



Blackcat News

Mission Statement:
"Educating Today for a Better Tomorrow"

VOLUME 22 ISSUE 73 SCHOOL YEAR 2017-2018 NOVEMBER 16, 2017



Sleeping on the Job?

When the swollen rivers were turning Jefferson County into an island, a high school biology teacher knew if she went home, she couldn't make it back. The only way for Erin Graves to be in class the next day was to stay overnight. It was an important time for her class. There was only one more day of review before her students took the end of course exams. Her enthusiasm may come from missing her calling, and trying to make up for it now. Graves was a pharmaceutical researcher for 25 years at Mallinckrodt. While working on new medicines, she put her kids through college, but she always wanted to be a teacher.



After three years at Herculaneum High School, she loves her job. Graves believes her students are a lot like her former coworkers. She says "People want to be engaged, be part of the process, touch it, feel it, want it to be fun." She creates situations that allow the students to figure something out on their own. The example she gave had to do with enzymes in pineapple and their interaction with Jello.

The school nurse, Connie Ward, was very accommodating when Mrs. Graves requested a night's stay in her office. There was even tea for Graves the next morning. Her students rewarded her efforts. When the End of Course Exams results came back from the state, Dunklin R5 Biology was the 8th highest in the St. Louis Area. They scored just above Marquette in the Rockwood School District and just below Maplewood-Richmond Heights.

High School Principal Dr. John Crabtree says, "Graves cares about her students, and will put in hour after hour to help them." That dedication and the outstanding results from her

students is why Crabtree nominated her for the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award. She edged out three other great teachers to be the winner for the Dunklin School District. The researcher turned teacher just returned from an awards ceremony at The Ritz-Carlton in Clayton. In addition to her engraved award and signed achievement certificate, she received an enzyme free piece of fruit... a crystal apple, by Tiffany.

The other Dunklin teachers nominated for the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award were Speech Pathologist Laura Lahay at Taylor Early Childhood Center, Special Education Teacher Abby Battistoni at Pevely Elementary School, and Social Studies Teacher Dayna LaPlante at Senn Thomas Middle School.

DUNKLIN R-5 SCHOOL DISTRICT

497 Joachim Avenue • Herculaneum, MO 63048 • (636) 479-5200
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David Cook, Guidance Counselor, grades 9-10 and A+

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SUPPORT STAFF ext. 1

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

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".

Dunklin R-5 School District is an equal opportunity employer



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District is Very Busy This Year

Dear Dunklin R-5 Community,

I hope the start of the school year has treated everyone well. There is, as always, a lot of activity going on throughout the district. Fall activities are in full swing as well as various maintenance projects. One project to note is an Energy Modernization and Efficiency Project we are doing with TRANE. With the help of some grants and incentives, we are able to upgrade some very aging equipment in several campus area buildings. In addition, it allows us to upgrade the units in the Robinson Gymnasium at the High School. These new energy efficient units will replace some very old, high maintenance units. These new units include air conditioning which has been needed in that building for a long time. We are also in the beginning stages of a safety/security project that will add fencing and gates at all campus buildings to provide better security for our students and staff. The energy project has already begun and the security project plans should be finalized soon. The energy project should be completed soon and you should begin to see the security project improvements early 2018.

At our September board meeting, the board held the annual tax rate hearing and voted to adopt the new tax rate. Due to a small change to our assessed valuation, the new rate of \$4.6960 is a slight reduction from the previous year.

A really special event that was discussed at our October board meeting is this year's graduation and some events that are being planned around it. If you were not aware, the Class of 2018 will be the 100th 4 year graduating class from Herculaneum High School. Every graduation is a reason to celebrate, but this one is a real milestone. Mayor Haggard has put together

a committee called the Centennial Class Celebration committee and they are planning a celebration in June. The committee has started selling commemorative tiles that will be installed near the Victory Bell at our football stadium. The tiles are on sale now. For more information on the tiles and all the celebration events go to www.HHS100.com

As I mentioned earlier, fall activities are in full swing and I want to give a special Congrats to Coach Meda and Coach Johnson for a successful Volleyball season. The Varsity Ladycats Volleyball team made it to the Class 3 District 2 District playoff game for the first time since 1991. Great job ladies!

For more information on what is happening at Dunklin R-5, please see our website www.dunklin.k12.mo.us or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Our focus in every decision, is to do what is best for the kids and families we serve, 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



The 2017-2018 School Calendar
can be found on the
District Web Site
www.dunklin.k12.mo.us
under the Calendars tab.



