



# Blackcat News

**Mission Statement:**  
**"Educating Today for a Better Tomorrow"**

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SCHOOL YEAR 2022-2023

August 18, 2022



## Dunklin Daycare



The Dunklin School District is opening a daycare for the children of its employees this week. A grant is funding the start-up costs, and the fees will pay for full-time employees. With a scarcity of daycares in Jefferson County, the service couldn't be more timely. Superintendent Dr. Clint Freeman says, "Our employees will be able to drop off their kids on our campus, know that they are being cared for by great people, and go to their job next door or at another building. If something happens during the day, like a child isn't feeling well, the parents are minutes away." He says the daycare is another great asset to help our district recruit and retain high-quality teachers and staff. As far as we know, the only other Missouri school district to offer daycare is Odessa R-7, outside of Kansas City.

The pile of paperwork that comprised the grant application would barely fit in the hand of Charissa Kappler. As she elevated the stack of documents, she quickly supported it with both hands. Kappler learned of the \$100,000 grant from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and dove into the process. As the director of Taylor Early Childhood Center, she didn't need additional praise. They've been named Early Childhood Program of the Year twice. She was motivated to apply for the daycare grant simply to help district employees.

Kappler says, "There's no stability in most childcare programs. I noticed that with my own staff who had to take days off to care for their kids." She says, "Not everyone has grandparents as an alternative. I'm a grandparent, and I'm still working. To make matters worse, two local daycares have closed their doors."

# OPEN HOUSE

## Monday, Aug. 22

**Herculaneum High School**  
New Students 2:30 to 4 p.m.  
Freshman/New Student Night 5:30 to 8 p.m.

**Senn-Thomas Middle School**  
4:00 to 7:30 p.m.

**Pevely Elementary School**  
2:00 to 7:00 p.m.

**Taylor Early Childhood Center**  
by appointment only

The new daycare has its own space inside Taylor Early Childhood Center. Parents can drop off their little bundles of joy before school starts. There is room for about 25 kiddos, depending on the mix of babies and toddlers. The district hired five employees to run the daycare, and they will be paid like paraprofessionals. While it will be an independent program, the staff will have the full support of the school district. That may include buying additional equipment or asking the school nurse about a specific medical condition.

Starting today, the daycare will be open from 6:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every day school is in session or staff is required to be here. The cost for parents is \$185 a week or \$40 a day. In the future, parents may have the option of having an annual fee deducted from their paychecks.

Maintenance employees converted the space from technology offices to a daycare. They have been painting, assembling beds, mounting cabinets, and setting up tiny tables. The \$100,000 expansion grant allows for the purchases, and part of the money is earmarked for employee pay for the first few weeks. DESE also awarded Dunklin almost \$5,000 as an enhancement grant to get the daycare off the ground.

Paraprofessional Jamie Miller was hired to lead the daycare program. She has worked in the district for several years, mainly at Taylor. While setting up the rooms, her enthusiasm was unmistakable. A smile never left her face, even as she acknowledged the importance of a well-run program. Kappler says Miller is patient, organized, and nurturing. All three of those qualities will be put to good use in the months ahead.

**Go Blackcats!**



@DrClintFreeman  
@JoeFWillis  
@HHSBlackcats  
@BlackcatUpdates

@SennThomasMS  
@STMSActivities  
@MissKatieDunlap  
@BlackcatMatt

@HerkyXC  
@Herkysoftball  
@HerkyVolleyball  
@HerkyFootball



# Message From Board President

Hello R-5 Community,

It's that time of year again – supply shopping, clothes buying, choosing just the right book bag, haircuts, sports physicals, and anything else to get our students ready for school. The teachers are working in their rooms to create a perfect learning environment for the students. Paras will soon be in touch with their teaching partners to prepare for the first day. The administration team has been busy hiring the best staff and working on the tedious task of schedules with help from counselors. The Central Office staff is busy with enrollment, onboarding new staff, setting up payroll and insurance, and all the other things that make an organization efficient. Secretaries are answering questions for parents, copying forms, and ensuring all is ready in their buildings. Technology is preparing the new interactive panels, Chromebooks, and iPads to be in working order and ready to go for teachers and students. Nurses are checking their supplies and reviewing emergency procedures. The custodians have made the floors look like glass and deep-cleaned the rooms. Maintenance has worked to upgrade many of our facilities and keep the grounds well groomed. Food supplies have been ordered, and the cooks will be getting the kitchens ready to feed our kids. The buses have been inspected, repaired, washed, and are ready to roll. It's a busy time for the district staff, and we have the best team that is up to the task of being ready for students on August 24th.

The school board has been putting in time and getting ready for the new school year as well. We are excited about the new staff we have hired, lots

of new energy for our district. A generous salary increase was approved to recognize the great work that goes on in the district. We are supporting our staff by implementing a daycare at Taylor (Dunklin Daycare) for those needing that service. We approved some significant upgrades for technology and additional computers to work towards the 1:1 technology goal. Several members were able to attend the Missouri School Boards Association Igniting Great Ideas Summit in June. At the Summit, we were recognized for our work to earn the Governance Team Award. We were 1 of 13 boards to earn this award out of over 550 school districts in Missouri.

We have also been busy looking to the future of the district. The student enrollment continues to be monitored, along with the future growth of the district. With enrollment continuing to increase, we are evaluating our facilities and how to handle this growth. An ongoing discussion is the possibility of a No Tax Increase Bond Issue in April of 2023 to facilitate our growth and give our students the facilities they deserve. We will be hiring an architect in September to help us with this process. In October, the board will be having a workshop to discuss these items as well as set our board goals and the superintendent's goals for this school year.

