



Blackcat News

Mission Statement:

"Educating Today for a Better Tomorrow"

VOLUME 25

ISSUE 81

SCHOOL YEAR 2020-2021

November 25, 2020



Pevely Elementary Ribbon-Cutting



Front Row: Principal Katie Dunlap, BOE President Dawn Warner, Assistant Principal Adam Dixon, and his daughter Thompsyn. Second Row: John Maddox BOE, Cheryl Aylesworth BOE, Tammy Heidland BOE, and FGM Architect Emily Spindler.

Back Row: Director Steve Copeland, Michael Hicks BOE, Superintendent Clint Freeman, Jim Kasten BOE, Asst. Superintendent Joe Willis, Susan Hartmann BOE.

The completion of the expansion at Pevely Elementary School was celebrated with a ribbon-cutting on October 20th in the cafeteria. The improvements include a new wing with eight classrooms that doubles as a storm shelter. The cafeteria was expanded, two classrooms were added to the north wing, an elevator was installed, and the nurse's office was renovated..

Students are using the new wing that blends in beautifully with the existing building and grounds. It's built to resist wind speeds of 250mph or an EF-5 tornado. When needed, those classrooms can hold 881 students. The current enrollment is 717 Blackcats in kindergarten through fifth grade. The shelter's strength comes from the rebar-filled cement blocks, H-beams supporting the roof, and specialty windows. The HVAC system is designed to provide fresh air, even during a power outage.

The cafeteria expansion will allow more students to eat simultaneously, reducing the number of lunch periods next year. With COVID, students have been grabbing a bagged lunch and eating in their classrooms. Last month, students started using the enlarged seating area, staying safely distanced from each other.

The nurse's office was expanded and now has a couple of rooms. This allows for the isolation of a sick child. Everything else, from storage to work surfaces, has been improved during the renovation. The office has a shower and will soon get a stackable washer and dryer.

Funding for the project came from voters passing Proposition S in August of 2018. That gave the district authority to issue bonds worth up to \$6 million. It also allowed Dunkin to take advantage of a \$1.4 million grant from FEMA for the shelter. The total cost for the building's improvements was \$5,877,344.00, and the cost to property owners was a tax levy of \$0.18 for every \$100 of assessed valuation. There were additional costs to the district to build a new bus garage in Herculaneum. The old garage was located behind the elementary school, and that space was needed for the new wing.

Message from the Board President

Hello Blackcat Community!

I hope you are all doing well in spite of the pandemic that we have been living through since earlier this year. We appreciate your flexibility as we navigate through these unusual times. I want to encourage you to continue following precautionary steps, as we are at Dunklin, to minimize exposure opportunities and keep everyone safe. Whether your student is attending in person or virtually, our staff is working very hard to provide a quality education for all students.

Our Back at it Blackcats committee is continuing to meet and have additional protocols in place to ensure we have plenty of options going forward should we need to switch to all virtual learning. We monitor exposures very closely and work with the local health department to ensure we are doing what is best for our staff and students.

I want to give a huge shout out to every single member of our Dunklin R-5 staff for their hard work and dedication through all this. We know we have asked a lot from everyone. Dr. Freeman says all the time that we have the best staff around. This is very true, and all of our staff have risen to the occasion and worked extremely hard to do what is best for the kids in our community. Thank you all so much for that dedication!



Demand for Chromebooks

When the coronavirus outbreak started in major cities, the inventory of Chromebooks used by school districts vanished. According to Education Week, Boston Public Schools purchased 20,000, Chicago Public Schools bought 37,000 devices and Los Angeles wanted 150,000. Chromebook is an operating system used by schools, but it can be loaded onto various laptops or other devices. Chromebooks

make up about 60 percent of the computers used in schools, according to CNET.

