

ECRWSS  
 Postal Customer

**IMPORTANT DATES**

Find district event information at [mehlvilleschooldistrict.com](http://mehlvilleschooldistrict.com).

<b>Aug. 18</b>	Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Mehlville High School
<b>Aug. 22</b>	First day of school
<b>Sept. 5</b>	No school, Labor Day
<b>Sept. 7</b>	Half day for students
<b>Sept. 8</b>	Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., web conference
<b>Sept. 15</b>	Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Mehlville High School
<b>Sept. 27</b>	Board of Education Tax Rate Hearing, 6:30 p.m., Mehlville High School
<b>Oct. 5</b>	Half day for students
<b>Oct. 10-13</b>	Parent/teacher conferences
<b>Oct. 13</b>	Half day for students
<b>Oct. 13</b>	Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., web conference
<b>Oct. 14</b>	No school
<b>Oct. 20</b>	Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Mehlville High School
<b>Oct. 21</b>	End of first quarter
<b>Nov. 2</b>	Half day for students
<b>Nov. 8</b>	No school for students, Election Day
<b>Nov. 10</b>	Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., web conference
<b>Nov. 17</b>	Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Mehlville High School
<b>Nov. 23-25</b>	No school - Thanksgiving break

**Make a difference!**

**We are hiring cafeteria recess monitors, custodians, bus drivers and school food technicians.**

**Learn more:**  
[bit.ly/employmentMSDR9](http://bit.ly/employmentMSDR9)

**314-467-5102**



A Mehlville School District Publication  
**Mehlville Messenger**



**Summer of Prop S**

Bierbaum Elementary (top) and Rogers Elementary (bottom) are two of several schools getting safety improvements this summer. See pages 6-7.

**IN THIS ISSUE**

Rebuilding community .....	Page 1
Balanced budget .....	Page 3
Back to school guide.....	Page 4
Summer session sights .....	Page 9
Distinctions.....	Pages 10-11



# Mehlville Messenger

A Mehlville School District Publication

## New clubs are building a stronger sense of community in our schools

Mehlville School District added new clubs at the elementary and high school levels last year to focus on students' social-emotional well-being and to build stronger communities at schools. The new clubs are funded using federal COVID-19 relief funds.

"We are working on that sense of belonging for our kids," said Cara Sapienza, Rogers Elementary guidance counselor. "They have the opportunity to work with different adults in the building and interact with students they may not meet otherwise."

Sapienza is the sponsor of the new Sunshine Club at Rogers Elementary. It allows students in kindergarten through fifth grade to spread positivity in the school and its community. After Halloween, students collected leftover candy and donated it to first responders in the area. They also created Christmas ornaments and cards for a nearby nursing home.

Students in kindergarten through second grade at Point Elementary can join the school's new Exercising Eagles Club. The club focuses on helping students develop healthy eating and exercise habits at a young age.

"We noticed kids need to get up and move some during the school day and get back in the routine of a normal school year," said Cindy Fogelbach, Point Elementary fourth-grade teacher. "Providing a club to give students more support was really important to us."

In addition to learning about the importance of healthy lifestyle, the Exercising Eagles also participate in activities to teach them to be kind to others.

There is also a new Wellness Club and Soup Kitchen Club at Oakville High School. Students in the Soup Kitchen Club are cooking food to help support local soup kitchens. Their first project was to bake cookies to distribute to veterans on Veterans Day. They baked more than 900 cookies.

"I wanted to be more involved in the community, and I really like cooking," said Jessica Huynh, a Soup Kitchen Club member. "For students who want to cook, help out or work with other students, this can be a really life-changing experience for you."

Students don't have to have cooking experience to join the Soup Kitchen Club. Marybeth Dunn, family and consumer sciences teacher and club sponsor, provides students with the opportunity to learn different cooking techniques through various projects.

"It is a great opportunity to help out our community and do a good thing to make you feel good," said Aman Lueker, a Soup Kitchen Club member. "We have a lot of good people working together that just want to do good in the world."

The other elementary and high schools in the district have also added new clubs for students to join this year. Please reach out to your child's school to learn about what opportunities are available.

### Other ways we're supporting students with federal COVID-19 relief funds

Middle schools are using relief funds to provide additional afterschool tutoring.

Funds were also allotted for each of our schools to hire two new interventionists. Many schools hired academic interventionists to help students with core subjects like math and English. Some schools also hired social-emotional learning interventionists to help students to develop skills to keep their emotions from getting in the way of their academic success.

The decision on how to use relief funds was made by a group of dedicated teachers and administrators who met in spring 2021 to determine what learning recovery supports we would put in place for students.



Members of the Rogers Elementary Sunshine Club share their accomplishments at a Mehlville Board of Education meeting.