We get to do some fun things too! We will be present to welcome the teachers back on their first day and busy creating and stuffing bags with goodies for them. We will be in the buildings during the open houses to welcome everyone back for the new school year. If you see us out and about, we'll have our nametags on, so please take the time to introduce yourself and your student(s). We enjoy meeting the community we are serving.

Last year the board started a special reception night for our new teachers, which we will have again this year. This night allows us to meet each new teacher, and they get to know who we are. They also get to "shop" and fill a large bag from tables of supplies, goodies, and trinkets to help them be successful in their new classrooms. We will be heading to the fall school board conference in November to learn and bring back new ideas for the success of our district.

The school board is an elected body of seven and does not get paid any monetary compensation. Our compensation and enjoyment is hearing and seeing our teachers and students succeed. The board works hard to make sure all of our decisions are student-centered. We work hard to be responsible stewards of our district revenues. If you are curious about how the board governance works and our decision-making process, please join us for our meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at Pevely Elementary at 7 p.m. You can also find board meeting information and minutes on the Dunklin website under the "District" tab. We are proud of all the accomplishments that have been made and look forward to the future of the Dunklin R-5 School District in "Educating Today for a Better Tomorrow." We wish everyone a wonderful and successful school year!

With Blackcat Pride - Susan Hartmann

## Dr. Freeman

Blackcat Community:

As a district, we are focused on making the experience for you and your student the best it can be! The Dunklin R-5 School District is committed to making sure everyone, no matter their position or affiliation within the district, has a great experience each day at our school. During the 2021-2022 school year, the Dunklin R-5 School District made huge strides in curriculum development and implementation, technology upgrades, and increasing teacher and staff salaries to ensure we are competing for the best employees to work with our kids each day. In addition, we have been maximizing grant opportunities to enhance playgrounds, implement a daycare program for our staff and increase Project Lead the Way courses in grades 9-12. This is an exciting time to be a Blackcat.

As we begin the 2022-2023 school year, each staff member will be met with new opportunities to positively impact your children. We look forward to serving you and your children this year. In addition, we are anticipating growth in enrollment over the next several years, and it is time for the district to begin to plan proactively. We will be setting up facility planning committee meetings in preparation for a No Tax Increase Bond Issue in April of 2023. Again, this is an exciting time for our community to come together, provide input on the district's needs, and partner with our schools for a great experience with all who are associated with the district.

Our mission is "Educating Today for a Better Tomorrow," and because we have the best staff in the state to accomplish this mission, 2022-2023 will be our best year yet. Thank you for allowing us to be part of your child's educational journey.

Please visit our website at [www.dunklin.k12.mo.us](http://www.dunklin.k12.mo.us) for the latest updated information. Follow us on Facebook at Dunklin R5 School District and follow me on Twitter at @DrClintFreeman.

#GoBlackcats

Dr. Clint Freeman  
Superintendent of Schools



Contractors sealed driveways and parking lots this summer. Maintenance Director Steve Copeland says, "They put two coats on 50,847 square yards of surface area. In addition, we put down 680 square yards of new asphalt."





# Dunklin JAG Wins



Students Tori Glaze, Mitchell Hille, Gabe Watkins, Rylee Eckert, Michael Williams, Morgan Harris, and Teacher Cody Hunter.

The Herculaneum JAG program earned two state awards and was recognized at the national convention. Teacher Cody Hunter took over the JAG program last year. He says, "I didn't know I was getting the awards."



**Breakfast & Lunch:** The grant for free meals has expired. Many parents and guardians that might qualify for free or reduced meals have already filled out their applications. If you haven't had the chance, look for the link on our website. Questions? Email Nichole Arnold at [narnold@dunklin.k12.mo.us](mailto:narnold@dunklin.k12.mo.us).

The Dunklin R-5 School Board earned the 2022 Governance Team Award presented by the Missouri School Board Association again. Only 13 school boards (less than 3%) met the stringent criteria for professional development, commitment to regional leadership, and legislative advocacy for the public schools they serve.

The Class of 2022 earned \$1,472,020 in scholarships. High school students should stay in touch with the counseling office for information about scholarship opportunities.

Herculaneum High School has added a Twitter account. Follow @HHSBlackcats

Bus Driver Bill Thomas is the best bus inspector in Missouri. During the Tenth Annual Missouri's Best Technician and Inspector Competition, he won first place. Your students may know him as Mr. Bill.

The Jefferson Foundation awarded Bright Futures Dunklin R-5 a \$5,000 grant to support their programs.

Our first home football game is next week, Aug. 26th, as the Blackcats host the Owls.

Homecoming week is September 25th through October 1st.

All year I thought I would get fired because there is so much to learn, and the state wants an incredible amount of data." When the struggling teacher made it to the summer convention, Hunter was one of four JAG teachers to win Missouri's Most Outstanding Specialist.

Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) serves students with academic potential but who also face significant barriers, such as poverty or a challenging family situation. JAG describes itself as both a school-dropout prevention program and a school-to-work program. The graduation rate for JAG students is well over 90 percent, compared to the national average of 84 percent.

The support for students goes beyond the traditional four-year stay at high school. It put Hunter in the awkward position of reaching out to students from the Class of 2021, pushing them to get a high school diploma and preparing them for a career. He says, "I didn't know those kids, but I hammered them, and at times they wouldn't talk to me." For his efforts, Herculaneum High School received the Outstanding Performance Award for obtaining a 100 percent placement rate for the Class of 2021.