Volunteer and BRAG about it

BRAG, Blackcats Reaching Academic Goals, is the tutoring program for selected Pevely Elementary students. Community volunteers as well as Dunklin R-5 staff work together to provide additional services to first through fifth grade students in our district. The kids benefit by building relationships with trusted adults, engaging in a social environment, and adding fluency in areas such as math, reading and spelling. We love our volunteers! If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Michelle Liles by email at mliles@dunklin.k12.mo.us or Carla Lodike at clodike@dunklin.k12.mo.us. Volunteering doesn't just help the student, but also has a positive impact on the volunteer.



Lane Hamtil, a member of student council, putting her hat in the ring for higher office. Public service might run in the family, as her grandfather is Jim Kasten.

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

We will also contact the local TV stations: Channels 2, 4 and 5.

* Stations the school alerts first.



National Honor Society Inductees



These students were inducted into the National Honor Society on October 18th. Alexis Baiter, Novalee Bach, Matthew Bartosch, Dylan Beranek, Cathy Burgard, Jonathan Coffman, Loki Cortner, Emma Eckles, Olivia Harris, Athena Harvey, Kassie Helms, Caitlyn Huber, Victoria Hutt, Margaret Key, Gabrielle Kurrus, Grace McCutchen, Taylor Metcalf, Anna Pfaff, Faith Smith, Lilian Stauder, Andrew Storz, Luke Teague, Ashley Thebeau, Emma Vaughn, Colby Wilfong, Gabrielle Wilson



Jennifer Teague, Luke Teague, Krystal Hayes, Timothy Nickless.

Everyone pictured in this Blackcat family is a member of the National Honor Society. Jennifer Teague is a technology teacher at Pevely Elementary School. She says "We were taught you must work hard toward your goals in life and pray even harder." Those supportive parents also made an impact on her sister, Krystal Hayes and her brother Timothy Nickless. Mrs. Teague says together with her husband Logan, they try to provide the same values and support to their children. Obviously it's working as her son Luke was just inducted into the Herculaneum High School National Honor Society, just like his mom, aunt and uncle. Now the legacy is left to Luke's younger brother David Teague, and everyone is cheering for him.

Save the Date



Centennial Class Celebration Festival

June 8, 2018

*Join us in Celebrating 100 years of
HS School Spirit!*

*For more information visit our website
at*

www.HHS100.com

or call

314-852-4964



Blackcat Dance Team Variety Show



The Annual Blackcat Dance Team Variety Show took place on October 15th. It kicked off with JV and Varsity Dance Teams, but it was the dance teams from the elementary school that stole the show. During the week leading up to the show, the dance teams hosted a dance camp for students Pre-K through 8th grade. Students were taught a dancer routine each day to perform at the show. Between the acts Prince and Princess candidates were announced and brought onto the stage. In the lobby of the theater, attendees could vote for their favorite prince or princess, with each penny counting as one vote. When the final tally was completed, Gracie Darden and

Gabriel Skabialka were crowned. These individuals will participate in the 17-18 Prom coronation, as well as, the 18-19 Homecoming events. Prince and Princess candidates are nominated by each dancer. Students at the Taylor Early Childhood Building are also invited to participate in the contest. This event is a major fundraiser for the dance teams. It provides funds for competition items, costumes, and equipment needed for the program. The dance teams are very appreciative of all the support the community provides in this fundraiser. They look forward to it every year.



Penny Wars . . .

Hurricane Harvey

News reports of the devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey to Texas and other gulf states was all the motivation a 7th grader needed to start raising money for the Red Cross. English teacher Sarah Beck says, "Davin Kent came to class asking and insisting that we do something to help." This plea was turned into a learning opportunity as students started researching fundraisers.

Soon the STMS principals approved "Penny Wars," a competition between classes. They collected a lot of pennies, some silver coins and even a few dollar bills. It took a long time to count the money at the bank, but eventually they were able to cut a check to the Red Cross for \$1,000.



Special Olympic Bowling Winners



The annual Special Olympics Bowling Competition for Dunklin R-5 students took place on October 9th at Quonset Lanes. All students placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd.