The Dunklin R-5 School District increased its annual order from 350 devices to 400 Dell Chromebooks in June. The order is typically filled in two or three weeks, but this year it took four months. Technology Director Tom Jordan says, "The demand for them skyrocketed, plants were shut down, and there was a ban on certain parts from China." In October, the new laptops were quickly distributed to high school freshmen, middle school students, and classroom carts at Pevely Elementary School. The district has placed an order for another 200 Chromebooks, and delivery is expected late next month or in January.

The software on a Chromebook allows schools to push out apps, control security, and other functions to manage the inventory. It's all done through a special license from Google. However, the licenses expire after six years from the date the devices were manufactured. Dunklin will have 740 devices no longer supported by Google in June. What happens at that time is still up for debate since it's the first cycle. Jordan says, "Our plan was to replace them systematically." Uncertainty seems to be pervasive this school year, but everyone at Dunklin has proven to be adaptive to the demands at hand.

Pictured: Tom Jordan preparing Chromebooks for distribution. Not pictured: Josh Mueller, Ryan Lowe, and Mendy Fischer.

Parents, I want to also thank you for remaining flexible and working with our staff to ensure the safety and continued education of your children. We know that this has been a challenge for you as well, and we work very hard to make things as easy to navigate as possible. Thank you for being supportive of our staff. Our Dunklin community is amazing, and we appreciate all of you!

I can assure you that we will continue to monitor things as we move forward, and if changes are needed, we will not hesitate to make them. We want to do our best to provide the best education possible while also remaining cautious. We have worked hard to ensure safety to have as many students in person who felt comfortable to do so. We know that social interaction is such an important part of student engagement. Keep watching your email, checking our website, and social media for updates, changes, and awesome things happening around our district.

As we move into the holiday season, I would encourage you to continue practicing good social distancing protocols and be very vigilant as the flu season is also upon us.

The Board of Education meets the third Tuesday each month at 7 p.m. We are currently meeting in the theatre to allow for social distancing, and our meetings are still open to the public. The Board's focus in **every** decision is to do what is best for the kids and families we serve and to support our district's mission statement, "Educating Today for a Better Tomorrow."

Sincerely,

Dawn M. Warner, Board President
Dunklin R-5 School District

DUNKLIN R-5 SCHOOL DISTRICT

497 Joachim Avenue • Herculaneum, MO 63048 • (636) 479-5200
Dr. Clint Freeman, Superintendent Mr. Joe Willis, Assistant Superintendent

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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HERCULANEUM HIGH SCHOOL ext. 3

Stephanie Dix, Principal
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Renee Richardson, Guidance Counselor,
grades 11-12
Chelsey Dickerman, Guidance Counselor,
grades 9-10 and A+
Connie Ward, Nurse

SENN-THOMAS MIDDLE SCHOOL ext. 2

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Trent Sauer, Dean of Students
Stephanie Stroh, Guidance Counselor
Heather Shadowens, Nurse
Joycie Gonzalez-Meyer,
School-Family Liaison

PEVELY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ext. 1

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Adam Dixon, Asst. Principal
Thomas Robins, Guidance Counselor
Jessica Rekate, Guidance Counselor

TAYLOR EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER ext. 5

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Christina Meyer, Nurse

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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 in the Dunklin R-5 Theatre beginning at 7:00 p.m. 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, clicking on the District tab and clicking on "Paperless Board Meetings."

Dunklin R-5 School District is an equal opportunity employer



Superintendent's Notes

Blackcat Community:

It has been so great having our students back in school, enjoying fall sports and many other activities.

As superintendent, I am so proud of our employees for taking the necessary steps to keep COVID-19 from spreading in our schools. It's a testament to their dedication. Our teachers, students, and staff members have changed their behaviors and taken on additional responsibilities to keep each other safe.

We all know about social distancing, washing hands, and wearing masks. Some children may carry the virus and show no symptoms. Here's a tip: If Grandma picks up their student from school, have them wear their mask in the car, and give them some hand-sanitizer. Many children are carriers of the virus, and we need to protect older members of the community and those with underlying conditions.

