surface warfare officers and a few will become a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps. Right now, James wants to be a Navy Seal.

James Moloney has a warm smile, a laid back appearance and is often quiet. It's like camouflage for his competitive spirit. He's already savoring the challenges that lie ahead and knows it's a good fit. "I can sleep at night knowing I'm doing the right thing."

Mike and Ann Moloney have worked hard to provide as much as possible for their 8 children, except paying for college. They believe in the value of earning your own way and that applies to their children. On a practical level, very few families could afford to put 8 kids through college. There are no costs to attend a service academy but there is a commitment of at least five years of active duty service.

If James graduates from the Naval Academy, he'll be the first officer in the family. His big brothers and sisters have been debating if they would salute James. Anyone that survives the crucible of a service academy has certainly earned their rank but he is still their little brother. Ironically, the one thing that set James apart from the thousands of student-athletes seeking entrance into the academy may have been his five older siblings that all enlisted to serve this country.



# Renaissance



Renaissance Award Winners pictured above: Senior Jordan Mouser, Sophomore Thomas KostECKi, Freshman Rylee Lipp, and Junior Thomas Gagan along with their parents.

The encouraging cheers made the high school theater feel like a sports venue, but that's the idea behind Renaissance. Its mission is to recognize academic excellence and bring the spirit of athletics to education. On January 10<sup>th</sup> high school students assembled to hear the nominations for the Student of the Quarter. The teachers consider academics, behavior and character before submitting a student for consideration. Then

all the teachers vote to select one student per grade level per quarter. As the nominations are read and the students are asked to stand, they all seemed to have a fan base. Finally the winners are announced and they walk to the stage hearing the approval of their classmates. The winners are surprised, but their parents are notified in advance and are hidden until it's time to join their son or daughter on the stage. The program sponsors are Lindsey Fitzgibbons and Marti Saunders, but all the teachers feel they are part of Renaissance at Herculaneum High School.



## Football Awards

Football Awards: Congratulations to 1st Team All-Conference players James Moloney (LB), Zach Phillips (DL), John Derque (DL), 2nd Team All-Conference Players James Moloney (FB), Zach Phillips (OG), Austin Huson (RB), Honorable Mentions are Corben Clubb (DB/WR) and Chandler Jansen (LB/WR). The Missouri Football Coaches Association Academic All-State Team includes James Moloney, Zach Phillips, Zack Barnaby and Colby Wilfong. Finally, the STAR Athletes (3.75 GPA or Higher for the Fall Semester) are Zach Phillips, James Moloney, Cole Meyers, Jacob Reed, Nathan Wood, Nicholas Miles and Zack Barnaby.

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## Save the Date Centennial Class Celebration Festival June 9, 2018

Join us in  
Celebrating 100  
years of  
HS School Spirit!

For more  
information visit  
our website at  
[www.HHS100.com](http://www.HHS100.com)  
or call  
314-852-4964





# Blackcat Brainiacs

Herculaneum High School students showed their comprehension of various subjects during the end of course exams in the spring. Their efforts have drawn little attention because only two of the four required exams have been made public and four others were optional. All 11 public high schools in Jefferson County were required by the state to take the exams for Biology and Government. Herculaneum had the highest score in Biology and finished 5th on the Government exam. While 5th place doesn't sound impressive out of 11 high schools, it was a tight grouping and our students were one percentage point away from making the top three.

As far as the optional tests, six public high schools took the Algebra II exam and Herculaneum came in second to Northwest. Five districts gave the English exam and Herculaneum had the best score. Only three school districts asked students to take the Geometry and American History end of course exams. Again, the Blackcats finished first on both exams in Jefferson County.

Superintendent Stan Stratton says the state decided not to release the results of two tests because those exams were not comparable to previous exams. At least that's what the Technical Advisory Committee told leaders in the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Stratton says, "I'm disappointed and frustrated that we can't share the results from Algebra 1 and English 2."

