

Mehlville Messenger

A Mehlville School District Publication

New high school course links math to real-world, hands-on use

Students in the new Geometry in Construction (GIC) class at Mehlville High School learned geometry and construction in a very tangible way. They built a storage shed for MOSAIC Elementary.

The Geometry in Construction course provides students with opportunities for real-world application of geometry principles. In addition to learning mathematics, students also gain hands-on understanding of construction methods, construction safety and tools.

“I wanted to take this class because I want to become an architect. This was the closest thing I could do in my high school career, and it seemed fun and different from a normal math class,” said Zachary Thomason, Mehlville High School senior who took the class as a sophomore. “We’ve learned a lot about construction, different measurements and tools.”

Students begin the course in the classroom learning geometry. Then, they’re introduced to construction tools.

“I learn a lot better doing hands-on activities, and that has been my favorite part of this experience,” said Maddie Kordik, MHS senior who took the class as a sophomore. “We get to learn how to build things by using the geometry we learn in class.”

The MOSAIC Elementary School shed project began during the 2019-2020 school year. After practicing with tools on smaller projects, students began applying geometry skills to design and construct the shed. The process included a client meeting with MOSAIC Elementary principal Dr. Scott Clark and conducting detailed measurements for the shed’s future location.

Students were making progress on the shed before the project had to be put on hold in March 2020 when schools across the country shifted to virtual learning because of COVID-19. With students learning from home, there was no way for construction to be completed.

The process began again with a new group of students at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, with students learning geometry and tool skills before beginning construction. In May, students deconstructed the shed they had built on the Mehlville High School campus, transported it across Lemay Ferry Road and reconstructed it in its permanent location at MOSAIC Elementary.

“In the GIC classroom, real-life calculations and estimations are being used in every part of our class,” said Stephanie Guliano, Mehlville High teacher. “This is how mathematics was meant to be taught: Real-life application and hands-on learning.”

Students at Mehlville High School and Oakville High School can enroll in Geometry in Construction any year of high school after completing Algebra I.



Above: Mehlville High School Geometry in Construction students with their completed shed at MOSAIC Elementary School.

Left: 2019-2020 Geometry in Construction students Adrian Gomez, Darren Green, Taylor Kordik and Izayah Hannam-Lewis collaborate on a project.

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The *Mehlville Messenger* is published by the Communications Department four times a year for Mehlville School District residents, businesses and families. Its purpose is to inform the public of district news, student achievements and community involvement activities. Please submit questions, letters and comments to:

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

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



Mehlville School District is proud to be a National District of Character.



Mehlville School District

FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

The promise of a better year

It is hard to believe summer is almost over and we will be welcoming our students back to school in a few short days. As the parent of a recent graduate and a current senior, I can say these years go by quickly; enjoy them while they last.

As we begin this new school year, we are already starting to see improvements being made to district facilities thanks to the passage of Prop S. The work to upgrade the Oakville baseball/softball field has already started, with similar plans for the Mehlville fields coming. Project planning is underway for many more improvements, including school security entrances, the replacement of aging HVAC and roofs, and improvements to parking at many of our buildings. We have come a long way in six years from when our community first came together to support Prop R to increase education resources in our schools. While the Mehlville School District is still on a tight budget, we are set up to see further improvements in the coming years.

As we come into this year, COVID-19 is once again showing itself with the Delta variant leading to increased cases across our community. This year has the promise

to be better than last year, but we also know it will have its own set of challenges. Working together, as neighbors in a strong community do, we will be able to overcome them for our children and for each other.