As you know, Jefferson County has moved back into the Red status. Many schools in the county have had to close in their entirety or place some of their buildings back to virtual-only learning. This was done mostly because of the new quarantine protocols in place. We all believe that academically, it is best for kids to attend school, and keeping that option is our goal this semester. Our district administration continues to be in frequent contact with the Jefferson County Health Department, and we are closely monitoring the community spread of the virus.

In closing, I want to share how extremely proud we are of each and every one who continues to do "whatever it takes" to make sure kids are successful in our schools. Teachers are teaching at the highest level, whether in person or virtual, which we know is the expectation of our community.

Reminder: Parents refer back to your magnet from the beginning of school and make sure you are asking those eight (8) essential questions before sending your child to school.

Each day remember: "Stay Safe Stay Positive; Focus on what we **CAN** do, not what we can't."

Dr. Clint Freeman, Superintendent of Schools

ISTE Certified

After 15 years, Courtney Stenzhorn has been a teacher long enough to relax into a routine. She has plenty to keep herself busy, but she doesn't gauge her success by years of experience or the thickness of her day planner. Stenzhorn says, "I always like to push myself. What's the next thing I can do to make myself better professionally and for my students." This time the "next thing" was becoming certified by the International Society for Technology in Education, or ISTE.



The organization describes itself as the "...home to a passionate community of global educators who believe in the power of technology to transform teaching and learning, accelerate innovation, and solve tough problems in education." The certification process starts with joining a group and spending about eight weeks completing modules. The next step is creating a portfolio. ISTE has 25 standards, and applicants must show how they are applied in their classrooms. Stenzhorn says, "One of those is having a good digital footprint... understanding intellectual property and why we give credit, knowing what is shareable, and knowing what is not acceptable as far as online behavior." Other standards are listed under broad categories such as collaborator, designer, facilitator, and analyst. Stenzhorn spent about 45 hours over eight months to complete her portfolio.

Stenzhorn says the best part was "...being able to apply what I was actively learning directly into my classroom so I could see it live in action." She says the knowledge gained through the certification process will allow her to be more effective at helping other teachers integrate technology into their classrooms. Stenzhorn is the professional development co-chair in the district. The mother of two

is also the Herculaneum Dance Team Coach, puts together the high school yearbook, and sponsors FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America).

Wear a mask. Stay in school.

Missouri
EDUCATION
Missouri
DHSS
Department of Health
and Senior Services

COVID-19 School Scenarios

with no documented transmission in the classroom setting

EVERYONE MASKED When a masked person tests positive and those exposed are wearing masks COVID + Close Contacts ISOLATE SELF-MONITOR NO QUARANTINE	CLOSE CONTACTS MASKED When an unmasked person tests positive and those exposed are wearing masks COVID + Close Contacts ISOLATE QUARANTINE
CLOSE CONTACTS UNMASKED When a masked person tests positive and those exposed are not wearing masks COVID + Close Contacts ISOLATE SELF-MONITOR NO QUARANTINE QUARANTINE	NO ONE MASKED When an unmasked person tests positive and those exposed are not wearing masks COVID + Close Contacts ISOLATE QUARANTINE

<https://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/COVID-MO-K12-Reopening-Guidance.pdf>

CLOSE CONTACT: Someone who was within 6 feet of a person diagnosed with COVID-19 for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more throughout a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection).

SELF-MONITOR: Perform a self-check or be monitored daily for symptoms of COVID-19 over a 14-day period. Contact your health care provider with questions about symptoms.

QUARANTINE: The practice of separating individuals who have had close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 to determine whether they develop symptoms or test positive for the disease.

ISOLATION: The practice of separating people diagnosed with COVID-19 from others who are not sick to prevent further exposures and/or spread of the disease.



Pictured: Sawyer Tucker and Emmasue Eberhardt, who serve on the advisory committee.

