



The **BULLDOG EXPRESS**

**HARRISBURG R-VIII SCHOOLS
HARRISBURG, MISSOURI**

March 2016

FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

The Harrisburg R-VIII Board of Education unanimously voted to place Proposition 1 on the ballot for the April 5, 2016 general election. The school district is asking voters to consider a 67 cent increase to the current operating tax levy. If approved by the voters, this tax increase will be used for the ongoing costs of operating the school district. Harrisburg School District's operating tax levy has not been increased since 1991.

Obviously, since 1991 the cost of operating schools has gone up significantly. Technology acquisition and support, fuel, utilities, teaching supplies, maintenance costs, salaries, benefits, food service, and other expenses continue to climb without adequate funding from the state and federal governments. The cost of educating an individual student in 1991 was \$3,226 per year compared to today's cost of \$8,665 per year.

Your Board of Education, administrators, teachers, and staff have worked hard to keep the district's budget in check while also keeping up with maintaining our expanding facilities, implementing state mandates, and providing top-notch educational opportunities to our students. Budget cuts and other cost-saving measures in recent years offered some temporary relief but have not solved the problem as costs continue to rise and our state and federal governments continue to struggle with providing adequate funding for education. We simply do not have any more cuts to make without impacting instruction, learning environments, and student opportunities.

If you were unable to attend one of the recent informational meetings, please don't hesitate to stop by my office, send an email, or give me a call so I can personally answer any questions you may have (email: proctorl@harrisburg.k12.mo.us or call 573-875-5604). You may also find additional informational resources on the school district's website at harrisburg.k12.mo.us.

Again, please don't hesitate to contact me for more information or with questions. I am looking forward to visiting with you about this important issue!

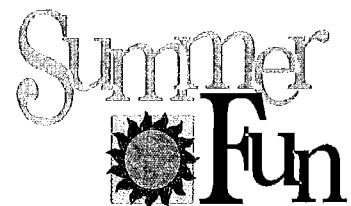
Lynn Proctor, Superintendent



Save the Dates!

Summer Journey – Summer School
May 31 – June 30, 2016 (20 days)
Harrisburg Elementary/Middle School

Days/Hours:
(Week 1) Tuesday-Friday
(Week 2-5) Monday-Thursday
8:00 a.m. to 3:42 p.m.



This summer our school district will offer incoming kindergarten through eighth grade students a free, fun, exciting, and academic approach to learning called Summer Journey. Enrollment packets with more information and enrollment forms will be sent home with your child the week of April 8. Be on the lookout! Registration will close Wednesday, May 4.

ELEMENTARY NEWS

Tami Strodtman
Elementary Principal

Spring has sprung! The year seems to fly by once spring break arrives.

Please continue to watch for newsletters from your child's teacher in Friday Folders. The Friday Folder is the best resource for you to keep updated on important dates and events that are coming up in your child's class and school-wide. There are a lot including field trips and other exciting events!

Students in grades 3 through 5 have already begun working hard to prepare for our annual MAP tests. Please read classroom newsletters carefully as testing days will vary per grade level. Grades 3 through 5 tests will be computerized again this year!

Preschool and Kindergarten Screening will be held April 13-15 at the Harrisburg Christian Church. All incoming kindergarteners (must be 5 years old before August 1), all 3-year-olds (or children who will be 3 before August 1), and all 4-year-olds not currently enrolled in our preschool (who are not entering kindergarten) should be screened. If your child will be entering kindergarten or is age eligible for our preschool program in August 2016, please call 573-875-0290 to schedule an appointment. The screening process is extensive. Please plan to be at the screening for up to two hours.

We **WILL** be conducting preschool* and kindergarten enrollment on-site during screening. If you are planning to enroll your child for the 2016-17 school year, please bring the following items with you to the screening:

- Immunization Record
- Birth Certificate
- Social Security Number
- Proof of Residency (piece of mail or voter registration card with name and address on document)

*New students enrolling in our preschool program will be admitted based on qualification and space availability. Determinations will be made in late May or early June.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Troy Lentz
Middle School Principal

Students and teachers have many successes to brag about this year. Below are a few highlights.

Extracurricular

Our students have done a fantastic job of getting involved in their school this year. From sports to student council and band to honor society, well over half of our students are involved in extracurricular activities. All of our sponsors do an exceptional job of running programs that are inviting to students with various interests and talents.

SMART Goal Met

Our middle school teachers meet weekly to track the academic achievement of our students. Part of the process is setting SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-based) goals. The first semester SMART goal was to have 80% of all students earn a C or higher in all their classes. By the end of the semester the goal had been exceeded with 92% of all students earning a C or higher. Meeting the goal was a great way to demonstrate the commitment of our students and teachers.

