



Blackcat News

Mission Statement:
"Educating Today for a Better Tomorrow"

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 90

SCHOOL YEAR 2024-2025

August 15, 2024



Juniors at Jefferson College

Pictured:(Back) Gilbert Pfaff, Reagan Davis, Laura Harvey, Elizabeth Merkle, Abigail Clardy, Trevor Stevens, Nidal Mehmedovic, and Tyler Pieper. (Front) Harper Lillian, Ella Escoffier, and Makenna Schmitt.

Eleven students entering their junior year at Herculanum High School will earn an associate's degree days before graduating from high school. We traditionally have four or five students going to Jefferson College while attending high school, but we've never had anything approaching this number. Upon graduation, 10 percent of the Class of 2026 can leapfrog into their junior year of a four-year university. Abigail Clardy says, "This is definitely an opportunity of a lifetime, and I'm super excited to get a head start on my future." Ella Escoffier says, "My parents worked very hard to get me where I am. My mom was so proud of me she cried a little bit, 'My baby is going to college.'" Trevor Stevens says, "I think we are more excited about it than nervous. It's a new opportunity to get ahead in our education and be able to do more with our life."

There are costs associated with sending high school students to college. In most school districts, the fees are split three ways between the district, the college, and the student's family. Dunklin takes a different approach, paying two-thirds of the cost and buying the required textbooks. Asinger says, "The only costs to our students are transportation and a parking pass." Dunklin spends about \$4,500 per student to go through the two-year program. After earning an associate's degree, they should be able to skip their freshman and sophomore years at many four-year universities. If a student transfers to Mizzou, for example, that's a savings of \$60,000.

The search for eligible students starts with those taking advanced classes. Asinger considers their grade point averages and attendance history. Next, she administers a test to meet Jefferson College's entrance qualifications. Finally, they take an introduction to college class. Regardless of their abilities, they are still young and must take responsibility for their academics. Lillian Harper says, "I'm excited but a little nervous. I'm nervous that I won't study enough because I'm not used to studying." Escoffier agreed, saying, "I don't think I've ever really struggled in a class." These students must form new habits to be successful, according to Asinger. She recalls a high school student having difficulty in a science class at Jefferson College. She worked with him to access resources, like meeting with the professor and using study resources on campus. She says, "He struggled, but he's going to med school at the University of Iowa. That prepared him for the rigors he is going to face down the line."

Some of the lucky eleven knew about the program. MaKenna Schmitt says, "I've been expecting to do this program since freshman year. I knew upperclassmen who did it." Nidal Mehmedovic was caught off guard by the invitation. He says, "I didn't expect to get into the program, but it's a nice surprise." Dunklin's administration hasn't put any limits on the number of students attending Jefferson College. Asinger says, "Dr. Willis wants kids to have every opportunity available to them, and he'll figure out a way to make that happen."

This opportunity is ideal for students seeking advanced degrees. If a student is 17 when they graduate high school, they could get a master's degree before they are old enough to drink. The program works well for careers requiring additional coursework, like medicine, law, and architecture.

Moving forward, these Blackcats will become good friends as they share rides and take some of the same classes. They can still participate in high school activities but have to work around the late afternoon science labs. They will be supported by teachers and counselors at Herculanum High School as well as Jefferson College personnel. Still, they are walking into the unknown. Laura Harvey summed up the group's emotions when she said, "I'm expecting to be anxious."



Tuition will be free this school year for students attending Taylor Early Childhood Center because of a generous grant. That's a savings of \$125 per

week for each child. Administrators are working through the details and how the money can be utilized, but the total amount accepted will be over \$300,000. This one-year grant does not apply to Dunklin Daycare.

Taylor was the only Jefferson County early childhood program to receive this grant from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Office of Childhood. Governor Mike Parson created the Office of Childhood three years ago to consolidate several early childhood programs across state government.

Separately, Taylor received a \$100,000 grant to add two new classrooms. This Office of Childhood grant has allowed Taylor to accept 30 additional



@DrClintFreeman
@JoeFWillis
@HHSBlackcats
@BlackcatUpdates

@SennThomasMS
@STMSActivities
@MissKatieDunlap
@BlackcatMatt

@HerkyXC
@Herkysoftball
@HerkyVolleyball
@HerkyFootball

Message From Board President

As we prepare to start a new school year, I look around our district at all the new construction and improvements. It is very exciting to see the new gym underway. This has been a need in our district for many years. The new secure vestibules at Pevely Elementary and Senn-Thomas Middle School are not only going to improve safety for staff and students but give those buildings a new, refreshed look as well. The connection between the high school and Robinson Gym will also give more security to staff and students by connecting those buildings. The new turf field looks amazing, and I look forward to seeing our students playing on that field. These are just the exterior improvements you will see around the district.