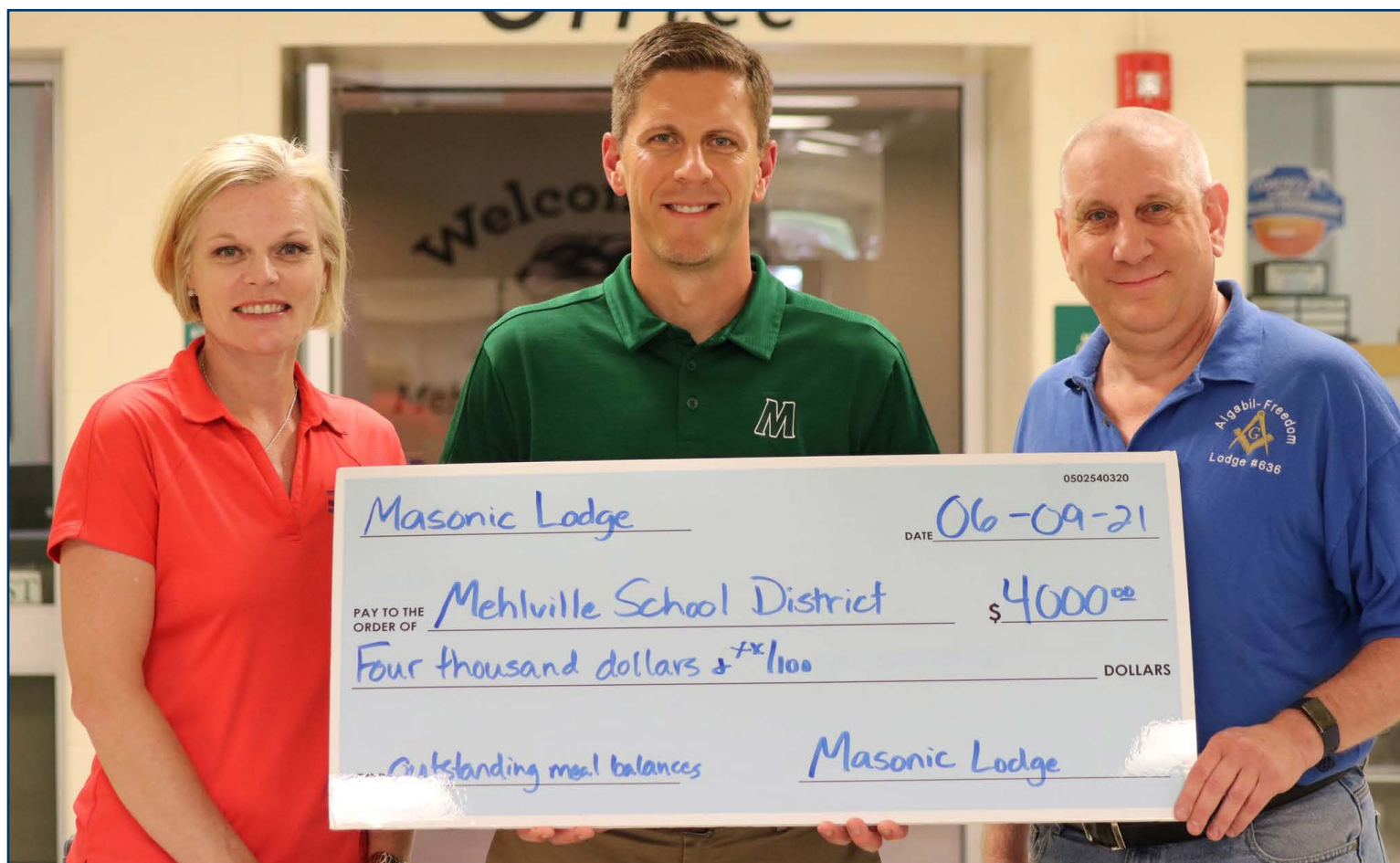
Best wishes to all of our students for a great and inspiring school year! I can't wait to see what our children accomplish this year.

Kevin Schartner



Crews replaced a portion of the roof at Mehlville High School this summer. See more facilities work on page 4.

Local organization pays off \$4,000 in student meal debt



Thank you to Rodney Kleine (pictured at right) and Algabil-Freedom Lodge No. 636 for presenting Mehlville Food Services with a \$4,000 check to help cover outstanding meal account balances for 330 students. We appreciate your generosity! From left, Katie Gegg, director of School Food and Nutrition Services, and Dr. Jason Landherr, principal of Mehlville High School, accept the donation.



Planning a bright future for our schools and students

Since 2014 the Mehlville School District has been engaging families and the community about the future of the district. In the fall of 2019, we focused our engagement on questions to help build the next iteration of our strategic plan. As we were wrapping up that process, schools were shut down due to COVID-19.

While COVID-19 delayed our timeline for finalizing the strategic plan, we continued working on drafting the document that will guide our future work. As we reviewed feedback from parents, students, staff and community members, two big themes emerged: safety and personalization. Those themes are woven into the major components of the plan that I will present to the Board of Education at their meeting in August. These components are safety, student preparation, access and opportunity, employee support, and being an effective and efficient system. I encourage you to learn more about our strategic plan by watching the livestream of the board meeting, starting at 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 19, via our YouTube channel, youtube.com/mehlvilleschools.

The safety portion of the plan involves both our schools' physical spaces and buildings, and human well-being and personal safety. Prop S funds many of the safety improvements to buildings over the next few years. You can find updates of Prop S projects on our website. The current bid environment has caused inflated prices, leading us to choose to delay some projects.

We are looking forward to starting on other elements of our plan soon. Implementation will start this fall and will continue through the 2025-2026 school year.

Preparing for the 2021-2022 school year

We are excited for the start of school on August 25. It is hard to believe the

Class of 2034 will be starting kindergarten this year, but here we are, preparing to teach a new group of young children.

The summer has been full of projects around the district.

- Forder Elementary students and staff will return to a new HVAC system funded by Prop S.
- Mehlville High, Blades Elementary, Oakville Middle, and Forder Elementary each had roofing projects completed.
- Beasley Elementary and John Cary Early Childhood Center have roof work slated that we hope to get finished by the start of school.
- Work on the softball/baseball field at Oakville High will continue into the fall. This project is funded by Prop S.
- Asphalt work has occurred throughout the district.

Our maintenance and custodial staff have been busy preparing our facilities for a new school year. I want to thank them for working around our projects and a lengthier summer school schedule to make sure our schools are ready for students and teachers.

