

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

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Highlights

A Harrisonville Schools Publication
Summer 2025

Harrisonville Schools marks progress in first year of strategic plan

The Harrisonville Schools Strategic Planning Committee recently gathered to review progress on the district’s five-year Comprehensive School Improvement Plan, which guides the district’s work through 2029. Developed in the spring of 2024 and approved by the Board of Education last fall, the strategic plan outlines seven focus areas for improvement: community partnerships, early childhood education, quality staff, safety, student achievement, technology, and communication.

Following the plan’s approval, district leaders prioritized seven action plans for the 2024-25 school year. At the recent meeting, administrators shared updates on each of the selected plans, and the committee evaluated them using four categories: achieved, operational, in progress, or not started.

Early Childhood Expansion and Childcare Access

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Annie Knox shared progress on two early learning initiatives. For Strategy 2.1, the district is expanding preschool offerings, transitioning from four half-day classes to five full-day classrooms for 3- and 4-year-olds starting in 2025-26. A parent handbook, age-appropriate materials, and new aide positions have been developed to support this shift. This action plan was marked as operational.

For Strategy 2.3, the district is preparing to launch a before- and after-school care program at Harrison-



Preschooler student Ada McGee practices letters with paint, an example of hands-on learning that will expand with full-day preschool offerings in 2025–26 as part of the district’s strategic plan.

ville Early Childhood Center in 2025-26, with plans to expand. A director has been hired, and service costs have been set. This plan is considered in progress.

Staff Retention and Support

To address Strategy 3.2, Assistant Superintendent Joseph Parkhurst reported on efforts to retain quality

staff. A districtwide survey gathered input on workplace experience and satisfaction. In addition, revised salary schedules—announced at the May Board of Education meeting—include an average 3% increase. This action plan is also in progress.

(Continued on on page 4)

Administrative Offices
503 S. Lexington • 380-2727

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

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

Harrisonville Middle School
601 S. Highland • 380-7654
Grades 6-8
Chad Culpepper, Principal

McEowen Elementary School
1901 S. Halsey • 380-4545
Grades 3-5
Dr. Tricia Falke, Principal

Harrisonville Elementary School
101 Meghan Drive • 380-4131
Grades Kindergarten-2
Ashley Shrout, Principal

Early Childhood Center
500 Eastwood Rd. • 380-4421
Preschool, Parents As Teachers,
& Wildcat Club
Dr. Beth Love, Principal



From the Desk of Superintendent Josh Chastain,

Superintendent outlines vision for exciting transitions in upcoming year

At Harrisonville Schools, we deeply value our students, staff, families, and the broader community that surrounds and supports us. Together, we are building a school district that puts student success at the heart of everything we do. The 2024–2025 school year was filled with meaningful progress, shared accomplishments, and a renewed sense of purpose—and we couldn't have done it without you.

As part of our 2024–2029 Strategic Plan, we initiated and completed important work across several key areas. One of the most critical achievements this year was the completion and implementation of our comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan. This plan was developed with student and staff safety in mind and shared broadly with staff, students, and families to ensure everyone understands how we keep our schools safe and secure.

Our educators also engaged deeply in curriculum work throughout the school year. Their commitment has extended into the summer, with many continuing to collaborate and refine instructional plans during dedicated curriculum writing days. Their dedication to academic excellence is a cornerstone of our success.

A major milestone in prepar-

ing for the upcoming school year was reimagining our preschool offerings and before- and after-school care options. We are excited to share that we now have four fully enrolled, full-day preschool classrooms for 4-year-old students and one classroom for 3-year-olds. This expansion is a significant step forward, and we look forward to adding even more opportunities in the future.

Additionally, we're launching our new Wildcat Club, a before- and after-school care program that will serve preschool students—including during designated school breaks—and a select group of K–5 students during this pilot phase. Our goal is to continue expanding this program to reach more families in the coming school year.

To make this growth possible, we've also restructured our elementary grade configurations. Starting in the 2025-2026 school year:

- ECC will serve Little Cats preschool students, Parents as Teachers, and Wildcat Club
- HES will serve kindergarten through 2nd grade students,
- and McEowen will serve 3rd through 5th Grade students.

Another important focus of our year-one strategic efforts was on the

appropriate use of technology and cell phones in school. A dedicated committee reviewed research, gathered input from staff, students, and families, and examined best practices across school districts. Based on their recommendations, our Board of Education adopted a new policy—aligned with recent legislation (Senate Bill 68)—that restricts the use of cell phones, headphones, and smartwatches during the school day. Clear and consistent communication about this new policy will be shared with students and families throughout the summer.