Over summer break, our staff have been hard at work preparing for the new school year with professional development, leadership workshops, and new and innovative methods of teaching our students. It really is a great day to be a BLACKCAT! Thank you to all our staff for all the hard work that goes on "behind the scenes" to make Dunklin R5 the best place to educate students. Thank you again to the voters for supporting the no-tax-increase bond issue, which is making all these improvements possible. Without

community support, many of these improvements would not have been possible.

Please join us on August 20 for our Open Houses at all schools. The first day of school for students will be August 22.

As a reminder, the Board of Education meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month for our monthly board meetings. All are welcome.

With Blackcat Pride,
Tammy Heidland, President
Dunklin R5 Board of Education



Dr. Freeman's Message

Blackcat Community:

It's always enjoyable to welcome back familiar faces and get to know new families in our school district. Let's embrace this year with enthusiasm, curiosity, and a commitment to making the most of every experience. Be Curious! Not Judgmental! This famous line from Ted Lasso really resonates with me as we embark on a new school year filled with curiosity and excitement. As a staff member, no matter our position in the Dunklin R-5 School District, we are passionate about creating a positive and inclusive learning environment where every student feels valued and empowered. We want to engage in open conversations that will enrich you and your child's educational experience. So, during the 2024-2025 school year, be curious and encourage your students to do the same. Our goal this year is to focus on the details. We want to create a plan and set forth on a path that allows us to pay attention to all of the tiny details that will enhance your students' experiences. As always, it is about the experience.

Our mission is "Educating Today for a Better Tomorrow," and because we have the best staff in the state to accomplish this mission, 2024-2025 will be a great year! Thank you for allowing us to be part of your child's educational journey. If you ever need assistance, please reach out to your child's teacher, counselor, principal, or the Central Office. We are here to help!

Welcome back!!! We are thrilled to have you as part of our school, we are thrilled that you chose us to educate your child(ren), and we are excited to have you as part of our school. We look forward to an incredible year ahead. Let's make it an experience to remember!

Please visit our website at www.dunklin.k12.mo.us for the latest updated information. Follow us on Facebook at Dunklin R5 School District, and follow me on Twitter at @DrClintFreeman

#GoBlackcats

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



Inclement Weather Advisories



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

KTVI (Channel 2), KMOV (Channel 4),
KSDK (Channel 5).

Parents and guardians will also receive a voicemail.

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

Tammy Heidland, President Michael Hicks, Vice President
Jason Drinen, Angie Goforth, John Maddox,
Marissa Newman, Cody Petero

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
Cathie Holdenried, Guidance Counselor
Heather Engelbach, Nurse

TAYLOR EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER ext. 5

Charissa Kappler, Director
Haley Weberly, Asst. Director
Christina Meyer, Nurse

DIRECTORS

Nichole Arnold, Director of Food Service
Steve Copeland, Director of Maintenance
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, and clicking on the Board of Education tab.

Dunklin R-5 School District is an equal opportunity employer

Brick Entrance Removed

The brick entrance to the high school has been removed. According to the maintenance department, the columns started to crumble when the bucket on their Bobcat gave it one push. However, for decades the structures marked the passageway to Herculaneum High School.

Self-taught bricklayer Thomas Charles Beckett built the columns and planters. He was six years old at the start of the Great Depression, which was six years before a welfare system was established in the United States. The crucible created a strong man who would fall in love with masonry and insist on perfection. Beckett was called upon to build several projects on campus, according to his daughter Jo Ann Schomburg, a member of the Blackcat Hall of Fame.

The brick entrance to the high school decayed over time. After almost 40 years, the bricks were chipped, and chunks of grout were missing. Animals made burrows under the structures. The restoration costs were considerable. When Dr. Freeman asked Schomburg how her family would feel if the brick entrance was taken down, she said, "Let me tell you how my father would feel. He would say, 'I don't want my name on that anymore. Tear it down.'" Beckett was known for his high standards, and plenty of his structures remain. Daughter Yvonne Breeze says she can go all over this county and see homes built by her father. She says, "He had a brilliant mind".

