



# Blackcat News

**Mission Statement:**

***"Educating Today for a Better Tomorrow"***

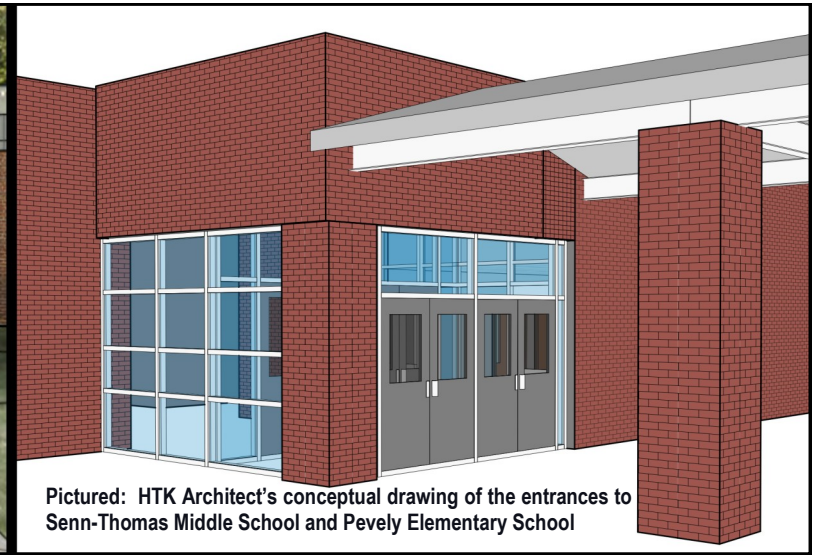
**VOLUME 28 ISSUE 88**

**SCHOOL YEAR 2023-2024**

**August 17, 2023**



## Construction and Improvement Plans



**Pictured: HTK Architect's conceptual drawing of the entrances to Senn-Thomas Middle School and Pevely Elementary School**

After passing Proposition Safe Schools, bond brokers, surveyors, and architects have been busy. Voters permitted Dunklin R-5 to sell \$13.5 million worth of bonds while keeping the district's property tax rate the same. Dr. Freeman says the bonds sold well without any issues. Surveyors have mapped elevations, and contractors drilled soil samples. Architects from HTK are adding details to their conceptual drawings. Still, with this flurry of activity, there are no visible changes to our buildings. Four months between the passage of the April bond issue and the start of school in August isn't enough time to design, bid, and construct the improvements promised to voters. We are a year away from seeing the changes.

The top priority continues to be the safe and secure entrances at Pevely Elementary School and Senn-Thomas Middle School. Visitors will continue to be "buzzed in," but that will only allow them to enter the office. The elevation of both buildings will change. At Senn-Thomas, an office will be built to the left of the front doors. They are adding an overhang that will connect to the new office and go across the walkway, providing shelter from the weather. A new feature will be a drop-off window. If parents bring something from home, like a pair of glasses for their student, they can hand it off without entering the building. At Pevely, the area outside the front doors will be enclosed, and they will also have a drop-off window.

All planned improvements are developed with the help of the employees who will be using the space. Architects have been meeting with different groups to make the spaces functional, including the current offices that will be repurposed. The time spent grinding through the details will smooth the construction process. HTK President Mark Frazen says, "The district enthusiasm and involvement afforded HTK Architects continues to propel the designs to be important community assets." He understands Blackcats will enjoy the campus improvements for decades.

The largest project is a new high school gym located behind Robinson Gymnasium. The 700-seat gymnasium will include a walking track and a practice area for wrestlers. After entering, spectators will have an elevated view of the court and walk down the stands to take their seats. This bowl design offers excellent sight lines and keeps pedestrian traffic off of the gym floor. It will include a concession stand, locker rooms, and storage.

The footprint covers the square parking area and extends towards the back of the theater. The small yellow house, which used to be the Central Office, will be taken down. It's not structurally sound. Over time, Dunklin acquired the lots at the intersection of Broadway and Barclay. Those lots are being leveled to make room for additional parking. There are too many variables to predict an accurate timeline for construction, but they hope to have the gym open in April 2025.

Installing a new turf football/activities field will have a few challenges, specifically ensuring proper drainage. The north end of the field is a basin for stormwater runoff, and the current drainage system needs to be enhanced. Contractors must also work around a manhole cover on the sideline in front of the stone bleachers. We put a foam pad over it during games to prevent injuries, like a football player falling out of bounds at the 10-yard line. Some reputable local vendors have installed turf fields in Jefferson County. We will work directly with them instead of going through HTK to save money. The project should start after track season.

The small district warehouse has undergone some modifications since the bond issue passed. The structure will still be built next to the bus garage, but it has been downsized to save money. The facilities building will have offices for the maintenance and technology departments, freeing up classroom space. There will be a workshop and some storage. The current maintenance shed behind the theater will be turned into a warehouse with freezers for food deliveries. The district purchased a Bobcat a couple of years ago that can unload pallets if necessary. However, many trucks have lift gates to help deliver products.

HTK Architects organized a meet and greet for contractors and subcontractors. They got a preview of the \$13 million worth of improvements divided into three bid packages. The first, for new secure entrances, just went out to bid. The facilities/warehouse building and theater upgrades will go to bid next month, and the gym will be put out to bid in December.