The Cheese Shack

At the suggestion of high school students, a food truck visited our district to offer a change of pace at lunchtime. The Cheese Shack delighted 160 people at the high school, where students could participate. The mobile restaurant was only for district employees when they visited the middle and elementary schools. The menu included basic items like melted American cheese on grilled sourdough and fancier offerings like the Bruschetta Melt. It's described as sliced garden ripe tomatoes, melted mozzarella cheese, and fresh basil served on grilled garlic herb-crusted Italian bakery bread drizzled with a balsamic truffle glaze. Some employees visited the food truck each day it was in our district. The idea came from the Superintendent Student Advisory Committee. It was so popular that students and staff members are sharing ideas for next time.



Pictured: Evan Schmitt, Ella Butler, and Hayley Wichmann

Pumpkin Carving

Students in Mrs. Monarch's first-grade class could hardly wait to transform pumpkins into jack-o-lanterns. They pushed out the precut eyes and mouth. Large spoons were used to scoop out the seeds, although much of the core was already removed. Still, the feel of the seeds and pulp brought smiles and laughter. Monarch used the sensory experience to reinforce lessons about horticulture.



Find us on:
facebook®

Dunklin R5 School District
Herculaneum High School
Senn-Thomas Middle School
Taylor Early Childhood Center

Taylor Playground Ribbon Cutting



Pictured: Front Row: Brayden Vierling, Emmett Gross, Director Charissa Kappler, Evaleah Molner, Charli Henson. Back Row: Michael Hicks BOE, Director Steve Copeland, Cheryl Aylesworth BOE, Tammy Heidland BOE, Superintendent Dr. Clint Freeman, Susan Hartmann BOE, Waste Management's Amy Baiser, Director Tom Moreland, Assistant Superintendent Joe Willis.

Children at Taylor Early Childhood Center are enjoying a new playground designed for students of all abilities. On October 15th, there was a ribbon-cutting ceremony to thank our partners and celebrate the new addition. The playground is thoughtfully located under some large shade trees in front of the building.

Waste Management was a key partner to secure a grant worth \$29,892 from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The grant program turns recycled tires into cushioning for playgrounds. The green and red tiles lay on a cement pad. They are smooth on top, dimpled on the bottom, and each weighs 47 pounds. The new playground required a total of 920 PTE's, or Passenger Tire Equivalents.

The playground equipment is designed for all kids, regardless of their abilities, so they can connect, learn, and grow through play. The purchasing of the equipment was made possible with a grant for \$19,500 from the Jefferson Foundation.

The majority of the 3- to 5-year-old students at Taylor Early Childhood Center are from the Dunklin R-5 School District. However, they also serve kids from Jefferson, Festus, and Crystal City school districts. Parents of all the preschoolers have consistently supported fundraisers for the new playground. Over time, they raised \$8,000 by selling paper hearts and displaying them in the hallways. Money from previous fundraisers was used as well to pay the total cost of \$79,614.

The original playground continues to be utilized, and it was enhanced with a canopy to provide a shaded area. When the weather allows, teachers can put one classroom in each play area. There is a temporary fence between the playgrounds to help separate students and avoid spreading germs.

Mrs. Fleschner Wins Emerson Award



The winner of this year's Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award goes to music and technology teacher Ricka Fleschner. The elementary school teacher was chosen from a solid list of candidates to receive an engraved crystal apple. Fleschner says, "It's humbling when I think of all the other amazing teachers that work in our district." In addition to Dunklin's representative, Emerson is honoring the exceptional work of nearly 100 teachers in the St. Louis metropolitan area this month.

Fleschner has wanted to be a teacher since elementary school. She pictured herself as a math teacher, but that changed in high school with the opportunity to sing in the community choir at Truman State. It was led by Dr. Paul Crabb, and the young singer was "blown away by his process." Crabb is now a professor at the University of Missouri. Fleschner's first job out of college was teaching at Pevely Elementary School. For a few years, she was the drama and choir teacher at Herculaneum High School but returned to Pevely when it was time to start a family. Today, she shares a birthday with her 2-year-old son, Sam.