7th Grade Student at STMS . . . Touchdown Mike Moloney

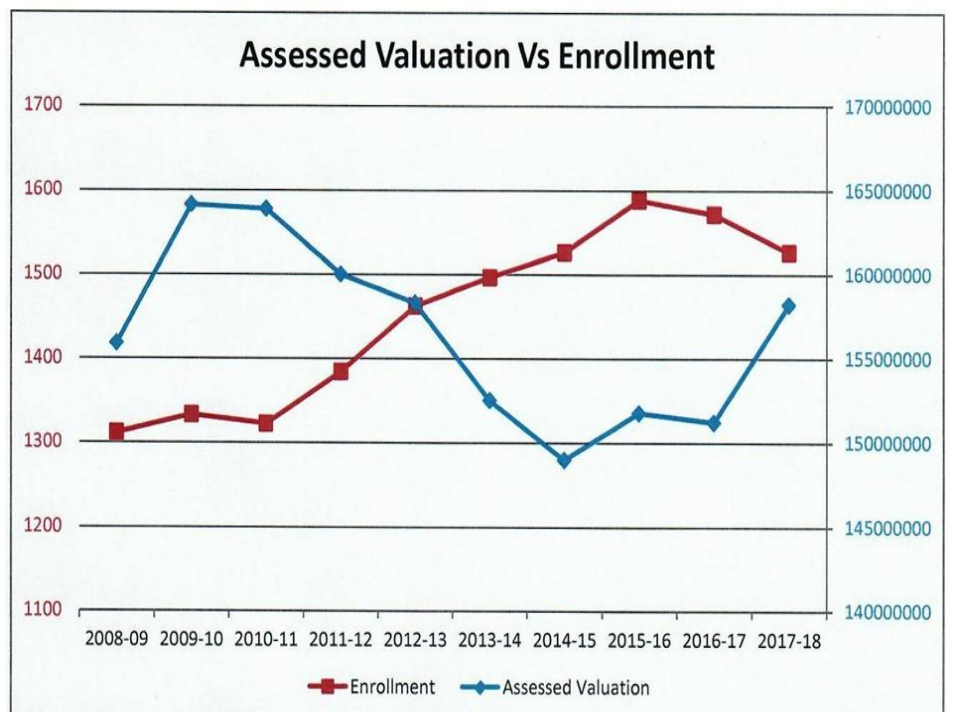


Some school districts nationally have cancelled their football programs, as fewer students show up to play. Parents are concerned about injuries and often encourage their kids to pick another competitive sport. That's not the case at Dunklin, where the number of students on the 7th and 8th grade team jumped by a third this year. Coach Andrew Wenger has just completed his second year with the team. He says working at Senn Thomas Middle School helps because he's always available to speak with students and parents. He had 22 players the first year and 33 players this fall. His Blackcat team started slow, with a loss followed by a tie. However, the last 4 games were all victories. What does that mean for the future of Blackcat football? Wenger says, "If they stick together, they'll do really well." The history teacher coached the same level at Priory, so he knows what a solid program looks like. He also gets help from Assistant Dallas Graham. Now that the season is over Coach Wenger has this advice for the players: lift weights and play other sports. He'll lose 15 of his players to the JV team next year.

Assessed Valuation vs. Enrollment

The number of students attending Dunklin, and the value of the real estate in the district, has been moving in opposite directions. There are an additional 215 students in K-12 classrooms today, than just 10 years ago. In response, more teachers have been hired to keep class sizes small and the district paid about \$200,000 to add four classrooms, or educational cottages, at Pevely Elementary School.

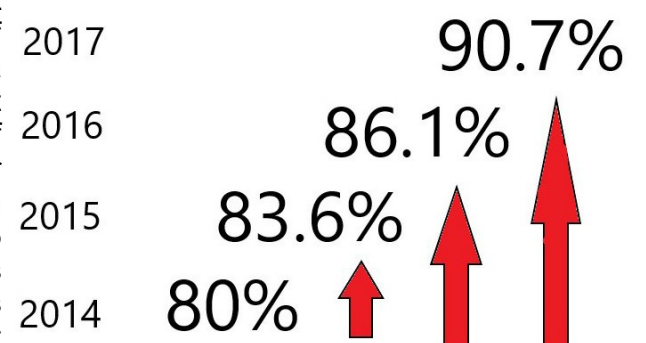
During this time period, assessed valuation in the district hit a peak during the 2009-10 school year at over 164-million dollars. Five years later, the valuation bottomed out at 149-million dollars. The drop in assessed valuation of 10% does have an effect on the school district, but it may be hard to see. Funding laws, like the Hancock Amendment, allow school districts to keep a steady stream of income when property values drop. What's lost is steady growth over time and keeping up with inflation. During this 10 year period the district assessed valuation grew only 1.48% compared to the Jefferson County average of 11.8%. The difference has made it a challenge to stay competitive with surrounding districts salaries. This year the starting pay for a teacher at Dunklin dropped from 4th highest among the 11 public school districts in Jefferson County to 7th overall.