ABC 90%

Dunklin R-5 School District

OPEN HOUSE

August 2023

Taylor Early Childhood

August 22

12-7PM

\*Make Appointment with Teacher

Pevely Elementary

August 21

Kindergarten Orientation: 4:00-6:00PM

August 22

Grades 1-5: 3:00-7:00PM

Senn-Thomas Middle School

August 22

4:00- 7:00PM

Herculeaneum High School

August 22

Grades 10-12: 3:00-5:00PM

9th Grade Orientation: 6:00-8:00PM



# Message From Board President

The beginning of a new school year for Dunklin R-5 staff, students, and parents is always an exciting time. Whether you are new or returning to Dunklin R-5, Welcome! I like to think that our small community is a family, and our family continues to grow. With the passing of our bond issue in April, we look forward to several new projects in our district. They include new secured vestibules to keep our staff and students safe at both Pevely Elementary and Senn-Thomas Middle School, and a new gym to allow more space for our teams to practice and compete. We're adding a storage facility so our support staff has the space they need, and it will free up classroom space to accommodate our growing student population. Thank you for your support. Without that support, these projects would not be possible.

Please take note of these important dates: Monday, August 21, is the Kindergarten Open House from 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, August 22, is Open House for students in 1st-12th grades. HHS Freshman Orientation is that evening from 6-8 p.m. The first day of school for students is Thursday, August 24th.

Our staff has been working hard to prepare campuses and classrooms, and our teachers are rested and ready, but the students bring the buildings to life.

The board of education meets every month on the 3rd Tuesday of the month in the Pevely Elementary Library. All are welcome to attend. The agenda is posted on the district website. [www.dunklin.k12.mo.us](http://www.dunklin.k12.mo.us) under the Board of Education tab. The website has many other resources and updates that will be helpful during the school year.

I'm looking forward to another year of celebrating success for all.

It's a great day to be a BLACKCAT!

Tammy Heidland  
President, Dunklin R5 Board of Education  
[theidland@dunklin.k12.mo.us](mailto:theidland@dunklin.k12.mo.us)

## Dr. Freeman's Message

Welcome back to another exciting school year! We hope you had a wonderful summer filled with unforgettable experiences. As we embark on this new academic journey together, we are thrilled to announce that this year's theme continues to be: "It's all about the experience."

At Dunklin R-5, we believe that education is not just about textbooks and exams; it's about creating meaningful experiences that shape our lives. We are committed to providing an environment where every student can thrive, learn, and grow academically and personally.

This year, we are dedicated to enhancing the overall experience for our students. Our teachers and staff have planned a wide range of activities, events, and programs that will make your child's time at school truly memorable. From engaging field trips to interactive workshops, we want to ensure that every student has the opportunity to explore their passions and discover new interests.

Our exceptional team of educators is ready to guide and support you throughout this journey. They are passionate about creating a positive and inclusive learning environment where every student feels valued and empowered. We encourage you to take advantage of their expertise and engage in open conversations that will enrich your student's educational experience.

Parents, your involvement is crucial to your child's success. We invite you to actively participate in our school community, attend parent-teacher conferences, and join our various committees and events. Together, we can create a strong partnership that will foster a love for learning and enable your child to reach their full potential.

Once again, welcome to the Dunklin R-5 School District. We are thrilled to have you as part of our school community, and we look forward to an

incredible year ahead. Let's make it an experience to remember!

Dr. Clint Freeman  
Superintendent of Schools  
Dunklin R-5 School District



### DUNKLIN R-5 SCHOOL DISTRICT

497 Joachim Avenue ▪ Herculaneum, MO 63048 ▪ (636) 479-5200

Dr. Clint Freeman, Superintendent

Dr. Joe Willis, Assistant Superintendent

#### BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Cheryl Aylesworth, Jason Drinen, Michael Hicks,

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#### HERCULANEUM HIGH SCHOOL ext. 3

Stephanie Dix, Principal

Ryun Kasten, Asst. Principal

Jason Gillman, Activities Director

Laura Asinger, Guidance Counselor,  
grades 11-12

Chelsey Dickerman, Guidance Counselor,  
grades 9-10 and A+

Connie Ward, Nurse

#### SENN-THOMAS MIDDLE SCHOOL ext. 2

Tracy Lewis, Principal

Kyle Borrer, Assistant Principal

Tiffany Bungenstock, Guidance Counselor

Heather Shadowens, Nurse

Joycie Gonzalez-Meyer,  
School-Family Liaison

#### PEVELY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ext. 1

Katie Dunlap, Principal

Adam Dixon, Asst. Principal

Michelle Liles, Asst. Principal

Adalee Chaffee, Guidance Counselor

Miranda Schultz, Guidance Counselor

Heather Engelbach, Nurse

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Haley Webery, Asst. Director

Christina Meyer, Nurse

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Ryan Lowe, Director of Technology

Matt Lichtenstein, Communications Director

Tom Moreland, Director of Special Services

Sue Sharp, Director of Transportation

### Board Meetings are Open to the Public

The Dunklin R-5 Board of Education meets on a regular basis on the third Tuesday of each month. The meetings are held at 7:00 pm. Check the website for the location. 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), and clicking on the Board of Education tab.

