



# FESTUS

A Step Ahead



## PFC Andrew J. Habsieger Inducted In R-6 Hall of Fame



PFC Andrew J. Habsieger

Private First Class Andrew J. Habsieger is the 26th member of the Festus R-6 Hall of Fame. The district formally inducted PFC Habsieger during Homecoming activities on October 11th. PFC Habsieger died when his unit was attacked while on a mission in Baghdad, Iraq on March 24, 2008. His parents, Mike and Brenda Habsieger, represented him during the day's activities. Those who knew PFC Habsieger all tell stories of his leadership and character. They say he always stood up for the underdog and those who were bullied or harassed. The Festus R-6 School District is proud to recognize PFC Andrew J. Habsieger as the 26th inductee into the Festus R-6 Hall of Fame.



Dr. Link Luttrell formally inducts PFC Habsieger into R-6 Hall of Fame as his parents, family and friends look on.



PFC Habsieger's parents, Mike & Brenda, receive a formal school board proclamation from board vice president Doug Wendel & board members Mike Wolk & Richard Fadler

## Letter from our Board President

Dear Patrons,

The 1st quarter of the 2019-2020 school year is now over and we are already a couple of weeks into our 2nd quarter. It has been a busy start to our school year. The Board of Education is always proud to acknowledge the accomplishments of our schools, students and staff and we are here to support them.

Thanks to you, our patrons, who approved Proposition F back in April, we have many construction projects underway and in the planning process. The old band room at the high school is being renovated into a comprehensive Student Services Center that should be complete in early 2020. Our new playground and pick-up and drop-off at the Elementary School is designed and construction will begin in the spring. The new Performing Arts Center is in the design phase, with groundbreaking slated for sometime in the spring. And the new HVAC system at the Intermediate School will be installed in the spring and summer. All of this is being done while still maintaining the LOWEST school tax rate in Jefferson County.

In the classroom, our students and staff continue to excel. Inside this edition of "A Step Ahead" meet some of the new faces to the district this year, see which of our counselors is a finalist for a national honor, learn more about the high school science department's \$25,000 grant, we will show you how some middle school students are giving back to the community and how some Intermediate School students are giving back to their school, and get a look at the gift our third-graders received that they will be using for years to come.

I would be remiss if I didn't offer my congratulations on behalf of the entire School Board to the family of Private First Class Andrew J. Habsieger. During our homecoming festivities, we inducted him into the Festus R-VI Hall of Fame. Andy is a local hero and deserving of the honor. You can read more about the day's activities on this page.

Our annual veterans' assemblies at the Intermediate and High Schools will be held on November 8. All veterans are invited to attend. And as the weather turns cooler, our thoughts will be turning to the holiday season. Many of our students and staff will be performing holiday programs as December rolls around. We hope you will have time to enjoy them in person, but if you don't we want you to know that all of the programs held on campus will be live streamed this year. You can find that stream on our District Facebook page, on YouTube (search for Festus R-VI School District) and on the Boxcast App on your Roku, Amazon Fire and Apple TV devices.

Finally, you may have noticed our new, updated look for the 2019-2020 school year. As we prepare to head into a new decade we wanted to give "A Step Ahead" a fresh, modern look. This school year we will publish "A Step Ahead" four times, each edition will come your way just weeks after the conclusion of each quarter. We hope you enjoy it and as always, we sincerely appreciate your support and assistance in helping us provide a high-quality educational experience for all students.

Educationally,

*Todd Oetting*

Todd Oetting, President  
Festus R-6 school District  
Board of Education

# Festus School District

## Tech Talk



Technology Director: Joshua Bauman



Over the last few years, we have dramatically increased device access for students, including our 1:1 program at the High and Middle Schools, as well as additional carts in the Intermediate and Elementary. Along with increased access to devices, comes increased access to the Internet. One of the filters we use at Festus is "Securly." "Securly" specializes in web filtering for schools and gives the district multiple ways to make sure students are safe while online. Not only do administrators get alerts of inappropriate activity, but they are alerted to online activity that may be related to self-harm and violence.

We are excited to announce that we will be rolling out the Securly Parent Portal. On November 1st you will receive your first email outlining your student's online activity for the week. Unless you choose to opt-out, you will continue to receive weekly emails. The email will include top sites and searches by your student for the week. If you choose, you can install the Securly Home app (link can be found in the weekly email) that will give you the ability to view your student's complete web history. We have been beta testing the Securly Parent Portal over the last month, and feedback from parents has been fantastic. The weekly emails will be sent to the parent email that is on record in Tyler SISK12.

If you have questions about the Securly Parent Portal, or a topic you want to hear more about please email me at [baumanjosh@festusedu.com](mailto:baumanjosh@festusedu.com).

## High School Counselor Finalist for National Counselor of the Year

Festus High School Counselor Jennifer Kline is one of four finalists for the 2020 National School Counselor of the Year. Kline is the current Missouri School Counselor of the Year. The American School Counselor Association which presents the School Counselor of the Year Award says "the award honors exemplary school counseling professionals who devote their careers to serving as advocates for the nation's students, helping them achieve success in school and in life."

"It's an honor to be among the finalists for the National Counselor of the Year," Kline said. "I love my job and consider it a privilege to work with our students and help make a difference in their lives. I couldn't do what I do without the great working relationships I have with the faculty and staff at Festus."

A panel chose the finalists based on several criteria, including school counseling innovations, exemplary comprehensive school counseling programs, leadership and advocacy skills and contributions to student outcomes. The other three finalists represent schools in El Paso, TX; Lawrenceville, GA; and Oregon, OH.

The American School Counselor Association will name the national School Counselor of the Year in late fall.



Festus High School Counselor: Jennifer Kline

# Festus Intermediate Mourns the Death of 6th Grade Student

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Morgan Anderson

On Saturday, September 14, Festus sixth-grade student Morgan Anderson passed away unexpectedly. Her death deeply affected both students and staff. The entire school community rallied around her family and each other. Grief counselors from our district, Comtrea, and St. Louis Family Counseling talked with students about the loss. "Morgan, as described by her teachers and classmates was a sweet, considerate, and fun-loving friend who will be greatly missed," said Intermediate School Principal Spencer Kearns. "Our students and staff came together after her death to help each other cope with the loss. They comforted and supported each other and offered tributes to Morgan and condolences to her family. Morgan will remain in our thoughts and prayers." Students gathered together in the band room to mourn, cry, remember, and share stories about Morgan. Some made paper hearts, others wrote notes on a banner and still others wrote letters to Morgan's family. Service and support dogs were also available to help comfort students. Morgan's family is grateful for the outpouring of support they have received. "We would like to thank students, staff and the community for their love, support, and prayers during this difficult time," her parents, Trevor & Mandy Anderson said. "It is truly a blessing to be a part of the Festus R-6 School District."



Many students wrote messages on hearts and placed them on Morgan's locker at school



Middle School Volleyball students wore blue ribbons on their shoes in memory of Morgan

## School Resource Officer for Each School

They are (left to right): Officer James Hill (High School), Officer Courtney Elking (Middle School), Officer Josh Rodriguez (Intermediate Schools), Cpl. Mike Cavaness (Elementary School).

Thanks to the generosity of district voters who approved Proposition F in April, the Festus R-6 School District now has four school resource officers, one assigned to each school building.



## 2019-2020 6th Grade Mentors

The Sixth-Grade Mentor program allows selected sixth-grade students the opportunity to work in a fourth or fifth-grade classroom from 2:30-3:30 each day. Mentors provide the students with homework assistance and organizational skills. Mentors will also establish a relationship with these students to be a positive role model to them. Mentors support students and teachers in the classroom and help with special projects throughout the year.

This year's mentors had to write an essay of interest. Students were then presented to a team of teachers to be selected. They were chosen based on their leadership skills, good character, responsibility, work ethic, and academic strengths. Students are recommended to the program by previous teachers.

