



Editor's Note: We are proud to once again offer a very special edition of *Harrisonville Highlights*. This edition features a partnership between the Harrisonville Chamber of Commerce, Cass Regional Medical Center, the City, and the library. Page 8 includes a Community Calendar of Events for the fall.

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HARRISONVILLE
Highlights

A Harrisonville Schools Publication
Summer 2024

Dieckhoff named 2024 Regional Teacher of the Year

Harrisonville Schools 2024 Educator of the Year Jason Dieckhoff has been named a Missouri Regional Teacher of the Year. Dieckhoff is one of six regional finalists in the Kansas City region.

Dieckhoff was named the district's Educator of the Year in April which qualified him to submit an application for the Missouri Teacher of the Year Program. He is an agriculture teacher at Cass Career Center and has worked in the district for 21 years. Dieckhoff holds a bachelor's degree in Ag Economics and Ag Education and a master's in Ag Education from the University of Missouri. He was named a Golden Owl finalist as an Outstanding Agriculture Instructor in Missouri which put him in the top 7 in the state and top 39 in the nation this year. He received the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) Region IV & National Teacher Mentor Award in 2021. He holds an Honorary American FFA Degree and received the Harrisonville Chamber's Educator

of the Year Award and Frank Graham Outstanding Missouri 4-H Leader Award.

"For me, the best part of teaching is seeing students accomplish tasks they have not done before, especially when they are hesitant to try it in the first place. I love being part of the students' experiences that grow their knowledge, skills, and especially their self-confidence," Dieckhoff said, "I am blessed to work with students in a variety of settings: classroom, shop, greenhouse, and outside.

No matter what the content area, using a variety of settings to help students gain skills which will be essential for their future, is a very cool experience. It is as motivating for me, as I hope it is for the students."

Dieckhoff became a teacher because of his own experience growing up in 4-H and FFA. "It is through my experiences in 4-H and FFA



which made me realize how special it would be to teach high school students and be involved in the local community I am teaching in."

He added, "I feel more motivated to teach today than I did 21 years ago, when my teaching career started. I am able to see directly how the knowledge and skills I have (Continued on Page 2)

Administrative Offices
503 S. Lexington
380-2727

Harrisonville High School
1504 E. Elm • 380-3273
Grades 9-12
Dr. Mark Rorvig, Principal

Cass Career Center
1600 E. Elm • 380-3253
Grades 9-Post-Secondary
Dr. Anne Hickman, Director

Harrisonville Middle School
601 S. Highland • 380-7654
Grades 6-8
Dr. Carrie Hardin, Principal

McEowen Elementary School
1901 S. Halsey • 380-4545
Grades 4-5
Dr. Tricia Falke, Principal

Harrisonville Elementary School
101 Meghan Drive • 380-4131
Grades 1-3
Ashley Shrout, Principal

Early Childhood Center
500 Eastwood Road • 380-4421
Grades Preschool - Kindergarten
Dr. Beth Love, Principal



From the Desk of Superintendent Josh Chastain, Ed. D.

Superintendent reflects on first year; looks ahead

As I reflect on my first year as superintendent of Harrisonville Schools, I recognize that it has been an incredible journey filled with memorable moments and significant strides forward.

One standout moment was when an elementary student showed up wearing the exact same outfit as mine—a humorous reminder of the strong connections we build with our youngest learners. Similarly heartwarming was hearing about a kindergarten student who excitedly told their parents about taking a photo with "the owner," not sure what a superintendent was, but showing the genuine impact of my role on our students.

Participating in the Homecoming parade was a highlight, seeing our entire Wildcat family come together in celebration. It was a powerful symbol of community spirit and unity. Another unforgettable experience was attending graduation for the first time as superintendent. The perfect weather matched the pride we felt in honoring our distinguished graduates and their achievements.

Beyond these moments, our district has made significant gains and undertaken important work to propel us forward. Our teachers have shown remarkable dedication during professional development days, focusing on enhancing our curriculum to better serve our stu-

dents. The strategic plan committee and action teams have been diligently crafting our roadmap for the future, ensuring that we meet the evolving needs of our community and students.

