Mehlville Messenger

March 2025

A Mehlville School District Publication

Amplify is helping students become stronger readers and writers

Elementary and middle school students in the Mehlville School District are learning English language arts through a new curriculum resource called Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts. Amplify provides students with reading, writing, knowledge and interpersonal skills that will help them succeed in school and throughout life.

Through this new resource, students build knowledge and skills. In the knowledge portion, teachers and students focus on reading texts, building vocabulary and background knowledge, and comprehension activities. In the skills portion, students are immersed in phonics lessons: word recognition, decoding, sight words and phonological awareness.

The goal is to teach students to read fluently while students are also reading to learn about other subjects, like history and geography.

During a recent lesson, students in Jessie Schellman's first-grade class at Hagemann Elementary School learned reading skills with a text about ancient Egypt. "It exposes kids to a whole new world of information so that as they progress, these topics will circle back around and kids will already have background knowledge when they explore topics again," Schellman said.

Since Amplify is used in all elementary and middle school grade levels, it allows students to build on knowledge from year to year. Nonfiction texts usually associated with other subject areas are incorporated into each unit.



1.

"There are lessons that cover science, social studies and history embedded within reading and writing," said Heidi Kwentus, a fourth-grade teacher at Forder Elementary School. As a result, she said, "the students are exposed to more nonfiction topics and are reading and writing about it with higher level vocabulary than they have used before."


2.

Amplify allows teachers to provide rigorous lessons that also keep students engaged in learning.

"It's been an amazing experience to see how the kids respond to the content," said Sarah Polanc, an English language arts teacher at Oakville Middle School. "We've been looking for a program that would push our students. This program challenges them while also providing support."

A group of Mehlville School District teachers who piloted the program during the 2023-2024 school year saw positive results in their students' test scores. They have also seen an improvement in their students' speaking, reading and writing abilities.

"When I used the curriculum for the first time last school year, I saw a huge jump in how easy writing was for my students," said Kwentus, who was among the pilot group. "They know how to look for evidence, and they're citing examples from the text better than I've ever seen before."

The lessons also incorporate skills like collaboration, critical thinking and public speaking that will have far-reaching impacts beyond a student's time in the Mehlville School District.

"The reading, writing, speaking and listening skills will translate to anything students decide to do," said Polanc. "There's so much collaboration in this program, and it'll translate to any class or job in the future."

1. In the knowledge portion of their unit, sixth-grade students conducted an investigation to determine the cause of yellow fever and how it was being transmitted. The unit incorporated historical information and medical vocabulary.

2. In the skills portion of their unit, first-grade students identified the difference between long and short vowel sounds, and practiced reading and writing words containing those sounds.

FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT: Peggy Hassler

A commitment to transparency



On behalf of the Mehlville Board of Education, I am proud to affirm our steadfast commitment to transparency in every aspect of our district – operations, curriculum and financial practices. We understand that the trust of our community is essential, and we work diligently to earn and maintain that trust through clear, open communication.

Operational transparency

Transparency begins with how we manage district operations. From decision-making processes to day-to-day administration, the Mehlville School District is dedicated to ensuring that our policies and practices remain accessible and accountable. Key operational updates are shared during Board of Education meetings, with agenda items, minutes and recordings readily available for public view.

Curriculum transparency

We also prioritize transparency in our curriculum because we believe parents and guardians should have clear insight into what their children are learning. Our curriculum materials and resources are accessible online, and we actively seek input from families and community members through surveys and committees when introducing new programs or updates. Looking ahead, we are eager to gather community feedback through surveys and committees to help shape our next strategic plan. By fostering open dialogue, we ensure our academic goals reflect both high standards and community values.

Financial transparency

Financial accountability is a vital cornerstone of our commitment to transparency. Each year, the Mehlville School District undergoes a rigorous, independent audit. We're proud to share that these audits consistently validate the integrity and diligence of our financial management. The auditor has commended our business office for its meticulous record-keeping, making the audit process both thorough and efficient.

In addition, the Board of Education conducts monthly financial reviews during regular board meetings, scrutinizing the budget, warrants, checks written and credit card charges. All financial reports are publicly accessible on the district's website, providing our community with 24/7 access to key financial documents.