The scores are broken into four categories and the percentages being reported are for those students that scored Proficient or Advanced in that subject. The bottom two categories are Basic and Below Basic. In order to insure students take the exams seriously in Missouri, they count as part of their high school grade for that particular class.

High School Principal Dr. John Crabtree says the scores are a reflection of the dedication and commitment of our teachers and students. The state tests are completely independent and the only way to get good scores is to teach the students the subjects. He says, "Dunklin teachers take pride in seeing student achievement, and I take pride in them."

## The Grinch Didn't Steal Christmas at Pevely Elementary



First graders turned the tide against the mean old Grinch. They adopted a family for Christmas and raised money by doing chores at home.

The service learning project is called, "Give the Grinch a Heart." As you can tell from the picture, the students delivered in a big way, collecting \$210.



ENGLISH		
Rank	High School	%
1	Herculaneum	78.5
2	Festus	74.4
3	Crystal City	71.1
4	Jefferson	66.2
5	State Average	62.9
6	DeSoto	56.8
ALGEBRA II		
Rank	High School	%
1	Northwest	85.7
2	Herculaneum	78.6
3	Seckman	74.2
	State Average	71.9
4	Fox	71.8
5	Festus	54.8
6	DeSoto	16.7
BIOLOGY		
Rank	High School	%
1	Herculaneum	85.6
2	Fox	84.2
3	Seckman	77.8
4	Festus	76.7
5	Jefferson	72.1
6	Crystal City	70
AMERICAN HISTORY		
Rank	High School	%
1	Herculaneum	71.4
2	Festus	65.9
	State Average	50.2
3	Crystal City	45.6
GEOMETRY		
Rank	High School	%
1	Herculaneum	89.5
2	Festus	79.2
	State Average	59.3
3	Crystal City	27
GOVERNMENT		
Rank	High School	%
1	DeSoto	72.2
2	Jefferson	70
3	Hillsboro	66.1
4	Northwest	66
5	Herculaneum	65.4
6	Fox	65.4
	State Average	65



## Taylor Preschool - The Waiting List Starts at Birth

The main building and “butterfly building” are on the quiet side of the circle known as Blackcat Drive. The marching band may practice in front of the high school and theater, but they stay clear of Taylor Early Childhood Center. It’s like a cocoon for toddlers of all abilities and all financial backgrounds to grow their wings. It’s not a daycare, but a structured learning environment. While most people would see children at play, the teacher may be working on sensory perception. The 3 to 5-year-olds stacking blocks are also demonstrating fine motor skills, which are noted by the teachers with degrees in early childhood education, and often special education as well. Director Charissa Kappler says “We have a team and if one of the teachers is struggling to get through to a student the other teachers are there to help.” She says the experienced staff does a wonderful job of modifying lesson plans and activities so that each child benefits.

Taylor serves about 180 students from four school districts. One classroom is set aside for Title 1 students that are facing a number of risk factors, like poverty. Four classrooms are for special needs children. The rest of the classrooms have close to an even split between children without any disabilities and those with a slight delay or speech problem for example. The mix helps promote positive classroom behaviors and routines. The cost for a student is only \$20 a day. While that’s reasonable by any standard, Taylor is closed when the Dunklin School District is

Pictured is Teacher Sharon Adams during Circle Time.



closed. For working parents, that may leave a gap around holidays and during the summer.

Where Taylor E.C.C. shines is the quality of the staff. In addition to the specific degrees held by the teachers, they have specialists on staff including physical therapists and speech pathologists. This level of care comes at a cost. Director of Special Services Thomas Moreland says, “Funds are pulled from various sources to make the operation successful.” Taylor collects state money for children with disabilities, federal money for students under Title 1 and tuition from the rest. The accounting is tricky because some government programs pay up front, while others pay after the services have been provided. When it comes to transportation, Festus R-VI, Crystal City #47, and Jefferson R-VII School Districts are responsible for transporting their own students to and from the early childhood center.