As we continue to plan for the first day of school, I'd like to ask for your help. We have several openings for support staff, including bus drivers, school food and nutrition staff, cafeteria/recess monitors and custodians. These roles are critically important to the operations of our schools. I encourage you to consider applying and spread the word to anyone interested in joining our team.

Urgently Hiring:

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

CUSTODIANS

- No experience necessary
- All training provided
- Health, dental, vision and life insurance
- Generous retirement plan
- Full-time positions



SCHOOL FOOD & NUTRITION

SERVICES TECHNICIANS

- No experience necessary
- All training provided
- Opportunities to advance into a full-time position
- Great hours for parents



Apply: bit.ly/employmentmsdr9

Questions: 314-467-5102

Prop S projects begin as part of summer maintenance

Maintenance and construction crews worked hard this summer to upgrade and make repairs at schools across Mehlville School District, including the first projects funded following voter approval of Prop S earlier this year.

Many schools had minor work done this summer, but several had large HVAC and roofing projects.

Forder Elementary School

The largest project completed this summer was the replacement of the heating, cooling and ventilation system at Forder Elementary School.

Crews began working on removing the old system as soon as the school year ended in June.

“The systems on the rooftop are being replaced, as well as the boxes and thermostats in each of the classrooms, and the diffusers in the ceilings are being replaced,” said Russ Suda, mechanical supervisor. “We keep up preventative maintenance as much as we can, but there’s natural wear and tear on the system that starts to become expensive to fix.”

HVAC upgrades are cyclical, and the equipment at Forder Elementary was last upgraded in 1994. The typical life cycle of an HVAC system is 20 years. If the system isn’t upgraded towards the end of its life cycle, it leads to costly repairs.

The new HVAC system will have a positive impact on learning at Forder.

“Having an updated HVAC system at Forder is going to help all of our students and staff feel comfortable in their learning spaces,” said Dr. Whitney Maus, Forder Elementary principal. “This will help make sure students can focus on learning and not have to worry about outside factors like being too hot or too cold.”

This project was paid for using Prop S funding. John Cary Early Childhood Center, Beasley Elementary School, Rogers Elementary School and Mehlville High School are all slated for future HVAC replacement using Prop S funds.



Forder Elementary underwent a complete HVAC renovation this summer.

Roof replacement

The other large project this year was roof replacement at schools across the district. The following locations underwent partial roof work this summer:

- John Cary Early Childhood Center (38 roof squares)
- Beasley Elementary School (325 roof squares)
- Blades Elementary School (114 roof squares)
- Forder Elementary School (67 roof squares)
- Oakville Middle School (357 roof squares)
- Mehlville High School (55 roof squares)
- District pool (108 roof squares)

Like HVAC work, roof work must be completed cyclically to avoid costly repairs and disruptions in learning, like leaky ceilings in classrooms.

“We replace roof squares on a 20-year cycle,” said Mike Gegg, director of facilities. “When you get to that point, you start to see more leaks, particularly when you have heavy rains.”

Roof work at Blades Elementary and Forder Elementary was paid for using Prop A funds. Work at John Cary Early Childhood, Beasley Elementary, Oakville Middle and Mehlville High were funded using Prop R.

Bierbaum Elementary, Trautwein Elementary, Bernard Middle, Buerkle Middle, Oakville Middle, Washington Middle and Oakville High are all scheduled to have portions of their roof replaced using funds generated from Prop A and Prop S within the next five years.



Crews replaced 357 roof squares at Oakville Middle School.

Oakville High School

In July, work began to make the baseball/softball field at Oakville High School safer.

“Having one facility for both baseball and softball requires us to have a dirt infield,” said Becky Czuppon, Oakville High School athletic director. “We don’t have proper drainage to allow the water to run away, so that creates a thicker lip where the dirt and grass meet, which is a safety issue.”

This project is ongoing and is expected to be completed near the end of October.

“We are going to regrade and laser level the field, in addition to new drainage and new irrigation systems, and a new fence and backstop,” said Gegg.

The project is being paid for using funds generated by Prop S. The baseball/softball fields at Mehlville High School are scheduled for similar safety upgrades through Prop S. That project is a larger project since the baseball field will be relocated due to a storm drain in the outfield. Due to the high price of construction materials, there are plans to rebid that project for next summer.



Crews are expected to complete extensive safety improvements to the Oakville High School baseball/softball field near the end of October.

Summer Fun: Snapshots from Summer Session

Mehlville School District offered more in-person learning opportunities this summer, with elementary and middle school students enrolling on a week-by-week basis and high school students able to earn up to four credits. Summer Session was offered through June and July. Here are some of the awesome hands-on learning opportunities students were able to participate in during Summer Session!



Starting Strong: Your back-to-school guide for the 2021-2022 school year

Mehlville School District teachers and staff are excited to welcome our students back to start the 2021-2022 school year. Below you'll find all of the information you need before the first day of school on Wednesday, Aug. 25. Please see page 10 for back to school events at each school.