Being part of initiatives like Real World Learning has been particularly fulfilling, as we prepare our graduates for life beyond graduation. These efforts are pivotal in equipping our students with the skills and experiences they need to thrive in the real world.

Lastly, I am continually inspired by the Harrisonville community. The partnerships we have formed and the unwavering support we receive

ensure that every student has the opportunities they deserve. It is a privilege to be part of such an amazing community that values education and the well-being of our youth.

As I look ahead, I am excited about the future of Harrisonville Schools. With the dedication of our staff, the collaboration with our community, and the enthusiasm of our students, I am confident that we will continue to achieve great things together.


Josh Chastain, Ed.D.

Dieckhoff emphasizes giving back to community

(Continued from Page 1) taught former students are impacting their lives, our community, and the agriculture industry. I can now see from a bigger picture, what I am teaching that really made a difference and what I have been teaching which has not been as effective. I have found the interpersonal and leadership skills have had a more lasting impact on students than many of the technical skills.”

Dieckhoff also emphasizes the importance of community and giving back. CCC ag students work on many service projects throughout the year including helping with set up for the Log Cabin Festival, planting flowers at Marler-Wirt-Allen Park and City Park, and maintenance at North Park Activity Center.

“As students leave our program, we hope our students carry with them a strong sense of community.

We hope we are teaching students the skills they need to be productive members of our local community, whether that be immediately, or after further education. Doing service projects in our community, I hope, have helped instill a sense of the importance of community and respecting where one has come from. Students need to understand the investment the community has made in their education, appreciate it, and feel the desire to give back to the community as they continue to grow up.”

He was honored at the Regional Teacher of the Year Luncheon in mid-July where he received a cash award and a plaque. He is also eligible to apply for the Missouri Teacher of the Year program. All regional finalists will be recognized at the Missouri Teacher of the Year banquet in October.

2024-25 School Calendar

Aug. 3-11	Fall Sports Dead Week
August 15	Meet the Teacher, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.
August 19	First Day of School
September 2	No School (Holiday)
September 16	No School (Staff Collaboration)
September 27	Homecoming
October 14	No School - 1/2 Professional Dev., 1/2 Work Day
Oct. 30-31	No School - Parent/Teacher Conferences
November 1	No School
November 4	No School (Staff Collaboration)
Nov. 27-29	No School (Holiday)
December 2	No School (Staff Collaboration)
Dec. 23-Jan. 2	No School (Winter Break)
January 3	No School - 1/2 Professional Dev., 1/2 Work Day
January 20	No School (Holiday)
February 10	No School (Staff Collaboration)
February 17	No School (Holiday)
March 3	No School (Staff Collaboration)
March 17-21	No School - Spring Break
April 7	No School (Staff Collaboration)
April 18	No School (Holiday)
May 9	Class of 2025 Graduation
May 16	Last Day of School - Early Release for Students
**Virtual Learning/AMI will be used for the first 5 snow days; additional make-up days would be added to the end of the year	



District welcomes new staff for 2024-25 school year

As the school year begins, the district welcomes new staff members to the Wildcat family.

Two new faces join the administrative team with Dr. Carrie Hardin as the new principal at Harrisonville Middle School and Alex Hall moving from math teacher at HMS to Harrisonville Elementary School assistant principal.

A few administrators are taking on new roles with Dr. Beth Love moving from McEowen Elementary School principal to Harrisonville Early Childhood Center principal; Dr. Tricia Falke going from HES to McEowen as principal; and Ashley Shrout moving from assistant principal to principal at HES.

Additionally, two teaching positions have been changed to instructional coaches. Missy Eddleman, who taught 5th grade and Tara Drabant who was a Title 1 reading teacher will take on those roles.