Students in Oakville High School's Soup Kitchen Club made meals and treats to share with others in our community last year.



## Board of Education

Peggy Hassler, President  
Tori Behlke, Vice President  
Jean Pretto, Secretary  
Scott Huegerich, Director  
Patrick McKelvey, Director  
Jeff Wolman, Director  
Grace Wright, Director

## Executive Staff

Dr. Chris Gaines  
Superintendent  
Dr. Jeff Bresler  
Assistant Superintendent  
Supervision of Schools  
Dr. Brian Smith  
Assistant Superintendent  
Teaching and Learning  
Dr. Shannon Pike  
Executive Director, Human Resources  
Mr. Adam Smith  
Executive Director, Student Services  
Dr. Chad Dickemper  
Executive Director  
Planning and Operations  
Mr. Marshall Crutcher  
Chief Financial Officer

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:

Communications Department  
3120 Lemay Ferry Road  
St. Louis, MO 63125  
314-467-5000  
messenger@msdr9.org

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

# Welcome back to school!

We are excited to start a new year. The Mehlville School District staff has been busy this summer, working to increase preparedness for student success through innovative instruction with a focus on collaboration, creativity, communication and critical thinking. We want our students to succeed in academics and in life. Mehlville's high-quality education for all students is strengthened by robust community support and a team of excellent and highly-qualified teachers, support staff, administrators and volunteers who empower our students to embrace learning and achieve their personal best. Thanks to all who invest in our students!

### Strategic Plan for 2022-2023

The Board of Education adopted a new strategic plan last school year that sets high expectations for our educators and students. It focuses on personalized student preparation, safety, security, providing a sense of belonging, and the physical and mental well-being of our students and staff. We provide access and opportunity for all students and afford continuous employee support to help them make positive connections with their students. We want our students to gain the confidence and independence needed to excel academically and develop emotional resilience.

## Board member Jeff Wolman obtains Advanced Certification

Mehlville School District Board of Education Director Jeff Wolman achieved Advanced Certification in the Missouri School Boards' Association (MSBA) Certified Board Member program.

All newly elected school board members are required by state law to complete an 18.5-hour training program. The Advanced Certification recognizes those that complete an additional 12 hours of training, read two books related to school board service, attend at least two MSBA regional or statewide events and write a brief reflection paper relating their study to their board service.

Wolman has served on the Mehlville Board of Education since being elected in 2020. His term runs through 2023.



L-R: Melissa Randol, MSBA executive director; Wolman; Nancy Masterson, outgoing MSBA president.

Peggy Hassler



### Prop S Progress

If you have driven by our schools this summer, you've seen construction at several of our buildings. Our facilities department has been busy overseeing the Prop S projects that will reconfigure school entrances to increase safety, move offices, add classrooms, rehab bathrooms, replace roofs, reconfigure parking lots, and update HVAC systems. (Please pardon the dust, and thank you for your patience as student drop-off and pickup may be a little different until we finish a few of the projects.)

### Good Luck!

The Board of Education wishes all our students, staff and volunteers much success and happiness this school year!



Thank you, voters! Students at Oakville Elementary celebrate progress on a bigger, safer parking lot. Demolition crews made way for the improvements in June. Learn more about construction projects on page 6.

## Help a child learn to read as an Oasis tutor!

Oasis is a national non-profit organization whose mission includes engaging adult volunteers to work one-on-one with kids in the Oasis Intergenerational Tutoring program. Make a profound difference in a child's life when you meet each week during the school year with a young child who struggles with reading. No teaching experience is necessary, and training is provided. To learn more, call Amanda Zink, Mehlville Oasis Coordinator, at 314-467-7831 or sign up at [tutoring.oasisnet.org](http://tutoring.oasisnet.org).







## Returning to school with health and safety in mind

While we're continuing to monitor COVID-19 community transmission and public health recommendations, we have been able to ease some of our COVID-related health and safety measures. Notably, to start the 2022-2023 school year, masking will be optional for our students and staff.

To help parents make informed decisions for their children, we will continue to notify parents and guardians of positive cases in their child's classroom and if positive cases during a week exceeds 1.5 percent of the school's population.

Employees, students and visitors who test positive or who are symptomatic for COVID-19 will be excluded from Mehlville School District premises in accordance with our board policies on communicable diseases and staff health and safety. We encourage our community to refer to our "Too Sick for School" wellness checklist for additional guidance.

The district will also continue to provide enhanced cleaning and increased ventilation at schools. Our staff will reinforce proper hand-washing and respiratory etiquette. We encourage vaccination for all students and staff. While a COVID-19 vaccination is not required to attend public school in Missouri, it can protect you, your child, and others at school and in the community.

