

Mehlville Messenger

A Mehlville School District Publication

Early College Academy students jump-start their future

Ten students in the first class of the Mehlville School District Early College Academy have completed their first semester of college — as juniors in high school.

This is the first year of the Early College Academy, which allows Mehlville High School and Oakville High School students to take courses at St. Louis Community College tuition-free. These courses satisfy both high school and college credits, meaning students can graduate high school with both a diploma and an associate degree.

“We start them off at the St. Louis Community College South County campus just to get them acclimated to the process and what resources they have,” said OHS College and Career Counselor Stephen King. “After that, they’re registering just like a college student would be.”

Students take the typical entry-level English, math and humanities courses that are required of all college students, and they also have the option to take elective courses in their areas of interest. All credits will transfer to any community college or four-year university in Missouri.

“It will do a lot for your future,” said Melisa Vilic, a junior at Oakville High and an Early College Academy student. “Two years of college are done, and you’re only 18. Everyone else is just graduating high school when they’re 18, and I can transfer to a four-year university and graduate there when I’m 20.”

Students can apply for the Early College Academy during their sophomore year. While they take all of their junior and senior year courses at St. Louis Community College, students can still be involved in athletics, arts and other clubs at their home high school.

Ten new students will be accepted into the program for the 2020-2021 school year. Students should talk to their counselor if they’re interested in applying.

Early College Academy is one of several programs designed to increase student engagement by providing students with customized learning pathways.



Mehlville High School junior and Early College Academy student Hannah Drzewiecki hopes to become a lawyer. Participating in the Early College Academy will allow her to apply to law school sooner than her peers.

High school choice programs provide real-world experience

MyPath

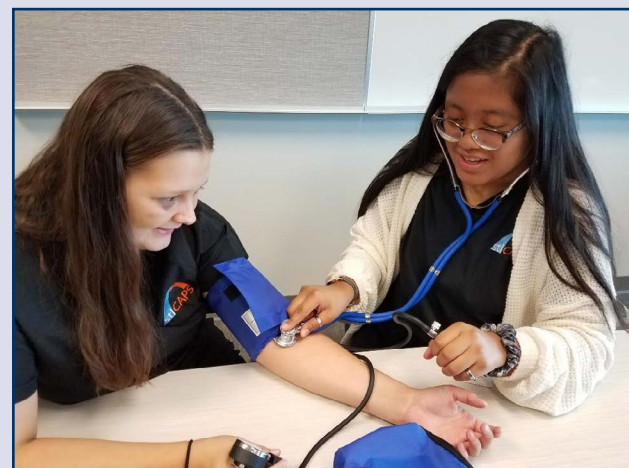
In MyPath, students propose a personalized plan of study focused on post-secondary interests and goals. The student works with an instructor to create a project management plan and find professional mentors. Within this plan, the student identifies topics to cover, learning goals, activities and a timeline.

South Tech High School

Off-campus electives at South Tech High School allow students to explore careers and trades, make connections with expert instructors, learn professional skills and develop a customized education and career plan.

Centers for Advanced Professional Studies

The St. Louis Centers for Advanced Professional Studies (STLCAPS) get students off campus and into a professional climate. They solve real-world problems, use industry-standard tools and are mentored by experts in one of four fields of study: Global Business and Entrepreneurship;



Students learn how to measure blood pressure at Mercy Hospital South in the STLCAPS Healthcare, Medicine and Bioscience program.

Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing; Healthcare, Medicine and Bioscience; Technology Solutions and Logistics; and Careers in Education.

See student testimonials and learn about these programs at bit.ly/studentchoicemsdr9.

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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

Embracing a culture of improvement, motivation and pride

Our school district has come a long way in five short years. Academics continue to trend up, aided by additional reading and math interventionists in our classrooms, increased professional development, and improved classroom instructional methods. Some improvements have been dramatic, such as at Blades Elementary School where students improved their math MAP scores by an incredible 75 percent. Also this year, eight of our 11 elementary schools extended the district's gains in math and English. There are incredible stories of success across our district.

Perhaps our most important change is in our culture of accountability and continuous improvement. While we have much to be proud of, there will always be more challenges. We know some of these — such as our high numbers of students learning English as a second language — will be faced by few other districts outside of the Interstate 270

loop. We have unique opportunities that require unique approaches.

Through it all, our teachers understand these challenges better than anyone else, and they work hard every day to provide the best education possible for our community's children. They do it with amazing personal motivation and pride that goes well beyond that of a typical "job."