Hunter took over the program from Zac Bone, who started it from scratch three years ago. Superintendent Dr. Clint Freeman was a fan of the program and brought JAG to Herculaneum. He trusted Bone to identify students who would benefit, make the most of available resources, and establish a system that could continue to grow. After running it for two years, he handed the baton to Hunter.

Moving forward, Hunter is strengthening relationships with Thomas Industrial, Dunn's Sporting Goods, and several hair salons. He says, "JAG has partnerships with Sony and McDonalds. I also want to partner with the unions and guarantee JAG kids an interview." As a football player, Hunter loved crashing through offensive lines to give his team every advantage. Today, the alumnus is breaking down barriers to success for a new generation of Blackcats.

## DUNKLIN R-5 SCHOOL DISTRICT

497 Joachim Avenue ▪ Herculaneum, MO 63048 ▪ (636) 479-5200

Dr. Clint Freeman, Superintendent

Dr. Joe Willis, Assistant Superintendent

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

Susan Hartmann, President      Tammy Heidland, Vice President

Cheryl Aylesworth, Michael Hicks, John Maddox,

Marissa Newman, Dawn Warner

#### HERCULANEUM HIGH SCHOOL ext. 3

Stephanie Dix, Principal

Ryun Kasten, Asst. Principal

Jason Gillman, Activities Director

Renee Richardson, Guidance Counselor,  
grades 11-12

Chelsey Dickerman, Guidance Counselor,  
grades 9-10 and A+

Connie Ward, Nurse

#### PEVELY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ext. 1

Katie Dunlap, Principal

Adam Dixon, Asst. Principal

Michelle Liles, Dean of Students

Madeline Huelskamp, Guidance Counselor

Jessica Rekate, Guidance Counselor

Heather Engelbach, Nurse

#### TAYLOR EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER ext. 5

Charissa Kappler, Director

Christina Meyer, Nurse

#### SENN-THOMAS MIDDLE SCHOOL ext. 2

Tracy Lewis, Principal

Kyle Borrer, Assistant Principal

Tiffany Bungenstock, Guidance Counselor

Heather Shadowens, Nurse

Joycie Gonzalez-Meyer,  
School-Family Liaison

#### DIRECTORS

Nichole Arnold, Director of Food Service

Steve Copeland, Director of Maintenance

Tom Jordan, Director of Technology

Matt Lichtenstein, Communications Director

Tom Moreland, Director of Special Services

Sue Sharp, Director of Transportation

### Board Meetings are Open to the Public

The Dunklin R-5 Board of Education meets on a regular basis on the third Tuesday of each month. The meetings are held at 7:00 pm. Check the website for the location. The meetings are open to the public. Patrons may view agendas and items from the meetings by going to our website [www.dunklin.k12.mo.us](http://www.dunklin.k12.mo.us), clicking on the District tab and clicking on "Paperless Board Meetings."

*Dunklin R-5 School District is an equal opportunity employer*





# Band is Playing an Original Score

The Herculaneum High School Band is playing an original score. Director Doug Smeltzer says, “We commissioned a new piece of band music from composer Dr. Thomas Bough. He’s a band director and professor at Northern Illinois University.”

“Minor Groove” was explicitly crafted for the strengths of the Blackcat Band and paid for with fundraiser money. It premiered at the Spring Band Concert in May and may be part of future performances. If Bough publishes the piece for other bands to purchase, Herculaneum High School will be forever on the front page, just under the title. Bough spent time with our students last year as a guest instructor and promoted band scholarship opportunities at Northern Illinois University.



Dr. Thomas Bough

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA)  
COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

This guide explains how to file a complaint about any of the programs<sup>1</sup> that are administered by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (the Department) under the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA)<sup>2</sup>.

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Complaint Procedures for ESSA Programs Table of Contents	
<b>General Information</b> 1. What is a complaint under ESSA? 2. Who may file a complaint? 3. How can a complaint be filed?	
<b>Complaints filed with LEA</b> 4. How will a complaint filed with the LEA be investigated? 5. What happens if a complaint is not resolved at the local level (LEA)?	<b>Complaints filed with the Department</b> 6. How can a complaint be filed with the Department? 7. How will a complaint filed with the Department be investigated? 8. How are complaints related to equitable services to nonpublic school children handled differently?
<b>Appeals</b> 9. How will appeals to the Department be investigated? 10. What happens if the complaint is not resolved at the state level (the Department)?	

This entire document can be found on the Dunklin R-5 website under the district tab. Copies are available upon request at the Central Office.

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## Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Our district is required to inform you of information that you, according to the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015(Public Law 114-95), have the right to know.

Upon your request, our district is required to provide to you in a timely manner, the following information:

- Whether your student’s teacher has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
- Whether your student’s teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.
- Whether your student’s teacher is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

In addition to the information that parents may request, a building receiving Title I.A funds must provide to each individual parent:

- Information on the level of achievement and academic growth of your student, if applicable and available, on each of the State academic assessments required under Title I.A.
- Timely notice that your student has been assigned, or has been taught for 4 or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who has not met applicable State certification or licensure requirements at the grade level and subject area in which the teacher has been assigned.

