HARRISONVILLE Highlights

SUMMER 2026



HARRISONVILLE SCHOOLS

A HARRISONVILLE SCHOOLS PUBLICATION

In This Issue

2 Your Support at Work

4 Portrait of a Wildcat: Defining Success Together

6 HHS Senior Receives Baritone Saxophone Through Band of Angels

6 Harrisonville High School Student Elected Missouri DECA President

7 Partnering for Student Success

8 Academic Growth Worth Celebrating

8 The Roar Earns National Recognition

9 2026-27 Calendar and Back to School Reminders

A new look for Harrisonville Highlights

For more than two decades, Harrisonville Highlights has served as Harrisonville Schools' signature printed publication, helping share the stories of our schools with the Harrisonville community. While the ways we communicate have changed over the years, the purpose has remained the same: celebrating our students and staff, sharing important district information, and highlighting the many things happening across Harrisonville Schools.

To better serve our readers, this edition of Harrisonville Highlights introduces a new magazine-style format. This new format creates more opportunities to highlight the work, learning, accomplishments, and activities taking place throughout our district. You'll also find a calendar in the back of this issue (page 9) designed to help families keep track of important dates and events throughout the semester.

With this new format, Harrisonville Highlights will be published twice each year. This gives us the opportunity to share more meaningful stories and provide a broader look at what is happening across Harrisonville Schools.

As you turn the pages, we hope you'll find reasons to celebrate, opportunities to learn more, and a glimpse into the many experiences that shape life in Harrisonville Schools.

STAY CONNECTED

@HarrisonvilleSchools
@harrisonvilleschools
@HarrisonvilleSchools
@HarrisonvilleSchools

OUR SCHOOLS

Administrative Offices
503 S. Lexington • 380-2727

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

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

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

McEowen Intermediate School
1901 S. Halsey • 380-4545
Grades 3-5
Dr. Jason Farnsworth, 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 THE SUPERINTENDENT

Reflecting on Three Years, Looking Ahead





As I reflect on my three years as superintendent of Harrisonville Schools, I am grateful for the progress we have made together. While there is always more work to do, I have seen what is possible when our community comes together around a shared vision and a commitment to students.

Over the past three years, we have advanced the goals in our strategic plan. We have expanded opportunities through Little Cats Preschool, Wildcat Club and Real World Learning; strengthened safety; supported staff through curriculum and professional learning; and engaged our community in important conversations through efforts such as the Portrait of a Wildcat and Prop One. Throughout this work, our Board of Education has provided steady leadership.

Our greatest successes are not measured solely by programs, projects or initiatives. They are reflected in the people who make Harrisonville Schools such a special place. The relationships among students, staff, families and community members continue to move our district forward.

This year, one of my favorite examples was a new tradition celebrating staff. Every employee received a custom Harrisonville Schools baseball-style jersey personalized with their last name and the year they joined the district. These jerseys became a symbol of Wildcat Pride, commitment and belonging. Retiring staff members now receive a framed jersey to honor their dedication, a meaningful reminder that our people are our greatest strength.

I see that same commitment throughout our community. Whether you completed a survey, attended an input session or community presentation, volunteered, supported Prop One, or encouraged a student, thank you. Our successes are possible because of a community that cares deeply about its schools and embodies Wildcat Pride.

As we look ahead, we must remain vigilant regarding the legislative and funding landscape surrounding public education. We must protect the opportunities our students have today while ensuring future Wildcats have access to those same opportunities. That means remaining good stewards of taxpayer dollars, protecting school resources, and continuing to advocate for students and public education.

I hope this issue of Harrisonville Highlights offers a glimpse into the work taking place across our district. I am proud of our students, grateful for our staff, and thankful for a community that continues to support our schools.

Thank you for your continued support of Harrisonville Schools.

It's a Great Day to be a Wildcat!



Josh Chastain, Ed.D.