To paraphrase Vince Lombardi, winning is a habit that we achieve through the hard efforts we put forth every day. These past five years have shown that the people in our district are willing to put in the work and are able to overcome the challenges in front of us. As we look towards the future and how our culture has evolved, I have every confidence our people will continue to tackle the next set of obstacles and continue to make our schools some of the best in St. Louis.

Kevin Schartner



Mehlville Summer Session

Explore, Discover, Achieve with Mehlville School District

June 1–26, 2020

Mehlville's Summer Session for elementary and middle school students is packed with opportunities for exploration, discovery and achievement. High school students can take elective courses and recover credits in core subjects during Summer Session.

Summer Session hours and locations

Elementary School Summer Session

8:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.
Blades Elementary School
Forder Elementary School
Rogers Elementary School

Middle School Summer Session

7:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.
Oakville Middle School

High School Summer Session

Two sessions: 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Oakville High School

More information and registration

See course offerings for middle and high school and register online at mehlvilleschooldistrict.com/summer_session





Your priorities are helping us plan for the future

So far this year, more than 3,000 parents, staff, students and community members have participated in Mehlville Listens through ThoughtExchange surveys and in-person meetings. Your feedback will guide the revision and renewal of the Mehlville School District strategic plan. Thank you to everyone who has participated so far.

While we're continuing to gather input through the spring, in December, we reviewed and analyzed all of the comments received to date. Two early themes

have emerged. Loud and clear, you are telling us that you want safe school buildings and grounds, and schools where students and staff feel safe working and learning together. We also hear that personalized learning is important to you. Comments reflect that you want each student to have relevant, real-world learning experiences, more clubs and activities, and more voice and choice in their learning.

We're also hearing that our Portrait of a Graduate traits are spot on. These are the traits we work to instill in our students. We want our students to be creative and critical thinkers, self-aware, persistent, communicators, and ethical and global citizens. We hear your concerns about student anxiety, stress, and health and wellness. Our teachers and staff worry about our students' mental health, too, and we're working to add support for students.

What's next for Mehlville Listens?

We will continue to gather feedback during the early spring and will have final themes identified by May. These themes will guide our strategic plan's action steps and goals, which we'll finalize in early 2021.

Mehlville Listens isn't the only way we are gathering feedback. Our Facilities Steering Committee has held open meetings at each of our schools to identify and prioritize facility needs across the district. The committee is almost finished with its work. With input from the Board of Education Finance Committee and Facilities Committee, the steering committee will present its recommendations for facility improvements to the board this summer.

This renewed strategic plan and recommendations on facility improvements come at a time when we have a financial opportunity to improve our aging buildings and provide more resources for student learning. This can happen without increasing our tax rate.

It's an exciting time to be part of Mehlville School District. I'm looking forward to delivering on the top priorities identified by our community. Thank you for participating in this process.



Attendees at the December Mehlville Listens meeting participate in focus groups to share feedback related to teacher support.

How we are preparing for coronavirus



Custodians are deep cleaning schools when attendance drops below 90 percent.

Mehlville School District is no stranger to increased absences due to cold and flu season. This year, however, we are also preparing for a potential coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses with symptoms similar to the flu, including fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing. We are taking the following steps to keep our students and staff healthy and reduce the spread of viruses, like coronavirus.

- We continue to teach our students the importance of hand-washing. Additionally, hand-sanitizing stations are located throughout all of our schools.
- In addition to hand-washing, our students are instructed to cough into a tissue or their sleeve, and to avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth.
- Our facilities team is cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces, like door knobs, hand rails, light switches and bus seats. When absences drop below 90 percent in a grade level, additional deep cleaning is being done.
- We are reminding parents to keep their children at home if they have a fever above 100 degrees Fahrenheit or are ill. Students must be fever-free without medication for 24 hours before returning to school.

Mehlville School District will continue to work with our partners at the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and the St. Louis County Department of Public Health as they monitor and manage the current situation with both the flu and COVID-19. [Click here](#) for details.

Meet the candidates for the Mehlville School District Board of Education

Five candidates have filed for three open positions on the Mehlville School District Board of Education. The election will be held on Tuesday, April 7. The candidates have shared some information about themselves.

Jean Pretto

Occupation: Retired

Education: Bachelors - Music Education Masters - Ed. Supervision and Administration

Why did you decide to run for the school board?

Initially, (six years ago), as my civic duty and former educator, I hoped I could become an asset.

What is the biggest challenge facing Mehlville School District? What are the district's biggest strengths?