**"Go Blackcats"**

# Board Policies and Legal Notices Regarding Student and Parent Rights

## NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS under FERPA for Elementary and Secondary Institutions

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 outlined below:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the District 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 records they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the *Dunklin R-5 School District* to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the District 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.
3. 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 the person employed by the district 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 District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or strident 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. Upon request, the District discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Dunklin R-5 School District to comply with the requirements FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers SHERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202-4605

## DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Students may distribute, at reasonable times and places, unofficial written material, petitions, buttons, badges or other insignia, **except expressions** which are obscene to minors, libelous, indecent or vulgar, advertise any product or service not permitted to minors by law, constitute insulting or fighting words which injure or harass other people (threats of violence, defamation of character or of a person's race, religion, or ethnic origin), or material which would result in a material or substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or activities.

Anyone wishing to distribute a student publication of a non-curricular nature must apply 24 hours in advance to the principal and include the following: name and phone number of distributor, dates and times of display or distribution, location of distribution, the age of students to whom the distribution is intended. There is an appeal process for material denied distribution.

Further detailed guidelines regarding student distribution of publications of a non-curricular nature is outlined in the Dunklin R-5 Board of Education Policy Manual under section IGDBA and may be reviewed in the principal's office or in the superintendent's office.

## PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT SURROGATE PARENT PROGRAM

The State Board of Education is required to appoint a surrogate parent at such time as it becomes evident that a child with a disability does not have a parent or a person acting as a parent to participate in matters dealing with the provision of special education. For purposes of surrogate parent appointment, "parent" is defined as a biological parent, a guardian, or a person acting as a parent of a child including, but not limited to, a grandparent, a stepparent, or a foster parent with whom a the child lives. The term does not include the State if the child is a ward of the state. The term does not include a person whose parental rights have been terminated.

The Dunklin R-5 School District is given the responsibility to determine when a child with a disability who required special education and who resides in the district is without a parent. The district must notify the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education of the need to appoint a surrogate parent. Training for persons serving as surrogate parents will be provided by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the district.

If you are interested in volunteering to serve as surrogate parent, more information can be obtained from the district's surrogate parent contact person:

Tom Moreland, Special Services Director  
497 Joachim Ave. ▪ Herculaneum, MO 63048 (636) 479-5200  
*This notice will be provided in native languages as appropriate.*

## DIRECTORY INFORMATION

According to federal law, parents and students are hereby notified that "Directory Information" will be released as deemed necessary by school officials. The following items are classified as Directory Information: Student's Name, Parents' Names, Address, Telephone Number, Date and Place of Birth, Major Field of Study, Participation in Officially Recognized Activities and Sports, Weight and Height of Members of Athletic Teams Dates of Attendance, Degrees and Awards Received, Most Recent Previous School Attended and Photograph.

Parents of students will have ten (10) school days after the annual public notice to view the student's directory information and to provide written notice to the school that they choose not to have this information released. Unless prior written notice is received, the school district may disclose any of those items designated as directory information without written consent.

## TITLE I - DUNKLIN R-5 SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT BUILDING AND DEVELOPING THE PARENT-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP TO PROMOTE HIGH STUDENT PERFORMANCE

The Title I Advisory Council meets at least twice a year to discuss and plan all aspects of the Title I program. Parent concerns, teacher concerns, and student performance are addressed in addition to any other Title I business.

THE SCHOOL'S RESPONSIBILITY IS TO PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION IN A SUPPORTIVE AND EFFECTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT THAT ENABLES TITLE I CHILDREN TO MEET THE STATE'S STUDENT PERFORMANCE STANDARDS AND THE WAYS IN WHICH EACH PARENT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPPORTING THEIR CHILDREN'S LEARNING.

The Title I Staff will be responsible for:

- ◆ Increased contact with parents by telephone or notes as needed.
- ◆ Joint planning.
- ◆ Joint consideration of problems observed by parents/school. Being available on regular parent teacher conference days. Being available for individual parent meetings as needed. Sharing methods/materials to support parents helping their children at home. Explaining test results and interpreting test scores as requested.
- ◆ Providing responsible, high interest curriculum to students.
- ◆ Build self-esteem with positive reinforcement.
- ◆ Inviting and welcoming parents to visit classrooms.

Parents will be responsible for:

- ☐ Communicating with Title I teachers as necessary.
- ☐ Volunteering to help the Title I teacher when possible.
- ☐ Observing remedial reading class when possible.
- ☐ Showing personal support of the school to their children.
- ☐ Reading appropriate material to their children on a regular basis.
- ☐ Assuring a good start for their children on each new day.
- ☐ Participation in general parent meetings as scheduled.

## STUDENT DISCIPLINE POLICIES

The Dunklin R-5 School Board of Education annually adopts policies related to student discipline for grades K-12. Copies of these policies are detailed in all student handbooks and are available to anyone requesting a copy of the discipline codes. Requests may be made through the principals located in each building.

## STUDENT POLICY INFORMATION SCHOOL RECORDS

School records are maintained in all R-5 school buildings. Access to student records will be made available to appropriate personnel and parents as outlined by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). According to FERPA, parents may inspect and review their student's educational records upon written request. This review and appeal process is outlined in the Dunklin R-5 Board of Education Policy Manual JO-R. The same policy addresses parent rights involving concerns about corrections in student records believed to be inaccurate, misleading, or a violation of student privacy rights. According to law, the school will provide a transcript of student records to appropriate agencies upon written request by parent or eligible student.