HARRISONVILLE SCHOOLS

PROP ONE

Strengthening Our [illegible] Future.

IN PROGRESS

Your Support at Work

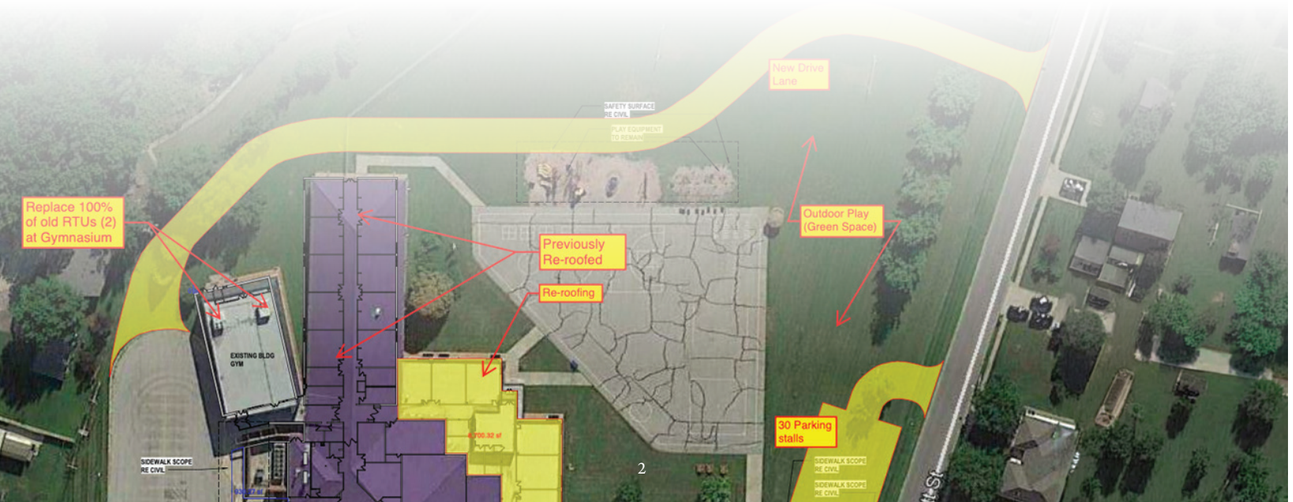
On April 7, 2026, Harrisonville voters approved Prop One, a $38 million, zero tax-rate increase bond issue focused on three priorities: safety and security, student opportunities, and infrastructure improvements. Passing at 69.05%, voters did more than approve a bond issue, they invested in the future, strengthening Harrisonville Schools and helping to shape the future for our Wildcats.

Prop One was developed following facility needs assessments, community survey feedback, and long-term planning efforts conducted by the district and Board of Education. Throughout the informational campaign, the district shared regular updates through social media, newsletters, printed materials, the Prop One website, and more than 45 community presentations designed to inform residents about the bond issue, its objectives, and the opportunities it would provide throughout the district.

While the election result marked a significant milestone, it was only the beginning of the process.

"Passing the bond was the first step," Superintendent Dr. Josh Chastain said. "Now our focus is on ensuring each project is planned thoughtfully and completed responsibly. We want to make the most of the community's investment while minimizing disruptions for students, staff, families, and the community."

The district has been diligently taking steps after the passage of Prop One to set up for the next several years of work to be done. When voters approve a bond issue, the district does not receive the funding immediately. At the May 19 Board of Education meeting the sale of bonds was approved. As of June 30, funds were received by the district.



Bond funding also comes with specific timelines. Once the district receives bond funds, regulations require that at least 85% of those funds be spent within three years. While some projects will begin taking shape this fall, Prop One is a multi-year effort that will continue bringing improvements to Harrisonville Schools over the next several years.

In the meantime, the district has been working with architects, designers, contractors, and project partners to evaluate facilities, develop designs, coordinate schedules, and create plans for construction. While much of the planning work has occurred behind the scenes, community members can expect to see dirt moving and construction activity beginning this fall.