### November 2019 – May 2020

#### Calendar of Events

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Nov. 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | No School                                                                                                                   |
| Nov. 27-29                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Thanksgiving Break/No School                                                                                                |
| Dec. 20                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | End of 2nd Qtr. (42 days)/End of 1st Semester (85 days) Early Dismissal                                                     |
| Dec. 23-Jan. 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Winter Break/No School                                                                                                      |
| Jan. 6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Students return – School in Session                                                                                         |
| Jan. 20                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Martin Luther King Day – No School                                                                                          |
| Feb. 14                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Professional Development Day – No School                                                                                    |
| Feb. 17                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Presidents' Day – No School                                                                                                 |
| March 11                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | End of 3rd quarter (45 days)                                                                                                |
| March 19                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Professional Development Day – No School                                                                                    |
| March 20 & 23                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | No School                                                                                                                   |
| April 10                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | No School                                                                                                                   |
| April 13                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | No School (possible weather makeup day)                                                                                     |
| May 15                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Last day of classes (if no snow days)/<br>End of 4th quarter (42 days)/<br>End of 2nd Semester (87 days)<br>Early Dismissal |
| May 18, 19                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Teacher Workdays                                                                                                            |
| May 21                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Graduation                                                                                                                  |
| May 25                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Memorial Day                                                                                                                |
| Quarter ending dates/last day of classes dates are subject to change.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                             |
| Dismissals for unexpected circumstances will be made up in the following order: May 18, 19, 20, 21, 22; April 13; May 26, 27, 28, 29. If May 29th is the last student attendance day, teacher work days will be June 1 & 2. Kindergarten promotion is held on the final student attendance day of the school year. Final exams are held the last three attendance days of each semester at the High School. |                                                                                                                             |
| Note: Wednesdays – Professional Learning Communities – One hour delayed start of classes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                             |



Front row (L to R): Kannon French, Cohen Hale, Jeffrey Vitt, Pixie Willis, Natalie Yates, Krissy Gastreich, Angela Moore, Miranda Machalek, Back row (L to R): Bayden Beers, Laura Evans, Grace Starck, Oliva Cole, Elsa Muellersman, Sam Hochlander, Ava Green, Katelyn Thurman, Shannon Helms (Counselor)  
Not pictured: Alexis Turner

# New and Familiar Faces

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## Katherine Shining - 2nd grade

I am excited to start my new journey in the Festus School District. This is my 15th year teaching. I have taught kindergarten, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth grade. I previously worked for 12 years at the Jefferson R-VII School District. I graduated from Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, IN and received my Master's from Missouri Baptist University in Curriculum and Instruction. My husband is the high school principal, Dr. Shining, and we have three children. Our oldest child will be attending Festus Elementary in third grade. We are looking forward to all cheering on the Tigers!

## Hilary Cox - 5th grade

This is my 2nd year teaching. I am a 2014 Festus graduate. I attended Southeast Missouri State University for my teaching degree. I am married and I have a one-year-old daughter. I am excited to return home to teach 5th-grade at Festus Intermediate.



## Bridget Sopher-Smith - Elementary Special Education

This is my 18th year in education and my 14th year as a special education teacher. I have a Master's Degree in Education/Special Education from Fontbonne University and I am dual certified in Special Education and Elementary Education. I've lived in Festus for 4 years with my husband and two children. My kids are in the 4th and 5th grade at Festus Intermediate. I am so excited to be a part of this outstanding district!

## Jessica Ecker - High School Health/6th grade PE

Hello! My name is Jessica Ecker, and I'm thrilled to be beginning my fifth year teaching at my alma mater. Post high school, I attended Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri, and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree (2012), a Master's in Education Administration (2014), and a Specialist in Higher Education Administration (2017). I began and spent the first four years of my teaching career at DeSoto High School. This school year, I am teaching high school health class and sixth-grade girls physical education. Additionally, I will be assisting with the high school basketball and track teams.

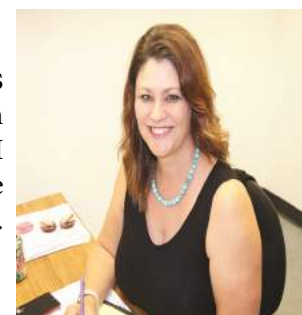


## Lindsey Roth - Coordinator of Staff & Student Wellness

I have been a nurse for 13 years. The first ten years I worked as a Neonatal Intensive Care nurse in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. I started my school nursing career at Festus Elementary in 2017. I live in Festus with my husband, Joel, and our five kids. I am very excited about this new position and the impact it will have on keeping our students and staff healthy.

## Cara Pellerin - Director of Student Services

This is my 20th year in education. I have been with Festus for the last 15 years as a special educator. I am a graduate from Southeast Missouri State University. I have also received my Master's in Special Education and a Master's in Administration. I am married and have one daughter who is in the 5th grade at Festus Intermediate School. I am looking forward to my new role as the Director of Student Services for the Festus School District.

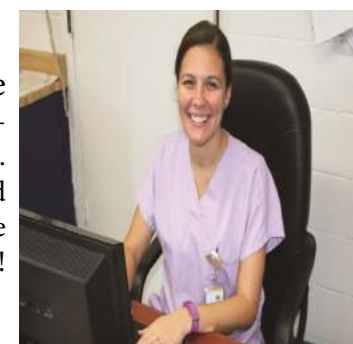


## Theresa Douglas - 1st Grade

This is my first year back in the regular classroom and my first year in first grade. I graduated in 1995 from Hannibal LaGrange University and began teaching Kindergarten. After teaching for 5 years, I chose to stay home and raise and homeschool my own four kids. Two years ago I was volunteering in the Kindergarten classroom and I came on staff as the Kindergarten Title 1 Teacher. The next year I was "promoted" to First Grade Title 1. Four days before Open House this year, I was excited to receive the invitation to join the First Grade Team as a classroom teacher.

## Jessy Beard - Elementary Nurse

I grew up in Festus and graduated from FHS in 2003. I married another Festus Alum in 2004 and we have been married for 15 years. I have been a nurse for 12 years, 8 of those years as a labor, delivery, postpartum and nursery nurse. The other years were in long term care and case management. I got my nursing degree at Jefferson College and finished my Bachelor's degree at Aspen University. I have 3 kids, two current Tigers and one future Tiger. I am so excited to be working in the district!



# Festus Elementary School

## Grandparents Day



Jayla Vallo, Ella Coleman, Gabriel Pratt are enjoying grandparents day.



Mrs. Myers' Class

Over four days at the beginning of September 2019, kindergarten and first-grade students welcomed over 300 grandparents to Festus Elementary School for Grandparents' Day. Grandparents were invited into the classroom to participate in activities with the students and were presented with handwritten letters and cards. Slide shows were presented, showcasing the first month of school and the hard work teachers and students had been doing. They finished the visit by enjoying homemade cookies provided by the wonderful cafeteria staff. Thank you to all the grandparents and special people who made Grandparents Day a success!



Parker Jacobson gets a picture with his grandma.



Ta'Niya Waters

## 3rd Graders Receive Free Dictionaries

On September 30, Mary Hatfield and Janet Mace who are members with the Twin City Area Optimist Club, along with principal Dr. Darin Siefert and assistant superintendent Dr. Nicki Ruess, delivered nearly 300 dictionaries to our third-grade students. This is an annual project by the Optimists who provide free dictionaries to third-graders at several area schools. Students will use their dictionaries extensively during third grade and throughout their years in school.



Twin City Optimist Mary Hatfield delivers new dictionaries to Ethan Primo and Jocelyn Goodwin.



Twin City Optimist Mary Hatfield talks to students (clockwise from front left) Elsa Buschhorn, Landyn Statler, Karsyn Counts, Sophia Martin, and Harper Diekmann about their new dictionaries

# Festus Elementary School

## Kindergarten Students Learn About Our Community Helpers



Blake Willyard, Caroline Haman, Ellie Moonier, and Ellie Smith get a tour inside an ambulance



A firefighter shows students that it's OK not to be afraid of a firefighter in their protective suits

Kindergarten kicked off Fall learning about the jobs of community helpers and why these careers are so important. The week began on Monday, September 30 with a visit from JPAD. The students were allowed to tour the ambulance and listen to paramedics discuss how they help in emergencies and save lives. The students were able to see a call come in and how quickly the paramedics jump into action when needed. The week continued Tuesday with a visit from our very own Nurse Jessy Beard. Nurse Jessy is new to Festus Elementary this year and we are lucky to have her. She was able to explain some differences between her past job working in a hospital to her current position at the elementary. She discussed with students the importance of handwashing and other ways to stay healthy.