A shared commitment

Whether it's ensuring operational efficiency, aligning curriculum with community values, or responsibly managing financial resources, the Mehlville School District is committed to fostering trust and engagement. Your ongoing support enables us to uphold this commitment and deliver on our promise to prepare every student for success.

Thank you for being a valued partner in the success of the Mehlville School District. Together, we are building a stronger, more transparent future for our students and our community.

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Chief Financial Officer

Mehlville School District

The Mehlville School District mission is to build a high-performing school system rooted in the community's desire to build a culture of improvement for staff and students.

Mehlville School District believes that all of our graduates should be creative and critical thinkers, self-aware, persistent, communicators, and ethical and global. We call this our Portrait of a Graduate.

The *Mehlville Messenger* is published for Mehlville School District residents and businesses to share district news. For questions or comments, call 314-467-5000 or email messenger@msdr9.org.

Mehlville School District finances receive highest opinion from auditors

Upon review of Mehlville School District's finances for the 2024 fiscal year, auditors from Daniel Jones and Associates issued the district's accounting practices its highest marks, an unmodified opinion, or clean audit.

The audit also found that the district is in compliance with state requirements relating to attendance, transportation and budgetary procedures, said Desi Kirchhofer, Lead Auditor for Daniel Jones and Associates. Additionally, the auditors issued an unmodified opinion of the district's compliance with federal awards, the highest opinion a district can receive.

"Mehlville School District welcomes this annual audit as an essential tool to ensure fiscal responsibility," said Marshall Crutcher, Chief Financial Officer for Mehlville School District. "Receiving the highest opinion from auditors reflects the district's dedication to being excellent stewards of taxpayer funds through sound and responsible financial operations."

The audit report was presented to the Mehlville Board of Education on Nov. 21, 2024.

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT: Dr. Jeff Haug

A shared commitment to our students



I love the heading in the article by our Board President Peggy Hassler, "A commitment to transparency." She brings to light Mehlville School District's commitment to transparency in our operations, curriculum and finances. In addition to the district's dedication to being strong financial stewards for the community, we have a continued commitment to providing the best education for our students.

The education of our students is absolutely a shared commitment.

It is a shared commitment between all employees of the district as well as the families who support us everyday. If you view our website, attend any of the numerous events throughout the district, or watch a Board of Education meeting, you will see that we always celebrate the accomplishments of our amazing students and staff.

We are thrilled to see our hard work begin to pay off, as evidenced by growth in our Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) scores, and a strong improvement in our Annual Performance Report score. Mehlville School District placed in the top 5 percent of school districts in the state this year. We are incredibly proud of our teachers and staff and our students. You can learn more about our academic achievement on page 6 of this edition of Mehlville Messenger.

Tell us what's most important to you

We continue to seek that shared commitment with our community. We are beginning to draft the next version of our strategic plan and are asking for input and participation. We want the families of this great district to have a voice in the education their children receive. Please visit our website for more information at bit.ly/msdr9strategicplan26.

Click to learn more

I am very proud of our students, staff and families and am honored to be a part of the Mehlville School District.



Real-world math applications
In the Geometry in Construction class at Mehlville and Oakville high schools, students apply the principles of geometry to real-world projects. For example, at Mehlville High School, students learned about right triangles in the classroom. Then, they applied their knowledge in the construction of a shed for the school's tennis team.

Board meeting schedules and newsletters

Upcoming Board of Education meetings and committee meetings are announced via email. Additionally, our electronic newsletter, Board Notes, is sent out following every regular meeting of the board. You can subscribe by visiting: bit.ly/msdr9emailinglists

Board of Education approves full-day early childhood program

The Mehlville Board of Education approved a full-day early childhood program at Bierbaum Elementary School for the 2025-2026 school year. This pilot program marks the first time Mehlville has provided full-day early childhood education.

"Our parents have requested a full-day option for their young children, and with two classrooms available to us at Bierbaum, we are excited to offer this opportunity," said Director of Mehlville Early Childhood Tiffany Schwaegel.

The early childhood program at Bierbaum can accommodate two full-day classes, each with 12-16 students per classroom. The classes will meet Mondays through Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. following the 2025-2026 school year calendar. Tuition will be $800 per month.