Looking ahead to the 2025–2026 school year, we will continue our momentum with the completion of Year One action steps and the launch of Year Two initiatives. We will place a strong emphasis on student and staff well-being, while also strengthening our community partnerships and encouraging even greater family engagement. Updates on our Year Two strategic goals will be shared following the first semester.

While summer brings a time of rest and connection for families, our work behind the scenes continues. Our team is hard at work enhancing our school buildings through necessary repairs, upgrades, and improvements.

These efforts are part of our long-term facilities repair and replacement plan to ensure our buildings remain safe, secure, and ready to meet the evolving needs of our students.

Your continued support makes all of this possible. Because of you, Harrisonville Schools can offer a high-quality, future-focused education in a welcoming, forward-thinking environment.

As I've said before, I am truly excited about the future of our district. With the unwavering dedication of our staff, the strength of our community partnerships, and the energy and enthusiasm of our students, there is no limit to what we can accomplish together.

It's a Great Day to be a Wildcat! Thank you for being an essential part of our journey.

Josh Chastain, Ed.D.

Hands-on career experience for students, business partners needed

Harrisonville Schools is committed to inspiring life-long learners and developing contributing citizens. To advance that goal, two hands-on learning initiatives—Cass Career Center's Workforce Alliance Network (WAN) and Harrisonville High School's Real World Learning (RWL) program—are connecting students with real-world experiences by building partnerships with local businesses.

Cass Career Center is partnering for success and building the future workforce with the new Workforce Alliance Network (WAN). WAN bridges the gap between education and industry by developing meaningful partnerships be-

tween CCC and area businesses. These partnerships offer students hands-on experience through job shadowing, internships, mentoring, and other experiential learning, while giving businesses access to highly motivated, workforce-ready talent.

Through WAN, businesses can unlock opportunities and be part of something impactful. The program offers a seamless talent exchange with access to a steady pipeline of pre-trained, certified, and motivated students ready to hit the ground running. WAN business partners also earn recognition on CCC's platforms such as websites, newsletters, *(Continued on page 4)*



CCC student Christian Harris interns at Geiger Ready-Mix to test and pour concrete as part of the Workforce Alliance Network Program.



District welcomes new staff for 2025-26 school year

As the school year begins, the district welcomes new staff—and a few familiar ones—into the Wildcat family.

Mr. Travis Brave joins the district as the new assistant principal at Harrisonville High School, Mr. Chad Culpepper will fill the role of Harrisonville Middle School principal, and Mr. Chris Norris will be the new Harrisonville Middle School assistant principal.

Mr. Brave has served as athletic director/admin intern in the Center School District for the past five years. Prior to that, he taught at Center High School and Center Middle School. He has also taught at Smith-Hale Middle School in the Hickman Mills School District and Change Academy: Lake Ozark (CALO).

He earned his bachelor's degree in elementary education from McKendree University and has a master's in athletic administration from William Woods University. He earned an education specialist degree in secondary administration from William Woods University.

Mr. Culpepper served as the assistant principal for Harrisonville Middle School where he has worked for five years.

Prior to his current role, he served for three years as the head administrator at Harrisonville Christian School. Before that, he spent five and a half years teaching at Harrisonville Middle School.

Mr. Culpepper earned his master's degree from the University of Central Missouri and he earned his bachelor's degree from Evangel University. He is also a Harrisonville High School graduate. Mr. Culpepper was the Harrisonville Schools Educator of the Year in 2016.

Mr. Norris served in the Belton School District, where he has taught eighth grade advanced physical education and weights for the past four years and serves as varsity football offensive coordinator.

Before his time in Belton, Mr. Norris spent six years in Harri-



sonville Schools as a middle school physical education and health teacher. During that time, he also served as a varsity football and track coach.

Prior to this, Mr. Norris worked in the Aurora School District for five years in a variety of roles, including alternative education teacher, interventionist, and social studies teacher. He also held multiple coaching roles in Aurora, including assistant varsity football and track coach, and junior high track coach.

He earned his bachelor's degree in physical education from Missouri Southern State University and has a master's in educational administration from Lindenwood University.

He takes over for Mr. Chad Culpepper, who is transitioning to the role of Harrisonville Middle School principal.

