



Blackcat News

Mission Statement:

"Educating Today for a Better Tomorrow"

VOLUME 30 ISSUE 93

SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026

August 14, 2025



Construction Journey Ending



The final projects are being completed, courtesy of a \$ 13.5 million, no-tax-increase bond issue passed in April 2023. We have safe and secure entrances at Pevely Elementary School and Senn-Thomas Middle School. Both locations relocated office personnel to the front of the buildings and created vestibules for visitors to conduct business without entering the schools. This fall will be the second season with a turf football field. It looks great, drains easily, and is used by gym classes, dance, cheer, band, and our football teams. We have a new facilities building next to the bus garage. It houses our technology and food service departments. A large indoor freezer has replaced the two sitting outside of Taylor Early Childhood Center. Two other projects will be enjoyed by students and parents alike.

The Herculaneum High School Gymnasium is beautifully designed, with great sight lines and a 400-foot walking track overlooking the court. The frosted glass distributes light evenly, highlighting the black and red accents that scream Go Blackcats! The bleachers descend from the second story to the gym floor with enough capacity to seat 800 fans. Plans are underway to make the first volleyball game, as well as the first boys' and girls' basketball games, into memorable events. The Leader Newspaper has inquired about using the space for their Holiday Market in November. With both the Robinson Gym and the HHS Gym, we'll have more flexibility in selecting practice times, scheduling games, and hosting tournaments.

The theater is getting a new sound system, lighting, and stage

curtains. Replacing the 20-year-old technology will enhance the experience for all who visit. Using LED lighting will save a massive amount of power in the years ahead. Cell phones won't disrupt the wireless microphones, and the balanced audio will engulf the audience. We considered keeping the stage curtains, but learned that flame retardant on fabric is less effective over time. Recoating them is nearly as expensive as buying new ones, so we placed an order for new curtains..

When 76.1 percent of voters passed Proposition Safe Schools in 2023, we knew the community was putting their trust in us to make substantial improvements. With the support of the school board, Dr. Freeman squeezed every dollar, fulfilling the promises and delivering for our students and families. We invite you to visit during the new school year to take in a game or enjoy a performance in the theater.

Bus route information is listed on the Dunklin R-5 website. Look for his button.

New Start Times

Building	Parent Drop Off	Bus Drop Off	Start Time	Midday Start Time	Parent Pick up	Buses Load
Senn-Thomas Middle School	7:00 am	7:00 am	7:15 am	N/A	2:18 pm	2:15 pm
Herculaneum High School	7:10 am	7:10 am	7:25 am	N/A	2:25 pm	2:25 pm
Pevely Elementary School	8:05 am	8:05 am	8:25 am	N/A	3:25 pm	3:25 pm
Taylor Early Childhood Center	8:50 am	9:00 am	9:05 am	12:50 am	3:50 pm	4:00 pm

Before and After Care (Y-Club) 6:30 am - 5:30 pm
Daycare for the children of Dunklin employees 6:30 am - 4:30 pm

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

Message From Board President

As summer winds down and the excitement of a new school year approaches, I would like to take a moment to share some important updates and reflections with our school community. First and foremost, I hope all of our students, families, and staff have enjoyed a safe, restful, and enriching summer. For many, summer is a time to recharge — but for our district, it has also been a season of progress and preparation.

Summer Projects

This summer, the district has been hard at work completing projects from our no-tax-increase bond issue passed in April of 2023.

▮ **Facilities Improvements:** Our new gym at the high school will be open and waiting for the hustle and bustle of events. The gym looks better than imagined. There was a lot of hard work from our contractors and a few bumps in the road, but all is on target. Our back-to-school kick-off for staff will be August 15, starting in the new gym.

▮ **Technology Enhancements:** Our IT department has been hard at work getting the new fiber lines installed across the district. We're updating the tech in the theatre as well, with enhanced audio and brighter LED lights.

▮ **Curriculum Development:** Our educators have been collaborating to refine lesson plans, integrate new learning tools, and align with state standards.

These investments are part of our ongoing commitment to provide a high-quality, student-centered education in a safe and supportive environment.

As we look forward to welcoming students back, there's a lot to be excited about. The first day of school always brings a fresh start — new teachers, new friends, and new opportunities to grow.

This year, we are especially focused on:

▮ **Student Wellness:** We continue to prioritize mental health and well-being with expanded support services and wellness initiatives.