A school like Taylor could be in any of the four school districts, but having it in Herculaneum leads to a higher participation rate among Dunklin students. This ensures that little Blackcats are getting a good start at school.

Director Charissa Kappler was a teacher for six years at Taylor and spent three years in diagnostics before accepting her current position. She says, “The goal is to get every child ready for kindergarten.” They start with the kindergarten curriculum and work backward to ensure they cover the basics. That seems to be working according to teacher Ashley Unger at Pevely Elementary School. She says students who come to us from Taylor have been given a good foundation. They understand the classroom setting and have been exposed to our mission and values.

There is always a demand for openings in the pre-k program. However, placement is tricky for tuition students because their numbers are dependent on the number of other children to get the right mix, which ties into Taylor’s reimbursement from the government. In order to increase their odds, many new parents are adding their child to the waiting list at Taylor Early Childhood Center as soon as they are born. That’s a full three years before they could possibly start school on Blackcat Drive.

## Senn-Thomas Treats

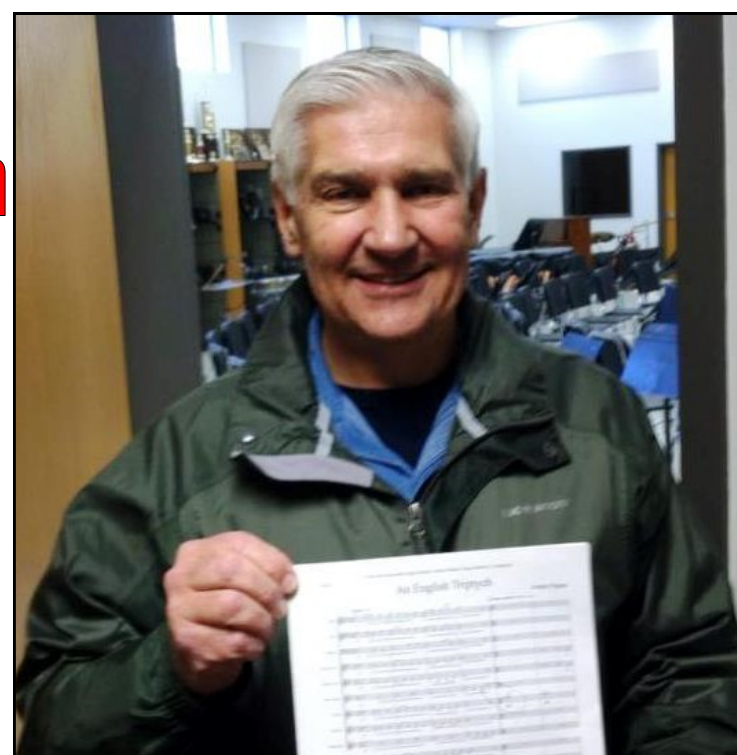


Birthdays are extra special at Senn-Thomas Middle School. For over a decade students have been given a bag of treats on their birthday. Inside the bag are items like Goldfish, Sour Punch Rainbow Straws, cookies

and fruit snacks. Secretary Kim Donnelly says, “Kids love them. They get recognized during morning announcements and are asked to retrieve their goodies at the end of the day.” The bags are assembled by the Life Skills Class and students with birthdays in June or July get to celebrate their half-birthdays.

## European Culture Coming to Herculaneum

When Band Director Doug Smelser traveled to Europe with his wife Robyn the last couple of years it was an inspiration. Not only for them, but for well know composer Joe Pappas. The retired music instructor at Jefferson College has written hundreds of compositions for various types of ensembles. The latest is called “An English Triptych.” Smelser says “It’s a collection of three English folk songs from regions that we visited in Europe.” The folk songs being used in the piece are Constant Billy, Over the Hills and Far Away and The Rambling Sailor. This is the third piece that Mr. Pappas has done for the Herculaneum High School Band. The first was back in 2008 when he wrote a piece called “With Pride and Celebration” for the city’s bicentennial and last year he arranged a march called “The Red Planet March.” Smelser wants the band to play “An English Triptych” at their March 22nd concert and again at the State Band Festival.