For more information about enrollment for Mehlville Early Childhood Programs, please call 314-467-5300 or visit bit.ly/ecregistrationmsdr9.

Meet the candidates for the Mehlville Board of Education

Four Mehlville School District citizens have filed their candidacy for two positions on the Mehlville Board of Education. Both positions are three-year terms. The following information was provided by the candidates. District staff do not edit their responses. Candidates are listed as their names will appear on the ballot. The election for Mehlville Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025. **Each candidate was asked, "Why did you decide to run for the school board?"**

Visit the Mehlville School District website to see all candidate responses to the questionnaire.

bit.ly/mehlvilleboecandidates2025.

Megan Paule



I graduated from Beasley Elementary, Bernard Middle School, Oakville Highschool (Class of 2012) and still reside in Oakville. It is now my time to give back to the community that has given me so much. I am thrilled to be considered to serve on the Mehlville School Board and am excited about the potential opportunity to assist in the improvement of academic achievement, advocate for the students and to support the district as a whole. With my professional experience in Human Resources and my 23 years' experience living in the district, I am confident in my ability to make a positive impact in this role. It is important that the administrators, staff, parents and students feel supported and heard. It would be a true privilege to serve on the Mehlville School Board.

Serene Wilkinson

sereneformehlville@gmail.com



I'm running to strengthen our community through promoting fiscal responsibility to prioritize funding for classrooms, school safety, academics, & the well-being of students, staff, & families. My focus includes optimizing current funding to address the whole child—academically & emotionally. My work experience provides me with a deep understanding of how mental health, trauma, & emotional challenges affect others, guiding me to advocate for policies that increase district-wide well-being. I aim to foster stronger partnerships between schools, families, and the community, promote anti-bullying initiatives, & support staff retention. With my professional background, I can advance constructive discussions, build consensus, & bridge diverse perspectives to create a more united school district.

Ann Zimpfer

az4msd2025@gmail.com



As a retired educator, I am uniquely qualified to understand the public school system and I also value our state's responsibility to provide every student in Missouri with a free public education and enable equal opportunity for all. That said, most of my teaching has been here in our community in the Mehlville School District.

My experience teaching in the district provides me with strong insight into our district's needs. I have also informed my perspective through the relationships I had with my students, their families, and colleagues across the district and I want to continue to advocate for them. I want to bring that knowledge and experience as well as those connections to the community to the table as the board continues to make decisions that help our students learn and grow.

Mick Johnson Jr.

Michaelfjohnsonjr@gmail.com



As a parent of a 5th grader with special needs, I saw the progress she has made when special education was offered to her. She was eligible for Early Childhood Development starting in PreK, but lost services during Covid. Even though she was clinically diagnosed with a learning disability, it took another 2 years to receive help again. I want to make sure every child has an opportunity to receive additional classroom assistance easier.

I also wanted to give back to our teachers and administrators for the help they have given my family, so I joined the committee for Proposition E. Passing Prop E increases pay to teachers and administrators to make sure we can attract the best talent and retain the great talent we currently have. I want to make sure the board is fiscally responsible as well.

Summer learning is in session June 2-27, 2025



Mehlville School District will offer its free Summer Session program for all children entering kindergarten through 12th grade, June 2-27, 2025. Registration is open and instructions are available at bit.ly/msdr9summersession.

Summer Session for grades 1-8 offers enrichment activities and high-quality instruction that allows teachers to revisit and reinforce the curriculum. Kindergarten students will get a jumpstart to elementary school. High school students can recover credits or earn elective or PE credits. High school courses are available in-person or virtually.

Transportation shuttles will be available from students' home schools.

Elementary School Summer Session

June 2-27, 2025 | 8:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Locations include Forder Elementary, Oakville Elementary and Rogers Elementary. Before and after care will be available from the YMCA.

- **Transportation to Forder Elementary** will be provided from Beasley Elementary and Bierbaum Elementary.
- **Transportation to Oakville Elementary** will be provided from Blades Elementary, Hagemann Elementary and Trautwein Elementary.
- **Transportation to Rogers Elementary** will be provided from Point Elementary and Wohlwend Elementary.