## IDEA Public Notice

All responsible public agencies are required to locate, evaluate, and identify children with disabilities who are under the jurisdiction of the agency, regardless of the severity of the disability, including children attending private schools, children who live outside the district but are attending a private school within the district, highly mobile children, such as migrant and homeless children, children who are wards of the state, and children who are suspected of having a disability and in need of special education even though they are advancing from grade to grade. The Dunklin R-5 School District assures that it will provide a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) to all eligible children with disabilities between the ages of 3 and 21 under its jurisdiction. Disabilities include autism, deaf/blindness, emotional disorders, hearing impairment and deafness, mental retardation/intellectual disability, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairments, specific learning disabilities, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury, visual impairment/blindness and young child with a developmental delay.

The Dunklin R-5 School District assures that it will provide information and referral services necessary to assist the State in the implementation of early intervention services for infants and toddlers eligible for the Missouri First Steps program.

The Dunklin R-5 School District assures that personally identifiable information collected, used, or maintained by the agency for the purposes of identification, evaluation, placement or provision of FAPE of children with disabilities may be inspected and/or reviewed by their parents/guardians. Parents/guardians may request amendment to the educational record if the parent/guardian believes the record is inaccurate, misleading, or violates the privacy or other rights of their child. Parents have the right to file complaints with the U.S. Department of Education or the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education concerning alleged failures by the district to meet the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

The Dunklin R-5 School District has developed a Local Compliance Plan for the implementation of State Regulations for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This plan contains the agency's policies and procedures regarding storage, disclosure to third parties, retention and destruction of personally identifiable information and the agency's assurances that services are provided in compliance with the General Education Provision Act (GEPA). Questions, complaints or requests for additional information regarding this plan may be forwarded to:

Tom Moreland, Special Services Director  
497 Joachim Ave., Herculaneum, MO 63048 (636) 479-5200  
*This notice will be provided in native languages as appropriate.*





# Board Policies and Legal Notices Regarding Student and Parent Rights

## Complaint Resolution Process for No Child Left Behind Programs

This complaint resolution procedure applies to all programs administered by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education under the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

A complaint is a formal allegation that a specific federal or state law or regulation has been violated, misapplies, or misinterpreted by school district personnel or by Department of Education personnel.

Any parent or guardian, surrogate parent, teacher, administrator, school board member, or other person directly involved with an activity, program, or project operated under the general supervision of the Department may file a complaint. Such a complaint must be in writing and signed; it will provide specific details of the situation and indicate the law or regulation that is allegedly being violated, misapplied, or misinterpreted.

The written, signed complaint must be filed and the resolution pursued in accordance with local district policy. The complaint should be submitted to the Dunklin R-5 School District Federal Program Director. If the complaint cannot be resolved at this level the complainant can appeal to the Superintendent of Schools. If the issue is still not resolved an appeal can be made to the Dunklin R-5 School Board.

If the issue cannot be resolved at the local level, the complainant may file a complaint with the Missouri Department of Education. If there is not evidence that the parties have attempted in good faith to resolve the complaint at the local level, the Department may require the parties to do so and may provide technical assistance to facilitate such resolution.

Any person directly affected by the actions of the Department may file a similarly written complaint if they believe state or federal laws or regulations have been violated, misapplies, or misinterpreted by the Department itself.

Anyone wishing more information about this procedure or how complaints are resolved may contact the Dunklin R-5 School District or Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education personnel.

### Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education NCLB NON-PUBLIC COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

The Federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), Title IX Part E. Sec. 9503 requires the Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) to adopt a complaint process for participation of private school children.

#### Who May File a Complaint

A local education agency (LEA) is required to provide to eligible private school children, their teachers, and their families Title I services or other benefits that are equitable to those provided to eligible public school children, their teachers, and their families. Private school officials have recourse through the complaint process if they do not believe their eligible children, teachers, or families are receiving equitable services.

#### Address to File a Complaint

The complaint should be addressed to Director, Federal Grants Management, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0480.

#### Definition of a Complaint

A private school official has a right to complain to the state educational agency (SEA) that the LEA did not engage in a timely and meaningful consultation process or did not give due consideration to the views of the private school officials.

Any dispute regarding the accuracy of low-income data for private school students also can be the subject of a complaint.

A formal complaint must be a written, signed statement that includes specific details of the situation of noncompliance by the local educational agency.

#### Alternatives for Filing Complaints

It is federal and state intent that complaints are resolved at a level nearest the LEA as possible. As described below, formal complaints filed with the SEA will be forwarded to the appropriate LEA for investigation and resolution. Informal complaints made to the SEA will be subject of an initial investigation by the SEA, but will be forwarded to the LEA if a formal complaint evolves. Precise processes in both instances are described below.

#### Informal Complaints Received by the SEA Office

Informal complaints (i.e., verbal and/or anonymous) to the SEA by individuals (who may ask not to be identified to the LEA) concerning nonpublic issues in an LEA will be investigated by the SEA, according to procedures deemed most appropriate by the SEA, within 10 days of receipt of the complaint. Findings of this investigation shall be reported to the complainant within 10 additional days. In the event that the complainant requests further investigation or a hearing, the complainant must file a signed written complaint. This formal complaint will be processed according to procedures outlined in sections below.

#### Formal Complaints Received by the SEA Office

- Record.* Upon receipt of a written complaint, a record of the source and nature of the complaint, including the applicable program involved in the complaint, and facts on which the complaint is based, will be initiated.
- Notification of LEA.* The SEA will inform the involved school district(s) of the complaint.
- Report by SEA.* Within thirty (30) days after receiving a complaint, the SEA will gather needed information including documentation and statements of the parties and may conduct an independent investigation. The SEA may provide technical assistance and may facilitate an appropriate resolution to the complaint through an on-site visit, if required.