*Dunklin R-5 School District is an equal opportunity employer*





# Herky Boys Take Third at State

For the first time in school history, runners made the podium in the 4x200 and 4x100 meter relays. The Blackcats finished 4th and 6th respectively at the state competition. They earned 8 points for the Herculanum, and Jacob Moreland earned another 2 points for finishing 7th in the shot put. These talented athletes earned All-State recognition, but they actually performed better at the sectional meet. The hope for team honors in Jefferson City was beginning to fade. Coach Davis says, "We thought the trophy was out of sight." However, two runners would change the tide.

Nate Wright looks more natural running the mile than walking down the hallway. Wright brought his smooth stride to Jefferson City. He says, "I went out slower than normal and just stayed in the middle of the pack and then at the end gave it whatever I had." The sophomore finished 5th with a time of 4:21.25 and earned 5 points for the team.

Sam Vaughn is more of a distance runner, but he also qualified for the 1600 meter. Vaughn stayed with his teammate throughout the race. He says, "It just came down to executing, and then we both figured out the kick at the end. Like right at State, we figured out the kick." Vaughn finished 0.05 seconds behind Wright, taking 6th place and earning 4 points for the team. Coach Davis says, "When Sam put that out there, we were all going nuts." Coach Ryan Kasten said if we were to give Sam step-by-step instructions, it couldn't have been better than how he ran that race.

Nate Wright wasn't done scoring points for Herculanum. Three hours later, he broke two minutes in the 800, finishing 6th and earning three more points for Herculanum.



Pictured: Sam Vaughn holds the third place trophy, and Nate Wright breaks out of the pack, followed by Vaughn, during the 1600-meter race.

The Blackcats had 22 points on the second day. That's when Sam Vaughn stepped to the line to begin the two-mile. Lap after lap, Vaughn was consistent, like the second hand of a clock. He said, "It pretty much went perfect." Vaughn took 13-seconds off his personal best and finished 10-seconds off the school record. The junior finished the 3200-meter run in 9:28.17, taking second place and earning eight points for the team. Coach Davis says, "I've watched a lot of awesome Herky distance races in the last decade. The mile and two-mile, both on the same weekend, for them to run like that, they were special." He says, "Those two got 20 of our 30 points." That was enough for the team to earn the third-place trophy. Herculanum competed in Class 3, which includes 97 school districts. That is

a massive pool of athletes, and taking third place among them is a praiseworthy accomplishment.

While the girls didn't make a big splash, Davis is pleased with the team. He says, "Eddy (Reeves) was All-State in the pole vault, and she competed in four events the first day." He says we got several freshmen to state, giving them valuable experience. We just don't have the same depth on the girls' side.

It has been two and a half months since the state track championships, so it's time to buy sneakers. Both Wright and Vaughn say they literally wear out a pair of running shoes every two-and-a-half to three months.

## Go Blackcats!

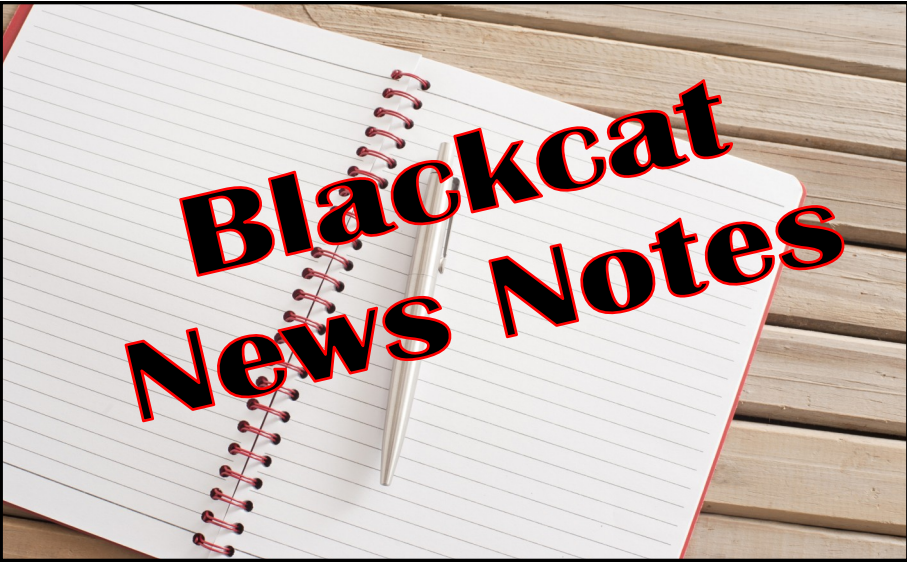
## New Gym Coming



Pictured: HTK Architect's conceptual drawing of the new gym located on the far side of Robinson Gymnasium. The estimated completion date is April 2025.

 @BlackcatTrack @HerkyXC 





Senn-Thomas Parents: Dropping off and picking up your student from school will change this year to accommodate contractors building a new entrance. Administrators will share additional information.

Calling all past HHS Homecoming Kings & Queens: We would like to recognize you before the Oct. 13th football game. Please email Mrs. Fitzgibbons at [lfitzgibbons@dunklin.k12.mo.us](mailto:lfitzgibbons@dunklin.k12.mo.us)

Free and Reduced Meals: The applications are available on the Parent Portal. Log in and select “More” and then “Meal Benefits.” Now you can start the application process. Keep clicking on “next” to move through the pages. It should take about 3 minutes.