It would be nearly impossible to name a single "biggest" challenge. With over 10,000 students and 17 schools, there are never ending challenges. A few of those would be: having enough teachers that we can financially sustain, condition of facilities, fluctuating enrollments, and diversity of cultures. Oddly enough, I would maintain that diversity of culture is also one of our biggest strengths. Our unity of community over Prop R, our resolve to use our taxpayers' dollars wisely, and our unprecedented transparency between the board and the community would be among our biggest strengths.

Family information: Married to my Vietnam Vet husband, Joe for 48 years. Two daughters, nine grandchildren and one great-grandson. I was born and raised on Forder Road in Oakville and have never lived outside of Mehlville School District.



Stacey Kenner

Occupation: Social Worker

Education: BA from Columbia University and a MSW from University of Illinois

Why did you decide to run for the school board?

I think my perspective, history, and experience can add to the district's efforts to prepare our students for a more diverse and global community.

What is the biggest challenge facing Mehlville School District? What are the district's biggest strengths?

How we address an ever-changing community. The district is invested in producing intelligent well-rounded individuals.

Family information: Married with two children.



Richard Vagen

Occupation: Saint Louis Community College - Continuing Education

Education: Mehlville High School; Associates in Arts in Liberal Arts from Saint Louis Community College; Bachelor of Arts in Art History from the University of Missouri - Saint Louis

Community Organizations/Memberships: Board Member and contributor for All the Art; Girl Scout Co-Leader

Why did you decide to run for the school board?

I want to ensure that every student continues to have every resource available necessary for success.

What is the biggest challenge facing Mehlville School District? What are the district's biggest strengths?

Addressing students' social and emotional well-being needs to be a priority. Providing students with the resources to recognize and address their mental health will help them achieve their own academic success, reduce behavior issues, and create an environment that benefits all students.

Perhaps our greatest strength is our community — teachers and staff who create a safe and supportive learning environment, students who put in the effort to grow and succeed, and community members who engage, vote, and recognize the importance of public education. It is the people who make our district great.

Family information: I have a daughter in 2nd grade at MOSAIC and my wife, Ariane Vagen, teaches Art at Mehlville High School.



Jeff Wolman

Occupation: Connectria Hosting / System Engineer

Education: High School Diploma, Needham High School in Needham, MA, Class of 1988; BS in Computer Science, Washington University in St. Louis MO, Class of 1992

Community Organizations/Memberships: Jewish Community Center – Millstone Member, 2018-2020; OES PTO, 2016-2017; MOSAIC PTO, 2017-current (PTO Board Parliamentarian 2018-2019, PTO Board Secretary 2019-current)

Why did you decide to run for the school board?

My children are currently in 1st and 3rd grade, so I have a vested interest in the school board doing the best in the education of my children for the next eleven years. My involvement in the school board will be a long-term plan since my children's involvement in the school district will be long-term.

What is the biggest challenge facing Mehlville School District? What are the district's biggest strengths?

The biggest challenge facing the district is working to further the growth of Math and ELA scores and keeping that direction going and working for all schools, regardless of need.

The district's biggest strengths are MOSAIC, Middle School Academy and MyPath, which all together give students in the district an amazing and varied educational choice at all levels. The technology enhancements put into place with 1:1 device-to-student ratio, as well as strong financial management are big strengths.

Family information: Spouse - Natascha Wolman; Children - Arianna, 3rd grader at MOSAIC, Class of 2029; and Gabriella, 1st grader at MOSAIC, Class of 2031



Peggy Hassler

Occupation: Operation's Admin Manager/Paralegal at Keefe & Griffiths, P.C. Attorneys at Law, 11/1/86-Present

Education: 1983 Mehlville High School Graduate; BS Business Administration / Paralegal, Lindenwood University - Summa Cum Laude

Community Organizations/Memberships: Mehlville School Dist. Board of Education; Policy, Communication, Facility, Finance and Insurance Committee; Prop R Campaign and MOU Organizer/Co-Founder; PTO Exec Board at Blades, Bernard and OHS/Various Committees; Exec Director Kids' Chance of America and State Council; Kids' Chance of MO Board of Directors

Why did you decide to run for the school board?

To ensure the district is effectively using district resources for continuous improvement and delivering a top-level education while maintaining fiscal discipline that allows our tax rates to be one of the lowest in the St. Louis area; Oversee continuous facility upgrades to ensure security and safety of all children and staff. Continue to set vision and goals to measure the success of the district and the Superintendent and set policies to ensure the success of ALL students and staff. Transparency.