We will continue to monitor COVID-19, and may make changes as needed for the safety and health of employees, students and visitors.

### Celebrating what we've accomplished together

As we reflect on the past three school years, it's important to celebrate what we accomplished during a very challenging time. I am grateful that with the support of the community, our team has continued to move our district in a positive direction. My list of celebrations is long, but I'd like to share just a few with you here.

- In 2020, we created Mehlville At Home. Today, the virtual program is simply called At Home and provides live instruction by our highly qualified teachers to students in kindergarten through eighth grade. It is open to any Missouri student through the Missouri Course Access Program. You can learn more at [mehvilleathome.mehvilleschooldistrict.com](https://mehvilleathome.mehvilleschooldistrict.com).
- Throughout the pandemic, we worked hard to support our entire community by providing curbside meals, assisting with free food distribution, hosting and conducting vaccine clinics, and providing virtual learning.
- We've started making substantial investments in our facilities. Through the community's support of Prop S, we've started constructing security entrances and completing some deferred maintenance. We're also leveraging Prop A, Prop R and federal COVID relief funds to complete roofing and HVAC

projects.

- We are now providing additional support and opportunities for students by hiring interventionists at each school, by providing tutoring at middle schools and by offering new clubs and activities at elementary and high schools. We've continued to expand personalized learning through our Middle School Academies, MyPATH and other choice options.
- We continue to ask our community to help us plan for the future through our strategic plan and Facilities Steering Committee. We are a stronger district due to our community's feedback and support.

Our team is looking forward to doing more great work in the 2022-2023 school year, and that starts with welcoming all of our students on Monday, Aug. 22. Thank you for your continued support of our schools.

### ARE YOU TOO SICK FOR SCHOOL?

The Mehlville School District nurses have created this list to help you make healthy decisions for your child and our schools.

#### When to stay home:

- Fever of 100.4 degrees or higher
- Feels too sick to participate in school activities
- Needs fever or pain medication (like Tylenol or Motrin) to feel good
- Moderate to severe cough
- Shortness of breath
- Stomach pain
- Sore throat
- Diagnosed with COVID, flu, strep throat or pinkeye
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- New rash
- Bloodshot eyes or excessive discharge

#### When to return to school following an illness:

- 5 days following a COVID diagnosis if asymptomatic or symptoms are resolving (no fever, runny nose or productive cough)
- No fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications
- Occasional cough
- Feels good enough to fully participate in school activities
- No vomiting or diarrhea for 24 hours
- 24 hours of antibiotics following strep throat, pinkeye or ear infection

## Mehlville Board of Education approves a balanced budget

The Mehlville School District Board of Education unanimously approved a break-even budget for the 2022-2023 school year at its June 23 meeting.

"We remain focused on being good stewards of our resources, and our budget next year is sound," said Dr. Chris Gaines, superintendent. "However, we know we will have financial challenges in the next few years. We are struggling to attract and retain support staff and teachers, and we continue to face costly facilities and maintenance expenses."

Funds generated by Prop S have allowed the district to begin to address overdue safety and infrastructure issues, including the addition of secure entrances at each school. The more than \$35 million from the Prop S bond issue does not address all of the district's facilities needs, including future HVAC replacements. When it comes to investing in its buildings and grounds, Mehlville School District trails behind neighboring school districts. The district ranks last among St. Louis County school districts in outstanding debt per student.

More than 85 percent of the district's operating expenses are salaries and benefits. While the district was able to increase salaries for fiscal year 2023, we

still struggle to offer competitive compensation. Many of the district's support staff positions, especially in facilities, transportation, and school food and nutrition were unfilled. During the 2021-2022 school year, about 24 percent of custodian positions were vacant, about 16 percent of bus driver positions were vacant, and about 17 percent of school food positions were vacant.

"Prop R, Prop A and Prop S addressed capital needs, and staff positions were restored or added," said Marshall Crutcher, chief financial officer. "But they did nothing to improve competitive pay to attract and retain existing staff."

The salaries and benefits portion of the budget also includes \$2.3 million in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds from the federal government. These funds have been used to hire 34 interventionist teachers to support student learning at 17 schools. Federal funding for these positions ends following the 2023-2024 school year, so additional measures would be needed to retain these staff members.

Mehlville School District has the lowest blended tax rate of all St. Louis County school districts. The district is second to last in the county when it comes to expense per student.

# Back to School: Your guide to prepare for the 2022-2023 school year

## Save the date

The first day of school is Monday, Aug. 22. Make sure you don't miss any important dates during the 2022-2023 school year! The district calendar contains important information including holidays, early release and more! View and print your copy of the calendar by visiting [bit.ly/22-23msdr9calendar](http://bit.ly/22-23msdr9calendar).