Bus safety begins before they leave the lot. That’s why we are so proud of Driver Bill Thomas for earning 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the

MAPT Best School Bus Inspector competition.

Blackcat Dance Team Alumni: Join the alumni performance on Oct. 13th at Dugan Memorial Field. Please email Mrs. Stenzhorn at [cstenzhorn@dunklin.k12.mo.us](mailto:cstenzhorn@dunklin.k12.mo.us)

What’s the team’s schedule? Check the Activities Calendar on the Dunklin R-5 website.



**Brandon Prince Finished Scout Project**

During the summer drought, Brandon Prince (Class of 2023) finished his Eagle Scout project, building a veterans' memorial near Kade's Playground in Herculaneum. Prince recently had his final board review and will officially be recognized as an Eagle Scout in September.

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

This guide explains how to file a complaint about any of the programs<sup>1</sup> that are administered by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (the Department) under the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA)<sup>2</sup>.

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

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

**Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015**

Dear Parent or Guardian:

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

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

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

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

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



# Board Policies and Legal Notices Regarding Student and Parent Rights

## NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS under FERPA for Elementary and Secondary Institutions

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records.

These rights are outlined below:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the District receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the *Dunklin R-5 School District* to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the District will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is the person employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or strident serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs, to review, an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the District discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Dunklin R-5 School District to comply with the requirements FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers SHERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202-4605

## DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Students may distribute, at reasonable times and places, unofficial written material, petitions, buttons, badges or other insignia, **except expressions** which are obscene to minors, libelous, indecent or vulgar, advertise any product or service not permitted to minors by law, constitute insulting or fighting words which injure or harass other people (threats of violence, defamation of character or of a person's race, religion, or ethnic origin), or material which would result in a material or substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or activities.

Anyone wishing to distribute a student publication of a non-curricular nature must apply 24 hours in advance to the principal and include the following: name and phone number of distributor, dates and times of display or distribution, location of distribution, the age of students to whom the distribution is intended. There is an appeal process for material denied distribution.

Further detailed guidelines regarding student distribution of publications of a non-curricular nature is outlined in the Dunklin R-5 Board of Education Policy Manual under section IGDBA and may be reviewed in the principal's office or in the superintendent's office.

## PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT SURROGATE PARENT PROGRAM

The State Board of Education is required to appoint a surrogate parent at such time as it becomes evident that a child with a disability does not have a parent or a person acting as a parent to participate in matters dealing with the provision of special education. For purposes of surrogate parent appointment, "parent" is defined as a biological parent, a guardian, or a person acting as a parent of a child including, but not limited to, a grandparent, a stepparent, or a foster parent with whom a the child lives. The term does not include the State if the child is a ward of the state. The term does not include a person whose parental rights have been terminated.

The Dunklin R-5 School District is given the responsibility to determine when a child with a disability who required special education and who resides in the district is without a parent. The district must notify the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education of the need to appoint a surrogate parent. Training for persons serving as surrogate parents will be provided by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the district.

If you are interested in volunteering to serve as surrogate parent, more information can be obtained from the district's surrogate parent contact person:

Special Services Director  
497 Joachim Ave. ▪ Herculaneum, MO 63048 (636) 479-5200  
*This notice will be provided in native languages as appropriate.*

## DIRECTORY INFORMATION

According to federal law, parents and students are hereby notified that "Directory Information" will be released as deemed necessary by school officials. The following items are classified as Directory Information: Student's Name, Parents' Names, Address, Telephone Number, Date and Place of Birth, Major Field of Study, Participation in Officially Recognized Activities and Sports, Weight and Height of Members of Athletic Teams Dates of Attendance, Degrees and Awards Received, Most Recent Previous School Attended and Photograph.

Parents of students will have ten (10) school days after the annual public notice to view the student's directory information and to provide written notice to the school that they choose not to have this information released. Unless prior written notice is received, the school district may disclose any of those items designated as directory information without written consent.



## TITLE I - DUNKLIN R-5 SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT BUILDING AND DEVELOPING THE PARENT-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP TO PROMOTE HIGH STUDENT PERFORMANCE

The Title I Advisory Council meets at least twice a year to discuss and plan all aspects of the Title I program. Parent concerns, teacher concerns, and student performance are addressed in addition to any other Title I business.

THE SCHOOL'S RESPONSIBILITY IS TO PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION IN A SUPPORTIVE AND EFFECTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT THAT ENABLES TITLE I CHILDREN TO MEET THE STATE'S STUDENT PERFORMANCE STANDARDS AND THE WAYS IN WHICH EACH PARENT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPPORTING THEIR CHILDREN'S LEARNING.

The Title I Staff will be responsible for:

- ◆ Increased contact with parents by telephone or notes as needed.
- ◆ Joint planning.
- ◆ Joint consideration of problems observed by parents/school. Being available on regular parent teacher conference days. Being available for individual parent meetings as needed. Sharing methods/materials to support parents helping their children at home. Explaining test results and interpreting test scores as requested.
- ◆ Providing responsible, high interest curriculum to students.
- ◆ Build self-esteem with positive reinforcement.
- ◆ Inviting and welcoming parents to visit classrooms.