What is the biggest challenge facing Mehlville School District? What are the district's biggest strengths?

The district has made great strides since passing Prop R however we still have work to do to address academic performance and facility upgrades. We need to be more competitive in staffing to avoid turnover and need more staffing to assist struggling learners.

We have wonderful dedicated employees that provide a great education and a nurturing, safe environment for our children. Our Administrators work tirelessly to increase our academic opportunities and performance, introduce innovation and PD, and staff our schools to make them top-performers. We do a good job of educating a very diverse population.

Family information: Husband - Bill Hassler; Three Children - Luke 24-OHS '13, Jake 22-OHS '15, Madison 19-OHS '19; Mehlville School District Residents for 22 years. All three children attended Mehlville School District from Kindergarten through HS graduation.





Mehlvilleville School District Report Card 2018-2019



Our Students

Number of students	10,010	881,277
Students qualifying for free/reduced meals	25.6%	50.0%
Students with limited English proficiency	10.6%	3.9%
Students receiving special education services	15.5%	13.5%
Proportional attendance rate	91.1%	87.3%

Our District

State of Missouri

The percentage of students who are in attendance 90% of the time or more.



Our Teachers and Staff

Student-to-teacher ratio	16:1	17:1
Student-to-administrator ratio	257:1	178:1
Average years of experience for teachers	13.6	12.5
Teachers with advanced degrees	75.5%	61.8%

Our District

State of Missouri



Achievement

Four-year graduation rate	94.17%	89.58%
Percentage of graduates entering post-secondary education	78.3%	66.6%
Placement rates for career-technical education students	86.5%	75.9%
ACT results (composite score)	21.2	20.6

Our District

State of Missouri



Finances

Average expenditure per student	\$9,500	\$11,249
Adjusted tax rate	\$4.148	\$4.1445

Our District

State of Missouri

Mehlvilleville School District taxpayers have a lower tax rate than 10 out of 12 comparable school districts in the county.

[Click here to access the Mehlville School District report card.](#)

Hagemann students learn about challenges faced by others

Hagemann Elementary School students learned about some of the challenges faced by their peers during their second annual Abilities Awareness Day.

The schoolwide event was organized by school nurse Amy Heidotten. Outside agencies and parents were invited to present to students on different topics. For example, students learned about the role of a therapy dog. Staff from Lifebridge Partnership, an organization that helps people with disabilities develop skills for independence, worked with different grade levels to help students understand how others may feel when discriminated against.

Some teachers in the school also modified their lessons to fit the day's theme. In P.E., students were tasked with navigating the school in a wheelchair and working their way through an obstacle course while blindfolded.

"The goal is to raise awareness, understanding, appreciation, acceptance and patience with either the kids in the building or kids that they may meet in the community," Heidotten said.



Hagemann Elementary students use potholders, blindfolds and other objects while playing a card game to simulate the difficulties faced by others. Students also attempted to write and draw with their nondominant hand.



Community Job Fair

3-6 p.m., Wednesday, March 25, 2020

Mehlville High School Gym

3200 Lemay Ferry Road

The job fair is open to the public.

High school students are encouraged to attend.

Sponsored by:  

Students helping students: Bierbaum's mentor program

Bierbaum Elementary School's new student mentor program is helping older students hone their leadership skills while assisting younger students with social-emotional and academic learning. The program partners fourth- and fifth-grade mentors with kindergarten through third-grade students.

"They work together learning about each other. They draw and play games together and work on some of those social-emotional needs," Assistant Principal Meagan Ochoa said. "Other students just need a little extra attention in writing or reading, so our fourth- and fifth-grade students provide that."

Ochoa developed the idea for the mentor program while observing an older student interacting with a younger student in her office.

"I noticed that a lot of our students in the primary grades need a little extra attention, whether it's social-emotional or academic, that we can't always give them," Ochoa said. "For our fourth- and fifth-grade students, it really provides some leadership opportunities, and they feel like they're making a difference in their school."

The program has received positive feedback from teachers and students since its inception in September. Bierbaum staff hope to expand the program. They recently supplied backpacks stuffed with books, drawing items, games and more to assist the mentors in doing their job.



Darrow Altalabany, Bierbaum Elementary fourth-grade student mentor, works with first grader Silas Krieg on his writing.

Middle School Academy expands to seventh grade

Mehlville School District is expanding the Middle School Academy to include seventh grade for the 2020-2021 school year.