Officer Warren talks to students about being a State Trooper



Luna Cordova, Gavin Schaefer, Kobi Bryant, Kyler Graham, Josie Kenny, and Caylee Counts get to sit inside a fire truck

Wednesday and Thursday were dedicated to police officers. On Wednesday, Officer Cavaness, the SRO for the elementary building addressed the students. Thursday Officer Warren, who is a State Patrol Officer for Missouri, discussed the role of police officers and how they help keep the community safe. The week wrapped up on Friday, October 4. Students took a field trip to the Festus Fire House and were able to learn about fire safety and sit inside the firetruck. Thanks to all the community helpers for taking time out of their busy schedule to meet with us and educate students about their careers.

## Students Celebrate Tiger Pride

On Friday, September 28, all students in the Intermediate School gathered inside Tiger Stadium for the annual Tiger Pride Assembly. The assembly included a fashion show and an introduction to some of the extra-curricular activities awaiting students in the Middle and High Schools. The Tiger Pride School Spirit program encourages students to attend extracurricular activities, display good character at school, and show their Tiger Spirit on Friday's by wearing tiger spirit wear. It is our goal to create a strong Tiger Pride culture in our building that follows students throughout their school years, and hopefully a lifelong pride to have been a Festus Tiger.



The Festus Tiger high fives students as they leave the Tiger Pride assembly



Senior football player Jaxon McFarland high fives students during the Tiger Pride assembly



Soren Brown (right) helps "load" the demonstration cannon (no gunpowder was used with student helpers)



Lily Tedford, Michelle Spoth, Evann Harris, and Garrett Spisak on board the riverboat



Domenico Najera, Jace Hargraves, Wyatt Cole, Charlie Roberts, and Dalton Gamm at the Old Courthouse

## Missouri Day

Wednesday, October 16th, the fourth grade enjoyed our annual Missouri Day! On this third Wednesday of the month, we celebrate the beautiful state we live in by hosting guest presenters who travel to Festus from near and far for hands-on demonstrations and up-close looks at our history and heritage. Students were able to experience an actual Civil War rifle outside with the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War! "I felt like I was a real soldier as we marched down the field!" said fourth-grader Dane Blase, as they were taught commands such as attention, forward, and march. Perhaps you even heard the big BOOM that shot out of the cannon! Students were also treated to songs from the era with the Pic & String band playing guitars, banjo, harmonica, and a piccolo. "The wool spinner was my favorite," said fourth-grader Lucy Smith. "I cannot believe it takes that much wool just to make one sock!" Alongside our wool spinner, Mrs. Cambron, we also had our busy beekeeper, Mr. Nenninger,

who returned by popular demand. "It was hard laying all those eggs for the hive to survive!" stated the queen bee volunteer, Alexis Hofmeister. Missouri Day 2019 was a huge success and students are still buzzing about it in the hallways at the Intermediate.

Special thank you to Mr. Lucas, our philatelist, who was unable to travel this year but still sent goodie bags for every single fourth-grade student FULL of stamps from his collection.

Thank you to our PTO for providing a great lunch and to our wonderful Missouri community for joining in such a day- one we hope our students will remember for years to come.



Wool spinner Mrs. Cambron explains to students that it takes 800 yards of yarn to make the sock she is holding

## Fourth Grade Field Trip

In early October, our fourth-grade students got to explore the Old Courthouse in downtown St. Louis. Using a scavenger hunt, they traveled through time by reading plaques, browsing pictures, and listening to reenactments. They also got to hear how the limestone echos up the rotunda to the balconies above. After a picnic under the Gateway Arch, students cruised down the Mighty Mississippi River on a replica 19th century paddle-wheel riverboat. The weather and students were wonderful! It was a fantastic field trip for all who attended!



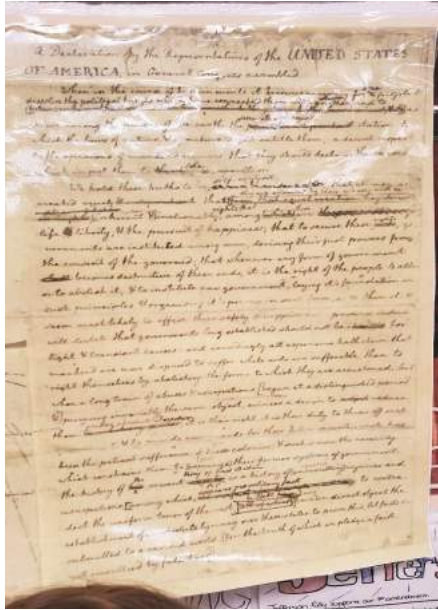
Brianna Oaks, Mila Lally, Jersey Herrell, and Zada Piva enjoy the weather on the top deck of the river boat



Two students work on their scavenger hunt at the Old Courthouse

# Festus Middle School

## 8th Grade Takes New Approach to Learning The Declaration of Independence

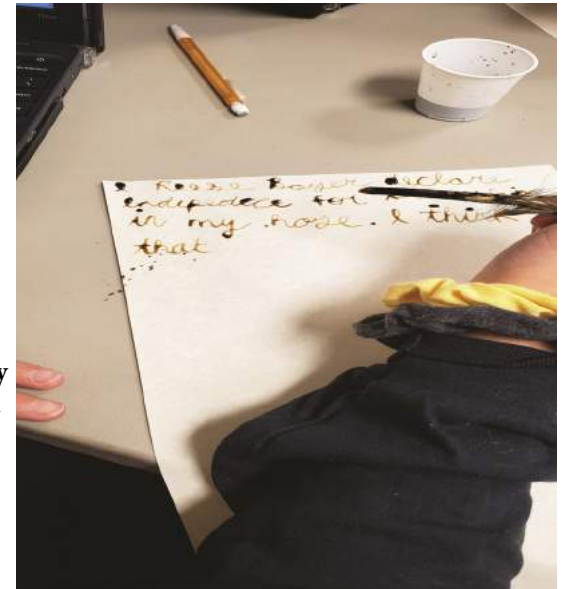


A copy of the Declaration of Independence hangs in Coach Krysl's room.

Students in Coach Krysl & Coach Sheppard's US History class are studying the Declaration of Independence. To begin this portion of study, students first learned the history behind the Declaration and then translated Thomas Jefferson's words from 1776 English to 2019 English. Students then chose their own object to declare independence from and write their own personal declaration of independence. 2019 has seen personal Declarations from a wide range of objects including but not limited to parents, school, bullying, & human-trafficking. Once their rough draft has been peer edited just as Jefferson's was, they move on to their final draft which is written using turkey quills and walnut ink made from walnuts harvested from a park in town and cooked in class.



Clockwise from front left: Ava Croft, Reese Boyer, Madison Caskanett, Anney Mueller work on their personal declarations.



Writing using the quill and walnut ink.

## PAWS Class Works on Community Service Projects



Left to right: Grace Yount, Ella Dollar, Sara Wolfe, Bren Goff

Mr. Mothersbaugh's & Ms. Maschmeyer's classes have been using PAWS time to work on community service projects. We have partnered with the Jefferson County Foster Care Fund to help provide for children in foster care. So far, the students have assisted with organizing infant care items and building craft kits for the organization's upcoming holiday party. The students have also participated in service projects around our school. Just last week, the students helped recognize the maintenance and custodial crews for their hard work around our school. If your charity or community organization would like assistance please contact

Ms. Maschmeyer  
([maschmeyerhelen@festusedu.com](mailto:maschmeyerhelen@festusedu.com)) or  
Mr. Mothersbaugh  
([mothersbaughcody@festusedu.com](mailto:mothersbaughcody@festusedu.com)).



Back (L to R): Ryan Valleck, Carter White, Tyler Reece

Front (L to R): Sara Wolfe, Ella Dollar, Grace Yount

# Festus Middle School

## 7th Grade Students Write Crime Stories

Students in Mrs. Dobson and Mrs. Martucci's seventh grade English Language Arts classes have been studying plot and theme in class. After their quiz, students who scored 80% or above had the opportunity to write a fictional crime scene story utilizing the elements of plot. Over 50 students entered the contest, and many of the stories were exceptional, but only the top 3 most creative and engaging stories were chosen.