Registration/Family Information Update

We encourage families to register new students as soon as possible to give staff time to assign their courses and procure Chromebooks and other supplies prior to the start of school. Registration for new families and existing families with new students can be found on the enrollment section of our website: bit.ly/msdr9enroll. You can also call your child's school or 314-467-5000 to get started.

All returning families must complete the Family Information Update. This gives you the opportunity to review and update your phone numbers, email addresses and other important information. You will be asked to review our annual notifications, media release, medical records and technology policies. You can begin the process by logging in to the Parent Portal at bit.ly/msdr9parentportal.

One change for this year is that all families will be required to provide proof of residency in the update. This step was previously only required of new families and those living in apartment complexes. Please complete the Family Information Update as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact your child's school.

View a step-by-step process for completing the Family Information Update at bit.ly/msdr9infoupdate2021.

District will use virtual snow days this year

Mehlville School District was approved by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to use virtual instruction for up to five snow days each year. If inclement weather causes us to close our school buildings, we will operate in a virtual schedule. Virtual schedules will be identical to the daily school schedule. Students will log into their classes via Google Meet.

Should we close school due to inclement weather, parents will be notified via email, text message and phone of the schedule change. We will also announce school closures via the district website, district social media channels and local television news channels.



Free meals continue this school year

Mehlville School District offers breakfast and lunch for students each day. We will be continuing to offer free meals throughout the school year. In addition to meals, a la carte options are available by purchase for middle and high school students. Money can be deposited into your child's account through MySchoolBucks or by sending cash or a check made payable to the school in a sealed envelope with your child's name.

Lunch menus can be found on the School Food and Nutrition Services section of the website: bit.ly/msdr9menus.



2021-2022 school calendar

The 2021-2022 district calendar includes important dates like holidays, half days, conferences and more.

The first day of school is Aug. 25, and the last day is May 27, unless we use more than five snow days. Winter break is Dec. 23 through Jan. 3. Spring Break is March 21-25.

You can download or print the calendar at bit.ly/2021-22msdr9calendar.

Parent communication

This summer, Mehlville School District launched a new communication platform called ParentSquare.

ParentSquare is a simple and collaborative school-home communication platform designed to reach and engage every parent via the communication type and frequency they prefer. ParentSquare allows for two-way translated communication and allows parents to keep track of news and updates from their children's schools and the district in one place.

Parents should have received an email or text message with a link to register for ParentSquare. If you didn't receive the activation link or your link has expired, please contact your child's school.

Families who attended Summer Session are already registered for ParentSquare and do not need to re-register.



School supply lists and Chromebooks

Supply lists for Mehlville School District students are being communicated by your child's school and posted on your child's school website. View a list of schools: bit.ly/msdr9schools.

If your child is a returning student, they should bring their Chromebook with them to school on the first day. New students will be assigned a Chromebook after the first day.



Transportation

Bus routes for the 2021-2022 school year can be found on the transportation section of our website: bit.ly/msdr9busroutes. Face coverings are required on all buses.

Parents can also choose to drop off and pick up their students at school. Your child's school will communicate procedures for parent drop off.



Stay in the loop!
Subscribe to e-Messenger and Board Notes

COVID-19 safety policies

Mehlville School District is committed to providing a safe and healthy learning environment for students and staff. Our best mitigation strategies for preventing COVID-19 infections on campus include encouraging vaccinations, using face coverings, physically distancing students, encouraging personal hygiene like handwashing and respiratory etiquette, and cleaning and disinfecting.

We are continuing to follow guidance from St. Louis County Department of Public Health, the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. Mehlville School District encourages all eligible students, staff and family members to get vaccinated for COVID-19, and to talk to their healthcare providers if they have questions about the vaccine.

As of Aug. 2, Mehlville School District is requiring face coverings for all students, staff and visitors while inside our buildings. This aligns with the county health order that began July 26, along with advice from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the CDC. We will be distancing students as space allows and providing ample opportunities throughout the day for handwashing. Our custodial staff will continue to deep clean our buildings and wipe down high-touch surfaces.

For the safety of our students, staff and community, we will continue contact tracing if an individual who tests positive for COVID-19 spends time on our campuses. Following a close contact, students may be asked to remain off campus to monitor for COVID symptoms. Students who are fully vaccinated may be able to continue attending school following a close contact as long as they do not have symptoms.

We ask that students and staff stay home if they are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, like a fever, cough, sore throat or shortness of breath. Our school nurses can help parents determine when it's safe for students to return to campus.

Guidance and health orders continue to change, and we will continue to provide updates as our safety policies evolve. We appreciate our community's support as we work to keep our schools open and safe throughout the 2021-2022 school year.

Immunizations for the 2021-2022 school year

Please contact your doctor or the public health department to get your student's immunizations up to date prior to the start of the school year. You can view the list of required immunizations at bit.ly/reqimmunizationsmo.