In addition to the new administrative team, the district welcomes new teachers: Scott Adams, CCC construction tech; Kylie Bowman, HES kindergarten; Ty Green, HMS ELA; Sydney Heriford, HHS ELA; Hatley Herrick, HES kindergarten; Amanda Ledington, HMS math; Drew Long, HHS social studies; Jeana Mayfield, HHS spanish; Kathryn McCollum, McEowen music; Jada Middaugh, HES 1st grade; Amanda Pearce, HMS ELA; Dakota Schlechter, Childcare Director; Allisan Stephens, McEowen 4th grade; Kelsey Urioste, HES 2nd grade; Rance Waite, HES special education; and Emma Wernex, McEowen 5th grade.

Some of these faces are not

completely new to the district as they are Harrisonville High School graduates. Wildcat alumni returning home include Kylie Bowman, Amanda Ledington and Emma Wernex. During late July/early August, check our Facebook page for video introductions featuring our new teachers, www.facebook.com/HarrisonvilleSchools.

This school year brings a wave of exciting changes across the district, with many new faces joining our team, staff members stepping into new roles, and others transitioning to different buildings.

Pictured above from left to right: HHS Assistant Principal Travis Brave, HMS Principal Chad Culpepper, and HMS Assistant Principal Chris Norris.

Pictured below: Many of our new teachers enjoyed dinner and a bus tour of the district in late June.



Registration Coming Soon for 2025-26

Registration is coming soon for families with children attending Harrisonville Schools. All district families must provide proof of residency on an annual basis and the easiest way to do this is with your utility statement. Please keep your most recent utility statement for the school district's Residency Verification requirement.

Additional information regarding the residency verification process for Harrisonville Schools families for the 2025-26 school year will be provided by the district in July. If you have questions, contact the district's administrative offices at 380-2727.



Harrisonville Schools marks progress in first year of strategic plan

(Continued from page 1)

School Safety

Director of Communications Jill Filer reported on Strategy 4.4, which focuses on building a greater sense of safety through improved communication. This year, the district adopted the “I Love U Guys Foundation” standard response protocols and conducted safety drills in all buildings. The district also implemented the “Stop The Prop” campaign to remind students and staff to keep exterior doors closed. This plan was marked operational.

Instructional Practices and Curriculum Alignment

Knox also shared updates on two instructional strategies. Under Strategy 5.3, which aims to implement Professional Learning Community (PLC) practices, 27 staff members attended a national PLC conference. Each school has established leadership roles and guiding coalitions, with regular collaboration built into staff schedules. This work was deemed in progress.

Strategy 5.4 focuses on delivering a guaranteed and viable curriculum. The district provided time for curriculum writing, introduced a universal unit plan template, and adopted new, research-based resources in English language arts and math. This plan is also in progress.

Technology Guidelines

Technology Director Mike Diggs presented progress on Strategy 6.3, which addresses cell phone and wearable technology use. A committee was formed to study the issue, and surveys were conducted among students, staff, and parents. A recommendation was submitted to the Board of Education. The Board voted to approve the policy, which prohibits the display or use of electronic personal communication devices by all students. Following the approval of the policy, the plan was marked operational.

Each action plan represents a building block in the district’s continued focus on long-term success for students and staff. As the district looks

to year two, leaders will identify new action steps for 2025–26 while continuing the important work already underway. With a clear roadmap through 2029, the strategic plan ensures a focused, community-driven path forward for the district. The Strategic Planning Committee will meet again next spring to evaluate district progress.

To learn more about the dis-

trict’s strategic plan, visit www.harrisonvilleschools.org/about-us/strategicplan.

Pictured below: Superintendent Josh Chastain Ed.D. presenting to the strategic planning committee during the annual meeting on May 20th.



Hands-On Career Experience for Students, Business Partners Needed

(Continued from page 2)

and social media channels, as a valuable supporter and leader.

WAN is currently seeking business partners interested in hosting students for internships, job shadowing, and other experiential learning opportunities, particularly in fields such as agriculture, automotive technology, construction technology, criminal justice/crime scene investigation, EMT, fire science, health services, marketing, teaching professions, and welding technology. You can also visit the Cass Career Center website for more information on partnership requirements and upcoming opportunities. To learn more about how your business can get involved in the Workforce Alliance Network, contact Dr. Anne Hickman at (816) 380-3253 or anne.hickman@harrisonvilleschools.org.

Harrisonville High School is

preparing students for future success through its participation in the Kauffman Foundation’s Real World Learning (RWL) initiative. RWL is a Kansas City regional effort that connects schools and employers to ensure students graduate with real-world experiences that support a seamless transition into college, careers, or service.