The technology side of her position came with the growth of the elementary school. She works with students in kindergarten through the second grade. While that seems young for a laptop, Fleschner is passionate about it. She says, "There is so much possibility with the STEM movement, and people are seeing that kids need exposure to these science fields." The lessons for younger students emphasize reading skills, but second-grade students will be introduced to coding next semester. The curriculum comes from Kodable, and if Fleschner needs additional tech support, her husband is a software engineer.

The other candidates for the Excellence in Teaching Award were Shannon Sack at Taylor Early Childhood Center, Maria Stout at Senn-Thomas Middle School, and Courtney Stenzhorn at Herculaneum High School. All of these teachers have done outstanding work adapting to the new learning environment.



Cross Country Returns to State Championships

Both the boys and girls cross country teams qualified for a return trip to Columbia. Coach Kyle Davis says, "They ran really tough at state and had a pretty good day." The boys took 5th in the state championships, and the girls finished 6th in class three. Senior Cody Glisson took All-State honors, finishing 13th overall with a time of 16:53 on the course. Davis says, "They grew so much as a team and really learned how to run for each other."

Prior to the state meet, the boys took home first place in the district meet, and the girls came in second. The program is in good shape



for next year. Davis says, "We had a young team, and we'll have good numbers and experience coming back."

From left to right: Assistant Coach Josh Ferguson, Tye Greenlee, Baden Costlow, Keith Vance, Damian Luther, Cody Glisson, Austin Jackson, Josh Diebold, Katelynn Armbruster, Persepheni Berry, Raven Vance, Kendall Huber, Brianna Pinson, Samantha Maddox, Laura Maddox, and Coach Kyle Davis. Not pictured: Will Pierce, Sam Vaughn, and Arielle Prince.

Safety Barriers

Dunklin uses plastic dividers to help separate students in many classrooms. Our maintenance department built several of the basic wood frames to keep family groups separated on the stone bleachers during graduation. At the time, they were covered with a plastic bag. As the district transitioned into the regular school year, their value became apparent. In classrooms where students can't be 6 feet apart, these dividers can add protection. Soon the maintenance crew started a small assembly line for different sized dividers. The trash bag coverings were replaced with thin plastic sheets. One of our community partners helped with a timely donation. The Plumbers and Pipefitters Union built several high-quality dividers to keep students safe.

Pictured: Pevely Elementary Teacher Amanda Britain, and maintenance workers unloading the donated dividers.



Last Donation

Senn-Thomas Middle School Teacher Caitlin Polley has been donating her hair since she was a little girl. She says, "At the age of 12, I had never cut my hair or done anything to it, so I told my mom that I wanted to donate my hair for the first time. She did not believe that I was going to do it because my hair was so important to me." Following the first donation, she got a haircut every 18 months to two years. The ponytails were used to make wigs for children undergoing chemotherapy or who have other conditions resulting in hair loss. Locks of Love, Wigs for Kids, and Pantene Beautiful Lengths have all benefited from her generosity. Earlier this month, Polley surpassed her overall goal of 100 inches, which is enough to make a full wig. There are restrictions on hair that can be used for children's wigs, and one of them is the percentage of grey hair. As a result, it was Polley's last donation. After the haircut, she got highlights for the first time.

Family Projects



Senior Kayleigh Counts is using a pocket screw jig to finish her brother's shop project. Cole Counts graduated last year.

The cedar chest is a replica of a high school project made by their dad, Jason Counts, a member of the Herculeum High School Class of 1995.



The Herculeum High School Theater Department Presents:



BY JEREMY ROBERTSON

Four Great One-Act Plays.

Performances
December
4th and 5th



BY GARY PETERSON



BY JANET S. TIGER

Check the Dunklin R5 Facebook page for audience restrictions.