New teachers include Elizabeth Coppock, HMS science; Brenda Tilawen, HHS special education; Bryan Pierce, HHS science; Caroline Dew, HHS business; Taylor Covington, HMS math; Sarah Warren, CCC practical nursing; Nathaniel Orr, HHS band; Macy Evans, HMS science; Kali Sandley, HMS math; Katelyn McKinnis, HES PE; Shannon Wilson, HES 1st grade; Makayla Sclesky, HES 2nd grade; Arissa Carpenter, HES 3rd grade; Lori Aldewick, HMS math; Nicole King, HMS math; Amanda Armstrong, HMS comm arts; Seth Turner, HMS health; Amie Orr, HES special education; Rachael Murray,



CCC health services; Allison Kirch, HES 3rd grade; and Kyle Cook, HHS health/PE.

Among our new teachers are a few that will be familiar. Amanda Armstrong and Katelyn McKinnis are HHS graduates and Rachael

Murray previously worked in the district at ECC.

Several teachers and staff will be in new positions as we begin the 2024-25 school year. They include Aubrey Graeve, CCC Integrated
(Continued on Page 8)

Cass Career Center Pavilion ready for use; fundraising continues



The newest facility addition to our district is now complete. The Cass Career Center Outdoor Pavilion is event-ready.

The 60x100-foot covered outdoor classroom/event area is located on the north side of the school's property. The pavilion is designed to accommodate a diverse range of activities and events. With a seating capacity for more than 300 people, the outdoor space offers a range of

configuration options to suit the various needs of CCC programs and the community - from live instructional events like student organization activities, fundraising events, and even community events like farmers markets, concerts, reunions, and outdoor movie nights. The pavilion includes an additional storage shed to protect the equipment of various programs and free up space for indoor classroom instruction, helping to further

the school's educational mission.

The Cass Career Center was awarded a Missouri's Area Career Center Opportunity Grant (MACCO) in November 2022. The grant funds are intended to match local funds to support the pavilion project.

Thanks to the incredible support from the community, CCC has successfully secured over \$20,000 in funding. Donors include Sonny & Toni Wiseman, ICF Industries, MOKAN Seed, Commerce Bank, Cass Regional Medical Center, Hawthorn Bank, JE Dunn, and other anonymous donors.

It's not too late to be a part of the Pavillion Project as fundraising is ongoing. A fundraising event is planned for the fall. Additionally, CCC is offering the opportunity to give larger donations to support the Pavilion Project through sponsorship levels. There are five levels of support - \$1000 (Friend); \$2,500 (Sup-

porter), \$5,000 (Partner), \$10,000 (Advocate), and \$20,000+ (Benefactor). Each level provides varying recognition opportunities from ribbon cutting naming rights, permanent signage on the pavilion, and logo on the CCC website.

All sponsorship-level donations can be made to the Harrisonville Public School Foundation which is a 501(c)(3). All contributions are tax deductible. Checks may be mailed to 503 S. Lexington, Harrisonville, MO 64701. Please include CCC Pavilion Project in the memo line.

This fall, Cass Career Center will release an upcoming pavilion events calendar and invite everyone to explore the new pavilion. If you are interested in using the space for your events, you can reach out at the contact information below.

For more information or to arrange a visit, please contact CCC Director, Anne Hickman at anne.hickman@harrisonvilleschools.org.



HARRISONVILLE *Highlights*

Free program for families with children, birth to 5

Harrisonville Parents As Teachers is the first opportunity for families to be a part of our Wildcat Family. The free program is open to all families in the school district with children ages birth to school-age.

Parents As Teachers offers bi-weekly playgroups and monthly family events which provide parents with opportunities to get to know other families in our district with children in the same age group. The events also give children the chance to interact with eventual classmates. And most importantly, the events offer free opportunities for families to have fun together.

"We participate in the PAT program because it's an amazing program that provides fun and learning. From the weekly playgroups with crafts, playtime and snacks to the monthly special programs like Tool Time, Touch a Truck and Wild About Animals, it is a fantastically run program," said parent Lynn Letzig. "Also, the monthly visits from my personal PAT facilitator are so helpful with so many ideas of how to work with my kids on anything they are having issues with including be-

havioral and learning or anything in between. It's been such a wonderful program for our family for so many years!"

Additionally, Parents as Teachers helps families ensure their children are growing and learning. The first years of a child's life are important in laying the foundation for their future education. Families can meet with our PAT educators on site at district facilities or in their own home to talk about developmental activities, ask questions, and simply talk about their child. PAT also offers free developmental screenings.