#### Decision

The SEA will resolve the complaint and will provide the parties, a written summary of the investigation and complaint resolution. This report is considered public record and may be made available to parents, teachers, and other members of the general public.

The complainant or the LEA may appeal the decision of the SEA.

#### Appeals: Appeal to the U.S Department of Education

No later than 30 days following the written response by the SEA, or in the event the SEA fails to resolve the complaint within a reasonable period of time, the private school official may appeal the decision of the SEA to the secretary of the U.S. Department of Education. Such appeal must be accompanied by a copy of the SEA's written response, if available, and a complete statement of the reasons supporting the appeal.

The secretary must complete an investigation of the complaint and resolve the appeal within 120 days after receipt of the appeal.

#### Procedure Dissemination

- This procedure will be disseminated to all interested parties through the agency webpage at <http://dese.mo.gov> and to subscribers to the Federal Programs listserv.
- This guidance will be distributed through regional and statewide meetings with Federal Programs Coordinators and nonpublic officials. LEAs are asked to distribute the complaint procedure to nonpublic entities during consultation meetings.
- DES will keep records of any complaints filed through this policy.

## Educating Missouri’s Homeless Children

The *McKinney-Vento Act*, part of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, guarantees homeless children and youth an education equal to what they would receive if not homeless.

#### Who is Homeless?

According to the McKinney-Vento Act, homeless children and youth include individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. This includes the following situations:

- Sharing the housing of others (known as doubling-up) due to loss of housing or economic hardship
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Abandoned in hospitals
- Awaiting foster-care placement
- Living in a nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation
- Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings

The McKinney-Vento Act also recognizes unaccompanied youth who are homeless. According to the act, an unaccompanied youth is a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian.

#### Which School Can a Homeless Child Attend?

There are two choices for a student in a homeless situation — the school of origin and the school of residency. The school of origin is the school the child attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child was last enrolled. The school of residency is the school serving the area where the child or youth is currently physically dwelling. When determining the school of best interest, a homeless child or youth should remain in the school of origin (to the extent feasible) unless doing so is contrary to the wishes of the parent or guardian or to the wishes of the unaccompanied youth.

#### Enrollment

The McKinney-Vento Act requires the immediate enrollment of homeless children and youth. These children must be allowed to attend school even if they are unable to produce previous academic records, immunization and medical records, proofs of residency, birth certificates or other documentation that is usually required.

#### Transportation

School districts must provide transportation for homeless children and youth to the school of best interest. Districts must also provide transportation during the resolution of any pending disputes. While disputes over enrollment, school placement or transportation arrangements are being resolved, students must be transported to the school of choice of the parent or the unaccompanied youth.

#### The Homeless Coordinator

A school district's homeless coordinator plays a vital role in ensuring that children and youth experiencing homelessness enroll and succeed in school. The McKinney-Vento Act requires that every school district appoint a homeless coordinator who serves as the link between homeless families and school staff, district personnel, shelter workers and social-service providers. In the Dunklin R-5 School District, the Homeless Coordinator is:

Director of Special Services  
497 Joachim Ave., Herculaneum, MO 63048 (636) 479-5200

## Equal Opportunity

Applications for admission and employment, students, parents of elementary and secondary school students, employees, sources of referral of applicants for admission and employment, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with Dunklin R-5 School District are hereby notified that as a political subdivision, employer, recipient of federal funds and educational institution, the Board of Education is prohibited from, and hereby declares a policy against, engaging in unlawful discrimination, including harassment creating a hostile environment, on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, disability, age or use of leave protected by the "Family and Medical Leave Act", in its programs, activities and with regard to employment, the Board is an equal opportunity employer. This notice can be made available in large print, on audiotape, and in Braille.

Any person having inquiries concerning the Dunklin R-5 School District compliance with equal opportunity employment may contact Mike Golden, Equal Opportunity Employment Coordinator. Any person having inquiries concerning Dunklin R-5 School District compliance with regulations implementing Title VI is directed to contact Tom Moreland 479-5200. Title IX inquiries are directed to contact Mike Golden Ext. 1002. Compliance with the regulations implementing Section 504 is directed to contact Tom Moreland, Section 504 Coordinator at 479-5200, or compliance with the regulations of Title 11 of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is coordinate with the school's effort to comply with the regulations implementing Title II of the ADA, Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, and equal opportunity employment.

Any person having inquiries concerning the Dunklin R-5 School District's compliance with regulations implementing Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, or Equal Opportunity Employment is directed to contact the following designated coordinators:

The Dunklin R-5 School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person(s) has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

Equal Opportunity Employment, Title IX, Safety Coordinator - Assistant Superintendent,  
Central Office 479-5200  
Title IV, Section 504, Americans with Disabilities Act, Homeless Students -  
Director of Special Services, 479-5200

## 504 Public Notice

The Dunklin R-5 School District, as a recipient of federal financial assistance from the United States Department of Education and operates a public elementary or secondary education program and/or activity, is required to undertake to identify and locate every qualified person residing in the District who is not receiving a public education; and take appropriate steps to notify disabled persons and their parents or guardians of the District's duty.

The Dunklin R-5 School District assures that it will provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to each qualified disabled person in the District's jurisdiction regardless of the nature or severity of the person's disability. For purposes of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the provision of an appropriate education is the provision of regular or special and related aids and services that (i) are designed to meet individual educational needs of disabled persons as adequately as the needs of nondisabled persons are met and (ii) are based on adherence to procedures that satisfy the requirements of the 504 federal regulations.