RWL gives businesses early access to future talent and provides insight into students’ needs, interests, and motivations. It also offers companies fresh perspectives and increases their capacity to address important challenges that may not be urgent but are equally impactful.

Internships allow businesses to bring motivated students into their workforce who can contribute to meaningful projects and daily tasks across a wide range of fields, gaining real-world experience while helping your organization

achieve its goals, whether in person or virtually. Under the supervision of a qualified mentor, students apply what they’ve learned in the classroom while developing important skills for their future careers. Interns’ performance is evaluated by both their worksite supervisor and educator, ensuring the experience is valuable and aligned with their academic and career goals.

Local businesses with challenges in need of creative and innovative solutions can partner with students through client-connected projects. These experiences not only help organizations address real challenges, but provides students with valuable opportunities to develop problem-solving skills in a hands-on setting. Students collaborate with peers and professionals to tackle authentic issues presented by businesses, nonprofits, or community groups. Final products are evalu-

ated by both the client and educator, offering meaningful, practical outcomes for all involved.

The district is actively seeking local business partners to support RWL by offering experiential opportunities for students. Whether it’s hosting an intern or participating in a client connected project, local business partners can help shape the next generation of professionals while strengthening the local workforce.

To learn more about Real World Learning partnerships, contact Robin Colburn, Business Liaison, at (816) 380-3273, ext. 6842 or robin.colburn@harrisonvilleschools.org. You can also visit Harrisonvilleschools.org for more information.



Student success shines at the state and national level

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

- Four HHS track and field athletes competed at the state level. Kayleigh Norris earned third in the 1600-meter run and fifth in the 3200-meter run, earning All-State honors; Allie Hubler brought home 10th in discus and 11th in shot put; Paige Cribbs, earned 10th in javelin; and Charlee Wylde took 10th in pole vault.
- Wildcat golfers Bryson Wilkins and Zack Cook competed at the State Golf Tournament in May. This is the second year the two golfers competed at the state level.
- HHS seniors Katelyn Miller and Audrey Coffey earned Academic All-State honors in soccer. Katelyn Miller also received Class 2 All-State 2nd Team honors while junior Rylie Ingrassia was named Class 2 All-State Honorable Mention.
- CCC student Angelica Robertson, a senior from Belton High School, earned first place in Basic Health Care at the State SkillsUSA Competition securing her spot for nationals, while Gracyn Coin, a senior from Lone Jack High School, placed second in Basic Health Care.
- Six Cass Career Center Teaching Professions students competed at the Educators Rising State Competition in March. Four advanced to Nationals after strong showings, including Harrisonville's Megan Lalman, who earned

first place in STEM Lesson Planning & Delivery; Emma Holsten of Lone Jack, who placed second in Educators Rising Moment; Montana Mears of Drexel, who finished fourth in Support Service Interview & Presentation; and Sarah Torres of Harrisonville, who took fifth in TED Talk: The Effects of AI in Education. Lily Feece (Harrisonville) and AJ Junge (Archie) also represented CCC at state. At Nationals in Orlando, FL this June, Megan Lalman placed second in the STEM Lesson Planning & Delivery competition on the national stage.

- Six HHS students have been named by the KC Scholars program as scholarship recipients. Freshmen Breonna Johnson, Elissa Busby, Taylor Hollingsworth, and Mary Drabant earned a \$1,400 scholarship, which helps students begin saving for college early with matched contributions. Juniors Kaydence Grigsby and Annalise Malicoat earned the Traditional Scholarships worth up to \$50,000, designated for students attending Missouri State University. The KC Scholarship program was started by the Kauffman Foundation and provides scholarships to 9th and 11th graders, as well as adult learners.

- HHS music students brought home gold ratings from State Music Contest. Vocal soloists earning gold were Simon Claxton and Lacey Crespo. Band students earning gold were Jozie Tindle, bassoon solo and Elissa Busby, tenor sax solo.

- HHS junior Lacey Crespo was se-

lected to represent Harrisonville High School in the Missouri All-State Show Choir this July. Crespo was selected as one of only 15 sopranos from across the state.

- Five HMS students were selected for the Missouri Choral Directors Association Summer Honor Choirs. These choirs are made up of students from across the state of Missouri. Cheyenne Hayes, Dawson Jones, Shane Hawkins, and Addy Fisher auditioned and were selected for the 7/8 Honor Choir. Eden Gaines was selected for the 4/5/6 Honor Choir.