The Academy is housed within each of the district's four middle schools and presents students with blended learning opportunities, including project-based learning, inquiry-based learning, personalized learning and guided teacher expertise. In the Academy, two subjects are studied in context with one another. For example, a math and science class might be taught together, or a social studies and English Language Arts (ELA) class might be taught together.

Combining two courses into one double class period allows teachers to guide student learning of the Mehlville School District curriculum while providing greater depth of study.

At Bernard Middle School, for example, social studies and ELA are taught together. "It's incredibly cohesive because all of the books we read have a social studies/historical type twist to it," Bernard Middle School teacher Jefferson Stephens said.

The Academy also encourages students to develop skills they will use as working adults; like how to work as a team and solve problems. The classes also allow for personalized learning through student choice. Students are supplied with a playlist or menu of tasks and pick and choose what they complete at any given time during the week.

"They like being able to choose which activity fits their mood or energy level for that day," Bernard Middle teacher Amber Mathews said. "I know if the students are feeling overwhelmed, they might choose something where they're sitting and working, or on a day when they need to get up and move, they may pick something more kinesthetic."

Teachers have observed that allowing for student choice has created an increased level of student buy-in to learning. "It's catered around their likes and interests," Oakville Middle School teacher Emili Harvey said. "They always want to be part of it because they're the ones that created it."

The personalized approach allows students to learn at their own pace in addition to allowing teachers to devote more time to individual students.

"You have more time to individually talk to students because you're not just in front of the classroom talking all of the time," Buerkle Middle teacher Susan Weedman said. "You're in the back saying 'Hey, come over, pull up a chair. Let's see where you're at and what we need to do.'"

Teachers say the methodology is beneficial to all students regardless of their learning style.

"I really believe this is for everybody," Buerkle Middle School teacher Dan Regan said. "I think everybody deserves a choice in their learning and with that choice is empowerment. Everybody deserves to feel empowered. If only we all felt that way, what could we accomplish?" [Click here](#) to read more.



Oakville Middle Spartan Academy teacher Emili Harvey listens to a student explain her group's poster of a body system.



Bernard Middle Patriot Academy students research and create a map of Ancient Mesopotamia.



Washington Middle Eagle Academy teacher Eric Theby observes students applying what they learned about perimeter and area to measure real-world objects.



Buerkle Middle Bobcat Academy students use dry ice to conduct science experiments and record their observations.

STUDENT DISTINCTIONS

Perfect ACT score

Hannah Franke, a junior at Oakville High School, earned a perfect score of 36 on the ACT, a feat accomplished by only 0.2% of test-takers. This was Franke's second time taking the test. She's one of two Mehlville School District students to achieve a perfect score on the ACT this year.



Hannah Franke

All-State Children's Choir

Five students were selected to the All State Children's Choir: **Sophia Guerrero**, fifth-grade student at Hagemann; **Grace Mundy**, fourth-grade student at Hagemann; **Sianna Jackson**, fourth-grade student at Bierbaum; **Eliana Mathis**, fourth-grade student at Wohlwend; and **McKenna Kinealy**, fourth-grade student at Wohlwend.



(L-R): Sophia Guerrero and Grace Mundy; Sianna Jackson, and Eliana Mathis and McKenna Kinealy

Certified in finance

Andrew "A.J." Hutson, a senior at Mehlville High School, passed the National ASK Certification Test for Concepts of Finance. Only 38% of people who take the test earn a passing grade. By passing this exam, Hutson has demonstrated that he has a level of competence in finance typically expected by the industry.



A.J. Hutson

Presidential Scholar

John "Tommy" Jackson, a senior at Oakville High School, was named a candidate in the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. Scholars are selected on the basis of superior academic and artistic achievements, leadership qualities, strong character and involvement in community and school activities.



Tommy Jackson

All-State Band

Two Oakville High School students were selected to the All-State Band, **Jared Hasty**, freshman, and **Colin Akers**, senior.



(L-R): Colin Akers and Jared Hasty

All-State Choir

Five Oakville High School students were selected to the All-State Choir: **Mady Baker**, senior; **Thomas Schartner**, senior; **Riley Hicks**, senior; **Elisabeth "Miko" King**, junior; and **Ben Lanier**, junior.

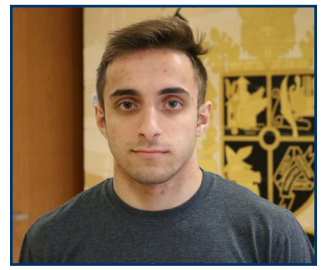
(L-R): Mady Baker, Thomas Schartner, Riley Hicks, Miko King, Ben Lanier



Diver named All State Mason Meinershagen, freshman at Oakville High, was selected All State for diving. She placed fifth at the Missouri Girls Swimming and Diving State Championships.