Schomburg, Breeze, and their eight siblings hold a unique place in our history. They were the first family to go all the way through the school district, and they have a plaque commemorating that accomplishment. Beckett passed in 1993, and his wife Nettie passed in 2015.



What's new around the district? Both Pevely Elementary School and Senn-Thomas Middle School have new, safe and secure entrances. The turf football field is in place, and construction continues on the facilities building next to the bus garage. In the next couple of months, theater lighting and audio upgrades will go out to bid, and we are a year away from a new gymnasium. All of these improvements were made possible by a no-tax-rate increase bond issue.

Transportation: Mechanic Dennis Winkle earned 100% on the Missouri State Highway Patrol inspections. At the state convention, driver Bill Thomas took 1st place in the bus inspection contest.

Eight new courses that count for college credit will be offered this year at Herculaneum High School: Psychology - dual credit through MOBAP, College Biology - dual credit through MOBAP, Multimedia - dual credit through Missouri State, Computer Science Essentials - dual credit through Missouri State, Computer Science Principals - dual credit through Missouri State, Cyber Security - dual credit through Missouri State, Spanish - dual credit through Jefferson College.

HHS Science Teacher Erin Graves and her students worked with an organization called Walking Softer to create an aluminum can recycling project plan. Walking Softer was impressed and awarded senior Jillian Jarvis a \$14,000 scholarship.

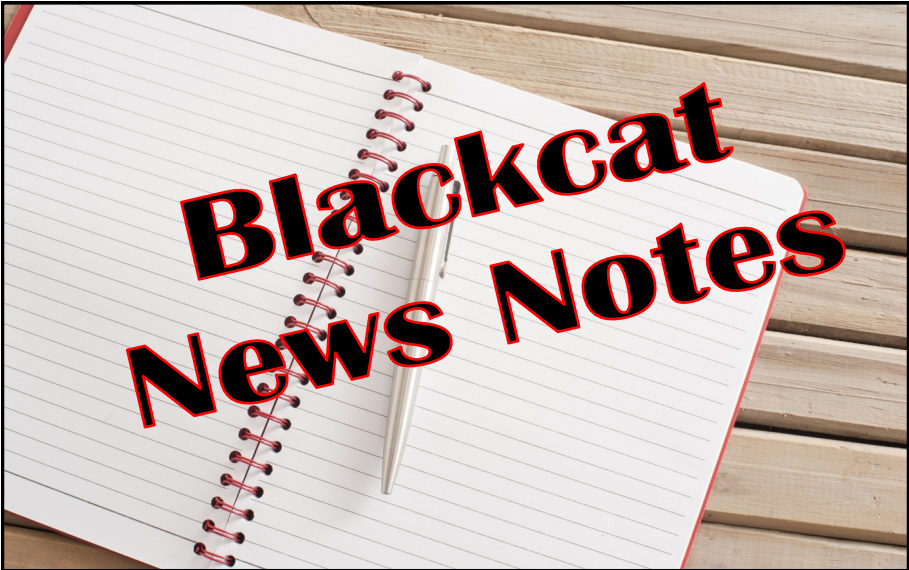
The ribbon cutting at Dungan Memorial Field will be before the first home football game on August 30th against Windsor.

Thanks to the volunteers for participating in the beautification day, organized by Bright Futures Dunklin R-5. Follow them on Facebook.

Homecoming Week is September 30th through October 5th, with the Homecoming Dance on Saturday, October 5th.

T-shirts are on sale until September 3rd. Contact Mrs. Fitzgibbons for more information.

For updates and District news, including inclement weather, school closing information, follow Communications Director Matt Lichtenstein on Twitter: **@BlackcatMatt**



The Class of 2024 earned \$1,093,544 in Scholarships

A generous grant will make tuition free for students attending Taylor Early Childhood Center this school year. That's a savings of \$125 per week for each child.



OPEN HOUSE

Aug. 19th

Kindergarten Orientation 4-6pm

Aug. 20th

Taylor E.C.C. Noon-6pm
Pevely Elementary 4:30-7 pm
Senn-Thomas Middle 4:30-7 pm
Herculaneum High 3-5 pm
9th-grade Orientation 6-8 pm

Aug. 22nd

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL



For updates and District news, including inclement weather, school closing information, follow Communications Director Matt Lichtenstein on Twitter: **@BlackcatMatt**



Follow us on Twitter

Principal of the Year



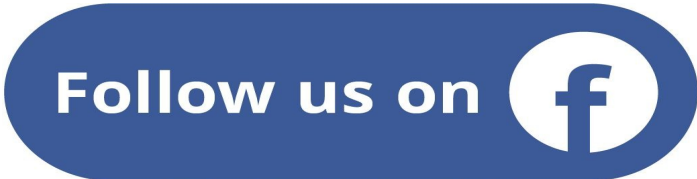
Pictured: Dr. Jamie LaMonds, Dr. Tracy Lewis, and Dr. John Boyd

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 programs¹ that are administered by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (the Department) under the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA)².