St. Louis County Department of Public Health has scheduled a variety of back-to-school clinics to help students get caught up on vaccinations. These free clinics are located at South County Health Center, 4580 S. Lindbergh Blvd. in Sunset Hills from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Immunizations are also offered from 4-7 p.m. on Wednesdays.

If your child has received the COVID-19 vaccine, please report that information to your school nurse. Having this information helps us with contact tracing and may help avoid being asked to remain off campus following an exposure.

Subscribe to our email newsletters for frequent updates from the Mehlville Board of Education and for our e-Messenger newsletter. Sign up here: bit.ly/msdr9emessenger.

Public Release: School Food and Nutrition Services

07/01/2021

Mehlville School District is offering free meals to all **students/children ages 18 and under** under COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #85 Nationwide Waiver to Allow the Seamless Summer Option through School Year 2021-2022. Households are still encouraged to complete and submit an application for free and reduced price meals to the district for processing. Free and reduced data is used to help maintain meal count system requirements, report to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for funding formulas, and establish eligibility for other benefits, particularly Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) and Emergency Broadband Benefit. **Mehlville School District** announced its revised free and reduced price policy for school children offered meals in schools under the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program.

Local education officials have adopted the following family-size income criteria for determining eligibility:

Household Size	Maximum Household Income Eligible for Free Meals			Maximum Household Income Eligible for Reduced Price Meals		
	Annually	Monthly	Weekly	Annually	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$16,744	\$1,396	\$322	\$23,828	\$1,986	\$459
2	22,646	1,888	436	32,227	2,686	620
3	28,548	2,379	549	40,626	3,386	782
4	34,450	2,871	663	49,025	4,086	943
5	40,352	3,363	776	57,424	4,786	1,105
6	46,254	3,855	890	65,823	5,486	1,266
7	52,156	4,347	1,003	74,222	6,186	1,428
8	58,058	4,839	1,117	82,621	6,886	1,589
Each add'l member	+ 5902	+ 492	+ 114	+ 8,399	+ 700	+ 162

Children from families whose current income is at or below those shown are eligible for free or reduced price meals. Applications are available at the school office. To apply, fill out a Free and Reduced Price School Meals Family Application and return it to the school. The information provided on the application is confidential and will be used only for the purpose of determining eligibility. Applications may be submitted any time during the school year. A complete application is required as a condition of eligibility. A complete application includes: (1) household income from all sources or Food Stamp/TANF case number, (2) names of all household members, and (3) the signature and last four digits of social security number or indication of no social security number of adult household member signing the application. School officials may verify current income at any time during the school year.

Foster children may be eligible regardless of the income of the household with whom they reside.

If a family member becomes unemployed or if family size changes, the family should contact the school to file a new application. Such changes may make the children of the family eligible for these benefits.

Households will be notified of their children's eligibility status for free or reduced price meals. If any children were not listed on the eligibility notice for families receiving SNAP, TANF or FDIPIR, the household should contact the school to have free meal benefits extended to those children.

If any child(ren) was not listed on the eligibility notice, the household should contact the LEA or school to have free meal benefits extended to that child(ren).

Under the provisions of the policy, the Director of School Food and Nutrition at geggk@msdr9.org, will review the applications and determine eligibility. If a parent is dissatisfied with the ruling of the determining official, they may wish to discuss the decision with the hearing official on an informal basis or he/she may make a request either orally or in writing to Dr. Chris Gaines at gainesc@msdr9.org.

Hearing procedures are outlined in the policy. A complete copy of the policy is on file in each school and in the central office where any interested party may review it.

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

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

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

School district complies with asbestos regulations

On Oct. 22, 1986, President Ronald Reagan signed into law the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Act (AHERA, Public Law 99-519). The law required the EPA to develop regulations that provide a comprehensive framework for addressing asbestos problems in public and private elementary and secondary schools to inspect for friable and non-friable asbestos, develop asbestos management plans that address asbestos hazards in school buildings, and implement response actions in a timely fashion.

The Mehlville School District had conducted a complete inspection of its facilities in October 2018, and a three-year re-inspection has been completed since the initial asbestos audit in 1988. In addition to the three-year re-inspection, two six-month surveillance inspections take place each year and are included in the management plan. This management plan is available in the district's Maintenance Building and in the offices of each school during normal business hours, without cost or restriction, for inspection by representatives of the EPA and the State, and

the public, including teachers, other school personnel and their representatives and parents.

Asbestos containing material was removed from the following building(s) performed by licensed contractors using state of the art technology and methodology. An on-site manager, project designer and a third party air monitor were also used.

Mosaic Elementary (Boiler Room) – June 2020

The purpose of the federal and state regulations is to protect the health and well-being of all persons entering the buildings of this district for any reason.

The person in this district trained to oversee asbestos activities and ensure compliance is Mr. Mike Gegg, Director of Facilities. As required in the rule, Mr. Gegg is the single contact for the public to obtain information about asbestos-related activities in the district and can be reached at 314-467-7800.