Parents will be responsible for:

- ☐ Communicating with Title I teachers as necessary.
- ☐ Volunteering to help the Title I teacher when possible.
- ☐ Observing remedial reading class when possible.
- ☐ Showing personal support of the school to their children.
- ☐ Reading appropriate material to their children on a regular basis.
- ☐ Assuring a good start for their children on each new day.
- ☐ Participation in general parent meetings as scheduled.

## STUDENT DISCIPLINE POLICIES

The Dunklin R-5 School Board of Education annually adopts policies related to student discipline for grades K-12. Copies of these policies are detailed in all student handbooks and are available to anyone requesting a copy of the discipline codes. Requests may be made through the principals located in each building.

## STUDENT POLICY INFORMATION SCHOOL RECORDS

School records are maintained in all R-5 school buildings. Access to student records will be made available to appropriate personnel and parents as outlined by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). According to FERPA, parents may inspect and review their student's educational records upon written request. This review and appeal process is outlined in the Dunklin R-5 Board of Education Policy Manual JO-R. The same policy addresses parent rights involving concerns about corrections in student records believed to be inaccurate, misleading, or a violation of student privacy rights. According to law, the school will provide a transcript of student records to appropriate agencies upon written request by parent or eligible student.

## IDEA Public Notice

All responsible public agencies are required to locate, evaluate, and identify children with disabilities who are under the jurisdiction of the agency, regardless of the severity of the disability, including children attending private schools, children who live outside the district but are attending a private school within the district, highly mobile children, such as migrant and homeless children, children who are wards of the state, and children who are suspected of having a disability and in need of special education even though they are advancing from grade to grade. The Dunklin R-5 School District assures that it will provide a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) to all eligible children with disabilities between the ages of 3 and 21 under its jurisdiction. Disabilities include autism, deaf/blindness, emotional disorders, hearing impairment and deafness, mental retardation/intellectual disability, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairments, specific learning disabilities, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury, visual impairment/blindness and young child with a developmental delay.

The Dunklin R-5 School District assures that it will provide information and referral services necessary to assist the State in the implementation of early intervention services for infants and toddlers eligible for the Missouri First Steps program.

The Dunklin R-5 School District assures that personally identifiable information collected, used, or maintained by the agency for the purposes of identification, evaluation, placement or provision of FAPE of children with disabilities may be inspected and/or reviewed by their parents/guardians. Parents/guardians may request amendment to the educational record if the parent/guardian believes the record is inaccurate, misleading, or violates the privacy or other rights of their child. Parents have the right to file complaints with the U.S. Department of Education or the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education concerning alleged failures by the district to meet the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

The Dunklin R-5 School District has developed a Local Compliance Plan for the implementation of State Regulations for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This plan contains the agency's policies and procedures regarding storage, disclosure to third parties, retention and destruction of personally identifiable information and the agency's assurances that services are provided in compliance with the General Education Provision Act (GEPA). Questions, complaints or requests for additional information regarding this plan may be forwarded to:

Special Services Director  
497 Joachim Ave., Herculaneum, MO 63048 (636) 479-5200  
*This notice will be provided in native languages as appropriate.*



# Board Policies and Legal Notices Regarding Student and Parent Rights

## Complaint Resolution Process for No Child Left Behind Programs

This complaint resolution procedure applies to all programs administered by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education under the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

A complaint is a formal allegation that a specific federal or state law or regulation has been violated, misapplies, or misinterpreted by school district personnel or by Department of Education personnel.

Any parent or guardian, surrogate parent, teacher, administrator, school board member, or other person directly involved with an activity, program, or project operated under the general supervision of the Department may file a complaint. Such a complaint must be in writing and signed; it will provide specific details of the situation and indicate the law or regulation that is allegedly being violated, misapplied, or misinterpreted.

The written, signed complaint must be filed and the resolution pursued in accordance with local district policy. The complaint should be submitted to the Dunklin R-5 School District Federal Program Director. If the complaint cannot be resolved at this level the complainant can appeal to the Superintendent of Schools. If the issue is still not resolved an appeal can be made to the Dunklin R-5 School Board.

If the issue cannot be resolved at the local level, the complainant may file a complaint with the Missouri Department of Education. If there is not evidence that the parties have attempted in good faith to resolve the complaint at the local level, the Department may require the parties to do so and may provide technical assistance to facilitate such resolution.

Any person directly affected by the actions of the Department may file a similarly written complaint if they believe state or federal laws or regulations have been violated, misapplies, or misinterpreted by the Department itself.

Anyone wishing more information about this procedure or how complaints are resolved may contact the Dunklin R-5 School District or Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education personnel.

### Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education NCLB NON-PUBLIC COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

The Federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), Title IX Part E. Sec. 9503 requires the Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) to adopt a complaint process for participation of private school children.

#### Who May File a Complaint

A local education agency (LEA) is required to provide to eligible private school children, their teachers, and their families Title I services or other benefits that are equitable to those provided to eligible public school children, their teachers, and their families. Private school officials have recourse through the complaint process if they do not believe their eligible children, teachers, or families are receiving equitable services.

#### Address to File a Complaint

The complaint should be addressed to Director, Federal Grants Management, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0480.