Some of the first visible signs of progress may include work on the Harrisonville High School athletics complex, including the new baseball/softball combination field and tennis courts, the Harrisonville Elementary School drive loop, as well as roofing and parking lot improvements at several district buildings.

As projects move forward, the district's goal is to strategically coordinate work to minimize disruptions to classrooms, student activities, traffic patterns, and the community whenever possible. The order in which projects begin and are completed is not a reflection of priority, but rather a reflection of when they can be completed with the least amount of disruption.

Over the coming months and years, Harrisonville Schools will provide regular updates as work progresses and key milestones are reached. Community members can follow along through the Prop One webpage, parent newsletters, social media, Board of Education reports, and other district communications.

Your support made Prop One possible, and now that support is at work across Harrisonville Schools. While many projects are still in the planning stages, the work is underway. The district looks forward to sharing progress, milestones, and project updates as these improvements begin taking shape throughout the coming months and years.

From Planning to Progress

FACILITY NEEDS + COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Prop One began with assessments, community input and long-term planning focused on safety, opportunities and infrastructure.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION CAMPAIGN

The district shared information through newsletters, social media, printed materials, the website and more than 45 presentations.

APRIL 7, 2026: VOTERS APPROVE PROP ONE

Voters approved the $38 million, zero tax-rate increase bond issue with 69.05% support.

MAY 19, 2026: BOND SALE APPROVED

The Board of Education approved the bond sale, moving Prop One toward implementation.

JUNE 30, 2026: FUNDS RECEIVED

Bond funds became available, beginning the three-year timeline to spend at least 85% of funds.

SUMMER 2026: PLANNING CONTINUES

Project partners began evaluating facilities, finalizing designs and coordinating construction schedules.

FALL 2026: CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

Early work may include the HHS athletics complex, HES drive loop, roofing and parking lot improvements.

NEXT SEVERAL YEARS: CONTINUED PROGRESS

Projects will continue across the district, with updates shared through district communication channels.

Portrait of a Wildcat: Defining Success Together

How community partnerships are helping shape a shared vision for Harrisonville students.

What qualities, skills, and mindsets do we hope every Harrisonville student develops during their time in our schools?

That question brought together students, parents, staff, alumni, and community members this summer as Harrisonville Schools began developing a Portrait of a Wildcat, a shared vision for the traits and competencies our community believes are most important for lifelong success.

The committee met throughout May and June to discuss the qualities, skills, and mindsets students need beyond academics. Through brainstorming activities and small-group discussions, participants explored what they hope all Harrisonville students will develop throughout their educational journey.

The work is rooted in the district's Strategic Plan and specifically supports Strategy 1.3, which calls for Harrisonville Schools to utilize community partnerships to support a soft skills curriculum. The Portrait of a Wildcat initiative represents the next step by bringing together stakeholders to define a shared vision for student success.

The concept is based on a Portrait of a Graduate, a collective, community-defined vision that outlines the skills, competencies, and character traits students need for college, career, and life. Harrisonville Schools intentionally chose the name Portrait of a Wildcat because the district's goal extends beyond preparing students for graduation. Instead, the initiative seeks to create a community-driven vision for student success that begins in preschool and continues throughout a student's educational journey.

For committee member and parent Amy Bowman, the opportunity to contribute to that vision was important.

> "I believe this work is important because our schools help shape not only what our children learn, but who they become as adults," Amy said. "As a parent and community member, I am grateful to have a voice in shaping that vision."







To ensure the portrait reflects broader community perspectives, Harrisonville Schools also distributed a survey to students, families, staff, and community members. The survey provided an opportunity for additional voices to contribute ideas and identify the qualities that matter most.

As discussions progressed, committee members emphasized the importance of skills that will help students succeed in all areas of life.