Harrisonville Early Childhood Center principal Dr. Beth Love said, "When it comes to our children we all need a helping hand. As an educator I still felt completely lost when it came to the growth and development of my own children. We loved the parent educators that we had the opportunity to work with. They helped me identify areas that were going well and gave me practical ideas to help develop in areas of weakness."

Our PAT educators include three former early childhood/elementary

teachers - Brandi Bottorf, Stacy Everhart and Jauna Weber. Together, they have 62 years of teaching experience.

PAT is also open to expectant parents. Additionally, PAT families are eligible for assistance through Bright Futures Harrisonville which offers a weekend food and summer program; Station 42 for clothing, hygiene and other resources; and holiday assistance.

For more information, call Harrisonville Early Childhood Center at (816) 380-4421 or email any of our PAT educators - brandi.bottorf@harrisonvilleschools.org, stacy.everhart@harrisonvilleschools.org or jauna.weber@harrisonvilleschools.org.

The first PAT family event of the



2024-25 school year will be Touch-a-Truck in September. Watch the Harrisonville Parents As Teachers Facebook page for more information.

Pictured above: Two-year-old Ellie Anderson gets messy during the PAT Messy Play family event. Children enjoyed various stations including pudding, paint, rice, play doh, sand, and slime.

Client-Connected Projects, Internship courses offer real world learning experiences

The 2024-25 school year marks year three for the district's involvement in the Kauffman Foundation's Real World Learning Initiative. The goal of the RWL is to ensure that all high school students graduate with a Market Value Asset (MVA) by 2030. A market value asset is defined as one of the following: work experiences such as internships or client-centered projects, college credits, industry-recognized credentials, or entrepreneurial experiences.

The district had several market value asset opportunities in place when it joined the RWL initiative including industry-recognized creden-

tials at Cass Career Center and college credit opportunities at Harrisonville High School.

Last year, Harrisonville High School students had the opportunity to enroll in a new Client-Connected Projects course. Students in the class worked with local businesses and organizations to develop projects to meet the clients' needs. Some of the projects included development of historical tour information and marketing pieces for the Harrisonville Chamber of Commerce, creating videos to highlight businesses on the square for Love the Square; and working with the City of

Harrisonville to develop educational and informational items on grease and flushable wipe disposal.

Robin Colburn is the district's Business Liaison who works to expand Real World Learning within the district. She said, "The best part about this class is the practical application of knowledge and skills. The students are experiencing and engaging with the subject matter in a meaningful way. They are developing critical thinking, problem-solving, and decision making skills that can be applied to real-life situations. The students have the opportunity to engage with clients in the community which build

relationships and promote collaboration outside of the school. They are taking the learning theory or concepts in a classroom setting and applying them to real-world situations. When they are able to do that, it helps them have a better or deeper understanding of the subject matter."

For the 2024-25 school year, the high school added an internship class for seniors.

Colburn said, "Internships are not just about gaining experience, but also about discovering your passion, building valuable connections, and unlocking doors to new career op-

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www.harrisonvilleschools.org



Students earn state, national honors in variety of activities

During the spring and summer months, several Wildcats have earned state and national level recognition. We are so proud of their accomplishments.

- HHS junior Kayleigh Norris captured the State Championship in the 3200. She also earned 2nd in the 1600 and 4th in the 800 which was also a school record time. Additionally, sophomore Paige Cribbs brought home a 4th place finish in the javelin.
- HMS seventh grade Mariah Coffey correctly spelled “demurage” in the first round of the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington DC. Round #2 involves vocabulary and she missed the definition of “jettison.” This was her second year representing Cass County at the national bee.
- At the end of June, HHS junior Emma Coffey competed at the National Educators Rising Conference in Washington DC after earning first at State this spring.
- HHS junior Cooper Appleman competed for a Thespy in Set Design at the National Thespian Conference in Bloomington, IN after earning a Superior rating at State.
- Wildcat golfers Bryson Wilkins and Zack Cook competed at the State Golf Tournament in May.
- HHS junior Katelyn Miller earned All-State Honorable Mention honors in soccer.
- Ten Harrisonville High School students have been named by the KC Scholars program as scholarship recipients. Seniors Keegan Maginn and Jesse Murcia have been selected as recipients of a Traditional Scholarship worth up to \$50,000. Recipients of the Traditional Schol-