Middle School Summer Session at Bernard

June 2-27, 2025 | 7:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Transportation will be provided from Buerkle Middle, Oakville Middle and Washington Middle.

High School Summer Session at Mehlville High

Session 1: June 2-13, 2025 | Session 2: June 16-27, 2025

Students can choose morning and/or afternoon classes during all sessions of High School Summer Session.

Session 1: 7:45 to 10:45 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.
Session 2: 7:25 to 10:45 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. to 2:35 p.m.

High school students can earn up to two credits by attending both morning and afternoon classes during summer sessions. Virtual options will also be available.

Transportation will be provided from Oakville High School.



Mehlville School District improves on Missouri Assessment Program scores

In 2024, the Mehlville School District saw more students scoring advanced or proficient on Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) tests across nearly all grade levels and subjects.

The district showed the most improvement in middle school math, high school government and seventh-grade English language arts.

District-wide improvements in 2024:

- English language arts scores grew by 3.77 percentage points, with 51.07 percent of students testing advanced or proficient in 2024.
- Math scores grew by 6.87 percentage points, with 44.57 percent of students testing advanced or proficient in 2024.
- Social studies scores grew by 10.14 percentage points, with 53.14 percent of students testing advanced or proficient in 2024.
- Science scores grew by 0.33 percentage points, with 42.93 percent of students testing advanced or proficient in 2024.

"I'm proud of our teachers and instructional leaders for their hard work in helping our students achieve at high levels," said Dr. Jeff Haug, Superintendent of Schools. "We've been focusing on professional learning communities to help ensure that all students receive the best instruction."

> **"Our shared priority is on increasing student achievement through engagement and academic rigor."**
>
> ***- Dr. Jeff Haug, Superintendent of Schools***

Professional learning communities are groups of educators who meet regularly to discuss academic achievement data, learning standards and instructional strategies. These teachers also identify students who would benefit from academic interventions.

The district would not be seeing this success without the support of the community, Dr. Haug said. Over the past 10 years, the community has invested in its schools through several propositions. Most recently, the community passed Prop E, which is helping the district retain and recruit the best employees for its students.

"I am excited that we are on track for continued improvements in academic achievement," Dr. Haug said.

MAP scores are one way the Mehlville School District measures student success. MAP tests are required in Missouri public schools and measure how well Missouri students are learning the skills and knowledge outlined in the Missouri Learning Standards. Students get scores that place them in one of four performance levels: Advanced, Proficient, Basic and Below Basic.

Mehlville shows dramatic improvement in Annual Performance Report

Mehlville School District also saw its Annual Performance Report score jump to 93.2 percent. This places Mehlville's score among the top 5 percent of school districts in the state.

Annual Performance Reports, published by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, provide data on the individual performance of local education agencies. The APR score is based on the standards and indicators in the Missouri School Improvement Program. APR scores are used by the Missouri State Board of Education to determine accreditation status. Mehlville School District is fully accredited.

Mehlville School District had APR scores of 79.4 percent in 2022 and 77.9 percent in 2023. The jump in 2024 scores validates the district's efforts to improve academic performance for its students.

A commitment to meaningful accountability

While Mehlville School District staff have worked hard to improve both their MAP scores and APR score, the district is forward-thinking when it comes to accountability and student assessment.

Mehlville School District is one of 20 districts in Missouri working to design a better way to measure student success. This group, the Success-Ready Students Network, is piloting more accountable measures of each student's success in our schools beyond standardized testing.





Improving Achievement



Mehlville School District students are showing significant improvements in math, social studies and English.

Mehlville School District Report Card

Each year the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) publishes a report card on schools and districts. What follows are highlights from the Mehlville School District's report. You can view the complete data on the DESE website at https://apps.dese.mo.gov/MCDS/home.aspx.