- HHS sophomore Anna Tews earned a coveted spot on Missouri DECA elite State Action Team. For the 2025-2026 school year, Anna will be MO DECA's Vice President of Membership.

- Five CCC students qualified for DECA's International Career Development Conference. Anna Tews earned first place in District 4 Leadership Delegate; Audrey Coffey and Luke DeVenney brought home third place in Buying & Merchandising Team Decision Making; and Conner Peeples & Lexi Quinley placed fifth in Project Management Sales Project.

Pictured clockwise from top: Kayleigh Norris; Bryson Wilkins and Zack Cook; Instructor Karli Enderle and Megan Lalman; Angelica Robertson and Gracyn Coin; and HMS Summer Honor Choir participants.





Partner organizations invest in student and staff success

Harrisonville Schools is supported by several volunteer-led partner organizations that make a meaningful difference for our students, staff, and families. These groups, made up of dedicated community members, contribute time, talent, and care to support programs, provide resources, and stay actively involved in our schools. Their efforts reflect the strong spirit of service that defines our Wildcat community.

• **Academic Booster Club** volunteers support both students and staff at HHS by providing awards to students who scored 30 or higher on the ACT, recognizing students who score well on AP exams, presenting academic letter awards to high school students, partnering with community businesses such as Culver's, Sonic, and What-a-Burger to reward students for first semester grades, presenting certificates and pins for students with a 4.0 GPA or higher, and providing gold cords for graduates with a cumulative GPA of 4.0 or higher. The Academic Booster Club is always looking for new ideas to honor academic achievements. The club meets seasonally, once in the fall, winter, and spring. For more information, contact Harrisonville High School Academic Booster Club president Laura Coffey at Hhsabc@harrisonvilleschools.org and like the Facebook page Harrisonville High School Academic Booster Club.

• **Harrisonville Athletic Booster Club** generates funds to support Harrisonville students who participate in 17 different activities. Over the last school year, the Harrisonville Athletic Booster Club has given back over \$20,000 to Harrisonville students. The school district leases Big Blue buses from the Harrisonville Athletic Booster Club for activities and athletic trips throughout the school year. Some of the activities include transporting students to and from Special Olympics, Job Olympics, Bright Futures events, Courtwarming candidates schools tour, 4th grade Rotary meeting at the Community Center, Middle School HATS competition, new teacher community tour, and countless athletic events for our sports teams. The Athletic Booster Club meets monthly and is always looking for new members, community involvement, and partnerships. The club meets on the third Wednesday of each month. For more information, contact Harrisonville Athletic Booster Club president Mike Johnson at Harrisonvilleathleticboosters@gmail.com and like the Facebook page Harrisonville Athletic Booster Club.

• **The Harrisonville Blue Note Boosters** is a parent booster organization that provides financial support to the vocal music programs at Harrisonville High School and Harrisonville Middle School. The group helps fund key needs for the choirs, such as hiring choreographers, travel costs for the Music Makers' annual overnight show, and assistance for families with choir-related fees. In recent years, the Blue Note Boosters have also funded materials for costume boxes and a drum platform, both built by dedicated volunteers. Their primary fundraiser is hosting a February show choir competition that welcomes nearly 20 visiting choirs and generates most of the group's annual budget. They have recently expanded their efforts with additional fundraisers, such as selling Wildcat blankets. The Blue Note Boosters meet on the third Monday of each month. For more information, contact Harrisonville Blue Note Booster president Ashley Shrout at Harrisonvillebluenoteboosters@gmail.com and like the Facebook page Harrisonville Blue Note Boosters.

• **Bright Futures Harrisonville** is a community-based initiative that helps students succeed by connecting their needs with resources through partnerships with local businesses, faith-based groups, parents, volunteers, and social services. The program aims to support students in becoming productive citizens by building relationships, addressing individual needs, and ensuring every child has the tools necessary for success. Bright Futures supports and expands efforts like the Food 4 Thought weekend food program, Stuff the Bus school supply drive, and Station 42, while also launching new programs to assist students. Using Facebook as a rapid response platform, the initiative strives to meet any student's basic needs within 24 hours, providing timely support to help every child thrive. Each school in the district has a Bright Futures Council made up of representatives from the partnership areas who meet regularly with school personnel to assess and develop plans to support students and meet school needs. For more information, contact Bright Futures Harrisonville advisory board chair Lacey Domnick at Brightfutures@harrisonvilleschools.org and like the Facebook page Bright Futures Harrisonville.