The winners of the crime scene story challenge were Katelyn Reece and Riley Zustiak for their story, Edith and the Imperial Coven, Kyah Spencer and Evie Ewing for their story, The Silhouette in the Dusk, and Courtney Jacobs for her story, J.M.O.



(from L to R) Kyah Spencer, Riley Zustiak, Courtney Jacobs, Evie Ewing, Katelyn Reece



Aryana Ivacic, Mitchell Obermeyer, Xander Blaylock, Grant Harris & Ethan Thompson examine the "crime scene."

## New Anime Club at Festus Middle

Festus Middle School offers a wide variety of fun and interesting after-school clubs for our students. The newest club that formed this year is the Anime Club. They meet every Wednesday after school in Mrs. Koch's room. Students watch anime videos and discuss some of their favorite characters and videos. They have also enjoyed some Japanese candy while watching their videos. Other clubs offered by the Middle School include Tiger Talent, Debate, Math Special Forces, Gaming, Trend and many more. Every after-school club or activity must have a teacher sponsor.



The Anime Club: First row (L to R) Kristen Page, Evelyn Sevvick, Mila French, Audrey Staley, Gracie Yount, Corinne Gosling, Brianna Wagner. Second Row (L to R): Christian Hoderfield, Christian Hill, Willow Pilger, Kaylie Beck, Leila Gendron, Olivia Knubley, Audrey Ford, Seth Beelman, Matthew Vaughn, Vinson Lin. Back Row (L to R): Wyatt Carter, Dillon Pilger, Grace Dust, Macey Burr, Kylie Richardson, Connor Doty, Andrew Schweiger



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# Festus High School

## NHS Induction

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In September the Festus High School National Honor Society inducted 24 new members. The organization is based on the four pillars of scholarship, leadership, character and community service. This fall's induction class was made up of: Front row (L to R): Anna Baldonado, Heidi Carberry, Ella Boyer, Courtney Fadler, Emily Holt, Abigail Tate, Sophie Nolen, Dustin Peters, Kinsey Benack, Kaidyn Stanfill, Kamaryn Stanfill, Abigail Wilson  
Back row (L to R): Lindsay Mills, Allison Faerber, Jackson Revelle, Logan Massey, Peyton Willis, Cole Rickermann, Logan Kuykendall, Holly Carberry, Lily Knickman, Jada Staat  
Not pictured: Alexa Sumpter, Zion Bernat



High School Principal Dr. Karl Shining and Science teacher Mrs. Karen Moffat (center) receive the \$25,000 award from Cody Morris (right) a Bayer Fund representative

## Science Grant

The Festus High School Science Department recently won a \$25,000 grant from the America's Farmers Grow Rural Education Program through the Bayer Fund. Science teachers are using the money to buy new science equipment to enhance their ability to better prepare their students to be scientists and scientifically literate citizens. John and Larry Langelier from Langelier Farms nominated the high school for the award. Cody Morris, a Bayer Fund representative, recently attended a Varsity Volleyball game to present the award. The America's Farmers Grow Rural Education Program has awarded more than \$18 million to more than one thousand schools since it began in 2011.



Students clockwise from lower left: Savannah McElyea, Khaia Stack, Marlena McFarland & Kyle Wright use new Bluetooth enabled thermometers to learn the concept of homeostasis.

## Students of the Month

September Student of the Month  
Miranda Allen



Miranda Allen is the daughter of Eric & Deambra Allen. On being selected as Student of the Month, she says, "I think it's a great honor and it really means a lot that I get to go represent our school at the Rotary Club each week." Miranda is the student body president, a Varsity cheerleader, a member of the National Honor Society and Key Club. Her favorite class right now is weightlifting, because both her best friend and sister are in the class with her. After graduation, Allen plans to attend Missouri State University on a pre-dental track. Her goal is to one day become an orthodontist.

October Student of the Month  
Ksiah Wansley



Ksiah Wansley is the son of Angie Laiben & Reggie Wansley. He says it's a great honor to be chosen as a student of the month, "There are other good candidates at our school and I was just glad that I was one of them selected." Ksiah is the senior class president, a member of the National Honor Society, band, choir, Key Club, Spanish Club, and Model UN. His favorite classes are those involving science. After graduation, Wansley plans to attend Missouri State University to pursue a career in the medical field.

# Festus High School

## Engineering Lab

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PLTW (Project Lead The Way) Engineering empowers students to step into the role of an engineer, adopt a problem-solving mindset, and make the leap from dreamers to doers. The program's courses engage students in compelling, real-world challenges that help them become better collaborators and thinkers. Students take from the courses in-demand knowledge and skills they will use in high school and for the rest of their lives, on any career path they take.

Principles of Engineering(POE) is a physics-based engineering course. Through problems that engage and challenge, students explore a broad range of engineering topics, including mechanisms, the strength of structures and materials, and automation. Students develop skills in problem-solving, research, and design while learning strategies for design process documentation, collaboration, and presentation.

With the approval of a Missouri Department of Education Grant, the Technology and Engineering Department was able to remodel a classroom and add another class(POE) to the Project Lead The Way pathway. After the old classroom was gutted, several features were redone, including; flooring, ceiling tiles, shelving, and paint. Along with new desks, chairs, and computers that will run all of the engineering modeling and programming software.



Kate Todd (left) and Matt Terry work on their engineering project



Ashton Croft (left) and A.J. McKenzie test their project

## Festus Homecoming

Festus R-6 celebrated Homecoming Week October 7-12. The theme this year was "A Night In Hollywood." This year, students built and assembled their floats on campus. The homecoming parade stepped off at 1pm on Friday, October 11 with nearly 40 entrants in the parade. It wound through campus before heading south on Sunshine and east on Main Street into downtown Festus. The Junior Class won the contest for "Best Float."

The Tigers took on the Pacific Indians in the annual homecoming game. The Tigers roared back from a 25-0 halftime deficit to win 35-32. At halftime, Miranda Allen and Andrew Hunt were crowned Homecoming Queen and King. The week's activities wrapped up with the homecoming dance in the high school gymnasium.

The winning junior class float depicting a Festus Tiger and two bears enjoying a 3D movie



## King and Queen

Homecoming Queen Miranda Allen & Homecoming King Andrew Hunt



Kindergarten students Kyrin Ellis (left) & Kylan Schutte enjoy the homecoming parade.



Students work to complete their floats on the last night of float building.



There are many ways to help finance the cost of attending college. Here are some options available to Festus High School graduates: **Student Aid:** Student aid is money provided by the federal government or another entity, such as a school or state government, to help students pay for continuing education. The U.S. Department of Education offers three major types of aid: grants, loans, and work-study. Grants are most often awarded based on financial need and generally do not have to be paid back. Loans allow you to borrow money for school and must be repaid. Work-study programs provide part-time employment while you are enrolled in college to help offset your educational expenses.

A sampling of the types of student aid available: **Grants:** Pell Grants, the foundation of federal financial aid, are awarded to undergraduate students and certain post baccalaureate students who demonstrate financial need. The amounts can change yearly. The amount you get will depend on your financial need, your cost of attendance, and your enrollment status. Pell Grants do not have to be repaid. Pell Grants ranged from \$650 to \$6195 in 2019-2020. Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG) vary by institution for students with exceptional financial need. Funds are designated of a first-come, first-served basis after the FAFSA becomes available October 1 each year.

**Federal Direct Loans:** A federal student loan in which eligible students and parents borrow directly from the U.S. Department of Education. **Direct PLUS Loan:** A federal student loan that requires credit approval and is available to parents of dependent undergraduate students or to graduate or professional students. Financial need is not required. **Direct Subsidized Loan:** A loan based on financial need for which the federal government pays the accruing interest on a borrower's behalf while the borrower is enrolled at least half time, during the grace period (for some borrowers) and during authorized deferment periods. **Direct Unsubsidized Loan:** A loan for which the borrower is fully responsible for paying the interest regardless of the loan status. Interest on unsubsidized loans accrues from the date of disbursement and continues throughout the life of the loan. Financial need is not required.

