

# Mehlville Messenger

A Mehlville School District Publication

## Students and staff sew masks for medical professionals

After developing a passion for sewing and fashion in middle school and honing her skills in high school, Oakville High School junior Megan Blanchard used her skills to help medical professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Blanchard sewed masks for local hospitals. As of the end of March, she had made 50 masks with plans to make more.

“I was so tired of the negativity surrounding the virus,” Blanchard said. “I wanted to do something positive, and with my sewing skills, I knew that this was something that I could do to change the negative to a positive.”

After taking all of the sewing classes at OHS, Blanchard enrolled in MyPath and designed her own curriculum centered on sewing and fashion. These courses helped her learn the skills necessary to make the masks.

“One of the people we donated the masks to sent a photo of a healthcare



Oakville High School junior Megan Blanchard (right) sews masks for healthcare professional with help from her sister Oakville High School alum Caitlin Blanchard (left).

professional wearing it,” Blanchard said. “It was such a thrilling experience seeing them wearing something I created that can help her become safer with her job as she’s facing this deadly virus.”

The masks have been donated to Missouri Baptist Medical Center, Mercy Hospital, Siteman Cancer Center South, St. Louis University Hospital, St. Louis Children’s Hospital and others.

Blanchard is one of several students and staff who

have joined efforts to make face coverings for community members, essential workers and first responders. Others include Bierbaum Elementary School counselor Nathan Perkins, Oakville Middle School sixth-grade teacher Emili Harvey, and Bernard Middle School teachers Emily Glastetter and Gail Farris. Bernard students Clara Belcher, Noah Dobbins, Jenna Jabr, Sophia Nguyen and William King also made masks, as did Point Elementary student Lexi Huber and Blades Elementary student Lillian King.

## Rogers teacher leading televised lessons for students

Rogers Elementary School first-grade teacher Julia St. Louis is leading televised lessons for students as part of Nine Network’s “Teaching in Room 9” series.

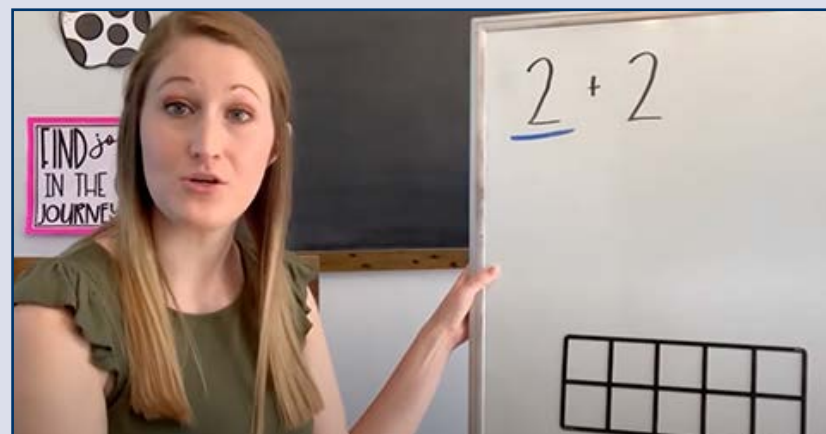
The Nine Network is producing literacy and math instruction for children in preschool through fourth grade. St. Louis’s first session was a math lesson for preschool through first-grade students.

In addition to providing her lessons for the Nine Network’s viewership, St. Louis is also modeling persistence and growth mindset, components of the Mehlville School

District Portrait of a Graduate.

“Making my first lesson was a little nerve-racking,” St. Louis said. “I love teaching, but as my students have come to learn, I can often make mistakes, lose items in the middle of a lesson, and drop things. Filming for TV was an added extra pressure. After a few bad takes, I realized I am always going to make these mistakes and I have to go with it, it is a part of who I am as a teacher.”

The lessons air on Nine Network from 12:30-2:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays.



Rogers Elementary first grade teacher Julia St. Louis leads a televised math lesson for students through Nine Network’s “Teaching in Room 9.”

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The *Mehlville Messenger* is published by the Communications Department four times a year for Mehlville School District residents, businesses and families. Its purpose is to inform the public of district news, student achievements and community involvement activities. Please submit questions, letters and comments to:

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The Mehlville School District mission is to build a high performing school system rooted in the community's desire to build a culture of improvement for staff and students.