Mason Meinershagen



Ibragim Makhmudov

Wrestler named All State

Ibragim Makhmudov was selected All State for wrestling.

National journalism awards

Oakville High School journalism students received national awards from the Journalism Educators Association. Two entries earned a superior rating: **Jordan Beseda**, senior, for broadcast anchor and **Sarah Goodson**, senior, for yearbook copy/caption sports. Two received excellent ratings: **Brittany Kohne**, senior, for broadcast newswriting, and **Amanda Parker**, junior, for editorial writing.

Honorable mentions went to **Lydia Manning**, junior, for feature writing; **Katelyn Jackson**, senior, for yearbook copy/caption; **Emily Merritt**, senior, for sports action photography; **Davin Smith**, junior, for general or spot news photography; **Samantha Gindler**, senior, for first-year photo; **Cassandra Ludwig**, junior, for newswriting.



(L-R): Jordan Beseda, Davin Smith, Brittany Kohne, Cassandra Ludwig, Katelyn Jackson, Sarah Goodson, Emily Merritt, Samantha Gindler, Amanda Parker, Lydia Manning

Writing contest winners

Two Wohlwend Elementary School fifth-grade students placed in the Elks Americanism writing contest, answering "What does Freedom of Speech Mean to Me?" **Ava Beye** earned first place and **Amina Halilovic** earned third place.



Ava Beye



Amina Halilovic

Three Oakville Middle School students received Young Writers Awards from the St. Louis Writers Guild, including **Alexa Kahle**, seventh grade; **Darcy McClung**, sixth grade; and **Libby Oelzen**, eighth grade.



(L-R): Kevin Schartner, Board of Education President; Darcy McClung; Christina Borage, Oakville Middle School teacher; Alexa Kahle; Peggy Hassler, Board of Education Secretary

Rogers musicians

Rogers Elementary fifth-grade students placed in the Elementary Division of the 2020 Creating Original Music Project at the University of Missouri. **Brendan Wich** won third place, while **Allison Puskarich** and **Alexa Mann** earned honorable mentions.

(L-R): Brendan Wich, Allison Puskarich, Alexa Mann



Blades Kiwanis Kids

Kiwanis recognized Terrific Kids at Blades Elementary School in November. **Ella Hassler**, third-grade student; **Jack Nesselhauf**, second-grade student; **Addison Wilson**, fourth-grade student; and **Syniece Qualls**, fifth-grade student; were honored.



(L-R): Ella Hassler; Carla Rowell, Kiwanis; Pauline Roth, Kiwanis; Jack Nesselhauf; Dr. Jeremy Booker, principal at Blades Elementary School; Addison Wilson; Syniece Qualls

Hagemann Kiwanis Kids

Kiwanis recognized Terrific Kids at Hagemann Elementary School in December. **Nick Casseau**, fifth-grade student; **Baylee Brooks**, third-grade student; **Holly Wade**, second-grade student; and **Isaiah Bond**, fourth-grade student; were honored.



(L-R): Pauline Roth, Kiwanis; Nick Casseau; Baylee Brooks; Holly Wade; Isaiah Bond; Connie Kuchar, Kiwanis

MOSAIC Kiwanis Kids

Kiwanis recognized Terrific Kids at MOSAIC Elementary School in January. **Tyler Vanloon**, second-grade; **Avery Whelehon**, third-grade; **Kaden Updike**, fifth-grade; and **Jayden Mathews**, fourth-grade; were honored.



(L-R): Tyler Vanloon; Dr. Scott Clark, principal at MOSAIC Elementary School; Avery Whelehon; Carla Rowell, Kiwanis; Kaden Updike; Pauline Roth, Kiwanis; Jayden Mathews

Rogers Kiwanis Kids

Kiwanis recognized Terrific Kids at Rogers Elementary School in March. **Alec Eichhorn**, second grade, **Addison Sergent**, fourth grade, **Isabella Brewer**, third grade and **Kemran Sardalov**, fifth grade, were honored.



(L-R): Alec Eichhorn; Pauline Roth, Kiwanis; Addison Sergent; Isabella Brewer; Dr. Patrick Keenoy, principal at Rogers Elementary; Kemran Sardalov; Carla Rowell, Kiwanis

STAFF DISTINCTIONS

MHS Band Director receives award for dedication

Mehlville High band director **Tony Brown** was recognized on KPLR 11 as the Tools for Teachers winner for the month of December.