## Enrollment information

New students need to be registered 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 instructions for new families and existing families with new students can be found on the enrollment section of our website at [bit.ly/msdr9enroll](http://bit.ly/msdr9enroll). Call 314-467-5000 for assistance.

## Family information update

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

## We'll use virtual snow days during the 2022-2023 school year

Mehlville School District will use virtual instruction for up to five snow days this year. If a winter weather event causes road conditions to be unsafe, we will operate in a virtual schedule that starts at 9 a.m. through Google Meet.

If another snow day is needed after utilizing our five virtual learning days, we will use traditional snow days. Traditional snow days need to be made up following Memorial Day.

On both virtual learning days and traditional snow days, all after-school and evening activities and events are canceled unless otherwise communicated. This includes Y Club, community enrichment programs and facility rentals.

## Obtain your child's immunizations

Please contact your family medical doctor, urgent care or the public health department to get your student's immunizations prior to the start of the fall semester.

View list of required immunizations at [bit.ly/msdr9immunizations22](http://bit.ly/msdr9immunizations22).



### Back-to-School To-Do List 2022-2023

- Complete the Family Information Update
- Print the 2022-2023 School Calendar
- Attend a back-to-school event
- Download school supply list from school website
- Obtain required immunizations
- Find your child's bus route
- Apply for free/reduced meals or add money to your child's account
- Update ParentSquare notification and language preferences
- Follow your child's school/the district on social media to stay connected

## Getting to school

Bus routes for the 2022-2023 school year are available on the transportation section of our website. Visit [bit.ly/msdr9busroutes](http://bit.ly/msdr9busroutes). We also allow parents to drop off their students at school. Your child's principal will communicate procedures for parent drop-off.

*Please note: Parent drop-off procedures at your child's school may have changed since last school year due to construction at your child's campus. Look for communication from your child's principal about these changes.*

## Keeping in touch

The Mehlville School District staff communicates with families through the communication platform ParentSquare. ParentSquare is a simple and collaborative school-home communication platform designed to reach and engage every parent. Parents can choose the communication type, frequency and language they prefer.

Parents can set their preferences by logging in at [parentsquare.com](http://parentsquare.com) with the email address on file at their child's school.

Community members without children in our schools can subscribe to e-Messenger for monthly updates. Subscribe online at: [bit.ly/emessengermsdr9](http://bit.ly/emessengermsdr9).



# Welcome to our new administrators for 2022-2023

## **Dr. Shannon Pike**

### **Executive Director of Human Services**

Dr. Pike has spent her entire career in Mehlville School District, starting as a social studies teacher at Mehlville High School, then as an assistant principal at MHS and a principal at Point Elementary School.



## **Brian Brennan**

### **Principal of Oakville High School**

Mr. Brennan served as interim principal during Spring 2022, and previously served as assistant principal of Oakville High School and as a mathematics teacher at Mehlville High School.



## **Dr. Debbie Reid**

### **Principal of Point Elementary School**

Dr. Reid has been an assistant principal in the Parkway School District since 2015. She has been a school counselor and physical education teacher and is a Mehlville High School alum.



## **Michael Wheeler**

### **Assistant Principal of Bernard Middle School**

Mr. Wheeler was the assistant principal at St. Louis Language Immersion School before coming to Bernard. He previously worked as a fifth-grade teacher in the Republic and Laclede school districts.



## **Brian Metteer**

### **Assistant Principal of Mehlville High School**

Mr. Metteer comes to Mehlville High School from Fox School District where he was an English language arts teacher at Seckman High School. He has served on school's leadership team and as a coach and club sponsor.



## **Becky Bruning**

### **Assistant Principal of Oakville High School**

A familiar face at Oakville High School, Ms. Bruning was previously an English and leadership teacher at OHS. She also coached cheerleading and served as the English department chair.



## **Dana Skrabacz**

### **Assistant Principal of Oakville High School**

Ms. Skrabacz was previously a social studies teacher and department chair at Hancock Place High School. She has also taught at Cape Girardeau Public School District.



## **Jason Buatte**

### **Assistant Principal of Oakville Middle School**

Mr. Buatte served as an assistant principal at Oakville High School for the past six years. He has also taught at the middle and high school level at Columbia Unit School District #4 in Illinois.



## **Tiffany Schwaegel**

### **Director of Mehlville Early Childhood**

Ms. Schwaegel worked for Special School District for 12 years. She was assistant principal at Neuwoehner High School and was a Special School District area coordinator in Mehlville schools for six years.



## **Greg Ruzicka**

### **Director of Science**

Mr. Ruzicka previously served as an assistant principal at Mehlville High School. He was a science and social studies teacher at Oakville Middle School and also the science department chair.