▮ **Academic Recovery and Growth:** After the disruptions of recent years, we're doubling down on academic support to help every student succeed.

▮ **Community Engagement:** We're committed to stronger partnerships with families and local organizations to support learning both in and out of the classroom.

Final Thoughts

I want to thank our dedicated teachers, administrators, staff, and volunteers who have worked tirelessly this summer to prepare for the year ahead. Your commitment to our students is inspiring. We want to thank our families for their continued support. Your involvement makes a world of difference in student success. Students, we can't wait to see you back in the classroom. Let's make this year one of curiosity, connection, and achievement. Here's to a strong start and a successful school year!

Once a Blackcat, Always a Blackcat
Tammy Heidland, President, Dunklin R5 Board of Education.

Dr. Freeman's Message

Dunklin R-5 Community,

If you build it, they will come. That is exactly what we are doing. We are building a learning environment that meets the needs of EVERY student, building leadership capacity with every person in our organization, and building facilities to meet our needs. As we are completing our 2022 Bond Issue projects. I am reminded of the movie Field of Dreams "If you build it, they will come." We are certainly building something special in the Dunklin R-5 School District, and I am so glad you, our community, are a part of it.

I am proud to serve in a school district where students, staff, and families come together with one goal in mind—excellence. At Dunklin R-5, we believe *it takes what it takes to be great. That means hard work, high standards, and a commitment to doing what's right—even when it's not easy.*

Welcome Back!! I am thrilled that you are part of our school, and we look forward to an amazing year. Let's keep building something great—together.

Our mission is "Educating Today for a Better Tomorrow," and because we have the best staff in the state to accomplish this mission, 2025-2026 is going to be our best year yet. Thank you for allowing us to be part of your child's educational journey.

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 "X" at @DrClintFreeman

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



Cell Phone Ban: Missouri Senate Bill 68 bans the use of cell phones (and other communication devices) from the first bell to the last.

We've changed our start times. They are listed on the Dunklin R-5 website under the Families tab.

Congratulations to Pevely Principal Katie Dunlap on her marriage. She is now Mrs. Katie Kaletta.

Homecoming week is September 21st-27th, with the dance on Saturday, September 27th.

Athletics: We have some new leaders, including Activities Director Dan Fox, Varsity Volleyball Coach Taylor Metcalf, Varsity Boys Basketball Coach Logan Kelly-Wolff, and Varsity Girls Basketball Coach Lisa Borrer.

We're adding new signs around the district. Some are directional and others are electronic. They should all be installed in the next few weeks.

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 Marissa Newman, Vice President
William Brooks, Jason Drinen, Angie Goforth,
Michael Hicks, Cody Petero

HERCULANEUM HIGH SCHOOL ext. 3

Stephanie Dix, Principal
Jason Gillman, Asst. Principal
Dan Fox, 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

PEVELY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ext. 1

Katie Kaletta, Principal
Adam Dixon, Asst. Principal
Michelle Liles, Asst. Principal
Nick Streb, Guidance Counselor
Cathie Holdenried, Guidance Counselor
Heather Engelbach, Nurse

TAYLOR EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER ext. 5

Charissa Kappler, Director
Alesha Farris, Asst. Director
Christina Meyer, Nurse

DIRECTORS

Nichole Arnold, Director of Food Service
Chris Harris, Director of Transportation
Matt Lichtenstein, Communications Director
Ryan Lowe, Director of Technology
Tom Moreland, Director of Special Services
Graham Schoonover, Director of Maintenance

GO BLACKCATS!

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

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.



Beth Leible . . . Teacher of the Year

The two-time winner of the district's highest honor has been teaching 3rd grade for decades. Beth Leible is honored to have been chosen, but would have also been pleased to see one of her peers get the award. She says, "We have so many deserving people here who work really hard every day for kids." What can't be overlooked is the steady demeanor and wealth of knowledge she brings to the classroom every day. She says, "All kids can learn, they just might learn at different rates, so you have to meet them where they are and try your best to get them where they need to be."

Leible says the first step is getting to know your students. She says, "They don't care about what you're trying to teach them until they know you care about them. You have to build those relationships." The elementary school teacher is well-versed in Disney characters, Minecraft, Star Wars, and other items that might be of interest to her students. Raising her own kids helps with pop culture references, but her youngest is in 7th grade, and kids' interests change as they age.