Annual State Performance Report

The Annual Performance Report from the State of Missouri is like a district report card. We're proud of the results this year and the momentum the Dunklin R-5 School District has moving forward. As Superintendent, I want to thank our staff, students, and parents for achieving a score of 90.7%.

Annual Performance Report



The comprehensive report shows our strengths and our weaknesses. Strategies have already been implemented to make improvements as we address any stagnant or negative trends. One area you can help us with is attendance. We get points on the APR if 90% of the students attend 90% of the time. We seem to be stuck at 89% showing up at least 90% of the time.

Stan Stratton, Superintendent



Volleyball Record of 20-8

These high school seniors led the volleyball team to a season record of 20-8. Along the way they won the West County Tournament and went deep into district play. They beat Potosi in the first round and toppled Festus in the second round. With the district title on the line, the Blackcats lost to a very good St. Gen. team in 2 games, 21-25 and 22-25. It was the 1st time in 26 years that the Herculeaneum Volleyball team made it to the Championship Match.

Left to right: Seniors Emily Fischer, Lauren Partney, Dani Vaughn, Ashley Lodike, Sarah Watkins, Claire Shadowens, RaeAnn Fuller, with their proud mothers.

For updates and District news, including inclement weather school closing information, follow Communications Director Matt Lichtenstein on Twitter: [Matt Lichtenstein@BlackcatMatt](https://twitter.com/BlackcatMatt)



Waiting for a ride after band practice, Brandon Prince, Jack Logan and Olivia Lindaman decided to sweeten the air.



Whole Wheat Doughnut?

Why would you take something as wonderfully indulgent as a doughnut and mess it up with healthy ingredients. As the new Communications Director, I had to try one for myself. I expected it to be a "Grape Nut" flavored dough ball, but I was stunned to find out it was good!

The doughnuts were served warm, the dough was soft without any dominate flavors and the icing was a wonderful compliment. Now they won't put Krispy Kreme out of business, but they are free to all children in the Dunklin School District. Every student at Dunklin is given a PIN number and they use that to check out. While there isn't a cost, the district does need to keep track to be reimbursed by the state.



Doughnut Fan Padon Ivie

Food Service Director Nichole Arnold says a few years ago when the new healthy standards were first put into place, there was some push-back. That has eased over time, primarily because the food industry is making better tasting products with fewer sugars, less sodium and a lot less artificial ingredients. She says, "Vendors had to re-manufacture products and now there's competition." Even Trix Cereal and Pop Tarts make versions specifically for schools. Arnold says younger students don't have an issue with eating healthier food, because it's all they've known. At Pevly Elementary, 69% of students enjoy breakfast at school. That drops to 43% at the middle school, partly because the cafeteria is out of the way, and about 53% of high school students take part in the breakfast program.

There are a few things Arnold would change concerning nutritional guidelines. She thinks being forced to use "whole grain breading" on the chicken is a bit over the top. The skim milk isn't a big hit either. Their version of chocolate milk is more like colored water than an after school treat. I did see a few middle school students get a carton anyway, while others grabbed apple juice or orange juice. They are also served a half of cup of fruit and a warm breakfast sandwich, like a sausage and cheese biscuit. Naturally, it's a whole grain biscuit.

By Matt Lichtenstein



**Dunklin R5
School District**



Dunklin Sports

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

www.dunklin.k12.mo.us
on Twitter @BlackcatUpdates

Dunklin R-5 Notebook

Does your little Blackcat need glasses? Complete Vision Care will be at the elementary school on November 17th. Students can get a professional eye exam and leave the mobile lab with a pair of glasses. For details call the school nurse.

Time is running out to adopt a Blackcat family for Christmas. Find out more by calling Joyce at (636) 479-5200 ext. 2008 or email jgonzalezmeyer@dunklin.k12.mo.us

Don't miss the Pevely Elementary 3rd grade students as they present a program about the importance of reducing, reusing, and recycling! The students will perform at the Dunklin R-5 Theater on November 25 at 7:00pm.

Cheer on the award winning Herculaneum High School Marching Band on Nov 27th during the Twin Cities Christmas Parade and Nov 30th during the Herculaneum Christmas Parade.

Santa Night at Pevely Elementary! Mark your calendar for Friday, December 15th, from 6:30-8:00 in the evening. Get a picture with Santa and enjoy the Holiday Gift Shoppe, games, crafts, snacks and more...

Get involved! Learn more about the Blackcat Community Connection. Call Tammy Heidland at 314-852-2645 for more information.