## **Christy Mathews**

### **Director of Virtual Learning**

Mrs. Mathews will oversee our At Home program as Director of Virtual Learning. She previously served as the Interim Director of Virtual Learning and as an English language arts teacher at Oakville High School and Oakville Middle School.



**There's still time to make a difference!**

**Join our team!**

**[bit.ly/employmentMSDR9](https://bit.ly/employmentMSDR9)**

**or call 314-467-5102**

## **District teacher and alum is a Jeopardy! champion**

**E**mily Fiasco, a graduate of Mehlville High School and assistant band director at Buerkle Middle School and Washington Middle School, fulfilled a lifelong dream of competing on Jeopardy! Mrs. Fiasco competed on four episodes, winning the daily championship three times and accumulating more than \$88,000 in total winnings.





# PROP S

Safe Schools, Safe Kids

## Mehlville School District

Several Prop S projects are ongoing, while others are in the design process. You can view a complete list of projects and anticipated completion dates at [bit.ly/mehllvilleprops](http://bit.ly/mehllvilleprops).

### John Cary Early Childhood Center

- Security entrance: June 2024

### Beasley Elementary School

- Security entrance: June 2024

### Bierbaum Elementary School

- Security entrance, ADA accessibility, restroom renovations and expanded front parking lot: In progress
- Additional classrooms, expanded library and storm shelter: August 2024

### Blades Elementary School

- Security entrance: In progress

### Forder Elementary School

- Security entrance: August 2023
- HVAC: Completed

### Hagemann Elementary School

- Security entrance and ADA access to playground: August 2023

### MOSAIC Elementary School

- Security entrance and elevators: August 2023

### Oakville Elementary School

- Security entrance and expanded parking lot: In progress

### Point Elementary School

- Security entrance and ADA accessibility: Fall 2023

### Rogers Elementary School

- Security entrance and parking lot/playground safety improvements: In progress

### Trautwein Elementary School

- Security entrance: August 2023

### Wohlwend Elementary School

- Security entrance, ADA parking and ADA accessible classrooms: June 2024

### Bernard Middle School

- Security entrance: In progress

### Buerkle Middle School

- Security entrance and track ADA accessibility: August 2023

### Oakville Middle School

- Security entrance: June 2024

### Washington Middle School

- Security entrance: August 2023

### Mehlville High School

- Security entrance, band room accessibility, parking lot and walkway improvements: June 2024
- Baseball/softball field renovations: Late 2022/early 2023

### Oakville High School

- Security entrance, gym ADA accessibility, restroom renovations: In progress
- Baseball/softball field renovations: Complete

## Summer construction improves school entrances and school safety

Mehlville School District continued to fulfill promises made to our community following the approval of Prop S. Several Prop S projects started in June. While many schools received minor upgrades, several underwent major construction projects that will make school safer for students.

### Security entrances

The entrances to Bierbaum Elementary, Blades Elementary, Oakville Elementary, Rogers Elementary, Bernard Middle and Oakville High are undergoing renovations to improve security and make the school safer for students and staff.

Security entrances include an exterior and interior door. Visitors are admitted through the exterior door and must check in with a staff member immediately upon entry before gaining access to the rest of the school.

“Our schools were designed at a point in time where we weren’t as concerned about who was entering our schools,” said Dr. Chad Dickemper, executive director of planning and operations. “It’s a different world than when our schools were created. There are many schools in our district, as identified by the Facilities Steering Committee, where you walk into school and do not have immediate access to the office. Prop S will make sure our secretaries and principals know who is coming into the building at all times.”

Work on each of the security entrances will continue into the fall.

While most projects will be completed prior to the start of school, some will continue into the school year due to the size of the project.

“Because there is such ongoing work with Prop S, we know that this will create some inconveniences for our families with different schools having projects completed at different times,” said Dr. Dickemper. “We want to thank everyone for their patience. This will be a positive for our schools, and the investment of time, patience and community resources is well worth it.”



Crews demolished the entrance of Bierbaum Elementary to make way for a security entrance and accessible classrooms.

### Oakville High School restrooms

In addition to construction on a security entrance, Oakville High School’s restrooms in the commons area and near the stadium were renovated. Two single-stall restrooms were also added on the first floor. This project was paid for using funds from Prop S.

“A lot of the restroom spaces that we have are original to the building,” said Brian Brennan, principal of Oakville High School. “We were having plumbing issues, and the fixtures in those restrooms were outdated.”

While the commons restroom renovations were important for students, the upgrades to the stadium restrooms were important for both students and visitors. There have been drainage issues with those restrooms during large events for several years.