#### Definition of a Complaint

A private school official has a right to complain to the state educational agency (SEA) that the LEA did not engage in a timely and meaningful consultation process or did not give due consideration to the views of the private school officials.

Any dispute regarding the accuracy of low-income data for private school students also can be the subject of a complaint.

A formal complaint must be a written, signed statement that includes specific details of the situation of noncompliance by the local educational agency.

#### Alternatives for Filing Complaints

It is federal and state intent that complaints are resolved at a level nearest the LEA as possible. As described below, formal complaints filed with the SEA will be forwarded to the appropriate LEA for investigation and resolution. Informal complaints made to the SEA will be subject of an initial investigation by the SEA, but will be forwarded to the LEA if a formal complaint evolves. Precise processes in both instances are described below.

#### Informal Complaints Received by the SEA Office

Informal complaints (i.e., verbal and/or anonymous) to the SEA by individuals (who may ask not to be identified to the LEA) concerning nonpublic issues in an LEA will be investigated by the SEA, according to procedures deemed most appropriate by the SEA, within 10 days of receipt of the complaint. Findings of this investigation shall be reported to the complainant within 10 additional days. In the event that the complainant requests further investigation or a hearing, the complainant must file a signed written complaint. This formal complaint will be processed according to procedures outlined in sections below.

#### Formal Complaints Received by the SEA Office

- Record.* Upon receipt of a written complaint, a record of the source and nature of the complaint, including the applicable program involved in the complaint, and facts on which the complaint is based, will be initiated.
- Notification of LEA.* The SEA will inform the involved school district(s) of the complaint.
- Report by SEA.* Within thirty (30) days after receiving a complaint, the SEA will gather needed information including documentation and statements of the parties and may conduct an independent investigation. The SEA may provide technical assistance and may facilitate an appropriate resolution to the complaint through an on-site visit, if required.

#### Decision

The SEA will resolve the complaint and will provide the parties, a written summary of the investigation and complaint resolution. This report is considered public record and may be made available to parents, teachers, and other members of the general public.

The complainant or the LEA may appeal the decision of the SEA.

#### Appeals: Appeal to the U.S Department of Education

No later than 30 days following the written response by the SEA, or in the event the SEA fails to resolve the complaint within a reasonable period of time, the private school official may appeal the decision of the SEA to the secretary of the U.S. Department of Education. Such appeal must be accompanied by a copy of the SEA's written response, if available, and a complete statement of the reasons supporting the appeal.

The secretary must complete an investigation of the complaint and resolve the appeal within 120 days after receipt of the appeal.

#### Procedure Dissemination

- This procedure will be disseminated to all interested parties through the agency webpage at <http://dese.mo.gov> and to subscribers to the Federal Programs listserv.
- This guidance will be distributed through regional and statewide meetings with Federal Programs Coordinators and nonpublic officials. LEAs are asked to distribute the complaint procedure to nonpublic entities during consultation meetings.
- DES will keep records of any complaints filed through this policy.

## Educating Missouri’s Homeless Children

The *McKinney-Vento Act*, part of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, guarantees homeless children and youth an education equal to what they would receive if not homeless.

#### Who is Homeless?

According to the McKinney-Vento Act, homeless children and youth include individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. This includes the following situations:

- Sharing the housing of others (known as doubling-up) due to loss of housing or economic hardship
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Abandoned in hospitals
- Awaiting foster-care placement
- Living in a nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation
- Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings

The McKinney-Vento Act also recognizes unaccompanied youth who are homeless. According to the act, an unaccompanied youth is a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian.

#### Which School Can a Homeless Child Attend?

There are two choices for a student in a homeless situation — the school of origin and the school of residency. The school of origin is the school the child attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child was last enrolled. The school of residency is the school serving the area where the child or youth is currently physically dwelling. When determining the school of best interest, a homeless child or youth should remain in the school of origin (to the extent feasible) unless doing so is contrary to the wishes of the parent or guardian or to the wishes of the unaccompanied youth.

#### Enrollment

The McKinney-Vento Act requires the immediate enrollment of homeless children and youth. These children must be allowed to attend school even if they are unable to produce previous academic records, immunization and medical records, proofs of residency, birth certificates or other documentation that is usually required.

#### Transportation

School districts must provide transportation for homeless children and youth to the school of best interest. Districts must also provide transportation during the resolution of any pending disputes. While disputes over enrollment, school placement or transportation arrangements are being resolved, students must be transported to the school of choice of the parent or the unaccompanied youth.

#### The Homeless Coordinator

A school district's homeless coordinator plays a vital role in ensuring that children and youth experiencing homelessness enroll and succeed in school. The McKinney-Vento Act requires that every school district appoint a homeless coordinator who serves as the link between homeless families and school staff, district personnel, shelter workers and social-service providers. In the Dunklin R-5 School District, the Homeless Coordinator is:

Director of Special Services  
497 Joachim Ave., Herculaneum, MO 63048 (636) 479-5200

## Equal Opportunity

Applications for admission and employment, students, parents of elementary and secondary school students, employees, sources of referral of applicants for admission and employment, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with Dunklin R-5 School District are hereby notified that as a political subdivision, employer, recipient of federal funds and educational institution, the Board of Education is prohibited from, and hereby declares a policy against, engaging in unlawful discrimination, including harassment creating a hostile environment, on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, disability, age or use of leave protected by the "Family and Medical Leave Act", in its programs, activities and with regard to employment, the Board is an equal opportunity employer.