> "I am excited to see Harrisonville Schools' focus on the Portrait of a Wildcat and the development of soft skills," Harrisonville Police Department Chief Darla Harris said. "Communication, collaboration, and problem-solving are essential life skills that will help our students succeed in school, the workplace, and their personal lives. I am excited to serve on this committee and to help prepare our youth to meet future challenges with confidence and character."

The outcome will be the district's Portrait of a Wildcat, identifying five to seven key skills and competencies that every student should have opportunities to develop throughout their time in Harrisonville Schools. Once established, these competencies will guide staff in creating implementation plans and learning experiences for students from prekindergarten through 12th grade.

Ultimately, the Portrait of a Wildcat will serve as a shared vision for the qualities, skills, and mindsets our community hopes all Harrisonville students will develop. It will help guide future decisions and ensure Harrisonville Schools continues preparing students not only for graduation, but for lifelong success.

You Made This Happen!

Earlier this year, the Wildcat community rallied for T-Mobile's Friday Night 5G Lights competition helping Harrisonville High School earn $55,000 including the Magenta Fan Favorite Award. The funding helped replace the storm damaged Memorial Stadium scoreboard, creating a lasting improvement for student athletes, performers and Wildcat fans.

Thank you to everyone who voted, shared and supported the Wildcats. You helped make it happen.

Meet the Board of Education



Emily Stone
PRESIDENT
Years of Service: 5
Current Term Elected: 2025
Term Ends: April 2028



Douglas Meyer
VICE PRESIDENT
Years of Service: 9
Current Term Elected: 2021
Term Ends: April 2027



Doug Alexander
BOARD MEMBER
Years of Service: 9
Current Term Elected: 2021
Term Ends: April 2027



Cameron Chenoweth
BOARD MEMBER
Years of Service: 4
Current Term Elected: 2026
Term Ends: April 2029



Michael Culpepper
BOARD MEMBER
Years of Service: 4
Current Term Elected: 2026
Term Ends: April 2029



Ashley Franklin
BOARD MEMBER
Years of Service: 4
Current Term Elected: 2026
Term Ends: April 2029



Jenny Wagoner
BOARD MEMBER
Years of Service: 5
Current Term Elected: 2025
Term Ends: April 2028

HHS Senior Receives Baritone Saxophone Through Band of Angels

A Harrisonville High School senior recently received a meaningful gift to support his passion for music.

On April 1, Tucker Snook was presented with a brand-new baritone saxophone through Band of Angels, an organization that helps students access instruments so they can continue pursuing music. The gift was especially notable because baritone saxophones are not typically distributed through the program due to their high cost.

Snook, who was surprised and grateful for the instrument, said it will allow him to further explore jazz and continue growing as a musician. During his time at Harrisonville High School, he has been involved in band, jazz band, theater, the HHS Audio Visual Team and National Honor Society. He has also served as band president, band section leader and drama club vice president.

Snook has earned several music honors, including first chair baritone saxophone in the all-district jazz band, first chair contra clarinet in the conference band, a district gold rating and a state silver rating in solo and small ensemble.

“Tucker is a phenomenal student, but an even better person,” said HHS band instructor Nathaniel Orr. “He is dedicated to improving himself and encouraging others in a kind and positive way. I am so proud of him.”

After high school, Snook plans to attend Columbia College Chicago to study acting for stage and screen and jazz, with a minor in voice acting.



Harrisonville High School student elected Missouri DECA president



Harrisonville High School and Cass Career Center student Anna Tews has been elected president of Missouri DECA for the 2026-27 term.

As president, Tews will represent and support thousands of DECA members across the state while helping guide leadership initiatives, conferences and programming. She previously served as Missouri DECA’s vice president of membership, where she supported local chapters, led member engagement efforts and advocated for Career and Technical Education with state legislators.

Tews has earned statewide and regional recognition, including Missouri DECA’s Central Region Member of the Month in September 2025. She has also qualified for the DECA International Career Development Conference multiple times and placed first as a District 4 Leadership Delegate in 2025.