Mehlville School District believes that all of our graduates should be creative and critical thinkers, self-aware, persistent, communicators, and ethical and global. We call this our Portrait of a Graduate.



Mehlville School District is proud to be a National District of Character.



Mehlville School District

## FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

# Celebrating our seniors and our community during a difficult time

Congratulations to the Class of 2020! This is the time of year when we celebrate all you have accomplished and watch as you transition into adulthood and become the next generation of leaders. We know each of you have the skills to pursue your dreams and bring positive change to our world. Despite COVID-19 occurring during your last high school semester, this will not be what defines you. It is what you bring to the world that will define you. We will all be watching with anticipation.

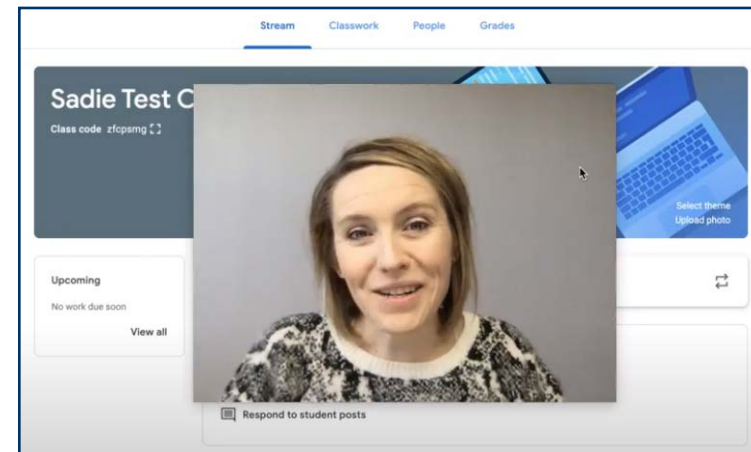
On March 15, our world changed overnight when St. Louis County initiated COVID-19 restrictions that closed our school buildings. The Mehlville School District responded by working hard to meet this unique challenge while our community adapted to the changes with patience.

One district team used their Spring Break to develop a remote learning plan for when students returned from break. Teachers quickly adjusted lessons as they moved from classroom instruction to remote learning and video conferences. Our School Food and Nutrition Services department shifted food service from cafeterias to drive-through pick-up locations. These are just a few of the examples showcasing the dedicated efforts that defined our district during this challenging time.

Kevin Schartner



On behalf of our board, I extend a sincere "Thank you" to our administrators, teachers, support staff, parents and students who helped make this successful transition to finish out the school year. The effort and compassion you have brought to this transition speaks volumes about the high quality you all bring to our schools and community.



Mehlville School District offered virtual professional development for staff to support a quick migration to online teaching. Here, Sadie Lewis, Instructional Design Coordinator, provides training for staff on Google Meet.

## Hassler, Pretto, Wolman elected to Mehlville Board of Education

During the June 2 Board of Education election, incumbents Peggy Hassler and Jean Pretto were re-elected to the Mehlville Board of Education. Jeff Wolman was elected to his first term on the Board of Education. All three board members will serve three-year terms.

### More about Peggy Hassler

Hassler has served on the Mehlville Board of Education since 2017. She is currently the board secretary. Hassler was an organizer of the Prop R campaign and has served on numerous committees. Her children are graduates of Oakville High School, and she is a 1983 graduate of Mehlville High School. Hassler is an operations manager and paralegal at Keefe & Griffiths, P.C., Attorneys at Law.

### More about Jean Pretto

This marks the start of Jean Pretto's third term on the Mehlville Board of Education. She was first elected in 2014. Pretto has served as vice president of the board from April 2016 to April 2018. She is a lifelong resident of Mehlville School District and is a retired

educator. Both of her daughters graduated from Oakville High School.

### More about Jeff Wolman

Wolman is an elementary school parent in the Mehlville School District, with two children attending MOSAIC. He has been active on parent-teacher organizations at MOSAIC and Oakville elementary schools. Wolman is a system engineer for Connectria Hosting. He takes the seat of Samantha Stormer, who did not seek re-election.

Hassler, Pretto and Wolman will be sworn in at the June 11 meeting of the Mehlville Board of Education. This meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. via videoconference and will be live-streamed at [youtube.com/mehlvilleschools](https://youtube.com/mehlvilleschools).