Questions, complaints or requests for additional information regarding Section 504 may be forwarded to the Section 504 Compliance Coordinator:

Special Services Director  
497 Joachim Ave. • Herculaneum, MO 63048 (636) 479-5200  
This notice will be provided in native languages as appropriate.





- ### 2022-2023 Missouri Immunization Requirements

  - All students must present documentation of up-to-date immunization status, including month, day, and year of each immunization before attending school.
  - The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) allows a 4-day grace period. Students in all grade levels may receive immunizations up to four days before the due date.
  - Required immunizations should be administered according to the current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Schedule, including all spacing, (<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/index.html>).
  - To remain in school, students "in progress" must have an Immunization In Progress form (Imm.P.14) on file. In progress means that a child has begun the vaccine series and has an appointment for the next dose. This appointment must be kept and an updated record provided to the school. If the appointment is not kept, the child is no longer in progress and is noncompliant. (i.e., Hep B vaccine series was started but the child is not yet eligible to receive the next dose in the series.)
  - Religious (Imm.P.11A) and Medical (Imm.P.12) exemptions are allowed. The appropriate exemption card must be on file. Unimmunized children are subject to exclusion from school when outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases occur.

Vaccines Required for School Attendance	Dose Required by Grade												
	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
DTaP/DTP/DT <sup>1</sup>	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+
Tdap <sup>2</sup>									1	1	1	1	1
MCV <sup>3</sup> (Meningococcal Conjugate)									1	1	1	1	2
IPV (Polio) <sup>4</sup>	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+
MMR <sup>5</sup>	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Hepatitis B <sup>6</sup>	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+
Varicella <sup>7</sup>	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1

- Last dose on or after the fourth birthday and the last dose of pediatric pertussis before the seventh birthday. **Maximum needed:** six doses.
- 8-12 Grades: Tdap, which contains pertussis vaccine, is required.
- Grade 8-11: One dose of MCV is required. Dose must be given after 10 years of age.  
  
Grade 12: Two doses of MCV are required unless the first dose was administered to a student who was 16 years of age or older, in which case only one dose is required. At least one dose must be given after 16 years of age.
- Kindergarten-11 Grade: Last dose must be administered on or after the fourth birthday. The interval between the next-to-last and last dose should be at least six months.  
  
Grade 12: Last dose on or after the fourth birthday. Any combination of four doses of IPV and OPV constitutes a complete series. **Maximum needed:** four doses.
- First dose must be given on or after twelve months of age.
- There must be at least four weeks between dose one and two; at least 8 weeks between dose two and three; at least 16 weeks between doses one and three and final dose must be given no earlier than 24 weeks of age.
- First dose must be given on or after twelve months of age.  
  
Kindergarten-11 Grade: As satisfactory evidence of disease, a licensed health care provider may sign and place on file with the school a written statement documenting the month and year of previous varicella (chickenpox) disease.  
  
Grades 12: As satisfactory evidence of disease, a parent/guardian or MD or DO may sign and place on file with the school a written statement documenting the month and year of previous varicella (chickenpox) disease.

## USDA Non-Discrimination Statement:

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



# 2022-2023 Reduced Lunch Program

**Dunklin R-5 School District** announced its revised free and reduced price policy for school children unable to pay the full price of meals served in schools under the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program.

Local education officials have adopted the following family-size income criteria for determining eligibility:

Household Size	Maximum Household Income Eligible for Free Meals			Maximum Household Income Eligible for Reduced Price Meals		
	Annually	Monthly	Weekly	Annually	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$17667	\$1,473	\$340	\$25,142	\$2,096	\$484
2	23,803	1,984	458	33,874	2,823	652
3	29,939	2,495	576	42,606	3,551	820
4	36,075	3,007	694	51,338	4,279	988
5	42,211	3,518	812	60,070	5,006	1,156
6	48,347	4,029	930	68,802	5,734	1,324
7	54,483	4,541	1,048	77,534	6,462	1,492
8	60,619	5,052	1,166	86,266	7,189	1,659
Each add'l member	+ 6,139	+ 512	+ 118	+ 8,732	+ 728	+ 168

Children from families whose current income is at or below those shown are eligible for free or reduced price meals. Applications are available at the school office. To apply, fill out a Free and Reduced Price School Meals Family Application and return it to the school. The information provided on the application is confidential and will be used only for the purpose of determining eligibility. Applications may be submitted any time during the school year. A complete application is required as a condition of eligibility. A complete application includes: (1) household income from all sources or Food Stamp/TANF case number, (2) names of all household members, and (3) the signature and last four digits of social security number or indication of no social security number of adult household member signing the application. School officials may verify current income or other information provided on the application at any time during the school year.

Foster children may be eligible regardless of the income of the household with whom they reside. Households with children who are eligible under the foster, Head Start, homeless, migrant, or runaway programs should contact the school for assistance in receiving meal benefits. Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) participants may be eligible for free or reduced price meals.

