

Transcript of Nov 22, 2022 Video Message

Dr. Skertich:

Hello Kahok Nation! I'm Superintendent Brad Skertich.

We are about to begin Thanksgiving Break. The district will be closed on November 23rd through November 27th. Please enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends. And most importantly, enjoy the well-deserved down time.

Attached in this week's update is *Snapshots* of the Collinsville School District. It includes recognitions by our students, staff and our district as a whole. Please take a look at some of the amazing things that are going on in our district.

Next, I'm going to introduce Collinsville High School Senior Jackson Smithe, so he can share some information about the various Fine Arts programs that we have occurring at the high school.

This is also going to begin the start of a new video process where students from throughout the district can share information they would like to talk about with our community. So please welcome Jackson Smithe.

Jackson Smithe:

Hi. I'm Jackson Smithe, a senior at Collinsville High School, I just wanted to talk about some of the Fine Arts programs that rarely get mentioned.

First off, is the art program. The Art Club meets bi-weekly and is currently focusing on beautification projects. Talk to Mrs. Koester for more details.

The Visual Arts department will be participating in the 10th Annual Southwest Conference Exhibit. The show will be displayed in the DeToye Student Gallery which is attached to Edwardsville High School. This exhibit was designed to highlight the outstanding work our visual arts students are doing throughout the Southwest Conference region, and also provides an opportunity for students to gain valuable experience by participating in an actual exhibit. This event will be Friday, December 9th, from 6-8 pm.

Moving on to choir: Treble and Bass choir meet every day during 6th and 7th hours, and Jazz choir is a select audition-based choir that rehearses after school. Choir's Winter Concert is December 8th and they have a Spring Concert on May 4th.

Before that concert though, there is Legally Blonde The Musical. Choir had several members in the popular school musical Grease last spring, from students in a lead role, to behind the scenes building sets, managing costumes, working on crew, and much more. The great thing

about the musical is that anyone can audition. You do not have to be in a music class or the drama club to audition.

For more information about any of that, see Mrs. Tomaszewski. She'd also like students to know that choir is a very open and accepting space. She asks that you come as you are, and know that they will show you love and respect, no matter what. We are always looking for more members to join the choir program, so if students would like to sing and want to experience singing with others, we would love to have them.

Lastly, I'd like to talk about some marching band highlights. At the America's Birthday Parade in St. Louis, Marching Band placed 2nd overall.

In the Metro East Marching Classic in O'Fallon, they got 1st place with Outstanding Color Guard and Outstanding Visual.

In Bands of America St. Louis Super Regional in St. Louis, they placed 28th out of 62 groups - which was a school record placement.

And at the Greater St. Louis Marching Band Festival in Belleville, they secured a 1st Place with Outstanding Visual, Outstanding General Effect, Outstanding Music, and Outstanding Percussion in the Silver Division.

Dr. Skeritch:

On behalf of our entire school district, Happy Thanksgiving.

Jackson Smithe:

Don't forget to wear your purple and show your Kahok pride!