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Complaint Procedures for ESSA Programs Table of Contents	
General Information 1. What is a complaint under ESSA? 2. Who may file a complaint? 3. How can a complaint be filed?	
Complaints filed with LEA 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)?	Complaints filed with the Department 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?
Appeals 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 “About Us” tab. Copies are available upon request in the Central Office.



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

Dr. Tracy Lewis is the Middle Level Principal of the Year. In May, she was presented the award by representatives of the Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals for the Southeast Region. Lewis says, "I feel honored to be recognized by my peers. There are outstanding principals in our regional organization who I admire, so it's very humbling to think that they selected me for this award."

While Dr. Lewis was tied up in meetings early on a Wednesday morning, students quietly slipped out of their classrooms and into the gym. When the table was set, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Joe Willis asked Lewis to meet him in the gym. Lewis walked down the hallway, thinking the quiet classrooms meant students were hard at work. She turned to enter the gym and saw the crowd. Stepping back, she steadied herself and then reentered. The stands were filled with 300 cheering students. The adults in the room included district administrators, building principals, teachers, and staff who wanted to share in this moment. Lewis says, "It's a complete understatement to say I was surprised by the presentation. It was a humbling experience, but this staff is amazing, and they always pull together to accomplish any task."

MoASSP Region President Dr. Jamie LaMonds and Board Representative Dr. John Boyd traveled to Senn-Thomas Middle School for the prestigious recognition. They briefly explained their visit to the students sitting on the bleachers who were holding signs of support. When Dr. Lewis received the acrylic award, two teachers shot off small confetti cannons. The middle-school students witnessed the surprise, joy, and respect, but it wasn't an assembly, and they soon returned to their classrooms. The Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals is divided into eight regions, supporting 1,300 principals in Missouri.

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 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 p.m. 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, clicking on the District tab and clicking on “Paperless Board Meetings.”

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:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 may contact Mike Golden, Equal Opportunity Employment Coordinator. Any person having inquiries concerning Dunklin R-5 School District compliance with regulations implementing Title VI is directed to contact Tom Moreland 479-5200. Title IX inquiries are directed to contact Mike Golden Ext. 1002. Compliance with the regulations implementing Section 504 is directed to contact Tom Moreland, Section 504 Coordinator at 479-5200, or compliance with the regulations of Title 11 of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is coordinate with the school's effort to comply with the regulations implementing Title II of the ADA, Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, and equal opportunity employment.

Any person having inquiries concerning the Dunklin R-5 School District's compliance with regulations implementing Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, or Equal Opportunity Employment is directed to contact the following designated coordinators:

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 person(s) has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

Equal Opportunity Employment, Title IX, Safety Coordinator - Assistant Superintendent,
Central Office (636) 479-5200
Title IV, Section 504, Americans with Disabilities Act, Homeless Students -
Director of Special Services, (636) 479-5200 Ext.2010

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.



Last Game on Grass

Junior Ashton Henderson says, "I don't like grass. When it rains, you slip each and every time. Turf just says there."

Herculaneum's field may have looked smooth and well-maintained from the stone bleachers, but a closer inspection revealed bare spots, weeds, and at least three types of grass. The fescue, zoysia, and Bermuda were past solutions that never went away. Together, they made an uneven surface that slowed our players and limited their precision. Running a route on an August-hard field differs from lumbering through soft clay on a rain-soak Friday night. Now, players can practice the same plays at the same speed all season.