Curriculum department reorganizes to better support students

Mehlville School District has reorganized its curriculum department for the 2021-2022 school year to increase curriculum support for teachers and students. In the past, the district had two curriculum directors, one for elementary schools and one for middle and high schools. Going forward the district will have three curriculum directors by content area.

At its June 10, 2021, meeting, the Mehlville School District Board of Education unanimously voted to approve the hiring of two curriculum directors:

- Michele Niece, K-12 Mathematics Director
- Briana Trager, K-12 Science Director

Amanda Zink is transferring to K-12 English Language Arts Director with the 2021-2022 school year. She was previously the Director of Secondary Curriculum. The district plans to hire a social studies director in the 2022-2023 school year.

Michele Niece, K-12 Mathematics Director

In her role as K-12 Mathematics Director, Michele Niece will coordinate the planning, development and implementation, and evaluation of math curriculum.



Niece has worked in Kirkwood School District since 2015, beginning as an instructional coach/interventionist before becoming district facilitator of math, business and wellness.

“We are extremely excited to have Michele as part of the curriculum team,” said Dr. Brian Smith,

Assistant Superintendent, Teaching and Learning. “Her experience in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade will be a valuable resource for all of our math teachers. Her experience at her previous district will help us continue to grow in the eight mathematical practices and implement best instructional practices.”

Niece obtained her bachelor’s degree at Baylor University and her master’s degree in administration from Lamar University.

Briana Trager, K-12 Science Director

In her role as K-12 Science Director, Briana Trager will coordinate the planning, development and implementation, and evaluation of science curriculum. Trager previously served as Mehlville School District’s STEM Coordinator.



“Briana has done a tremendous job working with teachers to embed hands-on, engaging practices in the classroom,” Dr. Smith said. “I am excited she’s been promoted to this director role and am confident she will do an exceptional job supporting all of the science teachers.”

Trager obtained her bachelor’s degree at Missouri State University and her Master of Education in Learning, Teaching, and Curriculum from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She received her Educational Specialist in Teacher Leadership from Missouri State University.

Nathan Perkins named assistant principal at Bierbaum Elementary

Nathan Perkins will be assistant principal at Bierbaum Elementary School starting with the 2021-2022 school year.

Perkins previously served as the school counselor at Bierbaum Elementary. This summer, he served as principal of the elementary Summer



Session at Bierbaum. Perkins has worked in the Mehlville School District since 2016.

“As a counselor, Nathan has already played an integral role in developing many of the systems we already have in place at Bierbaum,” said Dr. Paul Morris, principal at Bierbaum Elementary School. “As assistant principal, he will play an even greater role in ensuring that we are delivering top-tier instruction to our students. In addition to his strong knowledge of processes and systems, he has a love and passion for Bierbaum and this community that shows in everything that he does.”

Perkins obtained both a bachelor’s degree in psychology and master’s degree in counseling psychology from Missouri Baptist University. He also received an education specialist degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a master’s degree in school administration from McKendree University.

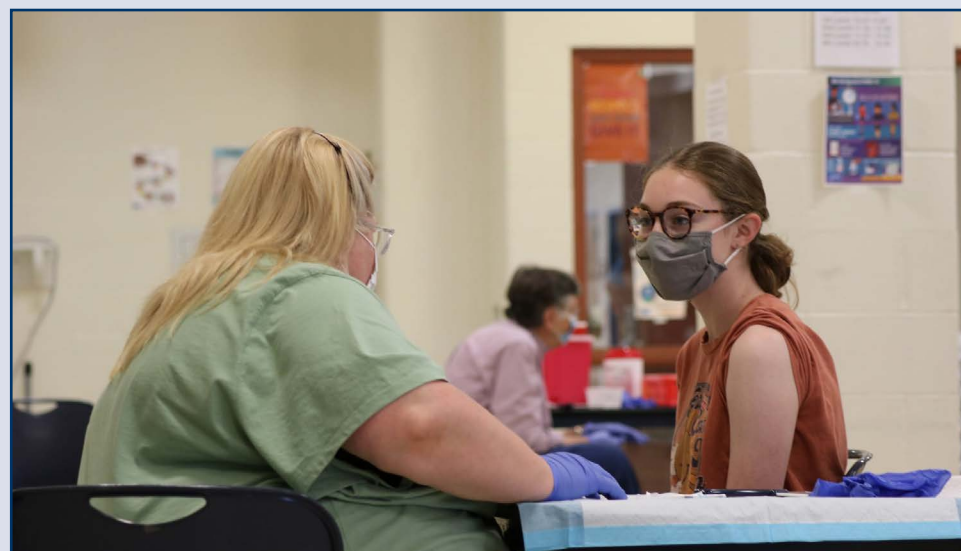
Vaccines are the best way to protect yourself, children from COVID-19

Getting the COVID-19 vaccine is the best way to prevent contracting the novel coronavirus and experiencing severe symptoms. Getting the vaccine is also the best way to reduce community spread of the virus that has led to so much upheaval in our community. Currently, the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine has received emergency use authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for those ages 12 and up. Other vaccines are available to those 18 and older.