“Anna is one of the most passionate, hardworking, and driven students I’ve had the opportunity to work with,” said Amy Schroeder, Cass Career Center marketing instructor and DECA sponsor.

Tews said her DECA experience has been transformational and encourages other students to use DECA as an opportunity to grow as leaders and build connections.

Partnering for Student Success

Finding the right balance in your student’s education can be difficult. Family support and engagement are crucial to academic, social and behavioral well-being. As we begin the 2026-27 school year, here are tips and questions to help families connect with teachers and support learning at home.

Attendance Matters

Regular school attendance is important and helps set students up for success. Attending school each day allows students to stay engaged, build relationships and fully participate in school experiences. When possible, we encourage families to schedule vacations and extended trips during planned school breaks.

Build Routines That Support Success

Having a routine can help create attendance expectations. Mornings can be hectic and overwhelming. Here are some strategies to help start the day right:

- **Save time in the morning** by making sure your student’s clothes, backpack, and school essentials are ready before they go to bed each night.
- **Establish a morning routine** that helps your student start the day, including getting dressed, taking care of personal hygiene, and eating breakfast if they choose.
- **Visual schedules and timers** can be helpful tools for keeping students on track and reminding them what needs to be done each morning.

While mornings help students get ready for school, evenings are also important. Routines that include homework time, limited screen time, conversations about the day, healthy eating and good sleep can help students be successful.

Stay Connected with Teachers

Maintaining communication with your student’s teachers is an important part of family engagement. Meet the Teacher night and parent/teacher conferences are great times to connect, ask questions and learn more about your student’s progress. Questions you may ask at parent/teacher conferences:

- How well does my child participate in class?
- Is my child organized and ready to learn in your class?
- Does my child use class time wisely?
- What are my child’s strengths?
- What is an area or skills you think my child needs to work on at home or at school?
- What can I do at home to help my child be successful?

Keep the Conversation Going at Home

One of the most important ways families can support learning is by staying engaged in conversations about school. Taking time to ask students what they learned, enjoyed, found challenging and how they are growing can make a meaningful difference. These conversations reinforce the value of education and strengthen the connection between home and school.

A student’s success is built through partnership between school and home. The habits, support and encouragement students receive inside and outside the classroom play an important role in their growth. By working together, families and schools can help students build the skills, confidence and relationships they need to thrive. We are grateful for our Wildcat Family and look forward to another great school year.



2026-27 VACATION PLANNER

To help families plan ahead, we’ve included extended weekends and breaks below, along with the first semester calendar on Page 9.

LABOR DAY
Sept. 5-7 (3 days)

PD Weekend
Sept. 19-21 (3 days)

PD Weekend
Oct. 17-19 (3 days)

Long Weekend
Oct. 30-Nov. 1 (3 days)

Thanksgiving Break
Nov. 25-29 (5 days)

Winter Break
Dec. 19-Jan. 4 (15 days)

MLK Day
Jan. 16-18 (3 days)

PD Weekend
Jan. 30-Feb. 1 (3 days)

Presidents' Day
Feb. 13-15 (3 days)

PD Weekend
March 6-8 (3 days)

Spring Break
March 20-29 (10 days)

PD Weekend
April 10-12 (3 days)

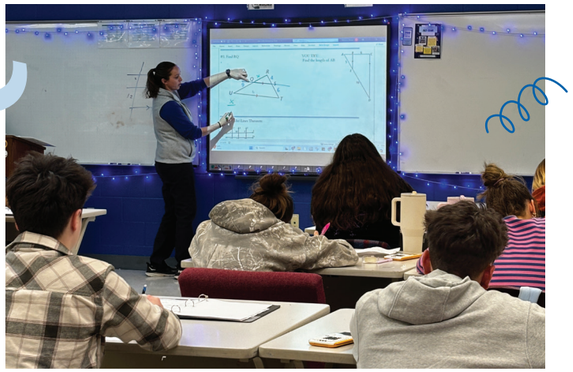
Academic Growth

Worth Celebrating

As preliminary state assessment scores from the last year become available and are prepared to be shared with families, academic progress throughout the district is being noted and celebrated! Guided by our Strategic Plan, teachers and staff have worked to strengthen instructional practices and provide a viable curriculum for all students. District curriculum specialists and instructional coaches play an important role in this work by supporting teachers, facilitating professional learning, and helping ensure instructional practices align with district goals.