### Parking lot safety solutions

Long overdue safety upgrades are also being made to the parking lot configurations at Oakville Elementary and Rogers Elementary. Work at both schools is being paid for with Prop S.

At Oakville Elementary, a neighboring home purchased by the district in 2020 was demolished to allow for the construction of a new parking lot. The parking lot addition will help alleviate safety issues during arrival and dismissal.

“The configuration of the parking lot previously required our buses to go behind our campus, which made it difficult to see the students as they got onto and off of the bus,” said Meagan Ochoa, principal of Oakville Elementary School. “Anytime you impede the vision of drivers, that’s a safety issue for our students.”

The parking lot expansion should also help reduce traffic congestion at the intersection of Milburn and Yaeger, where there are often backups.

Meanwhile at Rogers Elementary, changes were made to make the parking lot and playground safer for students.

“The work on the parking lot and playground is important to keep our students safe,” said Dr. Patrick Keenoy, principal of Rogers Elementary School. “I never liked the fact that our parking lot and cars were right up against the area where kids were playing.”

The work at Rogers Elementary to create more separation between the playground and parking lot is ongoing. It is expected to be completed in January 2023.

In addition to these major projects, schools across the district had sealing and striping completed in their parking lots as needed.

### HVAC upgrades

Several schools also received upgrades to their heating, ventilation and cooling (HVAC) systems this summer.

Rogers Elementary received a complete HVAC replacement. That project was originally supposed to be completed using Prop S funds. Due to rising construction costs, the Mehlville Board of Education reallocated money from federal ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) funds to complete this project and keep other projects across the district on track for completion. HVAC upgrades also occurred at Beasley Elementary, Oakville Elementary and Point Elementary. These projects were also funded using ESSER.

### Roof work

Roofing work was completed at John Cary Early Childhood, Beasley Elementary, Trautwein Elementary, Wohlwend Elementary, Washington Middle and Mehlville High.

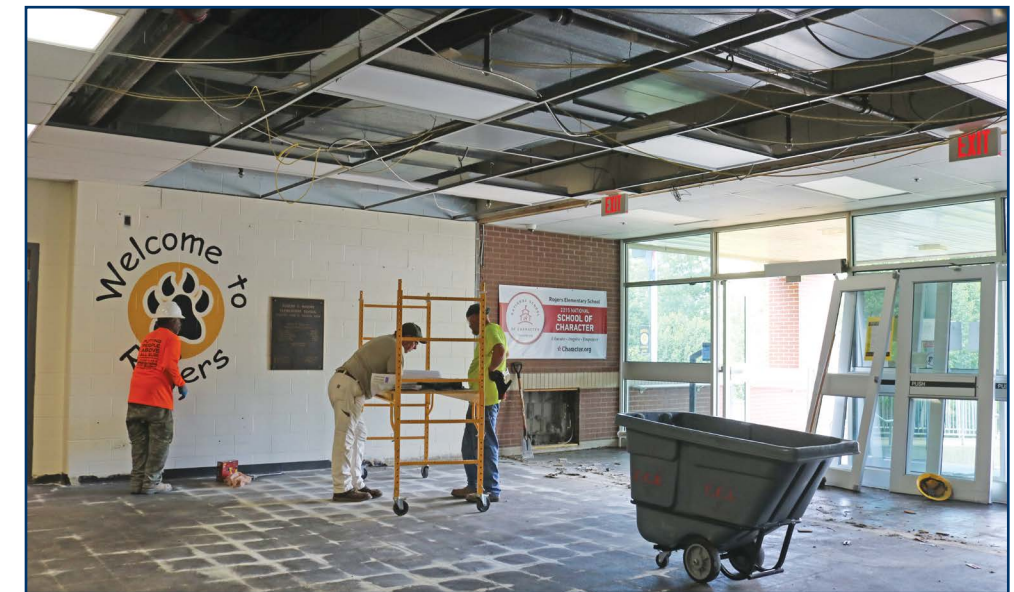
Roof work at Washington Middle was completed using funds from Prop A and Prop S. Roofing projects at John Cary Early Childhood, Beasley Elementary, Trautwein Elementary, Wohlwend Elementary and Mehlville High were completed using Prop A.



The Oakville Elementary parking lot is being expanded to improve student safety and reduce traffic congestion on Milburn and Yaeger roads.



Crews dug trenches at Bernard Middle to pour concrete for the school's new security entrance.



Crews prepare for the construction of a security entrance at Rogers Elementary.