# I See Trees of Green, Red Roses Too . . .



When Nurse Kadie Stormer noticed some students at Pevely Elementary were struggling with academics, she didn't think about tutors or

teaching strategies, she thought about their health. Having been on the job a little over a year, she started looking into vision screenings. There wasn't a recurring system in place to get the students checked, so she created one.



Nurse Kadie, as she's called, eventually found Dr. Mark Kahrhoff. He's an optometrist with Complete Vision Care in Festus. Kahrhoff recruited three other doctors and set aside a day for a massive vision screening at Pevely Elementary School. Close to 800 students were

checked and over 200 had some type of issue. The test results were turned over to the parents and most of them followed up with an appointment at Complete Vision Care or with another optometrist.



That's not where the story ends for several youngsters. For a variety of reasons, they wouldn't be able to get glasses. Their

needs would go unmet. This is where charity meets technology. Dr. Kahrhoff has a mobile eye care unit. He can examine a child, make a pair of glasses and give them to the student in the same day. His trailer is unique in the industry, not for making glasses from prefabricated lenses, but they can make glasses almost from scratch. They can grind a 'puck' into a lens which is needed for bifocals and your trickier eye problems.

With the consent of parents or guardians, 13 students visited the high-tech trailer the first day. A similar number of students would visit a few days later and all of them got new glasses within hours of the examination. Nurse Kadie says it was an emotional time. The students were so happy to see clearly that it literally brought tears to the eyes of their teachers. Parents were thankful as well and provided wonderful feedback.

Pevely Elementary now has a system in place to screen students during kindergarten registration, then again in first and third grades. Additional students will have their vision tested if requested by a parent or teacher.

Nurse Kadie says, "The health of the students and staff is more than just medications and Band-Aids."



# Bucking the Trend

The Missouri State Auditor says that school administration costs are outpacing instruction spending. Auditor Nicole Galloway's release of school data shows that overall spending on administration per student increased 14 percent between 2011 and 2016. Meanwhile, the money spent on instruction over the same time period was up 9 percent. Charter schools are leading this trend with an 18 percent increase in administrative costs and a slight decrease in spending for instruction.

It's just the opposite in the Dunklin R-5 School District, where spending on administration went up 12 percent, and instruction spending went up 19 percent. That's good news because there seems to be a connection between a good score on a district's annual performance report and spending money on instruction.

The school district's spending on administration went from \$1,594,223 in 2011 to \$1,787,859 in 2016. Again, it was an increase of 12 percent over 5 years. The spending on instruction went from \$8,346,376 to \$9,936,935 over the same time period. That was an increase of 19 percent.



## Maxwell McClain of Pevely and Midnight

At Taylor Early Childhood Center, Melanie Casten's classroom adopted a cow named Midnight. It's not walking the hallways, but they do get monthly pictures and updates about the heifer. They also receive lesson plans and videos. It's a free program through the St. Louis District Dairy Council.

Nutrition Educator Erin Rich with the Dairy Council says, "The Adopt-A-Cow program is our way to bring the farm to the classroom." She notes the growing interest in finding out more about the food we eat and the milk we drink.

Ms. Casten has been in the program for two years and her class was chosen out of a large group of participants to get a visit from a representative. Each student received a cow bell to take home.