Other types of Federal Student Aid might be available. For more information, contact your college's financial aid office.

**State of Missouri Student Aid:** The State of Missouri has many programs similar to the Federal Guidelines. ALL federal and state student aid programs begin with a single application called the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). For May 2020 graduates, complete the FAFSA online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) as soon as possible starting October 1, 2019. Students, parents, and borrowers are required to use a FSA ID, made up of a username and password, to access certain U.S. Department of Education websites. Your FSA ID is used to confirm your identity when accessing your financial aid information and electronically signing your federal student aid documents. Visit financial aid information and electronically signing your federal student aid documents.

Visit <https://fsaid.ed.gov> to obtain your FSA ID.

**LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Maurice O. Lucas Family Scholarship:** Applicants must have at least a 3.0 GPA, good citizenship, financial need, and be friendly, helpful, respectful, and caring.

**Andy Habsieger Memorial Leadership Scholarship:** For FHS students excelling in Leadership.

**Andy Habsieger Memorial Football Scholarship:** Must have played Festus Tigers Varsity Football.

**Habsieger Leadership - First Responders Scholarship:** Must be the child of a Jefferson County First Responder.

**JoAnn Thurman-Mangan Drama Scholarship:** Student must demonstrate excellent character and have a minimum 3.0 GPA. Participation in school plays is preferred.

**"Miss Sue" Scholarship:** Applicants must plan to enroll in a secondary school as a full-time student.

**Peebles-Vaughn-Wideman Post 253 John C. Vollmar and William Naucke Scholarship:** Applicants must rank in the top 50% of their class and be a good citizen.

**George A. Decker Memorial Scholarship:** Available to graduates of Festus and Hancock High Schools.

**Ralph B. Tynes Scholarship:** The student must rank in the upper one-half of his/her class, exhibit financial need, demonstrate leadership and participation in school, community, sports and church activities, and be a good citizen.

**Lt. Kent M. Kiepe Scholarship:** To qualify, the student must exhibit progressive self improvement through seven semesters; maintain a 2.667 cumulative GPA, show financial need; participate in athletics and physical fitness, show leadership and participation in school, community and church activities, and be a good citizen in school and the community.

**Vinyard Scholarship:** To apply, students must have at least a 2.667 GPA, participate in school activities, and have good school and community citizenship.

**Byrd Scholarship:** Applicants must be students with at least a

# Grants, Scholarships and Loans

2.667 GPA, have lettered in at least one sport; participate in school activities, and have good school and community citizenship.

**Wint Johnson Scholarship:** Applicants must have at least a 2.667 GPA, must intend to pursue a career in journalism or related field, and demonstrate leadership and participation in school activities.

**Gladys and Howard Litton Scholarship:** Applicants must rank in the upper one-half of their graduating class and must intend to pursue a career as a classroom teacher at the secondary or elementary level in public education.

**Rose Mary and Paul Tom Poole Scholarship:** Applicants must have a 2.333 GPA, demonstrate leadership and participation in school and community.

**Festus MNEA Scholarship:** Applicants must rank in the upper one-third of their class.

**Ronald Charles & Rodger Neal Herrington Memorial Scholarship:** Each applicant must have a 2.667 GPA, and demonstrate leadership and participation in school, community and church activities.

**Douglass School Alumni Association Dr. A.C. Shropshire Scholarship:** Applicants must be students who intend to further their education and have demonstrated good academic achievement and involvement in extra-curricular activities.

**The B. Clark Berry Memorial Scholarship:** Applicants must maintain a 2.667 GPA, participate in school and community activities and have good citizenship.

**Festus R-6 MSTA Scholarship:** Graduating Senior.

**Leslie Rose Govero:** Applicant must be a member of the Tigerettes Pom Team.

**Matthew M. Lucas Memorial Scholarship:** Candidates should have a 2.667 GPA, be a good citizen, have financial need, and exhibit friendliness, helpfulness, respect, and a care of others. Preference will be given to students who plan to pursue a career working with young children.

**Adam and Willa McCullough Scholarship:** Students eligible for this award must have a 2.333 average and show a need for financial aid.

**Canepa Family Scholarship:** Applicants must have a 2.667 GPA, be

The Festus Senior High Guidance Office is online at: <http://sites.google.com/site/counselorsteveshewell/>  
You can also access this site from the Festus R-VI web page. Parents and students may stay advised of available scholarships, upcoming ACT testing dates, area college information sessions and the dates and times that college representatives will be at our school by visiting this site.

**Karen Tesreau Trust Scholarship:** Student must plan to pursue a degree in music.

**Weier Family Scholarship:** Student must attend the University of Missouri in Columbia, rank in the top 25% of the class, have financial need, demonstrate good citizenship, and participate in school activities.

**Antonio Tullock Scholarship Fund:** Students with a B or C average that have demonstrated progressive self-improvement throughout high school are encouraged to apply.

**Orville E. Jones Jr. Memorial Baseball:** For varsity baseball players.

**Mary Katherine Memorial Nursing Scholarship:** For Nursing majors.

**National Women's Athletic Association:** For female athletes.

**Cole's Hope Foundation:** For students with an IEP or hardship.

**Emma Jane Vance Memorial Scholarship:** Students with a GPA in the B/C range are strongly encouraged to apply.

**Festus Food Service Department Scholarship:** Must have a minimum 2.0 GPA.

**Festus Band Boosters:** Must be a member of FHS Band during high school, continue to study music at college, and at least 3.333 GPA.

**Ready, Set, Be Awesome Kim Showmaker-Allen Memorial Scholarship:** Applicants must have a 2.0 GPA.

**FMS Inspire Scholarship:** Sponsored by the Festus Middle School.

**Festus Football Booster Club Tiger Strong Scholarship:** Football players must have been on the Festus Football team all 4 years with a minimum 2.5 GPA.

**Kinder Grapppler Award:** Applicants must participate in FHS Wrestling.

**Homer Boyer Scholarship:** Provided by the Sons of the American Legion Post 253 for applicants related to a current military member or a deceased veteran.

Be on the lookout for great scholarship opportunities from many local organizations such as Twin City Area Chamber of Commerce, Vantage Credit Union, Twin City Optimist Club, Festus/Crystal City Elks Lodge 1721, Rotary Club, Conservation Club, AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary, and Chapter EH PEO. Other organizations will also provide scholarship opportunities.

**CLUB SCHOLARSHIPS**

The following school activity organizations offer scholarships to seniors who are members of their respective clubs. Students should apply in May by completing an application obtained from the club advisor.

FHS Speech & Theater • FHS Student Council • FHS National Honor Society • FHS TREND

**OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS**

There are numerous academic and talent scholarships available from individual colleges and universities. For more information, students can contact the financial aid office at the college of their choice, or contact one of the counselors in the senior high guidance office.

Application deadlines vary from year to year. An updated list of available scholarships with deadlines is provided weekly in the senior high guidance office. The list should be checked frequently as new scholarships are established and announced throughout the year.

| Graduation Requirements       |                  |                |
|-------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
|                               | Academic Diploma | Honors Diploma |
| Communication Arts            | 4 units          | 4 units        |
| Social Studies                | 3 units          | 3 units        |
| Mathematics                   | 3 units          | 4 units        |
| Science                       | 3 units          | 4 units        |
| Fine Arts                     | 1 unit           | 1 unit         |
| Practical Arts                | .5 units         | .5 units       |
| Physical Education            | 1.5 units        | 1.5 units      |
| Health                        | .5 units         | .5 units       |
| Personal Finance              | .5 units         | .5 units       |
| Electives                     | 7 units          | 6 units        |
| Foreign Language              | 0 units          | 2 units*       |
| TOTALS                        | 24 units         | 27 units       |
| *2 units of the SAME language |                  |                |

**A+ Schools Program**  
Requirements to earn the A+ Scholarship are as follows: complete an A+ Program enrollment form, must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, graduate with a minimum 2.5 unweighted GPA and a minimum 95% attendance rate, complete a FAFSA form, attend an A+ designated high school for three years, graduate from an A+ designated high school, complete 50 hours of Peer Tutoring, have strong citizenship, and earn a qualifying Math testing score on an EOC exam or the ACT. Contact Steve Shemwell at 937-5944 or email [shemwellsteven@festusedu.com](mailto:shemwellsteven@festusedu.com) if you have any questions related to the A+ Program.

**Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP)**  
The four years of Senior High School education are an important preparatory period in one's life. Therefore students' selection of classes to fit into their career pathway should be taken seriously. An ICAP can best be created by the coordinated efforts of students, parents, advisors, and counselors. Starting in late January or early February, the guidance staff meets with students in classroom groups to help them select courses best suited to their interests, abilities and career goals. Advisors will also be working with students as they select their courses for the 2019-2020 school year. Counselors review with students the results of interest surveys and achievement tests. Counselors also help students develop career goals and instruct students on the use of the school's computer-based career information systems which give students information about job requirements, outlook and salaries. Counselors work directly with students, but counselors encourage all students to talk with their parents to gain their input on making course selections which are best suited to their individual needs. Parents are encouraged to contact the Senior High School counseling office if they have any questions concerning their child's educational program. After the students have conferred with their parents, counselor, and advisor; students and parents will then meet with their Advisor on an evening in early March to finalize their course requests for the 2019-20 school year. Students have a choice of working toward a Honors Diploma, which will best prepare a student for a four-year college program, or a Academic Diploma, which is geared more to help students meet the minimal graduation requirements and allow students to explore more classes in the vocational area.

LIKE the Festus High School Guidance Office on Facebook in order to stay up-to-date with pertinent information!



# Festus Athletics



## Tigerettes Dance

From Left to right - Rylie Wallis, Karleigh Bayer, Katie Herren, Aliyah Davis (front), Alexa Sumpter (back), Emily Heibeck, Jordan Campbell, and Emma Harris  
**Courtesy: Cheapseats Photography**

## Varsity Softball

**Courtesy: Wagner Portrait Studio**



First row (L to R): Paige Perry, Maison King, Hunter Ellsworth, Anna Arman, Abby Rickermann  
 Second row (L to R): Morgan Green, Tristan Foulk, Blair Baumer, McKenzie McJunkins, Bri Teer  
 Third Row (L to R): Head Coach Jeff Montgomery, McKenna Templeton, Bailey Propst, Ashley Wood, Kristina Mack, Varsity Assistant Drew Horrell

## Varsity Football



Front row (L to R): Jaxon McFarland, Jordan Meczowski, Jack Robinson, Justus Labrayere, Lane Teddleton, Austin Coale, Tyler Wright, Blake Denier, Greg Sneed  
 Second row (L to R): Daylen Wagoner, Devon Hoppman, Austin Anderson, Cayse Martin, Dominic Nolfo, Jaden Rystrom, Nate Carron, Chalmer Brickhaus, A.J. McKenzie, James Wooten  
 Third row (L to R): Tyler Harris, Tyler Westenberger, Luke Greenstreet, Lucas Smith, Ryan Esparza, Jacob Folk, Collin Doyel, Judson Holland, Tony Marmonti, Cameron Ford, Rodney Campbell  
**Courtesy: Wagner Portrait Studio**

Fourth row (L to R): Cole Wagner, Cayden Glaze, Luke Valleck, Connor Douglas, Dalten Yates, Cole Rickerman, Mason O'Bryan, Connor Holt, Damian Schutte, Kevin Turnbough  
 Fifth row (L to R): Damarion Anderson, Xander Hurst, Tony Armstrong, Max Merriman, Trent Ellis, Michael Corssen, Ryan Chilton, Cade Blankenship, Dominic Stinson, Thomas Meczowski  
 Back row (L to R): Rob Martucci, James Sardo, Russ Schmidt, Brian Bidlack, Jeff Kopp  
**Courtesy: Wagner Portrait Studio**

# Festus Athletics



## Varsity Volleyball

Front row (L to R): Lily Brickhaus, Madison McHawes, Ella Shy, Devin Younger, Kate Todd, Hannah Warfel, Sara Banderman  
Back row (L to R): Taylor Jackson, Claire Martin, Kali Oshia, Kinsey Benack, Abby McMillin, Gretchen Burkard, Jessica Hebenstreit, Bria Garmon  
**Courtesy: Wagner Portrait Studio**

## Varsity Cheer

back row L to R:

Jaiden Sells, Savannah McElyea, Abby Marr, Zoe Lorenz, Emma Horsley, Natalie Mazur, Abby Tate, Claire Horner

middle row L to R:

Kylie Murphy, Ashley Herren, Rian-Skai Hurst, Annie Albrecht, Hayley Hodges, Abby Obermeyer

Front row L to R:

Trinitee Asinger, Lindsay Mills, Haley Casseus, Abbie Rogers, Jada Staat, Miranda Allen, Mykaila Batee

**Courtesy: Wagner Portrait Studio**



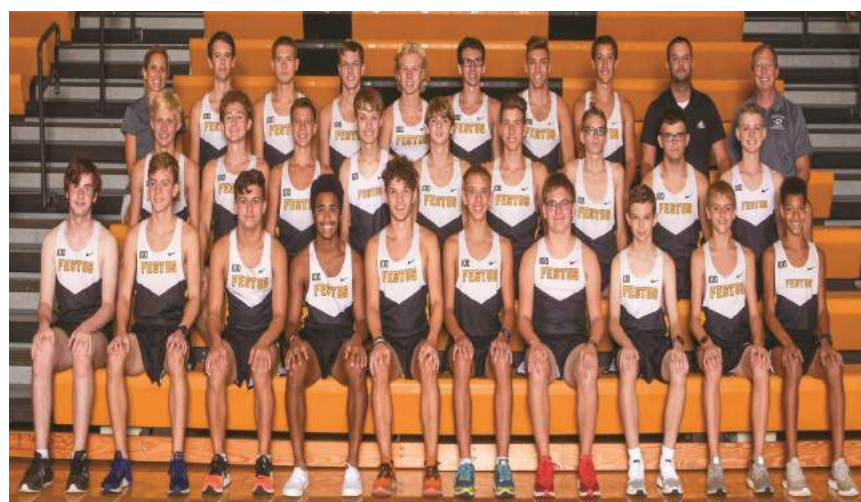
## Varsity Boys Cross Country

Front Row (L TO R): Adam Rogoz, Peyton Kirby, Russell Fadler, Anthony Pittman, Ethan James, Ian Schram, Isaac Schnable, Anden Murphy, Nathan Wolk, Tate Riney

Middle Row (L TO R): Cullen Krieg, Peyton Willis, Jacob Meyers, Michael Kostial, Donovan Parson, Connor Hartman, Hunter Tamboli, Daxton Burgett

Top Row (L TO R) Coach Laura Schreckenber, Brynen Johnson, Joshua Thornborrow, Garrett Rhine, Jonah Krieg, Dominik Kayser, Simon Ogle, Ryan Harness, Coach Wes Armbruster, Coach Bryant Wright

**Courtesy: Wagner Portrait Studio**



## Varsity Girls Cross Country

Front Row (L to R): Kaylea Holmes, Kristin Otte, Ava Leftwich, Lauren Hartman, Lydia Basil, McKenna Rhine, Taylor Thompson, Dari White

Middle Row (L to R): Kaylee Hogan, Lauren Koenig, Becca Partney, Kirsten Klein, Elizabeth Harness, Courtney Fadler, Sophia Leftwich, Kenzie Yates, Madison Griffin

Top Row (L to R): Coach Laura Schreckenber, Erika McIntyre, Riley Connors, Olivia McIntyre, Yasmine Shaaf, Molly McDaniel, Allison Faerber, Demi White, Coach Wes Armbruster, Coach Bryant Wright

**Courtesy: Wagner Portrait Studio**



## Varsity Boys Soccer

Top Row (L to R): Coach Uskiwich, Connor Zustiak, Ben Oppelz, Stephen Darden, Marciano Garcia, Tyler Schumer, Jacob Steward, Michael Meyer, Conner Rowland, Coach Burgert

Middle Row (L to R): Kaleb Murphy, Jackson Hutson, Conner McDonald, Michael Albrecht, Jack Uskiwich, Tucker Uding, Michael Nephew, Reese Johnson, Owen Hyde

Bottom Row (L to R): Symon Wolfe, Alec Bell, Nick Boyd, Collin Brewer, Chaz Seitz, Camryn Micco, Jackson Caskanett, Matheus Santos

Not pictured: Maricio Miranda, and manager Lily Myer

**Courtesy: Wagner Portrait Studio**



# Policies and Notices

## Model Notification of Rights under FERPA for Elementary and Secondary Schools

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age (“eligible students”) certain rights with respect to the student’s education records. These rights are:

The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days of the day the School receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the School principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The School official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student’s privacy rights under FERPA.

Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the School to amend a record should write the School principal (or appropriate school official), clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the School will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the School as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the School has contracted as its agent to provide a service instead of using its own employees or officials (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

(Optional) Upon request, the School discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. (NOTE: FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.)

(4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are: **Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-5920.**

## Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Model Notice for Directory Information

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that Festus R-VI, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child’s education records. However, Festus R-VI may disclose appropriate designated “directory information” without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow Festus R-VI to include this type of information from your child’s education records in certain school publications. Example include:

a playbill, showing your student’s role in a drama production;

The annual yearbook

Graduation programs; and

Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent’s prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws<sup>1</sup> require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories - names, addresses and telephone listings - unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student’s information disclosed without their prior written consent.

If you do not want Festus R-VI to disclose directory information from your child’s education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the District in writing by within ten days of receiving this notice. Festus R-VI has designated the following information as directory information: (Note: an LEA may, but does not have to, include all the information listed below.)

Student’s name • Address • Telephone listing • Electronic mail address • Photograph • Date and place of birth • Major field of study • Dates of attendance • Grade level • Participation in officially recognized activities and sports • Weight and height of members of athletic teams • Degrees, honors, and awards received • The most recent educational agency or institution attended.

## Model Notification of Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

PPRA affords parents certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

- Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas (“protected information survey”) if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (ED)-

- Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student’s parents;;

- Mental or psychological problems of the student or student’s family;

- Sex behavior or attitudes;

- Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;

- Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;

- Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;

- Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or

- Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

- Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of

1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;

Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screening, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and

Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.

- Inspect, upon request and before administration or use -

- Protected information surveys of students;

Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and

Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

These rights transfer from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law.

Festus R-VI has developed and adopted policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. Festus R-VI will directly notify parents of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes.

Festus R-VI will also directly notify, such as through U.S. Mail or email, parents of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys noted below and will provide an opportunity for the parent to opt his or her child out of participation of the specific activity or survey. Festus R-VI will make this notification to parents at the beginning of the school year if the District has identified the specific or approximate dates of the activities or surveys at that time. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys listed below and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out of such activities and surveys. Parents will also be provided an opportunity to review any pertinent surveys. Following is a list of the specific activities and surveys covered under this requirement:

Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales or other distribution.

Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by ED.

Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above.

Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with: Family Policy Compliance Office; U.S. Department of Education; 400 Maryland Avenue, SW; Washington, D.C. 20202-5920.

## PPRA Model Notice and Consent / Opt-Out for Specific Activities

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232h, requires Festus R-VI to notify you and obtain consent or allow you to opt your child out of participating in certain school activities. These activities include a student survey, analysis, or evaluation that concerns one or more of the following eight areas (“protected information surveys”):

- Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student’s parents;

- Mental or psychological problems of the student or student’s family;

- Sex behavior or attitudes;

- Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;

- Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;

- Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;

- Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or

- Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

This requirement also applies to the collection, disclosure or use of student information for marketing purposes (“marketing surveys”), and certain physical exams and screenings.

## Festus R-VI School District Policy of Non-Discrimination

The Festus R-VI School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs or activities.

Inquiries related to District programs and to the location of services, activities, and facilities that are accessible by persons with disabilities may be directed to the District Compliance Officer Assistant Superintendent Nathan Holder - Civil Rights Compliance (Title VI / Title IX / Section 504 / ADA / Age Act); 1515 Mid-Meadow Lane; Festus, MO 63028 Telephone 636.937-8044. **E-mail: holdernathan@festusedu.com.**

## Parents’ Right to Know

The Parents’ Right to Know provision requires that two types of communication be provided to parents of students in Title I schools.

**Parent notification by district:** A district receiving Title I funds must send a notification to parents, informing them of their right to request information on the qualifications of their child’s teacher. The information that the district must provide (if requested) includes the following:

- Whether or not the teacher has met the certification requirements of the state.
- Whether or not the teacher is teaching under an emergency or other provisional status. The bachelor’s degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher in the field or discipline of his or her certificate or degree.
- Whether or not the child receives service from a paraprofessional and, if so, his or her qualifications.

**Parent notification by school:** Additionally, schools receiving federal Title I funds must send parents certain information in a timely manner, in a language that is understandable, to the extent that is feasible. Title I schools must provide the following:

- Information on the child’s level of achievement on state assessments.
- Timely notice that the child has been assigned to or been taught by a teacher who does not meet the highly qualified teacher requirements for four or more consecutive weeks.

## Program for Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of the Festus R-VI Board of Education to provide a free and appropriate education for students with disabilities, including those who are in need of special education and related services.

**General** - If any person knows or believes that a student has a disability and is in need of accommodation, that person should contact Director of Student Services Cara Pellerin at [pellerincara@festusedu.com](mailto:pellerincara@festusedu.com).

All complaints regarding discrimination will be resolved in accordance with policy AC. Anyone who has a complaint or suspects discrimination should contact the compliance coordinator identified in policy AC.

The district will notify all parents and students of its obligations under this policy and the law.

Unless the parents of the child have initially consented to the district’s offer to provide special education and related services, the district cannot provide special education services pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and the child will not receive the protections of the IDEA.

The Festus R-VI Board of Education prohibits the use of audio, video, or other recording devices at meetings held pursuant to the IDEA or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as well as other meetings between district employees and parents. Exceptions to this prohibition will be made only when otherwise required by law or under unusual circumstances when such recording is necessary to ensure parental rights guaranteed under Part B of the IDEA. Requests for such exceptions must be made within a reasonable period of time prior to scheduled meetings. This prohibition does not apply to conversations held within view of district security cameras.

## Students Who Are Eligible for Special Education Services under the IDEA

The district’s programs and services available to meet the needs of students with disabilities will be in accordance with applicable federal and state laws governing special education services, including the State and Local Plans for the implementation of Part B of the IDEA. However, if the State of Missouri does not receive or accept federal IDEA Part B funds, then nothing in this policy shall be read to require anything, procedurally or substantively, that is not required by the governing law.

## Students Placed in Private Schools by Their Parents

The Festus R-VI School District will provide special education and related services pursuant to state and federal law to eligible students who are placed in private school by their parents and not enrolled in the district. However, no child with a disability enrolled in a private school by his or her parents has an individual right to receive some or all of the special education and related services the child would receive if enrolled in the district.

## Independent Evaluations

An Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE) will be provided as required by the IDEA. Applicable procedures, evaluator criteria and cost guidelines governing the IEE process are available through the district’s special services office. The Board delegates the authority to make changes to these procedures, evaluator criteria and cost guidelines of the superintendent or designee. These items will adhere to rule published in the State and Local Plans for Compliance with Part B of the IDEA.

## Extended School Year

Extended school year (ESY) services may be necessary to provide a child with a disability a free and appropriate public education pursuant to law. The extended school year services will be addressed in each student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP). The length, nature and type of ESY services will be determined by the IEP team. Mediation

The Festus R-VI Board of Education authorizes the special education director to legally bind the school district to a mediation agreement developed in accordance with the IDEA and Missouri law. The Board authorizes district staff to contact an attorney for legal advice prior to making any decisions.

Accommodation of Students with Disabilities Including Those Not Eligible for Special education Services under the IDEA

The district seeks to identify, evaluate and provide free and appropriate education services in the least restrictive environment to all qualified students with disabilities within the definitions of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). No qualified student with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any district program, including nonacademic services and extracurricular activities. Students with disabilities may be eligible for accommodations under this policy even through they are not eligible for services pursuant to the IDEA. The district will initiate a referral if a student requiring accommodation is also believed to be a student with a disability under the IDEA. Implementation of an IEP in accordance with the IDEA satisfies the district’s obligation to provide a free and appropriate education under Section 504.