# Our school food staff are ready to serve breakfast and lunch to your child every day

Mehlville School District offers breakfast and lunch for students each day. For the past two years, our School Food and Nutrition Services staff has been able to offer free meals to all students through a waiver from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. That waiver expired at the conclusion of last school year. Meals are no longer free for all students unless a family is approved for the Free and Reduced Price Meals Program. Apply for free and reduced price meals at [bit.ly/msdr9meals](http://bit.ly/msdr9meals) or by calling 314-467-5250.

Meal prices for this school year are as follows:

<b>Breakfast - All levels</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
Paid: \$2.00	<b>Elementary</b>	<b>Secondary</b>
Reduced Price: \$0.30	Paid: \$2.90	Paid: \$3.00
	Reduced Price: \$0.40	Premium meal: \$3.25
		Reduced Price: \$0.40

Local education officials have adopted the following family-size income criteria for determining eligibility for free and reduced price meals:

Household Size	Maximum Household Income Eligible for Free Meals			Maximum Household Income Eligible for Reduced Price Meals		
	Annually	Monthly	Weekly	Annually	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$17,667	\$1,473	\$340	\$25,142	\$2,096	\$484
2	23,803	1,984	458	33,874	2,823	652
3	29,939	2,495	576	42,606	3,551	820
4	36,075	3,007	694	51,338	4,279	988
5	42,211	3,518	812	60,070	5,006	1,156
6	48,347	4,029	930	68,802	5,734	1,324
7	54,483	4,541	1,048	77,534	6,462	1,492
8	60,619	5,052	1,166	86,266	7,189	1,659
Each add'l member	+ 6,139	+ 512	+ 118	+ 8,732	+ 728	+ 168

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 or other information provided on the application at any time during the school year.

Foster children may be eligible regardless of the income of the household with whom they reside. Households with children who are eligible under the foster, Head Start, homeless, migrant, or runaway programs should contact the school for assistance

in receiving meal benefits. Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) participants may be eligible for free or reduced price meals.

Children who are members of households currently certified as receiving Food Stamps, TANF or FDPIR are eligible for free meals. To complete an application, the household must provide the names of the children, a statement that the household receives the qualifying benefits, the Food Stamps/TANF/FDPIR case number, and the signature of the adult household member making application. When known by the school that members of a household are receiving assistance from Food Stamps, TANF or FDPIR, households will be notified of their children's eligibility for free school meals. If any children in the household were not listed on the eligibility notice or not listed on the application, the household should contact the school to have benefits extended to all children in the household.

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.

Under the provisions of the policy, the Director of School Food and Nutrition Services 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 the District Superintendent. 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, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](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](mailto: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, which 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, (2) 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 buildings 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.

- Oakville Elementary – Parking Lot and House Torn Down**
- Bierbaum Elementary – Renovations**
- Blades Elementary – Renovations**

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.





# Sights from Mehlville Summer Session



Elementary, middle and high school students were busy learning this summer at Mehlville Summer Session! Kindergarten through eighth-grade students had the opportunity to participate in enrichment activities that reinforce the curriculum, while high school students worked to recover credits and free up room in their schedules by taking electives like speech, art, health and more! Check out some sights from around Mehlville Summer Session.



**Life-saving skills:** Some middle school students at Buerkle Middle School learn life-saving skills, including administering CPR and applying tourniquets.



**Delivering speeches:** High school students used Mehlville Summer Session as an opportunity to recover credits and take electives to free up room in their schedules during the school year. This student delivered a persuasive speech about why people should not use dating apps.



**Fun in the sun:** Students had the opportunity to learn in the classroom and play with their friends on the playground.



**Shooting hoops:** In addition to traditional subjects like reading and math, students also learned art, physical education and music.



**Caring teachers:** Our staff worked throughout the summer to create unique learning opportunities for their students.



**Spreading sunshine:** Students at Forder Elementary helped spread smiles to their teachers by visiting their classroom with the Sunshine Cart, which contained goodies and treats for the staff.



## State water polo champions

Congratulations to the Oakville High School girls water polo team for winning the state championship!

Team members include **Abby Alton** (All District), **Natalie Baker**, **Hailee Conaway**, **Darcy Granda**, **Molly Granda**, **Mallory Guentz** (All District), **Cora Gulden-Re**, **Mylena Lam**, **Ashley Larsen**, **Katie Laur**, **Taylor Luckritz**, **Kaitlynn Ly**, **Lauren Manning** (All District), **Alexa Matoushek**, **Miranda McRae**, **Kaylee Nguyen**, **Alexis Penning**, **Salma Sinanovic**, **Jenna Wolf** (2022 Missouri Female Player of the Year). Coach **Brett Walters** was named Conference Coach of the Year.



Oakville High School girls water polo team

## National baton twirling champions

The Mehlville High School Majorettes were named national champions in both the High School Dance Twirl and High School Halftime categories at the America's Youth on Parade national baton twirling championships hosted at the University of Notre Dame.