A good day for a third-grade teacher is when everyone has done their job and we've covered all the bases, according to Leible. She says, "A great day is when I've worked really hard with a student, and they finally get it." In other words, a light bulb goes off, and she



Pictured: Dr. Clint Freeman, Teacher Beth Leible, Principal Katie Kaletta

can see it in their eyes.

Leible could stay in her comfortable routine for the next few years, but Michelle Storment's retirement opened a new opportunity. Today, Leible is getting her master's degree in Gifted Education from Truman State University. This coming school year, she will run the gifted program in the Dunklin R-5 School District. Leible says, "I was in the gifted program where I grew up in the 80s, and some of my best school memories came from that experience." Leible was raised in Scott County, attending Kelly High School. When she was chosen to take over the Dunklin program, Leible made a phone call to her former gifted teacher in Scott County. She says that was a special moment.

Staff Member of the Year

She could create a master's course on school district operations just from her work history. Laura Campbell's jobs in the district have included being a substitute teacher, paraprofessional, substitute cook, bus driver, and secretary. Today, she works in the Central Office smoothly shifting her priorities between a cluster of job titles. Dunklin has a database called Infinite Campus, and she's the administrator. The state requires a vast amount of data from school districts for funding and other purposes. Campbell is Dunklin's contact for MOSIS/Core Data. She may be the first to meet new parents as the district's Registrar. Other duties include being Dr. Freeman's Administrative Assistant and the School Board's Secretary.

Campbell feels good about winning the award. She says, "It's hard to put into words what I do – it's boring. Data is boring, and for people to see the value in that made me proud." Campbell says her priorities depend on the season. In October and June, she's gathering information for the state's reporting requirements. Currently, she stays busy with enrollments, setting up parent portals, and helping staff see their rosters.

"I try to do the best I can every day and just help people. Whether it's a staff member, student, or parent on the phone, I treat them with respect and meet them where they are, and help them through whatever problem they are having," says Campbell.

Some parents don't own computers, and others are computer programmers. With just a few casual questions, Campbell can quickly decipher their needs and start working towards a solution. She connects with parents quickly, having two children who graduated from Herculaneum. Her daughter, Layne, returned to campus when we celebrated Homecoming Royalty. In the fall of 2009, she was

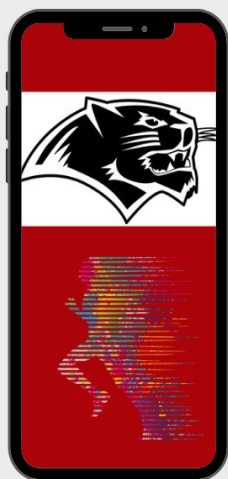


Pictured: Dr. Clint Freeman and Laura Campbell

Homecoming Queen, and her boyfriend Nick Coffman was the Homecoming King. They've been married for 10 years.



NO CELL PHONES DURING SCHOOL HOURS



Missouri Senate Bill 68 has banned students from displaying or using any electronic personal communication devices from the first bell to the last bell.

This applies to all areas of the school, including classrooms, hallways, cafeterias, and restrooms. There are exceptions for emergencies, medical purposes, and 504/IEP.

WE ARE ASKING FOR YOUR HELP TO FOLLOW THE LAW.

Devices include Cell Phones, Smart Watches, Earbuds/Headphones, Tablets, and Personal Laptops.

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.

Follow us on



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

Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015

Dear Parent or Guardian:

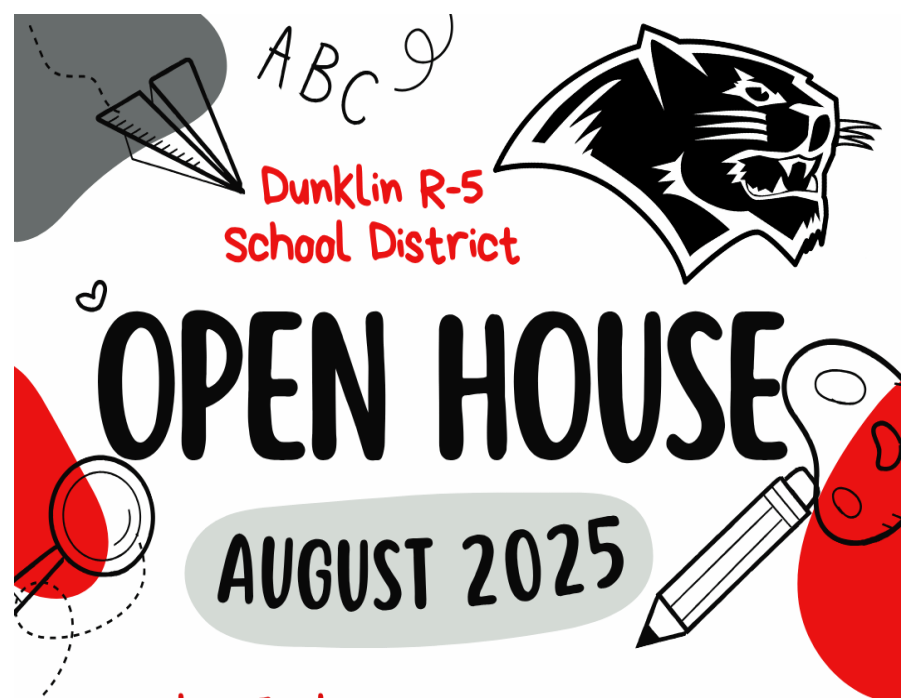
Our district is required to inform you of information that you, according to the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015(Public Law 114-95), have the right to know.

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.



Taylor Early Childhood

August 18
1:00-6:30PM

Pevely Elementary

August 18
Grades 1-5: 4:30-6:30PM
August 19
Kindergarten: 4:00-5:30PM

Senn-Thomas Middle School

August 18
4:30- 7:00PM

Herculaneum High School

August 18
Grades 10-12: 3:00-5:00PM
9th Grade Orientation: 5:45-8:00PM
*Families should stay the entire time



Board Policies and Legal Notices Regarding Student and Parent Rights

NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS under FERPA for Elementary and Secondary Institutions

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

These rights are outlined below:

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

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

DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

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

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

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

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT SURROGATE PARENT PROGRAM

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

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

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

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

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

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

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



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

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

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

The Title I Staff will be responsible for:

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

Parents will be responsible for:

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

STUDENT DISCIPLINE POLICIES

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

STUDENT POLICY INFORMATION SCHOOL RECORDS

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

IDEA Public Notice

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

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

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

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

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

Board Policies and Legal Notices Regarding Student and Parent Rights

Complaint Resolution Process for No Child Left Behind Programs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Who May File a Complaint

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

Address to File a Complaint

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

Definition of a Complaint

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

Any dispute regarding the accuracy of low-income data for private school students also can be the subject of a complaint. A formal complaint must be a written, signed statement that includes specific details of the situation of noncompliance by the local educational agency.

Alternatives for Filing Complaints

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

Informal Complaints Received by the SEA Office

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

Formal Complaints Received by the SEA Office

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

Decision

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

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

Appeals: Appeal to the U.S Department of Education

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

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

Procedure Dissemination

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

Educating Missouri’s Homeless Children

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

Who is Homeless?

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

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

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

Which School Can a Homeless Child Attend?

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

Enrollment

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

Transportation

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

The Homeless Coordinator

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

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

Equal Opportunity

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

Any person having inquiries concerning the Dunklin R-5 School District compliance with equal opportunity employment 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.



Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. **Dunkin' R-5** offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast is free to all students; lunch costs are tiered as follows: Taylor Early Childhood \$3.15; Pevely Elementary \$3.20; Senn Thomas Middle \$3.25; Herculanum High \$3.30. **Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals.** Reduced waived for our households. This packet includes an application for free or reduced price meal benefits, and a set of detailed instructions. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?

- All children in households receiving benefits from the **Food Stamp Program/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**, the **Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)** or **Temporary Assistance/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)**, are eligible for free meals.
- **Foster children** that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
- **Children participating in their school's Head Start program** are eligible for free meals.
- Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
- Children may receive free or reduced price meals if your household's income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

Household Size	Annually	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$28,953	\$2,413	\$557
2	39,128	3,261	753
3	49,303	4,109	949
4	59,478	4,957	1,144
5	69,653	5,805	1,340
6	79,828	6,653	1,536
7	90,003	7,501	1,731
8	100,178	8,349	1,927
For each add'l person add	+10,175	+848	+196

If you have other questions or need help, call **(636) 479-5200, EXT. 7006**
Sincerely,

Nichole Arnold
Food Services Director
Dunklin R-5 School District

USDA Non-discrimination Statement:

In accordance with federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the state or local agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, [AD-3027](#), found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) 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, Mail Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
2. Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
3. Email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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, audiotape, 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.