Our Students	Mehlville School District	Missouri Averages
Number of K-12 students	9,873	–
Number of early childhood students	302	–
Students qualifying for free or reduced meals	28.8%	47.7%
Students in gifted education	5.2%	4.51%
Students receiving special education services	14.97%	13.76%

Our students speak more than 60 languages

Our Teachers and Staff	Mehlville School District	Missouri Averages
Student-to-teacher ratio	15-to-1	16-to-1
Student-to-administrator ratio	260-to-1	158-to-1
Professional staff with advanced degrees	78.2%	61.1%

Our Student Outcomes	Mehlville School District	Missouri Averages
Four-year graduation rate	94.1%	89.5%
Graduates entering post-secondary education	69.6%	60.6%
Graduates entering employment	22.9%	29.1%

Finances	Mehlville School District	Missouri Averages
Expenditure per student	$12,528.70	$15,915.36
Adjusted tax rate	$3.968	$4.1715

More than 75 percent of district funds are from local taxes.

Essential roofing projects completed, thanks to Prop A

Prop A has been providing funds for critical roofing, and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning improvements throughout Mehlville School District since the 2016-2017 school year.

When approved by voters in the fall of 2016, Prop A was a tax levy of 4 cents per $100 of assessed valuation. Over time, it has dropped to 3.26 cents in 2024 due to the Hancock Amendment. Revenue from Prop A is restricted to use on capital projects, including roofing and HVAC systems. Prop A will sunset following the 2025-2026 school year.





Roofing projects have been completed at several schools, including Blades Elementary and Mehlville High, thanks to Prop A.

"For many years, the district deferred maintenance on roofs, HVAC and many other facility components. Money generated by Prop A allowed the district to fund some of the most pressing roofing and HVAC projects," said Marshall Crutcher, Chief Financial Officer. "Without our community's support of Prop A in 2016, cuts would likely have been necessary in other areas just to replace leaking roofs."

Through fiscal year 2024, the Prop A levy has generated $5.8 million, which to date has been used to complete 35 roofing projects and 8 HVAC projects at schools across the Mehlville School District.

The levy is projected to generate $822,000 in fiscal year 2025 and the same amount in fiscal year 2026. The district estimates it costs about $850,000 each year to maintain its roofs.

Future Planning: Building the next strategic plan for Mehlville School District

Mehlville School District has started a year-long journey to draft its Strategic Plan: 2026-2031. As we prepare for 2026, the district will be asking questions and analyzing what we can do better to meet the goals and priorities identified by YOU – our community.

To that end, please share your thoughts with us! We'd like to know: As we plan for the future, what key opportunities, resources, and experiences should Mehlville School District offer to support student success? Share your thoughts by visiting tejoin.com and entering code 208-324-805.

More than 100 patrons have volunteered to serve on the Strategic Plan Steering Committee to gain an in-depth understanding of current strengths and opportunities of Mehlville School District, review survey data and provide feedback to those drafting the strategic plan.

The first meeting of the Strategic Plan Steering Committee will be at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 3, at Bernard Middle School. During this strategic plan kick-off meeting, we will share more information about the strategic planning process, review survey data and gather feedback during small group discussions. Additional meetings will be scheduled in the fall of 2025.

A strategic plan is critical for a school district because it provides a clear vision and roadmap for achieving long-term goals. It aligns stakeholders – students, staff, families and the community – around shared priorities, ensuring resources are effectively allocated to enhance student outcomes.

By setting measurable objectives and regularly reviewing progress, a strategic plan fosters accountability and adaptability, enabling the district to respond proactively to changes in education, funding and community needs.

Share your thoughts on the next strategic plan.

Click to learn more

Students learn real-world skills in Financial Planning

High school students are gaining practical financial literacy skills in Financial Planning, including investing, budgeting and credit management.

Financial Planning is a dual-credit class offered through the University of Missouri-St. Louis, typically taken by college freshmen and sophomores. High school students begin the course by conducting an analysis of how credit works, the basics of credit cards and the mathematical calculations of credit. Students then discuss how they can apply their knowledge of credit when applying for student loans.

"Most of the students in the financial planning class are seniors, so they're working, they're applying for college, and dealing with the reality of these are all of the things that I have to pay for," said Lucian Biesiadecki, a business teacher at Mehlville High School. "This class helps students realize what is coming and prepares them for the future."

Students also learn about buying a home, how interest rates work, investments, life and health insurance, and budgeting.