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

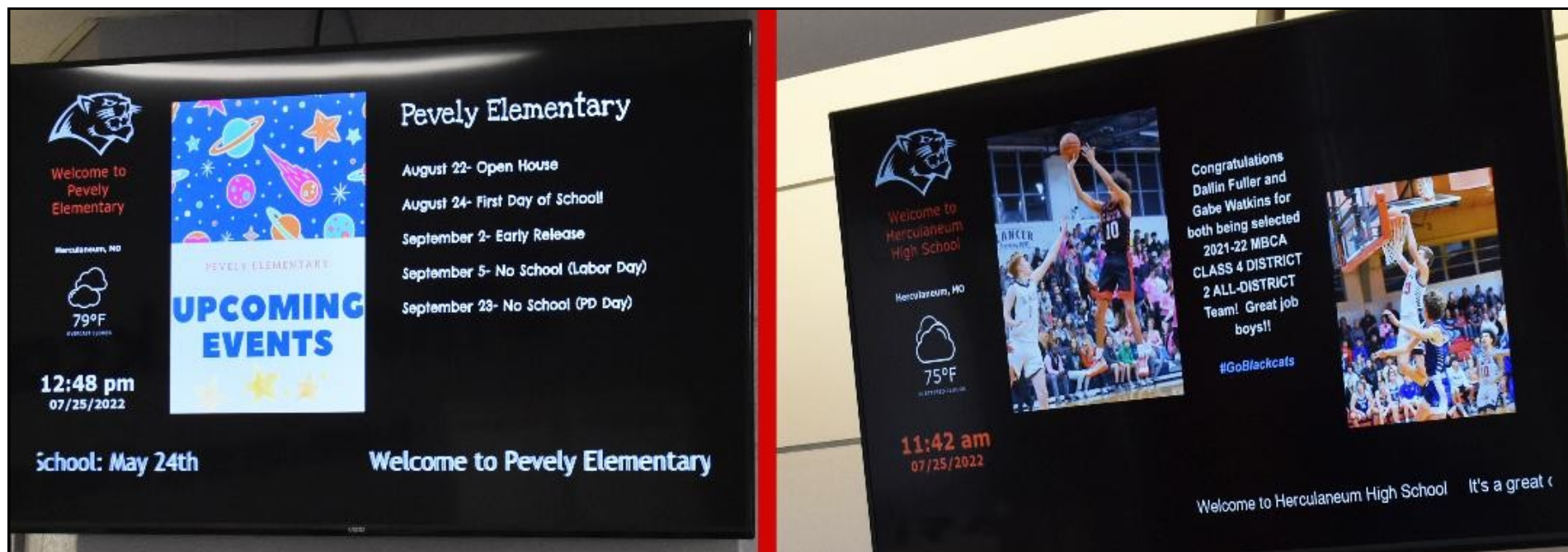
If a family member becomes unemployed or if family size changes, the family should contact the school to file a new application. Such changes may make the children of the family eligible for these benefits.

Under the provisions of the policy, the **food services secretary** will review the applications and determine eligibility. If a parent is dissatisfied with the ruling of the determining official, they may wish to discuss the decision with the hearing official on an informal basis or he/she may make a request either orally or in writing to the **superintendent**. Hearing procedures are outlined in the policy. A complete copy of the policy is on file in each school and in the central office where any interested party may review it.





# Technology Updates



Digital billboards have been installed at Pevely, STMS, and HHS

Parents and students will benefit from Dunklin's technology upgrades this year. We have a new website, activities calendar, and TV displays, and we'll be streaming additional sporting events. Moreover, close to 100 new interactive displays are being added to K-12 classrooms. The investments should make information quickly available to our students, families, and community.

All high school sports on Dugan Memorial Field and in Robinson Gymnasium will be live-streamed on our YouTube channel and other platforms. Dunklin has a long-

standing relationship with a company named Huddle. We've been uploading games to their platform for years, which allows coaches to review game footage. The district covered the base fee, and several athletic programs purchased enhanced services from Huddle. Adding up all the pieces, we negotiated a deal where we would continue to get all the services, plus all of our games would be live-streamed for an additional \$1,000 annually. As a result, Huddle sent us new camera systems to install in the gym and press box. Seeing the games is great, but we'll also get play-by-play commentary when Live-Stream STL visits. The company, owned by Herculanum alumnus Ray Halbrook, will live-stream several games again this year. They use both fixed and mobile cameras to bring you closer to the action.

We've had Promethean boards in our schools for years, but these projection style boards are outdated, parts are scarce, and the bulbs dim over time. The Dunklin R-5 School Board approved the purchase of 96 ActivPanels for almost \$205,000. They look like flat screen TVs, but this new generation of interactive displays has touch screen capabilities, which allows students to work on problems in front of the class. Since they connect to computers, the panels can quickly display information from the digital world such as videos, PowerPoint presentations, infographics, and other multimedia content. These visual elements enrich the learning experience and increase student engagement.

The new website is cleaner, faster, and easier to navigate. Ideally, everything will be three clicks away or less. Each building has its own page, which is new for Taylor. Those pages contain basic information but will be built up over time. You'll be able to view Twitter and Facebook feeds, even if you don't participate on social media. They act like news feeds for daily or weekly information.

One link on the website is to the new activities calendar. Herculanum High School Activities Director Jason Gillman was seeking a new program for scheduling games and events. He landed on rSchoolToday, which can handle all the activities taking place at both our high school and middle school. Like the website, the calendar easily shrinks to be viewed on a cellphone. If there is a change to a scheduled activity, it will be posted on the calendar first and instantly available to our community.

Students in kindergarten through 12th grade will see new TVs in school lobbies and cafeterias. The digital billboards will display a slide show, have a ticker along the bottom, and give the time and temperature. Technology Directory Tom Jordan says each building will be live-streaming its own channel. The idea for the displays has been kicked around for years, but we had to wait on some reasonably priced technical solutions. There are countless ways the screens can be used, and administrators are free to experiment. Listing birthdays may be a popular feature at the elementary school, but game times will likely draw more attention in the upper-grade levels. Naturally, academic and athletic achievements will be a mainstay.



## GO BLACKCATS!