Tony Brown

Brown was nominated by Jennifer Goebel, saying he inspires countless students and works tirelessly to support the band program through summer and evening rehearsals and fundraising activities.

Certificate of Merit for OMS choir director

Oakville Middle School choir director **Lacey Cupp** was awarded the Certificate of Merit by the St. Louis Suburban Music Educators Association.



Lacey Cupp

OHS Coach of the Year

Oakville High School girls field hockey coach **Christina Gambaro** was named the 2019 Janet Esbrock Coach of the Year. Her team also received the Mike Winkelmann Spirit of the Game Award for good sportsmanship.



Christina Gambaro

Dr. Gaines honored with Distinguished Service Award

Mehlville School District Superintendent **Dr. Chris Gaines** was honored with the Distinguished Service Award by AASA, The School Superintendents Association.

“Congratulations to Dr. Gaines for this well-deserved award honoring his actions to improve education,” said Kevin Schartner, president of the Mehlville Board of Education. “His vision has led our district to provide more student education choices and to become an innovation leader in Missouri.”

Dr. Gaines has served AASA over the past 12 years as a member of the organization’s Governing Board, Executive Committee, and Officer.



Dr. Chris Gaines

High school teacher named Special School District Teacher of the Year

Special School District named Mehlville High School’s Work Experience Coordinator, **Sarah Nowell**, as its 2020 Teacher of the Year.

Nowell has served as the Community-Based Vocational Instruction teacher at Mercy Hospital South for the past three years where she works directly with Mehlville School District high school students.



“Sarah is incredibly passionate and dedicated to helping her students be successful,” Mehlville High School Principal Jason Landherr said. “She is a vital part of student success in preparation for life after high school. She has done a phenomenal job

growing the program at Mercy Hospital South, which is having a positive impact on our Mehlville School District students.”

Nowell teaches students job skills and provides hands-on experience related to entry-level job positions within seven Mercy Hospital South departments.

Nowell has done an excellent job of preparing her students for life after graduation. Since she was hired, more than half of her students have been hired at Mercy Hospital South after earning their diploma.

“On many occasions, I have heard feedback that she is the key reason students are hired into full-time and part-time positions at the hospital and in other businesses in the community,” said Sandy Kempf, Effective Practice Specialist-Transition at SSD.

In addition to her work at Mercy Hospital South and Mehlville High School, Nowell also sponsors Friends Club which allows students to spend time together after school to strengthen social skills and build relationships.

Spring 2020



AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS BEGINNING IN APRIL:

Bricks 4 Kidz
Mad Science
Spanish for Kids
Tennis Club



ADDITIONAL SPRING PROGRAMS:

- ▽ Driver's Education (15+)
- ▽ Financial Planning for Teens & Adults
- ▽ Women's Self-Defense (18+)
- ▽ Learn to Swim & Advanced Swim
- ▽ Whitewater Kayaking
- ▽ Swimmastics (18+)
- ▽ Coached Lap Swim

REGISTER ONLINE:

mehlilleschooldistrict.revtrak.net

Mehlville Community Enrichment
314-467-5280 | lusterk@msdr9.org
www.mehlilleschooldistrict.com/community/ce
Facebook: @CommunityEnrichmentMSDR9



COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT



July 2020
Trautwein Elementary
***Registration opens April 1st**

Abra-Kid-Abra	Crayola Imagine
Adventures in Storytelling	Little Wilderness
Babysitting Basics	Little Veterinarian
Bricks 4 Kidz	Mad Science
Chess Club	Sign Language Club

***Dates and times found on website:**

WWW.MEHLILLESCHOOLDISTRICT.COM/community/ce

ADDITIONAL SUMMER PROGRAMS:

- ▽ Learn to Swim & Advanced Swim
- ▽ Coached Lap Swim
- ▽ Youth Tennis
- ▽ Driver's Education (June only)
- ▽ Swimmastics (Swim Aerobics)

REGISTER ONLINE:

mehlilleschooldistrict.revtrak.net

Contact Mehlville Community Enrichment:
314-467-5280 or lusterk@msdr9.org
www.mehlilleschooldistrict.com/community/ce



AROUND OUR SCHOOLS



International learning – Beasley Elementary first-grade students Emma Hall and Elmina Ganibegovic look at a Bosnian doll during International Day. Students across the school learned about cultures from Bolivia, Colombia, Africa and other countries.