<sup>1</sup> These laws are: Section 9528 of the ESEA (20 U.S.C. 7908), as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (P.L. 107-110), the education bill, and 10 U.S.C. 503, as amended by section 544, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (P.L. 107-107), the legislation that provides funding for the nation’s armed forces.

# Policies and Notices cont.

Parent / Family Involvement in Instructional and Other Programs

The Festus R-VI School District Board of Education believes that engaging parents and families in the education process is essential to improved academic success for students. The Board recognizes that a student's education is a responsibility shared by the district, parents, families and other members of the community during the entire time a student attends school. The Board believes that the district must create an environment that is conducive to learning and that strong, comprehensive parent / family involvement is an important component. Parent and Family involvement in education requires a cooperative effort with roles for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the district, parents / families and the community.

Parent / Family Involvement Goals and Plan

The Festus R-VI Board of Education recognizes the importance of eliminating barriers that impede parent and family involvement, thereby facilitating an environment that encourages collaboration with parents, families and other members of the community. Therefore, the district will develop and implement a plan to facilitate parent and family involvement that shall include the following six (6) goals:

1. Promote regular, two-way, meaningful communication between home and school.
2. Promote and support responsible parenting.
3. Recognize the fact that parents and families play an integral role in assisting their children to learn.
4. Promote a safe and open atmosphere for parents and families to visit the schools their children attend, and actively solicit parent and family support and assistance for school programs.
5. Include parents as full partners in decisions affecting their children and families.
6. Use available community resources to strengthen and promote school programs, family practice and the achievement of students.

The district's plan for meeting these goals is to:

1. Provide activities that will educate parents regarding the intellectual and developmental needs of their children at all age levels. This will include promoting cooperation between the district and other agencies or school / community groups (such as parent-teacher groups, Head Start, Parents as Teachers, etc.) to furnish learning opportunities and disseminate information regarding parenting skills and child / adolescent development.
2. Implement strategies to involve parents and families in the educational process, including:
  - Keeping parents and families informed of opportunities for involvement and encouraging participation various programs.
  - Providing access to educational resources for parents and families to use together with their children.
  - Keeping parents and families informed of the objectives of district educational programs as well as of their child's participation and progress within these programs.
3. Enable families to participate in the education of their children through a variety of roles. For example, parents and family members should be given opportunities to provide input into district policies and volunteer time within the classrooms and school programs.
4. Provide professional development opportunities for teachers and staff

to enhance their understanding of effective parent and family involvement strategies.

5. Perform regular evaluations of parent and family involvement at each school and at the district level.
6. Provide access, upon request, to any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.
7. If practical, provide information in a language understandable to parents.

Title I, Migrant Education (MEP) and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Programs

The Festus R-VI Board also recognizes the special importance of parent and family involvement to the success of its Title I, MEP and LEP programs. Pursuant to federal law, the district and parents will jointly develop and agree upon a written parental involvement policy that will be distributed to parents participating in any of these programs.

Title I Program Parent Involvement

The district and parents of children participating in the Title I program will jointly develop and agree upon a written parent involvement policy that will describe how the district will:

1. Involve parents in the joint development of the Title I program plan and in the process of reviewing the implementation of the plan and suggesting improvements
2. Provide the coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.
3. Build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement.
4. Coordinate and integrate Title I parental involvement strategies with those of other educational programs.
5. Conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content of the parental involvement policy and its effectiveness in improving the academic quality of the schools served. This will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by law, particularly by parents who are economically disadvantaged, have disabilities, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background. The district will use the findings of such evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise, if necessary, the parental involvement policies.
6. Involve parents in the activities of the schools served.

Each school receiving Title I funds will jointly develop with and distribute to parents of children participating in the Title I program a written parental involvement policy agreed upon by such parents in accordance with the requirements of federal law:

1. The policy must be made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.
2. The policy shall contain a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff and students will share the responsibility of improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children.
3. Each school participating in the Title I program will convene a meeting annually to inform parents about Title I and to involve parents in

the planning, review and improvement of Title I programs, including the planning, review and improvement of the school parental involvement policy.

Migrant Education Program Parent Involvement

Parents of students in the MEP will be involved in and regularly consulted about the development, implementation, operation and evaluation of the Migrant Education Program.

Parents of MEP students will receive instruction regarding their role in improving the academic achievement of their children.

Limited English Proficiency Program Parent Involvement

Pursuant to federal law, parents of LEP students will be provided notification regarding their child's placement in and information about the district's LEP program.

Parents will be notified of their rights regarding program content and participation.

Policy Evaluation

The district, with parent and family involvement, will review and evaluate the content and effectiveness of this policy and each school level policy at least annually. The district will revise this policy as necessary to improve or create practices that enhance parent and family involvement.

Asbestos Notice

Asbestos is an issue that we have been dealing with for many years. The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Act of 1986 was enacted to determine the extent of and develop solutions for any problems schools may have with asbestos. To give you some background, asbestos has been used as a building material for many years. It is a naturally occurring mineral that is mined primarily in Canada, South Africa and Russia. Asbestos' properties made it an ideal material for insulating, sound absorption, decorative plasters, fireproofing, and a variety of miscellaneous uses. There have been over 3,000 different products made using asbestos material. EPA began action to limit use of asbestos products in 1973, and most uses of asbestos products as building materials were banned in 1978.

In 1988, the Festus School District developed an asbestos management plan for our facilities which include: this notification letter, education and training of our employees, a set of plans and procedures designed to minimize the disturbance of the asbestos-containing material.

A copy of the asbestos management plan is available for your inspection in the Administrative Office during regular working hours. Mr. Nathan Holder, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, is the Asbestos Program Manager, and all inquiries regarding the plan should be directed to him.

We continue to implement our asbestos-management plan. We plan on taking necessary steps to ensure that your children and Festus R-VI employees have a healthy, safe environment in which to learn and work.

## Festus School District

1515 Mid-Meadow Lane • Festus, MO 63028 • Administrative Offices (636) 937-4920

Dr. Link Lutrell, *Superintendent* • Mr. Nathan Holder, *Asst. Superintendent* • Dr. Nicki Ruess, *Asst. Superintendent* BOARD OF EDUCATION  
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### BOARD MEMBERS

Brent Abrams • Doreen Berezowski • Richard Fadler • Marcus Sheppard  
Jennifer Naeger - *Secretary* to the Board of Education

The Festus R-VI Board of Education meetings are the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the  
Roy D. Burnside Administrative Building, 1515 Mid-Meadow Lane. Visitors are welcome!

Senior High  
501 Westwind Drive  
937-5410 Main

Karl Shinniger, Principal  
Joel Roth, Asst. Principal  
Eric Allen, Asst. Principal/  
Athletics/Activities  
Counseling Office: 937-5944  
Steve Shemwell, Counselor  
Jennifer Kline, Counselor  
Amanda Esparza, Counselor  
Maggie Ellis, RN, Health Room

Middle School  
1717 West Main Street  
937-5417 Main  
937-5417 (nurse)

Joe Willis, Principal  
Jacob Munoz, Asst. Principal  
Melissa Coahuilas, Psy. Examiner  
Counseling Office: 937-2035  
Wendy Mickley, Counselor  
Nichole Townsend, RN, Health Room

Intermediate School  
1501 Mid-Meadow Lane  
937-4750 Main  
937-4799 (nurse)

Spencer Kearns, Principal  
Deana Brown, Asst. Principal  
Counseling Office: 937-4750  
Shannon Helms, Counselor  
Steve Williams, Counselor  
Tiffany Yates, RN, Heath Room

Elementary School  
1500 Mid-Meadow Lane  
937-4063 Main  
937-5917 (nurse)

Darin Siefert, Principal  
Saundra Benack, Asst. Principal  
Counseling Office: 937-2991  
Angie Eisenbies, Counselor  
Tricia Nahlik, Counselor  
Jessy Beard, RN, Heath Room

FOOD SERVICE - Peggy Carle - 937-7747  
TRANSPORTATION - Jeanine Sabatino - 937-5716  
STUDENT SERVICES - Cara Pellerin - 937-8044  
Kevin Pope - Communications Coordinator - 636-638-2004