Team members include **Emma Bradford**, **Lauren Cagle**, **Jenna Carter**, **Emma Hemmelgarn**, **Cadence Hernandez**, **Paige Kilper**, **Miles King**, **Shelby Knobbe**, **Kyleigh McCourt**, **Alaina Phillips** and **Hannah Wiszkon**. The Oakville High School Tiger Twirlers also finished Top 5 in the country!



Mehlville Majorettes



Join us this fall.

Sign up to receive the latest updates from Community Enrichment  
[mehlilleschooldistrict.com/community/CE](http://mehlilleschooldistrict.com/community/CE)

- |                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Beginner Bands   | Pool Programs            |
| Yoga Practice    | Driver's Education       |
| Community Garden | After-School Experiences |



Community Enrichment



## STUDENT DISTINCTIONS

Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, you can view all student and staff distinctions on our website at [bit.ly/msdr9distinctions](http://bit.ly/msdr9distinctions). We'll highlight a few of these distinctions in each edition of the Mehlville Messenger. Student grades are for 2021-2022 school year.

### Book Battle champs

The **Hagemann Elementary School Book Battle Team** took first place in the district Elementary School Book Battle. Members of the Hagemann Elementary School Book Battle Team were fifth-grade students **Claire Curtis, Olivia Curtis, Maddie Kargus, Huni Santiago, Ava Shelton, Gia Shores** and **Paige Smith**; and fourth-grade students **Winston Clark, Logan Gebauer, Charlie Nava** and **Drake Rhodes**.



Hagemann Elementary Book Battle Team

The **Oakville Middle School Book Battle Team** also finished third in the Regional Middle School Book Battle competition against other districts in our area. Members of the OMS team were eighth-grade students **Norah Brandt, Cooper Miller, Carter Oetting, Alex Ottenlips** and **Mirza Softic**; seventh-grade students **Katie Jacobs, Natalia Lucca** and **Corin White**; and sixth-grade students **Gianna Franzi** and **Zoey Manis**.



Oakville Middle Book Battle Team

### Award-winning instrument designers

Blades Elementary fourth-grade students **Cole Kemper** and **Josephine Wescoat**, and Buerkle Middle seventh-grade student **Sam Fischer** and sixth-grade student **Tyla Moore** designed and constructed instruments out of different materials selected for display by the Sheldon Concert Hall and Art Galleries.



Josephine Wescoat and Cole Kemper

### Entrepreneurship Challenge

**Josh Kreuger**, senior at Mehlville High, won second place and a \$1,000 prize in the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) – Midwest St. Louis Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge. During the challenge, he pitched his video production business.



Tyla Moore and Sam Fischer

### Making the podium

Oakville High School junior **Mason Meinershagen** medaled in three events at the state championships. Meinershagen finished second in high jump and pole vault and sixth in 100-meter hurdles.



Josh Kreuger



Mason Meinershagen

### Stars on the diamond

Members of the Mehlville High and Oakville High baseball teams received postseason honors for their play this season. Oakville High senior **Matthew Brown** was named to the All Metro and All District teams. Oakville High seniors **Jake Benson, Robbie Gerber, Bryce Louis** and **Jake Walker**; and freshman **Adam Kilburn** were named All District. Mehlville High junior **Collin Maloney** was named conference pitcher of the year.



Matthew Brown



Jake Benson



Robbie Gerber



Bryce Louis



Jake Walker



Adam Kilburn



Collin Maloney

### Stars on the soccer field

Members of the Oakville High School girls soccer team received postseason honors. Senior **Faith Kohm** was named All District and All Conference, and received the State All-Academic Award. Senior **Cierra Bradley** and juniors **Kylie Anderson** and **Addy Weiskopf** were named All District.



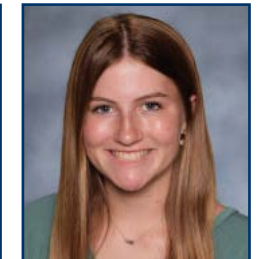
Faith Kohm



Cierra Bradley



Kylie Anderson



Addy Weiskopf

### Volleyball aces

Members of the Mehlville High and Oakville High boys volleyball teams received postseason awards for their play this season. Mehlville High senior **Rolen Lively** was named to the All State, All Metro, All District and All Academic teams. Mehlville High senior **Josh Kaemmerer** was named All State, and juniors **Tyler Reitz** and **Matthew Shannon** were named All State and All District. Oakville High senior **Ethan Walters** and junior **Aidan Curcuru** were named All District.



Rolan Lively



Josh Kaemmerer



Tyler Reitz



Matthew Shannon



Ethan Walters



Aidan Curcuru