On Instagram
at
blackcat_theater



BY ALBERT GROFF



Veterans Reverse Parade



Veterans were honored with a reverse parade on November 10th at Herculaneum High School. Participants registered online and were met at the Herculaneum Amvets by members of the student council. The students made signs for the vehicles with the veteran’s name, branch, and years of service. As the cars came up Joachim and turned onto Blackcat Drive, students held flags and cheered the local heroes. The marching band played the official song for each branch of service. As the music rolled down the parade route, it lifted the spirits of those in attendance. Students from Taylor Early Childhood Center joined the merriment, waving and smiling. The final gift from the student council was a breakfast-to-go with one more . . .

"Thank You For Your Service"



SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH ENTER

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DENTAL SERVICES
CONVENIENTLY LOCATED FOR YOUR STUDENTS
AT SENN-THOMAS MIDDLE SCHOOL

DENTAL CARE

- Checkups
- Cleanings
- X-rays
- Root Canals
- Fillings
- Extractions
- Fluoride Treatment
- Sealants

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

- Counseling
- Family Counseling
- Psychiatry

Address Common Topics:

- Bullying
- Depression
- Self-Esteem

HOURS

Tuesday - Thursday 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM

COVERAGE/ PAYMENT

COMTREA accepts Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance, self-pay, and offers an income-based sliding fee scale
TIP: Receive FREE insurance assistance from COMTREA

BENEFITS

Convenience for Student's Caregiver | Increased Health Education
Choose COMTREA as Regular Provider

SERVICE CONSENT

Forms available at school office, health center office, and online at www.dunklin.k12.mo.us. Consent for treatment forms will be sent home for parents to view and sign prior to treatments being scheduled. Clinic notes will come home with the students after each visit

WWW.COMTREA.ORG | 636-224-6096
Contact your school nurse, counselor or Joycie Gonzalez-Meyer

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK ON THE BLACKCAT NEWS!!!!!!

The Blackcat News is a quarterly communication tool that we use as one way to keep you informed about Dunklin R-5 School District. We want this publication to be useful to you as a patron of our schools- "Must-Read Material".

We value your input! Please email your feedback to our Communications Director, Matt Lichtenstein, at mlichtenstein@dunklin.k12.mo.us
Don't use email? Call Mr. Lichtenstein at 636-479-5200 ext. 1010



Adapting to COVID



Pictured: Senn-Thomas School Librarian Gina Wilkerson picking out requested books to be delivered to classrooms or left at the front door for virtual students.



Pictured: Herculaneum High School cheerleaders during the reverse homecoming parade.

School districts are pushing through this school year while navigating ever-changing information about health risks, social distancing, disinfecting, funding, academic testing, quarantine requirements, and athletic competitions. At Dunklin, every aspect of school has been adjusted because of COVID-19, and some events, like the homecoming dance, had to be canceled.

The changes are easy to spot. There are plastic barriers in classrooms and cafeterias. Strategically placed gallon containers of hand sanitizer are just part of the landscape. During recess, elementary students are assigned a specific area of the playground, and they use their elbows to play tag. Middle school students who aren't feeling well can quietly make an appointment online to see the school nurse. It keeps a crowd from showing up between classes. The high school library used to be teeming with students first thing in the morning. Now it's left vacant as they walk directly to class. Despite all the changes, students are still getting an education, either virtually or in person.

With a third of their classmates learning from home, additional restrictions on social interactions, and less daylight as the seasons change, you would expect students to experience some doldrums. However, when given the opportunity, the Blackcat spirit is alive and well. During spirit week, and the reverse parades for homecoming and veterans, the energy demonstrated shows a healthy adaptation to the new school year. They are still young, bright, enthusiastic, and often animated students. You can see smiling eyes above their required masks and a bounce in their step as they avoid bunching up. It's still school, they are still learning, and they have some great teachers.

2020-2021 HHS Speech Team

With only two members this year, the Herculaneum High School Speech Team is small but mighty. Rather than compete in person at other schools because of COVID restrictions, the team members will record their performances and submit the recordings through Speechwire, a speech competition platform.