HMS in the News

HMS was featured in the *Fayette Advertiser* on two occasions. In December the paper reported on the efforts of Mr. Barhorst and Mrs. Gipson to bring Hour of Code to HMS. Hour of Code is a nationwide project that aims to give students the opportunity to learn the basics of writing computer code. In November the paper covered eighth grader Lilly Callahan, who won a \$1,000 scholarship for an essay contest.

Spelling Bee

HMS held a spelling bee in January. Students from all grade levels competed in the school-wide event, which was won by Justus Whitaker. Whitaker won the right to represent the school at the regional spelling bee.

Literature Festival

Several students traveled to the University of Central Missouri to participate in a literature festival on March 22. The students met authors and learned about the writing process. The trip, organized by Mrs. Gholson, was a wonderful opportunity for our students to visit a university campus.

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Steve Combs
High School Principal

Greetings from the High School! It has been a busy winter for students, faculty and staff. We have a lot of accomplishments and successes to celebrate!

It was a good season for our cheerleaders, and boys and girls basketball teams. Both teams lost heartbreakers in front of a packed house here at HHS in the district finals but both teams will be ready to roll next year. The speech team was dominant on the "Mr. Dieckmann Farewell Tour." The bulldogs were a small school team who routinely outperformed some of the largest schools around. Individually, Carolyn Bland qualified for state in three events and Bailey O'Brian was also a state qualifier. MATC students had a very successful year also. Will Nichols won the SkillsUSA District and Derek Harszy finished second in districts for the second year in a row. We also had four MATC students of the month over the winter: Derek Harszy, Devin Watson, Gage Grooms, and Daniel Sartin. Great job, fellas!

It is Top Dawg time again and congratulations to all the high school winners; Trey Freeman, Trystan Smith, Dalton Carinder, Rachel Strawn, Leiyah Phillips, Abby Spence, and Trey Cook. Ten students were inducted into the Harrisburg Chapter of the National Honor Society. Congratulations to David Beath, Carolyn Bland, Joshua Carr, Anna Clark, Rayanna Crites, Kalen Dodson, Madeline Fritts, Abby Kinnear, Bailey O'Brian and Gracie Williams. The National Honor Society also recognized C & S Grocery for their community leadership and presented them with an award.

We have a lot of great events coming up including Career Day, MusArt, and District Choir and District Band. Spring sports are getting underway and it will be a sprint to graduation!

Just a reminder, check us out on the new website and look us up on Facebook!

ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR NEWS

Doug Fessler

Both our girls' and boys' basketball teams made it to the district championship game before falling in two exciting games. Our high school quiz bowl team has done well this year holding a record well over .500 with district competition happening soon.

2016 has been a year to remember for our speech team. The team placed third two different times and won two competitions. Carolyn Bland and Bailey O'Brian qualified for the MSHSAA State Speech Contest to be held in Springfield on April 22-23. For Bland, it is her second consecutive year that she has qualified. She had an amazing district competition, placing second in Poetry, second in Dramatic, and she won Storytelling. O'Brian will be competing in Prose, as she placed third. Harrisburg sent seven students to the district competition and all of them qualified for finals with the duet team falling one place short of qualifying. Good luck at state and congratulations on a great season!

Spring is here which means all three of our spring sports are underway. For spring district tournaments, baseball will be at Sturgeon, track will be at La Plata, and boys' golf will be in Moberly.

FALL SPORTS UPDATE - High school fall sports (football, softball, girls' golf, and cheerleading) practices will begin on August 1, 2016. Please make sure you plan accordingly and that you have an updated physical. Any physical after February 1, 2016 will be accepted.

Keep up with all Bulldog athletics and activities on our district's website at harrisburg.k12.mo.us. You can find up-to-date schedules and scores for all your favorite activities.

FROM NURSE JACKIE!

Jackie Wardrip, School Nurse

IMPORTANT IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR 2016-17

Below are important immunization requirements for the incoming eighth graders and seniors for the 2016-17 school year.

Eighth graders: All incoming eighth graders are required to have a Tdap and an MCV immunization before they start school.

Twelfth graders: All incoming seniors are required to have two doses of the MCV before starting school. If the first vaccination was given at 16 years or older they are only required to have one.

You may email a copy of your child's records to wardripja@harrisburg.k12.mo.us or fax at (573) 875-8936.

Health and immunization forms can be found on the News From the Nurse page under Parent Resources on the school's website at Harrisburg.k12.mo.us.

Help Wanted:

Substitute Bus Drivers

The Harrisburg R-VIII School District is seeking applicants for school bus substitute drivers.

School Bus Operators
Permit required (*Commercial Drivers License with a PS Endorsement*).

Training will be provided by the district to obtain license.

FBI background and child abuse checks are required.