"It's been eye-opening to my financial situation and what I need to do to get myself to a better place when it comes to my finances," said Jimmy Wieman, an MHS student. "This class helps you think about how you'll apply what you're learning to real-world experiences. I've already been able to use what we've learned about budgeting in my everyday life."



Financial Planning students at MHS shared their new knowledge with freshmen students. Topics included how much of each paycheck you should save, how to save for retirement and how to gain financial security through budgeting.

Whether students plan to pursue a career in finance like Alivia Tran, an MHS student, or not, students are learning skills that align with the Mehlville School District's Portrait of a Graduate, providing students with skills that will lead to successful professional and personal lives.

"The financial planning class has helped me understand a lot of things I haven't thought about before like investments, saving for retirement and the future in general," Alivia said.

Students can earn three college credit hours through the Financial Planning course, which is completed over the course of one semester. A prerequisite for this course is successful completion of the Personal Finance class. In that course, which is required for all high schoolers, students learn how choices influence future earning potential, and apply decision-making skills to evaluate career choices and effective use of personal income.

Nominations open for Mehlville School District Alumni Hall of Fame

Mehlville School District's Alumni Hall of Fame identifies and celebrates graduates of the Mehlville School District (Mehlville High School and Oakville High School) who have made a lasting impact in the community or in the nation. Inductees serve as role models for current and future generations of students who aspire to be productive citizens and demonstrate traits that align to the Mehlville School District Portrait of a Graduate Traits: Creative and Critical Thinker, Self-Aware, Persistent, Communicator, Ethical and Global.

To be considered, nominees must have graduated more than 10 years in the past from either Mehlville High School or Oakville High School. Nominations must be received by the Mehlville School District Alumni Hall of Fame Committee by May 1 of each induction year. The district will hold an induction ceremony in 2025. Late nominations will be considered for the following induction class.

Learn more about making a nomination by visiting bit.ly/msdr9hof.

Click to learn more

David B. Goodwin Outstanding Young Music Educator Award


Chris Ramey

Chris Ramey, the Oakville Middle School Band Director, received the David B. Goodwin Outstanding Young Music Educator Award from the Missouri Music Educators Association. This award is given to one young music educator in the state each year who has shown extraordinary promise, diligence and success.

Ramey was surprised with the news in front of his colleagues and students at an assembly in December. "It is surreal to receive this award because there are so many outstanding music educators who've received this award before," said Ramey. "For colleagues and the MMEA board to think of me so highly is a huge award and very humbling."

Exceptional Educator Award


Jessica Smith

Jessica Smith, a math teacher at Mehlville High School, received the Exceptional Educator Award from the Affton-Lemay Chamber of Commerce. This award recognizes teachers from schools in the 63125 ZIP code for professional excellence in the classroom and their dedication to students.

Smith has worked at Mehlville High School for the past 17 years. She has taught nearly every math class during that time, including college algebra and geometry this school year.

"The students are my favorite part of the job because they're all so much fun and so different," said Smith. "I also love the culture here. It's a place that feels like home and makes you want to stay."

Smith was among nine teachers from the area to receive the award on January 25 at the chamber's Annual Awards and Dinner Auction Gala.

View more distinctions:
We're now sharing all student and staff distinctions on our website at **bit.ly/msdr9distinctions**.

The District's Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award


Stephanie Bailey

Stephanie Bailey, a fifth-grade teacher at Hagemann Elementary School, is Mehlville School District's Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award recipient for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award is given to educators in the St. Louis area each year who are examples of excellence in their field. Each school nominates one teacher for the award, then a committee selects a district representative.

Bailey excels at building relationships with students and ensuring her instruction meets the needs of each of them.

Bailey has been teaching in the Mehlville School District for the past 10 years. She sees herself in her students and wants to help them to be successful.

"When I was a student, I struggled, and I didn't feel like I had the support I needed in the school system," said Bailey. "That makes it very satisfying and rewarding for me to help kids move onto the next level."

Receiving the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award qualifies Bailey to apply for additional grants.

National Life Group LifeChanger of the Year Award


Rose Pizzo

Rose Pizzo, Cafeteria Manager at Bernard Middle School, has been nominated for the LifeChanger of the Year Award. This award celebrates educators and support staff who make a significant difference in students' lives by exemplifying excellence, positive influence and leadership.