The HHS Speech Team belongs to the Missouri East Speech Association (MESA) and competes against other schools in Jefferson County and other surrounding counties.

Returning member Janei Jackson will be competing in Original Oratory. For this category, she must choose a current topical issue, research the issue, write a persuasive speech complete with references, memorize that speech, and then give that speech within a 10-minute time limit. Janei excels in this category and took 2nd Place last school year in the MESA Conference Meet.

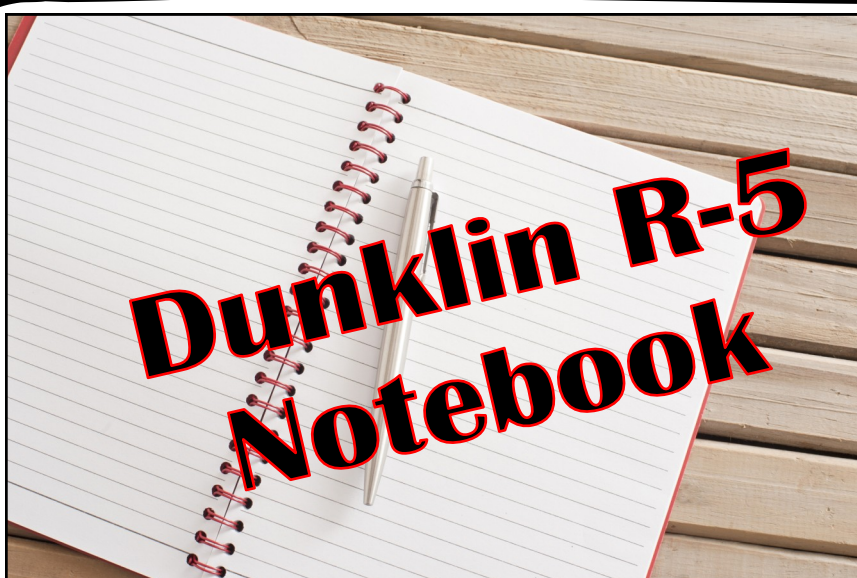
Our new member this year, Lillian Malugen, is competing in Poetry Reading. For her category, she must choose and compile poems with a common theme or by the same author and read them with meaning and purpose, making the poetry come to life for the listener, all within an 8-minute time limit. The Speech Team is coached by Mendy Fischer, HHS Library Media Specialist/Technology Facilitator.

Good luck, ladies! Have a great season!



Pictured: Janei Jackson and Lillian Malugen

"Go Blackcats"



The Dunklin COVID-19 Dashboard is on our website under the News tab.

Congratulations to Janei Jackson on a string of first-place finishes in the Optimist Oratorical Competitions. Jackson won districts, and a \$2,500 scholarship, with her speech titled, "Just Imagine a World Without Boundaries."



Thanks to our community partners for their recent donations. The Buchheit store in Herculaneum donated cleaning and disinfecting supplies. Town & Country Bank donated cases of peanut butter and jelly.

We were able to help several Blackcat families with food for Thanksgiving, but a count wasn't available at press time. If you would like to make Christmas brighter for a local family, please email Joycie. jgonzalezmeyer@dunklin.k12.mo.us

The Blackcat Closet is open December 4th and 19th from 9-11am. The gently used clothing is free to area families. It's located in the high school gym, on the top level.

On Twitter? Here are some handles to follow. @DrClintFreeman @JoeFWillis @BlackcatMatt @dix_stephanie @BlackcatUpdates @SennThomasMS @STMSActivities @MissKatieDulap

There have been several studies showing that vitamin D can lessen the severity of COVID-19. Our bodies naturally produce Vitamin D from exposure to sunlight, but that's more of a challenge during the winter. Milk, orange juice, and breakfast cereals are often fortified with the sunshine vitamin. Foods high in vitamin D include salmon, tuna, eggs, mushrooms, pork, cheese, and yogurt.

Matt Lichtenstein, Communications Director, Dunklin R-5 School District
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District Website Facebook