While this vaccine is not required for school by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, our school nurses strongly recommend families consider the vaccine for anyone 12 or older.

A variety of locations are offering the Pfizer vaccine. Those under the age of 18 must have a parent or guardian present to receive the vaccine. Area pharmacies have the COVID-19 vaccine readily available on a walk-in basis.

Visit our vaccination event page for more information and to find a location: bit.ly/msdr9vaccines.



A Mehlville School District student receives the COVID-19 vaccine from Oakville Elementary School nurse Kristi Lanham.

Back-to-School Events

<p>John Cary Early Childhood</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aug. 25: Meet the Teacher. Teachers will contact parents to schedule an appointment. 	<p>Point Elementary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aug. 24: Meet the Teacher: Kindergarten: 4-5:30 p.m.; Grade 1-3: 5:30-6:30 p.m.; Grade 4-5: 7-8 p.m. 	<p>At Home</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aug. 19: Meet the Teacher/Supply Pickup: 4:30-6 p.m., held outside at the Jefferson Barracks building.
<p>Beasley Elementary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aug. 19: Back to School Bash and Curriculum Night: 5:15-7 p.m. • Aug. 24: Welcome to Kindergarten: 6 p.m. 	<p>Rogers Elementary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aug. 19: Grade 1-5 Supply Drop-Off/Greet the Teacher: last name A-M: 5:30-6 p.m.; last name N-Z: 6:05-6:35 p.m. • Aug. 23: Kindergarten Orientation: 6-7 p.m. • Sept. 15: Open House: last name A-M: 5:30-6 p.m.; last name N-Z: 6:15-6:45 p.m. 	<p>Bernard Middle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aug. 19: Back to School Event: 4-6 p.m.
<p>Bierbaum Elementary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aug. 17: Kindergarten Orientation: 5:30-6:30 p.m. • Aug. 19: Open House: 4:30-6 p.m. 	<p>Trautwein Elementary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aug. 18: Kindergarten Pete the Cat School Tour: 3-4 p.m. • Aug. 19: Meet the Teacher/Ice Cream Social: 4:30-6 p.m. • Aug. 25: Tears & Cheers Kindergarten Parent Breakfast: 8:45-9:30 a.m. 	<p>Margaret Buerkle Middle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aug. 17: Bobcat Kickoff* 1-3 p.m.
<p>Blades Elementary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aug. 19: Kindergarten Popsicle Play Date/ Open House: 6-7 p.m. • Aug. 24: Blades Welcome Back Night!: Grade 1 and 4: 5-6 p.m.; Grade 2, 3 and 5: 6:30-7:30 p.m. 	<p>Wohlwend Elementary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aug. 19: Kindergarten Orientation: 5 p.m. • Aug. 20: Grade 1-5 Meet the Teacher: 4:30 p.m. • Sept. 1: New Parent Meeting (virtual on Meet): 10 a.m.* • Sept. 1: Grade Level Party Information Meeting (virtual): 6:30 p.m. • Sept. 8: 5th Grade Parent Meeting (virtual): 6:30 p.m. 	<p>Oakville Middle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aug. 23: OMS Schedule Pick-Up/Locker Decorating: 6th Grade: 4:30-6 p.m.; 7th/8th Grades: 6-7 p.m. • Aug. 26: Open House: 4-7 p.m.
<p>Forder Elementary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aug. 23: Kindergarten Meet the Teacher: 5 p.m. • Aug. 24: Grade 1-5 Meet the Teacher: 5:30-7 p.m. 	<p>Elementary STRETCH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aug. 25: Open House* New Parents: 6-6:45 p.m.; Returning Parents: 6:45-7 p.m. 	<p>Washington Middle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aug. 20: 6th Grade Welcome/Orientation: 2:30-4 p.m. • Aug. 20: Back to School Bash for students and parents: 4-6 p.m.
<p>Hagemann Elementary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aug. 19: Kindergarten Open House: 4:30-6 p.m. • Aug. 20: Grade 1-5 Open House: 4:30-6 p.m. 	<p>* Updated Aug. 13, 2021.</p> <p>These events are current as of Aug. 2. Any changes due to weather or COVID-19 will be communicated to parents by their child's school.</p>	<p>Mehlville High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aug. 18: Freshman Kick Off: 7:15 a.m.-2:10 p.m. • Aug. 24: Open House: 5-7 p.m.
<p>MOSAIC Elementary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aug. 19: Kindergarten Meet and Greet: 6 p.m. • Aug. 24: Supply Drop-Off: 4-5:30 p.m. • Aug. 27: MOSAIC Mingle: 6 p.m. • Sept. 2: Curriculum Night: 6 p.m. 		<p>Oakville High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aug. 24: Freshman Orientation (students only): 12-4 p.m. • Aug. 24: Open House: 4-7 p.m. • Aug. 24: Meet the Administrators Informational Meetings: 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.
<p>Oakville Elementary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aug. 18: Kindergarten Meet the Teacher: 5 p.m. • Aug. 19: Meet the Teacher/Supply Drop-Off: 4:30-6:30 p.m. 		