arship must attend one of the 20 qualifying institutions to receive the scholarship. Sophomore Hailey Hetrick has earned the \$1,400 College Savings Match Scholarship. Seniors Erin Allen, Hailey Bagby, Roberto Chavez, Emmitt Enderle, Aron Leach, Gavin Sartain, and Charlie Taylor earned an Institutional-Only Scholarship Consideration which could be used at eight Missouri colleges and universities. The KC Scholarship program was started by the Kauffman Foundation and provides scholarships to 9th and 11th graders, as well as adult learners.

- HHS senior Ann O'Reilly earned Honorable Mention recognition in the Missouri Scholars 100 program. This statewide initiative recognized outstanding academic achievement, honoring Missouri's top 100 graduating students. To qualify, students must have a minimum GPA of 3.75, a minimum ACT of 29, rank in the top 10% of their class, and take a rigorous course load in math, sci-

ence, English and foreign language. They must also have exemplary attendance, outstanding citizenship and active participation in school activities.

- HHS music students brought home gold ratings from State Music Contest. Vocal soloists earning gold were Kenny Barnard and Lacey Crespo; along with a mixed trio - Mya Russell, Kayla Mason, and Simon Claxton - and women's sextet - Aron Leach, Zaylee Lindsey, Lacey Crespo, Abbey Coffey, Addison Smith, and Scarlett Tracy. Band students earning gold were Ayden Christensen, tuba; Mia Schnelle, piano; Kayla Mason, flute; and Ava Kelly, trumpet.
- Six HMS students were selected for the Missouri Choral Directors Association Summer 7th/8th Grade Honor Choir out of almost 300 auditions from across the state of Missouri. These students sang at the MCDA Conference in Springfield, MO on July 16 . They are



ence, English and foreign language. They must also have exemplary attendance, outstanding citizenship

Lorainne Hall, Addyson Fisher, Mariah Coffey, Breonna Johnson, Shane Hawkins, and Caleb Malone.

Pictured from top: Kayleigh Norris, Mariah Coffey, Students earning State Band and Choir Gold Ratings



HARRISONVILLE *Highlights*

Foundation supports students, teachers in district through grants, scholarships

During the 2023-24 school year, the Harrisonville Public School Foundation funded more than \$73,900 in initiatives to support students and staff in the district. The Foundation's programming includes:

- District and teacher grants for innovative programs,
- Scholarships for graduating seniors,
- Excellence in Academics program recognizing students in the top 15%,
- Scholarships to offset the cost of teachers and staff continuing their education,
- Educator of the Year grant, and
- Distinguished Alumni Wall of Fame recognition.

The Foundation is a nonprofit established in 1991 and its mission is to support and enhance the educational programs and activities of the district.

The Foundation hosts two main fundraisers during the year: the annual Alumni & Friends Golf Tournament in conjunction with Homecoming (see page 7) and Major Saver discount card sales for which half the proceeds are split with the participating schools.

Additionally, individuals, businesses and organizations donate to support Foundation programs. The Foundation also has the ability to accept endowment gifts to support

teacher grants or senior scholarships. Currently, the Foundation maintains two endowments for teacher grants, which yield \$1,500 a year, and 16 scholarship endowments, which provided \$39,000 to seniors this year.

Finally, the Foundation maintains its own endowment to ensure the perpetuity of the organization. The general endowment's interest is used to support programming not funded through fundraising or donations.

To learn more about the Foundation, contact Executive Director Jill Filer at (816) 380-2727.

\$137,000

amount awarded since 2004 through **teacher grants**, which fund projects that enhance students' education and support educational approaches not currently funded by the district. Nearly **\$3,000** granted in 2023-24.

\$49,000

funds paid since 2008 to reimburse district **educators seeking advanced degrees** in nonadministrative fields or staff seeking teaching degrees or certification. More than **\$8,000** awarded in 2023-24.