McEowen Elementary students who completed all of the #My42 challenges throughout the year packed boxes for The Food 4 Thought Backpack Program.

• **The Harrisonville Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)** works to support elementary students and staff by raising funds and lending a helping hand for school events, classroom needs, and various activities and programs. From organizing popular fundraisers like the annual trash bag sale to providing resources for special activities, the PTO plays a vital role in supporting a positive school environment. Beginning in the 2025–26 school year, the PTO will expand its efforts to include Harrisonville Middle School, shifting its focus from the Early Childhood Center to supporting students and staff in grades K–8. PTO meets several times throughout the school year. For more information, contact Harrisonville PTO president Amy Bowman at Harrisonvillepto@gmail.com and like the Facebook Page Wildcats PTO.

• **Harrisonville Public School Foundation** is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting and enhancing educational programs and activities throughout the Harrisonville School District. Its mission is to serve as a trusted steward of donations that advance student learning and academic excellence. The Foundation supports staff through teacher grants, advanced degree reimbursement, and recognition of the Educator of the Year. It also assists students with scholarships and leadership opportunities while engaging alumni and the community through events such as the Alumni and Friends Golf

Tournament and Wall of Fame inductions. The Foundation is committed to being fiscally responsible while energizing the community to support and expand educational opportunities in the district. The Foundation is comprised of a Board of Trustees who meet monthly. For more information about the Harrisonville Public School Foundation, contact Foundation School Relations Director Jayden Love at Jayden.love@harrisonvilleschools.org and like the Harrisonville Public School Foundation page on Facebook.

• **The Royal Guard Band Boosters** is a parent based organization whose mission is to support the Harrisonville High School Band program through volunteering and fundraising activities. The boosters supply financial support that is not covered through the school district's budget. The goal is to ensure the band students have the support they need to be successful musicians. The group organizes fundraising events throughout the year including the funnel cake booth at the Log Cabin Festival, the Royal Regiment Marching Festival, summer Sonic car-hopping, and a Fourth of July fireworks stand. The group also meets monthly for planning and discussion. For more information, contact Royal Guard Band Boosters president Brianna Blowers at royal-guardbandboosters@gmail.com and join the Harrisonville High School Royal Guard Band Boosters group on Facebook.

Together, these partner organizations make a lasting difference by recognizing achievements, meeting student needs, and creating meaningful opportunities throughout the district. Their ongoing support helps ensure our schools remain strong, student-centered, and connected to our community.



HHS Senior Aron Jones accepts scholarship from Harrisonville Public School Foundation Trustee Alice Roach at the Excellence in Academics Ceremony.



Welhoff, Holloway, Bullock earn end-of-the-year awards

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

Harrisonville Middle School vocal music teacher Austin Welhoff was named the Educator of the Year; Harrisonville High School journalism teacher Kaitlin Holloway received the Rising Star award; and Harrisonville Elementary School attendance secretary Beth Bullock was recognized as the Support Staff Employee of the Year.

Welhoff has worked as the vocal music teacher at HMS for four years and he has eight years total teaching experience. He is also a graduate of HHS.

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

The judges said, "He has a passion for the whole child. When asked what he'd do with unlimited funds, he wanted to ensure students had food and basic needs. He also puts an emphasis on building relationships with his students. He wants them to be successful, not just as musicians, but as people."

The Harrisonville Public School Foundation provided Welhoff with a \$500 grant.

The Rising Star Award seeks to recognize teachers in their first five



years of teaching and who have already demonstrated the ability to have a positive impact on students.

Kaitlin Holloway has been teaching journalism for three years; however she started at HHS as an attendance secretary then A+/assistant principals' secretary. She started as a long-term substitute teacher in journalism before getting her certification.

In her finalist video, Holloway said, "Harrisonville school district is a place to pursue dreams. It's a place to shoot for the stars and if you fail, you will land in a place that will help you try again. A place where dreams don't seem crazy, they seem possible. Yes, it's a close knit community and we often feel like a family, but I stay here because not only do I have the freedom to



fly, but I get to teach my students to do the same."

Holloway received a \$100 award from Community Bank of Harrisonville.

The Support Staff Employee of the Year, Beth Bullock, has worked in the district for 10 years, first as a paraprofessional and then the last eight as attendance secretary at HES. Bullock received a \$100 award from Sherwood Community Bank.