Board prioritizes facility repairs, student support in FY22 budget

The Mehlville School District Board of Education unanimously approved the budget for the 2021-2022 school year (FY22) at its June 24 meeting. The FY22 budget of \$129.3 million includes a projected operating loss of \$2.3 million.

The district currently has 33.3 percent of operating expenses in cash reserves as of June 24. Those reserves will decrease throughout the fall until the district receives local property tax revenues. The cash reserves are estimated to drop to 28 percent at the end of FY22.

“We are continuing to make wise financial decisions to best support our students and community,” said Dr. Chris Gaines, superintendent. “We have made the strategic decision to invest in our buildings, some of which are physically crumbling. We are also providing our teachers and support staff with salary increases to help us retain and attract qualified staff.”

When the budget was approved, FY21 had a projected loss of \$4.5 million. As of the June 24 meeting, our actual estimated loss in FY21 was \$0.7 million. This

is largely due to responsible financial management and federal COVID relief funds.

Additionally, last school year, we paid off our Certificates of Participation (COP, also called a lease). A COP is a type of loan for school facilities. As a result, about 45 cents of the total tax levy has been freed up for the FY22 budget. Twelve cents of those funds will be transferred to our debt services fund to address facilities needs following voter approval of Prop S. The remaining 33 cents will be used for operations expenses and to help address the \$30 million in future HVAC renovations anticipated to be needed in the next seven years.

The district will also be using \$1.1 million in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds received as part of the federal government's COVID-19 relief funds to address HVAC replacements and repairs. This spring, teachers and administrators met to determine the best use of the approximately \$13 million the district will receive over the next three years. Our plan focuses on academic and social learning interventions, increased student activities and academic support after school.

STUDENT DISTINCTIONS

OMS national recognition

Oakville Middle School STRETCH students placed nationally in both the National Geography Challenge and National Current Events League.

National Geography Challenge:



6th grade, second place. Pictured from left: Corin White, Kyle Brand, Sidney Lee, Olivia Romano, Payton Miller, Lexi Hailey, Danijel Secic. Not pictured: Vildana Korkaric.



7th grade, first place. Pictured from left: Mia Schroeder, Alex Ottenlips, Olivia Blumm, Amila Hasanovic, Alex Schoenekase, Carter Oetting.



8th grade, first place. Pictured from left: Ethan Colvin, Jordan Bernabo, Theo Long, Era Resuli, Alex Alonzo, Adam Rodak, Amy Menz.

Published author

Emma Rushing, Oakville High School junior, published her first book called "Sea of Atlantis."

Emma Rushing



National Current Events League:



6th grade, second place. Pictured from left: Jack Navin, Corin White, Kyle Brand, Olivia Romano, Melinda Bajric, Payton Miller, Jacob Buchanan, Danijel Secic. Not pictured: Vildana Korkaric.



7th grade, second place. Pictured from left: Mia Schroeder, Alex Ottenlips, Olivia Blumm, Rachael Strothman, Parker Wyatt, Amila Hasanovic, Alex Schoenekase, Carter Oetting.



8th grade, first place. Pictured from left: Era Resuli, Nick Viviano, Theo Long, Pierce Bauman, Natalie Girardi, Alex Alonzo, Adam Rodak, Amy Menz, Rachel Franke.

STAFF DISTINCTIONS

Bus Safety

The **Mehlville School District Transportation Department** earned a 99% safety rating from the Missouri State Highway Patrol on their yearly inspection. This is tied for the highest rating in the St. Louis-area among large districts.

National publication awards

The **Mehlville School District Communications Department** received two Publications and Digital Media Awards from the National School PR Association. One award was for staff email newsletters and the other was for in-house video.



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IMPORTANT DATES

Find district event information at mehlvilleschooldistrict.com.

Aug. 19	Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Mehlville High School
Aug. 25	First Day of School
Sept. 6	No School, Labor Day
Sept. 14	State of the District, 6:30 p.m., Nottelmann Auditorium
Sept. 16	Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Mehlville High School
Sept. 21	Board of Education Tax Rate Hearing, 6 p.m., Bernard Middle
Sept. 21	Board Listening Session, 6:30 p.m., Bernard Middle
Sept. 29	Half day for students
Oct. 20	Half day for students
Oct. 21	Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Mehlville High School
Oct. 22	End of first quarter
Oct. 26	High school parent/teacher conferences
Oct. 27	Elementary school parent/teacher conferences
Oct. 28	Middle school parent/teacher conferences
Oct. 29	Half day for students, parent/teacher conferences
Nov. 1	No School
Nov. 2	No School for students, Election day
Nov. 16	Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Mehlville High School
Nov. 17	Half day for students
Nov. 24-26	No School - Thanksgiving break

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A Mehlville School District Publication

Mehlville Messenger

Back to School

Your guide to start the 2021-2022 school year. See pages 6-7.



New Oakville Elementary School principal Meagan Ochoa meets with students at a popsicles with the principal event.

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AUGUST 2021