\$22,000

Bills Mills Leaving a Legacy mini-grant funding awarded by four-year Excellence in Academics recipients since 2020 to recognize district programs that impacted them; each grant is \$250.

\$104,700

total grant funding awarded since 2017 through Foundation **district grants**, which support building- or district-wide initiatives or programs.

Items purchased include a 10-passenger van, playground equipment and document cameras for all teachers. This year, the Foundation funded **\$5,700** in books for Harrisonville Elementary to encourage reading and supplement classroom libraries (see accompanying article).

\$44,400

endowed scholarship funds awarded in 2024 to honor HHS graduates, thanks to families and individuals in the community

\$204,500

funds provided since 2006 as \$500 scholarships to HHS seniors who have received **Excellence in Academics** recognition by ranking in the top 15% of their class during all four years of high school

March Madness meets reading madness

HES scores big with reading challenge grant

A Foundation-funded district grant was a slam dunk in building excitement for reading at Harrisonville Elementary School. Students took part in the March Madness Reading Challenge, which involved reading new literature, selecting their favorites and observing the "winning" books advance on a large-scale bracket for all to see in the main hallway.

The grant funded multiple copies of books by four authors. First graders read books by Mo Willems; second graders enjoyed Kevin Henkes' & Dr. Seuss' books; and third graders read books by Patricia Palacco. Teachers and students read books in class, and students voted on their favorite book during each stage of "bracket play."

"The students loved the idea of being able to vote for their favorite books and follow along as we moved from the sweet 16 to the elite 8 and the final 4. Students who love the sport of basketball were able to

tie their love of the March Madness tournament into a love of reading. I could tell each day that students were excited to listen to the next book and be able to compare it to the past book for their vote. Students were invested in this tournament style of reading," said third grade teacher Taylor Brown.

And the commitment to reading went beyond the challenge as students' motivation to read increased.

"Some students have even been bringing books in from home to read at recess. Yes, you read that right. They wanted to read even at recess or after work is done! The love of reading has really grown!" said first grade teacher Morgan Cooper.

The challenge helped build relationships in classrooms as well.

"Teachers talked about how much they loved how the books brought up different topics they could dive deeper into with their students. The books allowed for natural discussion to occur, which was

great!" said Mrs. Brown.

The challenge even inspired at least one future teacher.

Third grader Hailey Brown said, "I liked reading a new book every day, and when I become a teacher, I want to pick an author and do this same activity."

2023-24 HES principal Tricia Falke felt the entire initiative had a positive impact.

"We all thought it would be fun to display a love for reading school-wide by posting the bracket on the giant bulletin board in the front hallway. Kids stopped by often to look at which books made it to the next round. Our librarian, Mrs. Lalman, has also seen an increase in students checking out books from the authors that were chosen!"

The books became part of teachers' classroom libraries, which provide students the opportunity to continue enjoying them and enable future students to read the books as well.



Dieckhoff, Hern, Rice earn end-of-the-year awards

The Harrisonville School District recognized several year-end award winners during surprise presentations in classrooms in April.

Cass Career Center agriculture instructor Jason Dieckhoff was named the Educator of the Year, Harrisonville Elementary School first grade teacher Peyton Hern received the Rising Star award; and Harrisonville High School paraprofessional Stacey Rice was recognized as the Support Staff Employee of the Year.

Dieckhoff has worked as an agriculture instructor for 21 years - all at Cass Career Center.

Dieckhoff was selected for the honor by a panel of judges from outside the community who interviewed five finalists. The finalists were chosen by the Harrisonville Public School Foundation and district administration selection committee from nominations received from parents, students, and Harrisonville Schools' staff members.

The judges said, "Mr. Dieckhoff brings a level of experience that is unmatched. He builds relationships with students that last well beyond their high school years. His understanding of the connection and impact with his students and on the community is apparent. He loves the community of Harrisonville and works to give back in any way he,



his students, and the program can. He is genuine and authentic in all he does."

The Harrisonville Public School Foundation will provide Dieckhoff with a \$500 grant.