In her finalist essay, Bullock said, "As an attendance secretary, my goal is to make every student and parent feel safe, respected, and supported. The office doesn't need to be a scary place! I understand that some students may struggle to start their day. Whether it's offering an extra hug, listening to



them talk about their morning, letting them sit in the office to compose themselves, or even walking them to class, I am honored to help make their school experience more enjoyable. I take great pleasure in the hugs, waves, and smiles I receive throughout my day."

All the winners will be recognized on plaques at the district's administrative offices.

Left to right: Austin Welhoff, HMS vocal music teacher; Kaitlin Holloway, HHS journalism teacher; Beth Bullock, HES attendance secretary; and Superintendent Josh Chastain, who is pictured in each photo.



Homecoming 2025

Friday, September 19

Homecoming Parade - 1:30 p.m.

Homecoming Coronation - Pre-game, Approx. 6:30 p.m.

Homecoming Football Game vs. Warrensburg - 7 p.m.

Alumni & Friends Golf Tournament 2025

Friday, September 19

8 a.m.

Hoots Hollow Golf Course

\$100/Player

\$400/Team

\$125/\$500/\$1000 Sponsorship Levels

Register by scanning the QR code or at

www.harrisonvilleschools.org





Calendar of Events

Aug 1	Chamber First Friday Coffee, 7:30-9 a.m., Golden Years
Aug 2-19	Fall Sports Dead Week
Aug 5	Krispy Kreations, 2 p.m., CCPL-Teen
Aug 9	Afternoon Gaming for Adults, 2 p.m., CCPL-Adults
Aug 13	ECC Little Cats Preschool Orientation Night and PAT Kickoff, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Aug 14	Meet the Teacher
Aug 18	First Day of School (Full day for grades K-12)
Aug 18	Back to School, 2:30 p.m., CCPL-Teen
Aug 18	Mystery Maker Monday, ages 8-12, 6:30 pm, CCPL-Children
Aug 18-23	HFAA Members Only Art Show, CCPL
Aug 21	Chamber luncheon, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m., Chamber Office
Aug 23	First Light and Fae Fantasy Book Club, 9:30 a.m., CCPL-Teen
Aug 25	HES Fall Picture Day
Aug 25	HMS Fall Picture Day
Aug 25	Lego Club, 6:30 p.m., CCPL-Children
Aug 26	Dinner's on Me-Teen Supper Club, 5:30 p.m., CCPL-Teen
Aug 26	Bright Futures #My42 Day
Aug 26	Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., Admin Office
Aug 27	McE Fall Picture Day
Aug 27	Bingo for Books, 6 p.m., CCPL-Adult
Sept 1	No School-Labor Day
Sept 5	First Friday Coffee, 7:30-9 a.m., Prime Accounting Solutions
Sept 4	Pulmonary Support Group Meeting, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., CRMC, Conf. Rm 1-3
Sept 8	ECC Fall Pictures
Sept 8-Oct 16	Baseball/Softball/T-Ball Registration, Harrisonville Community Center
Sept 11	HES Culvers Night, 5 p.m.-8 p.m.
Sept 13-Oct 18	Volleyball/Flag Football Registration, Harrisonville Community Center
Sept 15	No School-Staff Learning & Collaboration
Sept 16	Stop the Bleed (free class), 5-6:30 p.m., CRMC, Conference Room 1-2
Sept 16	Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., Admin Office
Sept 16-19	Homecoming Spirit Week
Sept 17	CCC Culvers Night, 5-8 p.m.
Sept 18	Chamber Luncheon, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m., Chamber Office
Sept 19	Homecoming Parade, 1:30 p.m.
Sept 19	Homecoming Football Game vs. Warrensburg, 7 p.m.
Sept 20	Afternoon Gaming for Adults, 2 p.m., CCPL-Adult
Sept 20	COH Wings and Wheels-A day of aviation fun, Lawrence Smith Memorial Airport
Sept 23	Bright Futures #My42 Day
Sept 23	Dinner's on Me-Teen Supper Club, 5:30 p.m., CCPL-Teen
Sept 24	Genealogy presents: Noir Nibbles, 6 p.m., CCPL-Adult