This notice can be made available in large print, on audiotape, and in Braille.

Any person having inquiries concerning the Dunklin R-5 School District compliance with equal opportunity employment, with regulations implementing Title VI or Title IX is directed to contact the Assistant Superintendent in the Central Office. The Dunklin R-5 School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities.

The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Equal Opportunity Employment, Title IV, Title IX, Age Act, and Safety Coordinator - Assistant Superintendent in the Central Office at (636) 479-5200.

Title II and Section 504 of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Homeless Students, English Language Learners, Migrant and At-Risk students - Director of Special Services in the Central Office at (636) 479-5200.

## 504 Public Notice

The Dunklin R-5 School District, as a recipient of federal financial assistance from the United States Department of Education and operates a public elementary or secondary education program and/or activity, is required to undertake to identify and locate every qualified person residing in the District who is not receiving a public education; and take appropriate steps to notify disabled persons and their parents or guardians of the District's duty.

The Dunklin R-5 School District assures that it will provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to each qualified disabled person in the District's jurisdiction regardless of the nature or severity of the person's disability. For purposes of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the provision of an appropriate education is the provision of regular or special and related aids and services that (i) are designed to meet individual educational needs of disabled persons as adequately as the needs of nondisabled persons are met and (ii) are based on adherence to procedures that satisfy the requirements of the 504 federal regulations.

Questions, complaints or requests for additional information regarding Section 504 may be forwarded to the Section 504 Compliance Coordinator:

Special Services Director  
497 Joachim Ave. • Herculaneum, MO 63048 (636) 479-5200  
This notice will be provided in native languages as appropriate.





2023-2024 MISSOURI SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

- All students must present documentation of up-to-date immunization status, including month, day, and year of each immunization before attending school.
- The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) allows a 4-day grace period. Students in all grade levels may receive immunizations up to four days before the due date.
- Missouri-required immunizations should be administered according to the current ACIP schedule, including all spacing, (CDC.Gov/vaccines/schedules).
- To remain in school, students "in progress" must have an Immunizations In Progress form (Imm.P.14) on file. In progress means that a child has begun the vaccine series and has an appointment for the next dose. This appointment must be kept and an updated record provided to the school. If the appointment is not kept, the child is no longer in progress and is noncompliant. (i.e., Hep B vaccine series was started but the child is not yet eligible to receive the next dose in the series.)
- Religious (Imm.P.11A) and Medical (Imm.P.12) exemptions are allowed. The appropriate exemption form must be on file. Unimmunized children are subject to exclusion from school when outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases occur.

Vaccines	Dose Required by Grade												
	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
DTaP/DTP/DT <sup>1</sup>	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+
Tdap <sup>2</sup>									1	1	1	1	1
MCV <sup>3</sup> (Meningococcal Conjugate)									1	1	1	1	2
IPV (Polio) <sup>4</sup>	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+
MMR <sup>5</sup>	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Hepatitis B <sup>6</sup>	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+
Varicella <sup>7</sup>	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

- Last dose on or after the fourth birthday and the last dose of pediatric pertussis before the seventh birthday. Maximum needed: six doses.
- 8-12 Grades: Tdap, which contains pertussis vaccine, is required.
- Grade 8-11: One dose of MCV is required. Dose must be given after 10 years of age.  
Grade 12: Two doses of MCV are required unless the first dose was administered to a student who was 16 years of age or older, in which case only one dose is required. At least one dose must be given after 16 years of age.
- Kindergarten-12 Grade: Last dose must be administered on or after the fourth birthday. The interval between the next-to-last and last dose should be at least six months.
- First dose must be given on or after twelve months of age. If MMR and Varicella are not administered on the same day, they must be at least 28 days apart. The 4-day grace period does not apply to live vaccines.
- There must be at least four weeks between dose one and two; at least 8 weeks between dose two and three; at least 16 weeks between doses one and three and final dose must be given no earlier than 24 weeks of age.
- First dose must be given on or after twelve months of age. If Varicella and MMR are not administered on the same day, they must be at least 28 days apart. The 4-day grace period does not apply to live vaccines.  
Kindergarten-12 Grade: As satisfactory evidence of disease, a licensed health care provider may sign and place on file with the school a written statement documenting the month and year of previous varicella (chickenpox) disease.



Rev. 1-23

USDA Non-Discrimination Statement:

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

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To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

**mail:**  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

**fax:** (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

**email:** [Program.Intake@usda.gov](mailto:Program.Intake@usda.gov)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

2023-2024 Reduced Lunch Program

**Dunklin R-5 School District** announced its revised free and reduced price policy for school children unable to pay the full price of meals served in schools under the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program.