The Rising Star Award seeks to recognize teachers in their first five years of teaching and has already demonstrated the ability to have a positive impact on students. Peyton Hern just completed her first year of teaching; however she is a Harrisonville High School graduate.

In her finalist essay, Mrs. Hern said, "What ultimately motivates me



to be a teacher in our district is the love I have for my students. They are the 'why' behind everything I do. There are a lot of different backgrounds, circumstances, and needs that walk into my classroom everyday. And everyday, my mission and desire is to ensure that every single one of my students, regardless of ability and circumstance, receives the same quality education that is owed to them and that I grew to love in my experience going through school here."

Hern will receive a \$100 award from Community Bank of



Harrisonville.

The Support Staff Employee of the Year, Stacey Rice, has worked as a paraprofessional at HHS for 19 years. Rice received a \$100 award from Sherwood Community Bank.

In her finalist essay, Mrs. Rice said, "Watching students succeed after struggling to learn a new math concept is one of the most rewarding experiences in my life. And even though working in the education field wasn't my original childhood 'dream job,' I can't imagine doing anything else."

Businesses sought to partner for RWL

(Continued on Page 4) -portunities. We want to provide students with exposure to the professional working environment, allowing them to develop important workplace skills such as communication, teamwork, problem-solving and time management. Internships will enhance their academic learning and are the stepping stones to a successful career journey."

If you would like more information on RWL or are interested in

partnering with the district for a client-connected project or internship, contact Robin Colburn at robin.colburn@harrisonvilleschools.org or (816) 380-3273.

She said, "Real-world learning is a great opportunity for students and clients in the community. It should be very exciting to know that this is just the beginning for us. We have made lots of gains but the possibilities are endless with a supportive community."

Alumni & Friends Golf Tournament 2024

Friday, September 27
8 a.m., Hoots Hollow



\$100/Player
\$400/Team
\$125/\$500/\$1000 Sponsorship Levels

Register by scanning the QR code or at
www.harrisonvilleschools.org



Calendar of Events

July 29-Aug. 9 CCHD Walk-In Back-to-School Immunization Clinic, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Register here - <https://form.jotform.com/241065346145149>

Aug. 2 Chamber First Friday Coffee, Cass Regional, 7:30 a.m.

Aug. 5 Bright Futures Back-to-School Fair, 5-7 p.m., Mill-Walk Mall, Pre-registration required

Aug. 6 Bright Futures Back-to-School Fair, 6-7 p.m., Mill Walk Mall, Pre-registration required

Aug. 10 Chamber Inaugural "Escape the Border" UTV Poker Run Fundraiser for Burnt District Silhouette Art Project, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Aug. 12-23 CCHD Walk-In Back-to-School Immunization Clinic, 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Register here - <https://form.jotform.com/241065346145149>

Aug. 13 CRMC Stop the Bleed, 4-6 p.m., Registration required

Aug. 15 Meet the Teacher, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., All Schools

Aug. 15 Chamber Luncheon, TBD, 11:45 a.m.

Aug. 19 First Day of School

Sept. 2 No School - Holiday

Sept. 6 Chamber First Friday Coffee, Prime Accounting Solutions, 7:30 a.m.

Sept. 7 Chamber Inaugural "Farm to Table" Community Luncheon; Square; 1:30-4 p.m.

Sept. 10 CCC Institutional Advisory, 12-1:30 p.m.

Sept. 12 CRMC Foundation Plant Sale, 7 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Sept. 13 CRMC Foundation Plant Sale, 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. (or sold out)

Sept. 13 Bright Futures Sock & Undie Drive @ Wildcat Football vs. Center

Sept. 16 No School - Staff Learning & Collaboration

Sept. 19 Chamber Luncheon, Chamber Office, 11:45 a.m.

Sept. 17 HPSF Alumni & Friends Golf Tournament, 8 a.m., Hoots Hollow

Sept. 27 Homecoming-Parade, Coronation, Football game vs. Cassville

Sept. 30-Oct. 4 CRMC Foundation Celebration Baskets, check website or Facebook for times

Oct. 4-5 Log Cabin Festival

Oct. 4 HPR Power Wheels Race and Movie

Oct. 10 CCC Fall Advisory Meetings, 6-7:30 p.m.