Apply at:

Harrisburg R-VIII Schools
1000 South Harris,
Harrisburg MO 65256

Harrisburg R-VIII Schools is an equal opportunity employer.

SchoolMessenger Notifications

The SchoolMessenger phone notification system, sponsored by the Commercial Trust Company, has been an asset to the school district to keep parents notified of cancellations and upcoming school events. The school's website has a log-in link to SchoolMessenger. Use this link to manage your account and to review messages that have been sent by phone, email, and text message. Can't remember your password or don't have an account? No problem! There is a link to reset the password. Parents who have not set up an account must contact the school first to receive an activation code to be able to set up the account.

A SchoolMessenger tip when receiving notifications by phone is always press "1" (one) when answering the call. Pressing 1 sends a message to SchoolMessenger that the notification has been received and the phone number will not be dialed again.

HARRISBURG R-VIII SCHOOL DISTRICT REVISED 2015-2016 ACADEMIC SCHOOL CALENDAR

4-DAY SCHOOL WEEK

Approved by BOE May 11, 2015
(No school on Mondays except where noted.)

Fourth Quarter

No School - Spring Break March 26–April 4
2016-2017 Incoming Kindergarten Parent Meeting (6:00 p.m.)..... April 6
2016-2017 Kindergarten Screening April 13-15
Last Day of School - End of Fourth Quarter (38 days) (HALF DAY) May 25
Graduation (2:00 p.m.)..... May 22
Memorial Day May 30

Make-up days are as follows: first make-up day, February 29; second make-up day, March 14; third make-up day, April 4; fourth make-up day, May 2; fifth make-up day, May 26; sixth make-up day, May 27.

HARRISBURG R-VIII SCHOOL DISTRICT 2016-17 ACADEMIC SCHOOL CALENDAR

4-DAY SCHOOL WEEK

Approved by BOE March 14, 2016
(No school on Mondays except where noted.)

Enrollment and Open House

K-12 New Student Enrollment..... August 4
Teacher's Workday August 15
Open House (6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.) August 15
Teacher's Workday August 16

First Quarter

School Begins August 17
Parent Teacher Conferences (1:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.)..... October 3
End of First Quarter (35 days) October 14

Second Quarter

School in Session..... Monday, November 21
No School - Thanksgiving Break..... November 23-25
School in Session Monday, December 19
End of Second Quarter (36 days)..... December 20
No School - Christmas Break..... December 21-January 2

Third Quarter

Third Quarter Begins..... January 3
Parent Teacher Conferences (1:00 p.m.-7:00p.m.)..... March 6
End of Third Quarter (40 days) March 10

Fourth Quarter

No School - Spring Break..... March 27–April 3
2016-2017 Incoming Kindergarten Parent Meeting TBA
2016-2017 Kindergarten Screening TBA
School in Session Monday, May 22
Last Day of School - End of Fourth Quarter (38 days) (HALF DAY) May 23
Graduation May 21
Memorial Day May 29

Make-up days are as follows: first make-up day, February 27; second make-up day, March 13; third make-up day, April 24; fourth make-up day, May 8; fifth make-up day, May 24; sixth make-up day, May 25.

UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS!

April 27—MUSART
May 11—Academic Banquet
May 12—Athletic Banquet
May 17—Kindergarten Graduation
May 22—High School Graduation
May 24—Attendance Field Trip for Middle and High School Students
May 25—Last Day of School (Early Release)

HARRISBURG R-VIII SCHOOL DISTRICT
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HARRISBURG MO 65256

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LAST DAY OF SCHOOL IS MAY 25!

Don't forget to exercise your privilege to vote! April 5 is Election Day!

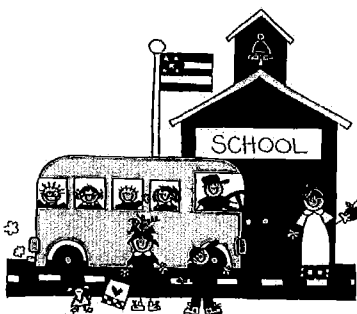
2016-17 Kindergarten Class Parent Meeting

Wednesday, April 6, 2016 6:00 p.m. North Campus Gym

2016-17 Kindergarten and Preschool Screening

April 13, 14, and 15, 2016

Students enrolling in kindergarten for the 2016-17 school year must be five years old by August 1. Preschool children who are not currently enrolled must be screened in order to qualify for our Title 1 preschool. Call the Harrisburg elementary office at 573-875-0290 to schedule an appointment. We will be conducting enrollment on site at the time of screening.



COMMUNICATION LINKS

Administration: 875-5604
Elementary Office: 875-0290
Middle School Office: 817-5857
High School Office: 875-5602
Website: harrisburg.k12.mo.us
Facebook: Harrisburg R-8 School District