The marching band, dance team, and cheer will also benefit. They won't have to worry about damaging

the field during practices, and gym classes can use the space within minutes after a storm. We had two days of solid rain during construction without one puddle forming between the goalposts. The plastic strands on the turf field are two inches long, but there is a limited number per square inch. That allows "crumb rubber" to sink into the surface and create a soft base. The finished product has light green and dark green stripes crossing the field, alternating every five yards. The sidelines and yard markers are bright white, and the end zones are dark black. Naturally, there's a Blackcat logo in the center of the field. You can see it during our first home football game against Windsor High School at 7 p.m. on August 30th. #GoBlackcats

2024-2025 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 ¹	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+
Tdap ²									1	1	1	1	1
MCV ³ (Meningococcal Conjugate)									1	1	1	1	2
IPV (Polio) ⁴	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+
MMR ⁵	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Hepatitis B ⁶	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+
Varicella ⁷	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

1. Last dose on or after the fourth birthday and the last dose of pediatric pertussis before the seventh birthday. Maximum needed: six doses.

2. **8-12 Grades:** Tdap, which contains pertussis vaccine, is required.

3. **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.

4. **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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.



Pictured: Cody Hunter (Class of 2002) still has some moves.

The clover was in full bloom when scores of alumni got together to play football one last time on the grass field. Many were past their prime, but their muscle memory was intact as they got into a three-point stance or ran a perfect route. Who won or lost the flag football games seemed less important than the individual athletic feats and the camaraderie inherent in the Blackcat football program. The Blackcat Blitz boosters organized this fundraiser right after graduation and before bulldozers sheared away the topsoil.

Everyone has an opinion about changing from natural grass to turf. Shawn Hutson (Class of 2014) says, "I like the grass and wish they would stay with it, but I get it with the maintenance and everything. I've played in some mud games, and those are the ones you remember." Many graduates were nostalgic about their games on the grass, but today's players have a different take. Junior Carter Light complained about the holes in the grass field. He says, "I definitely won't ruin my ankles as much on the new field."

USDA Non-Discrimination Statement:

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

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

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Pevely's Facebook page has become a surprising source of revenue for the Dunklin R-5 School District. The page's growing popularity has caught the attention of Meta, which has recognized the district as a content creator. Meta is now providing a modest monthly payment based on engagement. The first check, amounting to \$10.05, included June's summer school updates.

As the new school year begins, the district anticipates a significant increase in likes and shares, potentially boosting annual earnings by an additional \$400. This revenue is generated simply by highlighting the exciting events happening within the school community.

Pevely Elementary School has seen impressive reach on social media. With 750 students, we believe posts exceeding 1,500 viewers indicate our posts are being shared beyond our district's boundaries. Since January, 39 posts have surpassed this threshold. This consistent engagement likely contributed to the district's eligibility for the bonus program. It also reflects positively on our families and their interest in our schools. We don't know of another school district receiving bonus checks from Meta.

Several popular posts this spring may have influenced the district's entry into the program. In April, a post about Brookdale Farms' storm damage, which led to a canceled field trip, reached 12,700 users. Updates about our Mac and Cheese world record averaged 6,000 viewers per post, and our community loved our Superhero-themed High Five Friday. Additionally, the announcement of First Grade Teacher Mallorie Maintz's marriage to become Mrs. Harris garnered 4,600 views. Notably, Pevely's Facebook content has reached 126,000 individuals this calendar year, indicating a diverse and expanding audience. There is a Facebook page for each of our schools and one for the entire district, but only Pevely received a bonus program invitation from Meta.

Bus Information



Dunklin R-5 School District
Transportation Department
(636) 479-5200 Ext. 7008

Bus Route Stops and Times
are on our website:
www.dunklin.k12.mo.us
**CLICK ON THE
BUS ICON**




Always arrive at your bus
stop 5 minutes prior to the
scheduled pick-up time.

As summer draws
to a close and
students return to
school, we would
like to remind
parents, caregivers
and students to
put safety at the
top of their
“back-to-school”
to do list.



Dunklin R-5 School District 2024-2025 Calendar Highlights

The first day of school is Thursday, August 22, 2024

Open House August 20th 	Labor Day No School Sept. 2nd 	P.D. Day No School Sept. 20th 	No School Oct 30th - Nov 1st Parent-Teacher Conferences Oct 30th. P.D. Day Oct. 31st No School Nov. 1st 
Veterans Day No School Nov. 11th 	Thanksgiving No School Nov. 27th- 29th 	Winter Break Dec. 23rd to Jan. 3rd First Day Back is January 6th 	P.D. Day & MLK Day No School Jan. 17th-20th 
P.D. Day & President's Day No School Feb 14th-17th 	P.D. Day No school March 21st 	Spring Break April 18th - April 21st 	Last Day May 21st It's an early release day. 

Summer School will take place from May 28 to June 28, 2025.
There will be no classes on June 19, 2025