Oct. 14 No School - Staff Learning & Collaboration/Work Day

Oct. 15-17 ECC, HES, McEowen Book Fairs

Oct. 15 HMS Choir Concert, 7 p.m., HHS PAC

Oct. 17 Chamber Luncheon hosted by Integrity Heating & Cooling, Chamber Office, 11:45 a.m.

Oct. 17 HHS Choir Concert, 7 p.m., HHS PAC

Oct. 19 Royal Regiment Invitational, Memorial Stadium

Oct. 21-25 Districtwide Food Drive

Oct. 23-31 Red Ribbon Week

Oct. 24 HHS Band Benefit Concert, 7 p.m., HHS PAC

Oct. 30-31 No School - Parent-Teacher Conferences

Nov. 1 No School

Nov. 4 No School - Staff Learning & Collaboration

HPR Events/Activities; Contact the Community Center (816) 380-8980 for more info

*Tiny-Tot Baseball *Fit Kids *Pickleball league

*Fall Sports - Baseball, Softball, T-Ball, Flag Football, Volleyball *Homeschool PE

*HPSF - Harrisonville Public School Foundation

*HPR - Harrisonville Parks & Recreation

*CCPL - Cass County Public Library

*CRMC - Cass Regional Medical Center

*PAC - Performing Arts Center

*CCHD - Cass County Health Department

Staying connected to, informed about our district

It is important for our families and community to have access to the latest information from the school district. The district offers several ways for families and patrons to stay up-to-date on school events and news.

District Website

www.harrisonvilleschools.org

In the District News area of the website, anyone can access the most current news and information updates. This is the "go to" location for district news.

The website also includes calendars, lunch menus, school board meeting agendas and summaries, and links to individual building web pages.

Connections

A twice monthly e-mail newsletter from the district office which includes news, school board information, and event/activity dates.

How do I sign up?

District parents will automatically receive the newsletter, however anyone in the community can receive it.

Please email jill.filer@harrisonvilleschools.org to be added to the distribution list.

Facebook

Become a "fan" of Harrisonville Schools on Facebook. Just go to www.facebook.com/HarrisonvilleSchools and "like" the page. Updates will include celebrations, photos, reminders, and more.

District App

The district app was developed to provide parents and community members with the most needed information in a mobile, on-the-go format. You can download the free district app through the Google Play store or the App store. Search for Harrisonville Schools. This app provides information including a staff directory with immediate connection to phone and email, current news, a calendar, sports schedules, website access, and access to the Parent Portal. You can also sign up to receive push notifications based on your personal preferences.

Parent Portal

Parent emails, phone calls and text messages are sent using the contact information in Parent Portal. Parents are strongly encouraged to ensure contact information is up to date. The portal also offers parents access to their student's attendance, grades, and meal account balance.

Please note that the district will use the most direct communication for all information. If the information is for families, it will be sent via email, phone or text using the contact information provided in the Parent Portal.

Connections is intended for a wider audience to include our community. The most recent edition is always available on the district website in the Quick Links section.

For additional information on any of these information sources, contact Jill Filer, Director of Communications, at 380-2727, ext. 1224 or jill.filer@harrisonvilleschools.org.

New teachers set to begin

(Continued from Page 3)

English; Ashley Barnes, McEowen special education; Taylor Brown, McEowen 5th grade; Amanda Norman, HES music; Sarah Peterman, ECC art/music; Audrey Mayberry, ECC PE/library; Kristin Malone, ECC kindergarten; Jennifer Hawkins, HATS; Mason Saffels, HMS PE/health; CJ Keeney, McEowen PE; Amy Wilson, HMS life skills; Carol French-Ward, HES life skills; Elizabeth Blondell, ECC kindergarten; Heather Caldwell, HES 1st Grade; Laura Boland, HES 3rd Grade; Virginia DeVenney, HHS communication arts; Beth Stout, HHS special education; Mendy Hutchens, HHS science; Stacy Everhart, ECC full-time PAT; and Brad Dunkin, HMS social studies.