# Dunklin Sports

Due to possible schedule changes, please access our most current schedules on our website at

[www.dunklin.k12.mo.us](http://www.dunklin.k12.mo.us)  
on Twitter @BlackcatUpdates

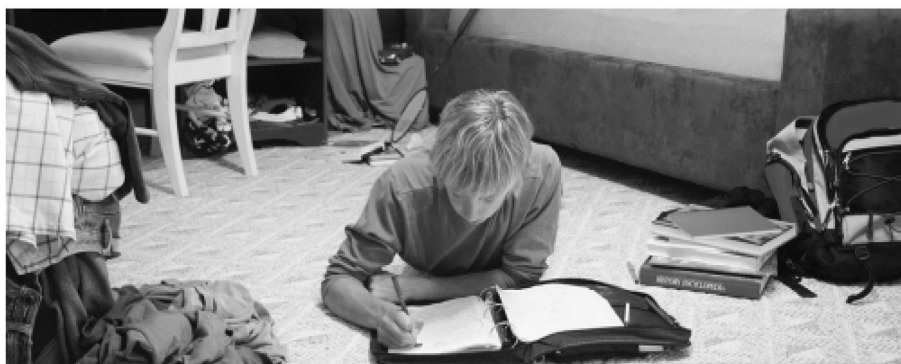


**SPECIAL EXHIBIT | HERCULANEUM HIGH SCHOOL THEATER**  
**Tuesday, Feb. 27th, 2018 | Exhibit 6:30-8:30 PM | Presentation at 6:30 PM**  
**1 Blackcat Drive, Herculaneum, MO 63048**



# HIDDEN IN PLAIN VIEW

AN INITIATIVE TO HELP PARENTS SPOT SIGNS OF RISKY BEHAVIOR



### Would you recognize signs of youth alcohol or drug use in your home?

This free, interactive display of a teenager's bedroom contains items that could signal that a young person is involved in risky activities. Parents can learn how to spot warning signs and get tips for talking with their kids about the dangers of alcohol and drug use.

*Remember: Talking with your kids early and often about the dangers of drug use is the most effective tool to prevent youth substance use. For tips on starting these conversations go to [www.addictionisreal.org](http://www.addictionisreal.org).*



**CRYSTAL CITY 47  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



Pevely Elementary will be jumping next week. The fundraiser for the American Heart Association is called Jump Rope for Heart. All P.E. classes are participating and the students will collect donations through February 2nd.

Dunklin Staff will have a professional development day on February 5<sup>th</sup>, as well as a Wellness Fair in the Pevely Elementary School Gymnasium.

There's a Mini Cheer Camp at the high school February 6th and 7th from 5:30 to 7pm in the cafeteria. The \$25 fee includes a tee shirt. Contact Holly Pashia – [hpashia@dunklin.k12.mo.us](mailto:hpashia@dunklin.k12.mo.us) or (636) 479-5200 ex 4139

Don't miss A Night of Jazz on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm at the theater. Enjoy the Herculaneum High School Jazz Band and The Missouri Big Band (The MOBB). Admission to the fundraiser is only \$5.

The second-grade classes will be presenting a Chinese Opera: The Empty Pot on March 1 at 7pm at the Dunklin R-5 Theatre. Directors are Julie Pruett and Ricka Fleschner.

Kindergarten enrollment will be March 26<sup>th</sup> and March 27<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 pm to 7 pm on both days. The child must live in the Dunklin R-5

School District and be 5 years of age on or before July 31, 2018. Appointments are required and can be made starting March 1<sup>st</sup> by calling Lindsay Silman at (636) 479-5200 ext. 3006.

The High School Alumni Parade will be on Saturday, June 9th as part of the H.H.S. Centennial Class Celebration. The parade is open to all Herculaneum High School alumni and spouses. All entries are welcome. Lineup starts at 9am at Senn-Thomas and North Main Street. There's more information at [www.hhs100.com](http://www.hhs100.com)

### Adults for a Day

Senn-Thomas Middle School students become workers, consumers, and citizens when they visit JA Biztown in Chesterfield. Four times a year a group of 20 to 30 students learn life skills at an imaginary town created by Junior Achievement of Greater St. Louis. Prior to the field trip, the students complete 12 lessons on very real topics, like banking and finance, government and taxes, as well as the costs to run a business. It's all in preparation for their day at the facility.