We will continue to focus our professional learning on academic growth for students. Through internal surveys regarding our Professional Learning Mondays, we are able to plan and provide time for staff development and learning. In the 2026-27 school year, our professional learning focus will be around creating a culture of growth and learning to ensure all students are learning at high levels. To support this work, Harrisonville Schools has partnered with internationally recognized presenter and practitioner Dr. Regina Stephens Owens. Throughout the year, she will provide guidance and learning opportunities to support teachers and staff as we continue to strengthen instruction and student learning.





Our teachers and staff have worked hard to ensure that we are learning new strategies and practices to best serve students. We look forward to sharing and celebrating this academic growth and the continued progress of our students.

The Roar Earns National Recognition

For the second consecutive year, Harrisonville High School's yearbook, *The Roar*, earned Walsworth's Gallery of Excellence Award. Led by HHS journalism teacher Kaitlin Holloway, the student yearbook staff earned the recognition for its 2025-26 yearbook, Embrace to Ignite, which was recognized among the top 5% of yearbooks printed by Walsworth for its quality of work.

The Gallery of Excellence recognizes yearbooks that demonstrate thoughtful planning, strong storytelling, and a commitment to capturing the spirit of their school community. Yearbooks selected for the honor are used as teaching tools for programs across the country and are showcased at workshops and training events.

The recognition reflects the dedication, creativity, and countless hours invested by the student staff throughout the school year as they worked to tell the story of Harrisonville High School.



2026-27 Calendar

● No School ● Board Meetings

AUGUST 2026

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/31	24	25 ●	26	27	28	30

SEPTEMBER 2026

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 ●	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 ●	16	17	18	19
20	21 ●	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER 2026

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 ●	20 ●	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 ●	31

NOVEMBER 2026

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 ●	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 ●	27 ●	28
29	30					

DECEMBER 2026

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 ●	16	17	18	19
20	21 ●	22 ●	23 ●	24 ●	25 ●	26
27	28 ●	29 ●	30 ●	31 ●		

JANUARY 2027

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1 ●	2
3	4 ●	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 ●	19 ●	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

Back to School Reminders:

ECC Open House
August 19, 2026

Meet the Teacher
August 20, 2026

First Day of School
August 24, 2026

School Supply lists available now

School Start/End Times:
CCC - 7:40 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
HHS - 7:35 a.m. - 2:40 p.m.
HMS - 7:25 a.m. - 2:32 p.m.
McEowen - 8:40 a.m. - 3:49 p.m.
HES - 8:40 a.m. - 3:49 p.m
ECC - 8:00 a.m.- 3:10 p.m.

Harrisonville Schools
503 S. Lexington
Harrisonville, MO 64701
816-380-2727

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Harrisonville, MO
64701
Permit No. 29

POSTAL CUSTOMER

Homecoming 2026

Friday, September 18

1:30 p.m.
Homecoming Parade

Approximately 6:30 p.m.
Homecoming Coronation - Pre-game

7:00 p.m.
Homecoming Football Game vs. Center

Alumni & Friends Golf Tournament 2026

Hosted by: Harrisonville Public School Foundation

FRIDAY, SEPT. 18, 2026
Hoots Hollow Golf Course at Country Creek
8 a.m. shotgun start

COST:
$100 per individual & $400 per team
Includes greens fees, cart and lunch

SPONSORSHIPS:
$125, $200, $500, $750 and $1,000 levels available

Scan Code to Register