- 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](https://www.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.

[illegible]

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.



Rev. 9-23

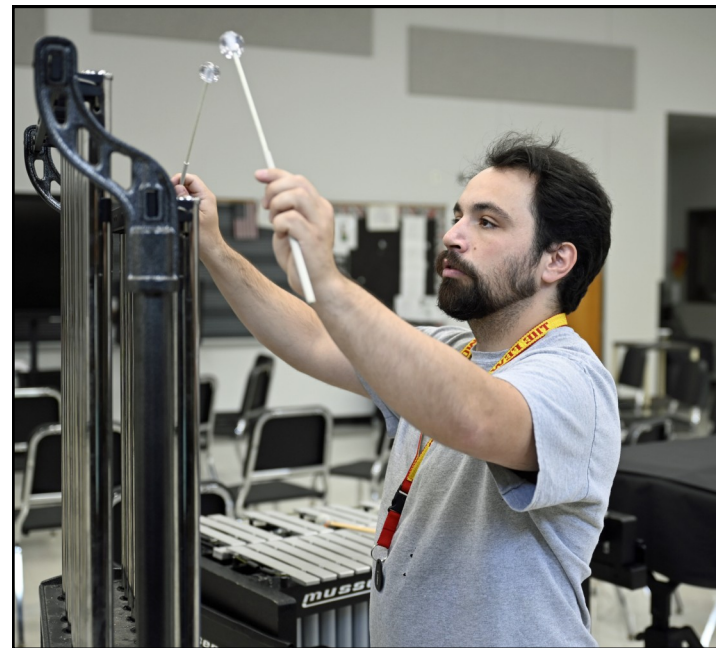
New Band Director

Dunklin hired Sam Van Dielen to lead the band program. Last year, he was the band director in the Houston R-1 School District, about 45 minutes south of Rolla. He says it was a culture shock after growing up in South County. After visiting with some Senn-Thomas students, he learned most of our students have pets, and a couple have livestock. He says it's the opposite in Houston, where most kids have livestock and a few have pets.

Van Dielen was first introduced to our Blackcat Bands a couple of years ago during a clinic, and he has known the legendary Doug Smelser for some time. He says, "Everyone has a ton of respect for Mr. Smelser and the program that he has built." While replacing the former band director is no easy task, Van Dielen will give it his best shot. He says, "I feel really excited and extraordinarily grateful for the warm reception."

Music has always been a part of Van Dielen's life, and he loved growing up in an "intensely musical" family. As a toddler, he was trying to match pitches even before he could speak. The piano lessons started when he was six, and his family would harmonize show tunes in the car or the kitchen. His dad was a corporate manager and a trained jazz musician. On the way to church, his father would break down songs for little Sam. Some of the concepts didn't hit home for another ten years – oh, that's what dad was talking about.

Van Dielen wants to grow our band program as he did in Houston. He says that, in addition to learning how to play music, band allows students to learn life lessons. They need to care for their instruments and manage their time. They learn how to navigate situations that they will deal with in their everyday life. He says some opportunities come to you, and others you have to seek out. Van



Pictured: Sam Van Dielen testing instruments a week before Band Camp.

Dielen was intentional in his efforts to become the next band director in the Dunklin R-5 School District.



**Follow us on
social media.**



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

Herculaneum H.S. @HHSBlackcats
HHS Activities @BlackcatUpdates

Senn-Thomas M.S. @SennThomasMS

Pevely Elementary @MsKatieDunlap

Taylor Preschool @DunklinTaylor



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



**Calendar Highlights
2025-2026**

The first day of school is August 21, 2025

Open House August 18th 	Labor Day No School Sept. 1st 	P.D. Day No School Sept. 22nd 	No School Oct 23rd - Oct 24th Parent-Teacher Conferences
P.D. Day & Veterans Day No School Nov. 10th & 11th 	Thanksgiving No School Nov. 26th - 28th 	Winter Break Early Release Friday, Dec. 19th Dec. 22nd to Jan. 5th First Day Back is January 6th 	MLK Day No School Jan. 19th
P.D. Day & Presidents' Day No School Feb 13th-16th 	P.D. Day No school March 13th 	Spring Break April 1st - April 6th 	Last Day May 22nd Early release day.