Getting your little one to a dental appointment may be as easy as making a phone call. Comtre Dental is seeing students at Pevely Elementary every Thursday in the nurse's office. Comtre and the Dunklin R-5 School District want to build a permanent dental clinic in the near future at the school.

Mark your calendar as the high school theater group presents "Play On!" December 8th - 10th. This comedy is about a theater group trying desperately to put on a play in spite of maddening interference from an author who keeps revising the script.

The Herculaneum High School Choir will have their Winter Concert on December 14th. It starts at 7pm in the theater and it's free to the public.

The Herculaneum High School Winter Band Concert is December 17th at 3 in the afternoon at the High School Theater. Take time to enjoy the Jazz Band and Concert Band.

The Pevely Elementary Library is seeking donations of Legos, and other building materials or recycled items, like cardboard egg cartons. Help our Blackcats get creative and learn STEAM lessons as well.

Blackcat Hoopsters Trivia Night December 2nd, 2017



Mississippi River Eagles, Crystal City

Doors Open at 6:00 p.m.
Trivia Starts at 7:00 p.m.

\$120 per Table
(Tables seat 8)

If Interested

Please Contact Riley Blair
at rblair@dunklin.k12.mo.us
or 636-232-3757



Bring Your Own Snacks.
No Outside Beverages.
Beverages will be Provided.

Prizes for the Best Decorated Table.
Trivia Games Raffles Prizes

Want to Help?
Be a Sponsor or Donate Gift Cards, Items,
etc. to be Used as Raffles or Prizes.
Call or Email Riley Blair.



Here is the list of everyone on the podium who participated. From left to right:
 Persi Berry, Emily Enghauser, Keara Pieper (senior), Alex Becker (senior), Nautica Strickland,
 Chloe Richardson, Laura Maddox, Matthew Bartosch, Jonathon Coffman, Loki Cortner (senior),
 Jordan Mouser (senior) Jacob Arnold, Kyle Vinyard, Jeremiah Deaton.

Coaches: Coach Kyle Davis (head High School), Coach Riley Blair (head Junior High)
 Coach Ellen Enghauser (assistant Junior High) , Coach Tori Tinsley (assistant High School)

**Cross Country:
 Girls Take 2nd at State, Boys Take 3rd
 Best Girls Cross Country Program in
 Missouri**

The Herculaneum Lady Blackcats ran away with 2nd place at the state meet. It caps off a long standing tradition of excellence at the Dunklin R-5 School District. Going into state, the Blackcats were tied with West Plains with 13 consecutive trips to the podium. Now Herculaneum holds the state record of 14 consecutive years with a top finish.

Coach Kyle Davis has kept the winning tradition going for the past 6 years. Davis says, "The girls had a lot of confidence and high expectations from the start of this season."

The boys cross country team played the underdog all year, but that was blown when they took 2nd place in a loaded district, behind the defending state champs. The boys' team let it fly at the final, and took 3rd place overall in Class 3.

While running may seem like an individual sport, team victories require depth. The Blackcat coaches reminded the runners of an African proverb, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

Herculaneum was the smallest school in Class 3, competing against teams with twice their high school enrollment. Many rural and some charter schools started teams, which pushed the Blackcats up into Class 3, instead of Class 2.

Here's how they finished in the crowded field in Jefferson City.

Boys: Loki Cortner 14th all state, Jonathon Coffman 21st all state, Jacob Arnold 26th (missed all state by 1 place), Kyle Vinyard 43rd, Matt Bartosch 54th, Jeremiah Deaton 133rd, Jordan Mouser 140th.

Girls: Nautica Stricklin 3rd all state, Emily Enghauser 5th all state, Laura Maddox 28th, Chloe Richardson 69th, Alex Becker 73rd, Persepheni Berry 115th, Keara Pieper 122nd.

Fire Education Starts Early

The Herculaneum Fire Department visited Taylor Early Childhood Center in October. Students walked around the small truck looking at various pieces of equipment. They even got a chance to turn on the fire hose. After the demonstration there was a short assembly. They focused on "Stop, Drop and Roll" and dialing 9-1-1 in an emergency. A firefighter put on all his turnout gear, including the breathing apparatus that covers his face. Fire Chief Bill Haggard says, "A firefighter in all their gear can look scary to a child, and we hope to overcome that." The Herculaneum Fire Department has been visiting Dunklin Schools since 1957. Fire Chief Bill Haggard was in second grade at that time, and remembers the visit. He didn't know it would lead to decades in the fire service.



Dunklin Student Jace Russell takes his turn on the fire hose.



Firefighter Tyler Reed working the crowd.

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