Courtney Stenzhorn teaches Intro to Digital Media and Business. She says the 6th graders have to apply for a specific job before the field trip. They hit the ground running, filing paperwork, shipping, earning paychecks and writing bills. Stenzhorn says, "They learn life skills, socialization, financial literacy and gain perspective on what it takes to be a responsible adult."

There are other schools attending at the same time so the population of Biztown is over 100. They have a bank, city hall, construction company, distribution center, restaurant, wellness center and media outlets. All 17 businesses have a number of jobs but some are more difficult to land. In November, Jason Dieckhaus of Senn-Thomas Middle School was elected Mayor out of 110 students. During that same trip, Tyler Watson was recognized as Citizen of the Day and our students ran The Smokehouse Restaurant that was awarded the Business of the Day.

Junior Achievement claims participating students are two and half times more likely to start their own business. They say students that attend from low-income areas are more likely to move into the middle or upper classes as adults. Stenzhorn has only been taking students to JA Biztown for three years. She can't verify the long-term success of the program but has heard of a student helping their parent balance the family's checkbook.



Katie Adams hosted an Art Show at Biztown.



Vets Willow Peters and Maci Cremeens at Biztown.





# Lady Blackcats

They're bringing the heat this season. The Lady Blackcats are electric and fun to watch. Varsity Coach Riley Blair says, "Intensity, hard work and playing up-tempo has gotten them to this point." He has seen this group progress over the years. The seniors were in 5th grade when he started coaching at the high school. Senior Rae Ann Fuller says this season is different from past years. She says, "We get along a lot more, we trust each other." Teammate Emily Fisher says, "Expectations are high. Every year we've gotten better and this is the year to do it." Tickets for the games are just \$3 for adults and the schedule is listed on Dunklin website under calendars. On February 5th they are at Affton at 6pm, they host St. Vincent on February 8th at 7pm and visit Crystal City on February 9th at 6pm.



Back: Varsity Coach Riley Blair, Assistant Coach Jim Vaughn, Jordan Allen, Paige Fowler, Rae Ann Fuller, Caitlyn Huber, Emily Wiese, Angelica Wooten, Haley Benthall, JV Coach Rob Metcalf, Freshman Coach Amy Duncan. Front: Ashley Lodike, Ashley Croom, Kacey Eliscupides, Emma Vaughn, Emily Fisher, Taylor Metcalf, Lauren Partney and Lily Stauder.



# A Gym for All Seasons

The Dunklin R-5 School District has invested in a new HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) system for the high school gymnasium. The Trane Voyager is currently heating the three-story building. It was time according to Superintendent Stan Stratton. He says, "The Robinson Gym was heated by 13 furnaces and over half of those were at least 28 years old." The new high-efficiency furnace comes with performance guarantees, but it wasn't cheap. This past summer the school board approved the lease-purchase of the system for \$798,000. It was delivered on a flatbed truck and a crane was used to lift it onto a cement pad. These units are often placed on the rooftops of commercial buildings.

Those attending basketball games have noticed the red nylon tubes along the ceiling. Those vents are called "socks," and they come in a variety of school colors. Maintenance Director Russ Waugh says they work great. He says, "The building has the most even temperatures in the gym and other floors that I've seen since I started working here." He can check those numbers on a computer and it gives him a history of each room.

In the spring Trane personnel will return to start up the air condition side of the system. That will be a treat for students. Most alumni have a story about how hot that cement block box gets during the summer. It's close to the outside temperature, without much of a cross breeze through the open windows. The National Weather Service in St. Louis has records going back to 1874. It turns out 8 of the 10 warmest years in the St. Louis area took place since the gym was built in 1964.

## Inclement Weather Advisories

In the event of school closing or early dismissal due to ice or snow we will contact the following radio stations:

\*KJFF AM 1400   \*KMOX AM 1120   KTJJ  
FM 98.5



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