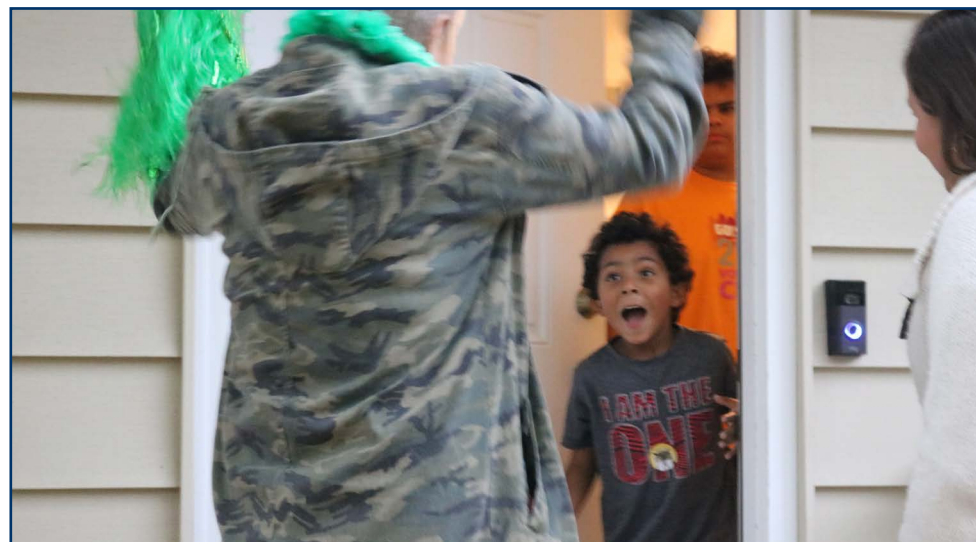
Digging for dinosaurs – John Cary Early Childhood Center preschool student Dylan Kaiser learns about dinosaurs by digging for their “fossils” in sand.



Students become teachers – Mehlville High freshman Eli Grant shares a laugh with MOSAIC Elementary fourth-grade student Rhiannon Gray during P.E. MHS students designed new games and activities and then had MOSAIC students try them out.



Joey pouches – Oakville High junior Jasmine Keyes sews a joey pouch. The pouches were created by students and sent to Australia to be used to help animals rescued during wildfires.



Student surprise – Wohlwend Elementary first-grade student Kodi Herrera is surprised by his teachers at home. His teachers visited after school to tell Herrera he was a student of the month.



Balls of energy – Oakville Elementary fourth-grade teacher Jenny Boeckmann observes her students using an energy ball to explore how light and sound are generated when a circuit is complete.

Attn: Postal Patron

ECRWSS

IMPORTANT DATES

Find district event information at mehlvilleschooldistrict.com.

Mar. 9, 11, 12, 13	Parent teacher conferences
Mar. 10	No school - Election Day
Mar. 10	Mehlvile Listens Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Oakville Middle
Mar. 12	Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Mehlvile High Library
Mar. 16-20	No school - Spring Break
Mar. 25	Half day for students
Mar. 25	Community Job Fair, 3 to 6 p.m., Mehlvile High Gymnasium
Apr. 7	No school - Election Day - teacher professional development/workday
Apr. 13	No school, district offices closed
Apr. 14	Facilities Steering Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Oakville High
Apr. 16	Board of Education Reorganization Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Mehlvile High Library
Apr. 28	Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Mehlvile High Library
Apr. 29	Half day for students
May 5	Mehlvile Listens Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Washington Middle
May 12	Facilities Steering Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Mehlvile High
May 18	SCOPE Graduation, 6 p.m., Nottelmann Auditorium
May 21	Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Mehlvile High Library
May 25	No school - Memorial Day
May 27	Finals 6-12/half day for students/teacher workday
May 27	Last day of school (this could change pending additional snow days)
May 31	Oakville High School Graduation, 1:30 p.m., Chaifetz Arena
May 31	Mehlvile High School Graduation, 6 p.m., Chaifetz Arena
June 1-26	Mehlvile Summer Session
June 2	Facilities Steering Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Oakville High



Mehlvile Summer Session
Explore, Discover, Achieve with Mehlvile School District

Explore, discover and achieve with Mehlvile School District's free Summer Session, June 1-26, 2020.

Learn more at mehlvilleschooldistrict.com/summer_session

Mehlvile Messenger

Engaged students, relevant learning



Sixth-grade Academy students at Oakville Middle measure and plot shapes on an outdoor quadrant. The Academy, which champions innovative learning strategies, will expand to seventh grade next year. See page 7.

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MARCH 2020