Pizzo has worked in the cafeteria at Bernard for the past 20 years. She does more than just serve up delicious and nutritious meals for students.

For example, Pizzo started a food table to cut down on waste and provide extra food to students who may need it. Students who have unopened items can drop them on a table for another student to pick up. She also organized the collection of donations to help choir students attend a field trip and helped to provide students with presents during the holidays.

Engineering victory


Logan Knecht

Logan Knecht, an Oakville High School senior, was part of a team from the Engineering and Technology Design and Development course at the St. Louis Centers for Advanced Professional Studies that won the Gateway Arch National Park Engineering Contest.

Award-winning journalists


Claire Goodman

Claire Goodman, an Oakville High School junior, received a superior rating in Yearbook Copy/Caption: Academics at the National High School Journalism Convention.

Calendar contest


Tatum Kopriva

Artwork created by **Tatum Kopriva**, a Mehlville High School junior, won a spot in the Saint Louis County Department of Public Health's Healthy Living Calendar.

All-state performers

Mehlville High School junior **Eva Brown** and sophomore **Zaide Rosso** were named to the Missouri All-State Band. **Maura Niebrugge** and **Alex Ottenlips**, Oakville High School juniors, received All-State Honorable Mentions.


Eva Brown

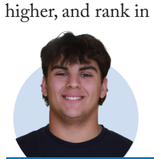

Zaide Rosso


Maura Niebrugge


Alex Ottenlips

Gridiron scholars

Oakville High School seniors **Chase Forbus, Ben Kohm,** and **Caleb Pickens**, and junior **Max Bradley** were named to the Academic All-State Football Team. These students started at least 70% of their games, earned a score of at least 25 on the ACT or 1200 on the SAT, have a GPA of 3.5 or higher, and rank in the top 20% of their class.


Chase Forbus


Ben Kohm


Caleb Pickens


Max Bradley

All-State singers

Oakville High School seniors **Kenzie Christopher, Ian Moore, Anna Rohr** and **Maggie Schrader** were named to the Missouri All-State Choir. **Peter Lee**, a junior, received Honorable Mention, and **Nolan Long**, a junior, was named an alternate.


Kenzie Christopher


Ian Moore


Anna Rohr


Maggie Schrader


Peter Lee


Nolan Long

Top thespians

Oakville High School students **Kaitlyn Bridges**, a junior, and **Stella Kolb**, a sophomore, earned a superior rating for their duet musical at the Missouri Thespian Conference, qualifying them to compete at the International Thespian Festival this summer.


Kaitlyn Bridges


Stella Kolb

Three-Peat

Eva Brown, a Mehlville High School junior, finished in third place at the Class 3 state golf tournament. Brown, who also placed first at the district tournament, has finished in the top three at state in three consecutive years.


Eva Brown

Performing on the pitch

Ryan Sophie, an Oakville High School senior, was named to the All-State Soccer Team.


Ryan Sophie

Softball stars

Addie Frank, an Oakville High School junior, was named to the All-State First Team for softball, while **Morgan Kovach**, an OHS senior, was named to the All-State Second Team.


Addie Frank


Morgan Kovach

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IMPORTANT DATES

Find district event information at mehlvilleschooldistrict.com.

March 13	Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Mehlville High School Library
March 17-21	No school - Spring Break
March 31	No school - District closed
April 8	No school for students - Teacher Workday - Election Day
April 10	Board of Education Reorganization Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Mehlville High School Library
April 21	No school - District closed
April 24	Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Mehlville High School Library
May 22	Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Mehlville High School Library
May 23	Last day of school - Early release for students
May 26	District closed - Memorial Day
June 2-27	Summer Session
June 5	Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Mehlville High School Library
June 19	No school - Juneteenth
June 26	Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Mehlville High School Library



Now Enrolling!

New student enrollment is open for the 2025-2026 school year!

Learn more: bit.ly/msdr9enroll

Mehlville School District

Mehlville Messenger

March 2025



Academic achievement on the rise

Mehlville School District makes substantial improvement on Missouri Assessment Program scores. See page 6.

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Mehlville School District
Individually Focused. Committed to All.