Sept 27	HHS Band Competition-Carrollton
Sept 30	HMS Culver's Night, 5-8 p.m.
Oct 3-4	Log Cabin Festival on the Harrisonville Square
Oct 4	FFA Petting Zoo, Log Cabin Festival, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Oct 7	Culver's Night-HHS, 5-8 p.m.
Oct 11	HHS Band Competition-Odessa
Oct 12-13	DECA Fall Leadership Conference
Oct 13-16	HES Book Fair
Oct 13-16	ECC Book Fair
Oct 14-16	MCE Book Fair
Oct 14	McE Culver's Night, 5-8 p.m.
Oct 14	HMS Choir Concert, 7 p.m., HHS PAC
Oct 16	Chamber Luncheon, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m., Chamber Office
Oct 16	HHS Fall Choir Concert, 7-9 p.m., HHS PAC
Oct 18	HHS All District Choir/All State Choir Auditions
Oct 18	9th-10th Honor Choir Auditions
Oct 18	Afternoon Gaming for Adults, 2 p.m., CCPL-Adult
Oct 18	Royal Regiment Invitational, 8 p.m., Memorial Stadium
Oct 20	No School-Staff Learning & Collaboration
Oct 21	HMS, ECC, HES, McE, Fall Picture Retakes
Oct 21	Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., Admin Office
Oct 21	HHS Band Benefit Concert, 7 p.m., HHS PAC
Oct 22	Bingo for Books, 6 p.m., CCPL-Adult
Oct 22	CTSO Bonfire, 6 p.m., Red Barn Ranch
Oct 25	HHS State Marching Band Festival
Oct 25	COH Fall Stream Cleanup Event
Oct 28-31	National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN
Oct 28	Bright Futures #My42 Day
Oct 30-31	No School - Parent/Teacher Conferences

CCPL Harrisonville Branch Programs

Children's Programming, Mondays 6:30 p.m., CCPL-Children
Baby Bounce Storytime, ages 0-24 months, Tuesdays 11 a.m., CCPL-Children
Toddler Time, ages 24-36 months, Wednesdays 11 a.m., CCPL-Children
Minecraft Club, Ages 6-10, Wednesdays 4:30 p.m., CCPL-Children
Preschool Storytime, ages 3-5 years, Thursdays 11 a.m., CCPL-Children
Ultimate Game Zone, Thursdays 2:45 p.m., CCPL-Teen
Girls Who Code, Grades 3-5, Thursdays 4:30 p.m., CCPL-Children
Bunco, First Saturday of every month, 10 a.m.
Hobby Club, First Wednesday of every month, 5:45 p.m.
Mystery Book Club, Second Tuesday of every month, 4 p.m.
Brown Bag Book Club, Second Thursday of every month, 12 p.m.
Taste of Adventure, Third Wednesday of every month, 6:30 p.m.
Open Minds Book Club, Third Friday of every month, 1 p.m.

- *CCPL - Cass County Public Library
 - *CRMC - Cass Regional Medical Center
 - *PAC - Performing Arts Center
 - *COH - City of Harrisonville
 - *HPR - Harrisonville Parks & Recreation

Staying connected to, informed about our district

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

District Website

www.harrisonvilleschools.org

In the District News area of the website, anyone can access the most current news and information updates. This is the “go to” location for district news. The website also includes calendars, lunch menus, school board meeting agendas and summaries, and links to individual building web pages.

Connections

A twice-monthly e-mail newsletter

from the district office which includes news, school board information, and event/activity dates. How do I sign up? District parents will automatically receive the newsletter, however, anyone in the community can receive it. Please email

jayden.love@harrisonvilleschools.org to be added to the distribution list.

Facebook

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

District App

The district app was developed to provide parents and community members with the most needed information in a mobile, on-the-go format.

You can download the free district app through the Google Play store or the App store. Search for Harrisonville Schools.

This app provides information, including a staff directory with immediate connection to phone and email, current news, a calendar, sports schedules, website access, and access to Campus Parent. You can also sign up to receive push notifications based on your personal preferences.

Campus Parent

You can also sign up to receive push notifications based on your personal preferences. Campus Parent emails, phone calls, and text messages are sent using the contact information in Campus Parent. Parents are strongly encouraged to ensure contact information is up to date.

The portal also offers parents access to their student’s attendance, grades, and meal account balance.

Please note that the district will use the most direct communication for all information. If the information is for families, it will be sent via email, phone or text using the contact information provided in the Campus Parent. Connections is intended for a wider audience to include our community. The most recent edition is always available on the district website in the Quick Links section.

For additional information on any of these information sources, contact Jayden Love, Director of Communications, at 380-2727, ext. 1224 or jayden.love@harrisonvilleschools.org.