Local education officials have adopted the following family-size income criteria for determining eligibility:

Household Size	<u>Annually</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Weekly</u>
1	\$26,973	\$2,248	\$519
2	36,482	3,041	702
3	45,991	3,833	885
4	55,500	4,625	1,068
5	65,009	5,418	1,251
6	74,518	6,210	1,434
7	84,027	7,003	1,616
8	93,536	7,795	1,799
For each add'l person add	+9,509	+793	+183

Children from families whose current income is at or below those shown are eligible for free or reduced price meals. Applications are available at the school office. To apply, fill out a Free and Reduced Price School Meals Family Application and return it to the school. The information provided on the application is confidential and will be used only for the purpose of determining eligibility. Applications may be submitted any time during the school year. A complete application is required as a condition of eligibility. A complete application includes: (1) household income from all sources or Food Stamp/TANF case number, (2) names of all household members, and (3) the signature and last four digits of social security number or indication of no social security number of adult household member signing the application. School officials may verify current income or other information provided on the application at any time during the school year.

Foster children may be eligible regardless of the income of the household with whom they reside. Households with children who are eligible under the foster, Head Start, homeless, migrant, or runaway programs should contact the school for assistance in receiving meal benefits. Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) participants may be eligible for free or reduced price meals.

Children who are members of households currently certified as receiving Food Stamps, TANF or FDPIR are eligible for free meals. To complete an application, the household must provide the names of the children, a statement that the household receives the qualifying benefits, the Food Stamps/TANF/FDPIR case number, and the signature of the adult household member making application. When known by the school that members of a household are receiving assistance from Food Stamps, TANF or FDPIR, households will be notified of their children's eligibility for free school meals. If any children in the household were not listed on the eligibility notice or not listed on the application, the household should contact the school to have benefits extended to all children in the household.

If a family member becomes unemployed or if family size changes, the family should contact the school to file a new application. Such changes may make the children of the family eligible for these benefits.

Under the provisions of the policy, the **Food Services Administrative Assistant** will review the applications and determine eligibility. If a parent is dissatisfied with the ruling of the determining official, they may wish to discuss the decision with the hearing official on an informal basis or he/she may make a request either orally or in writing to the Food Services Director. Hearing procedures are outlined in the policy. A complete copy of the policy is on file in each school and in the central



**Lunch Menus can be found on our website. Just click on the apple.**





Pictured: Action shots from the Barry Light Takedown Tournament

# Barry Light Takedown Tournament

Arms and legs were flying everywhere during the Third Annual Barry Light Takedown Tournament in June. This year, twelve schools were represented, with the farthest coming from Mascoutah, Illinois. For many of the 77 athletes, this is the first time they've competed since the season ended. Coach Chris Bahr says wrestlers often take off a month or two after the season to recoup. He says, "If you're not banged up a little bit after the season, you're not wrestling hard enough."

The entire tournament was just takedowns with a running clock. After a wrestler scored against their opponent, they lined up again. Bahr says, "It was all offense, all the time, with

minimal downtime. When the season starts, we want them to have that offensive mindset of pursuing the takedown and scoring rather than being a defensive type wrestler."

While Coach Bahr was refereeing one match, his son Tatum (6th grade) was on another mat, using an airborne attack to drop his opponent. Dad eventually saw a video of Tatum leaving his feet, which led to a dinner conversation. Although Tatum defeated the larger opponent, it was a risky strategy. Coach Bahr says, "If the move is properly defended, with a sidestep or sprawl, there's nothing to protect your face from the mat." Still, there is no denying Tatum's enthusiasm to find a way to win.

The event is named after a former wrestler from Pevely. Barry Light was 32 years old when he died in a motorcycle accident in May of 2021. He served in Iraq as a Navy Seabee and purchased a semi to start a trucking company at the time of his death. He left behind a wife and two children, with one on the way. Hundreds attended the standing-room-only funeral at the VFW in Arnold. A GoFundMe page for Barry "Padlock" Light is still active to help his widow, Mariah, and three children, Peyton, William, and Waylon. While proceeds from the tournament were offered to the Light family, they declined, wanting the proceeds to go back to the Blackcat wrestling program.

## 2023-2024 Calendar Highlights

**Dunklin R-5 School District**

**THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL IS THURSDAY, AUGUST 24TH.**

**Labor Day**  
Early release on September 1st,  
No school on September 4th

**No School Oct. 16th-18th**  
Parent/Teacher Conferences  
Oct. 17th

**Open House August 22nd**

**No School November 1st.**  
PD Day

**Thanksgiving November 22nd-24th**

**Winter Break**  
Early Release Dec. 21st,  
No School Dec. 22nd - Jan. 3rd

**No School January 15th**  
MLK Day

**No School February 16th -19th**  
PD Day and President's Day

**No School March 15th**  
PD Day

**Spring Break**  
March 29th-April 5th

**No School April 29th**  
PD Day

**THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL IS MAY 24TH IT'S AN EARLY RELEASE DAY.**

**Dr. Freeman** @DrClintFreeman  
**Dr. Willis** @JoeFWillis  
**Matt Lichtenstein** @BlackcatMatt

**Herculaneum H.S.** @HHSBlackcats  
**HHS Activities** @BlackcatUpdates

**Senn-Thomas M.S.** @SennThomasMS  
**STMS Activities** @STMSActivities

**Pevely Elementary** @MsKatieDunlap

**Taylor Preschool** @DunklinTaylor

**Dunklin R5 School District**  
**Herculaneum High School**  
**Senn-Thomas Middle School**  
**Pevely Elementary School**  
**Taylor Early Childhood Center**