Peggy Hassler



Jean Pretto



Jeff Wolman

## How our plans changed due to COVID-19, and how we've learned to 'go with the flow'

Those who know me well know that I am a planner. Whether here at work, a family vacation, scout trip or paddling trip, I have a plan. Needless to say, this year did not go as planned. The COVID-19 global pandemic certainly pushed us to be agile in the midst of rapidly changing information.

We started the year with a plan for engaging the community around the next iteration of our strategic plan. Thankfully, most of that work had wrapped up before the nation started social distancing. The big themes that emerged during the process were safety and personalization. Interestingly, both have played a significant role during the COVID-19 school closure. This summer we will begin to turn those themes into goals, strategies and action steps. We expect to have our revised strategic plan wrapped up in early 2021 for implementation in the 2021-2022 school year.

Additionally, our Facilities Steering Committee went from in-person meetings to tour our facilities and prioritize projects to virtual meetings. Thankfully, the group had been able to tour all of our campuses before the outbreak. The group is slated to make some final recommendations over the summer.

Summer school has changed as well. We've moved from an in-person summer school in June to a multi-session virtual summer school throughout the summer. I encourage families to register their kids for our Summer Session program. Registration is still open for the high school program and for the July elementary and middle school sessions. Learn more at [mehlvilleschooldistrict.com/summer\\_session](http://mehlvilleschooldistrict.com/summer_session).

Facilities work in the district this summer was slated to focus on a small number of big projects. With the closure, we've been able to get an earlier start than we had planned. Summer projects include roofing work at Mehlville High School and Bernard Middle School, as well as HVAC upgrades at Hagemann Elementary. There are a few smaller projects planned, though not as many as in years prior. These projects include asphalt sealing and striping, tennis court and retaining wall repairs, and waterproofing.

This summer, our planning related to COVID-19 continues. In April, we formed a Return to School Committee, which was tasked with planning how we can deliver high-quality instruction in a variety of scenarios. This committee continues to meet through the summer. Look for continued updates at [bitly/msdr9prepares](https://bitly/msdr9prepares). We expect to share more plans with the community the week of July 20.

Although I do plan a lot, I did come across a concept years ago that encourages me to over plan and then go with the flow. That is what the school community has done as a whole. I can't thank our teachers, support staff, administrators, parents and students enough for the grace, patience and flexibility they've shown through this challenging spring.



Workers got an early start on the roof replacement of the Mehlville High School library. Both Mehlville High School and Bernard Middle School will receive roof replacements.

## Property acquired adjacent to Oakville Elementary School will help alleviate parking issues, improve safety

Mehlville School District has acquired property next to Oakville Elementary School that will be used to alleviate parking concerns. Currently, the overcrowded parking lot presents safety challenges for students and staff during arrival, dismissal and special events.

"Surveys we've done over the past few years indicate that parking is a big need at Oakville Elementary," said Dr. Chris Gaines, Mehlville School District Superintendent. While the district won't make any big changes to the property during the 2020-2021 school year, the space will be used to expand parking and improve safety in the future, he said.

The district purchased the property at 2941 Yaeger Road on May 5, 2020, for \$290,000. The property is west of and adjacent to Oakville Elementary School.



# Grab-and-go meals available through the end of June

Mehlville School District staff have been distributing free meals to children since March 23. We will continue to distribute meals to kids through the end of June.

Meal distribution happens on Mondays and Thursdays. On Mondays, families can pick up three days of meals for children 18 and under living in Mehlville School District. On Thursdays, families can pick up two days of meals.

Meals are available for pick-up at seven locations.

Serving from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- Mehlville High School (3200 Lemay Ferry Road, St. Louis, MO 63125)
- Oakville High School (5557 Milburn Road, St. Louis, MO, 63129)
- Bierbaum Elementary School (2050 Union Road, St. Louis, MO, 63125)

Serving from 11 a.m. to noon

- Lemay 1 and Lemay 2 (Adworth Drive and Barracksview Drive)
- The Vineyards (Daiquiri Lane, near tennis court area)


Serving from 12:15 p.m. to 1 p.m.

- Jefferson Townhomes (Tuckahoe Drive and Poplar Forest)
- Casa Brazilia (Casa Brazilia Drive)

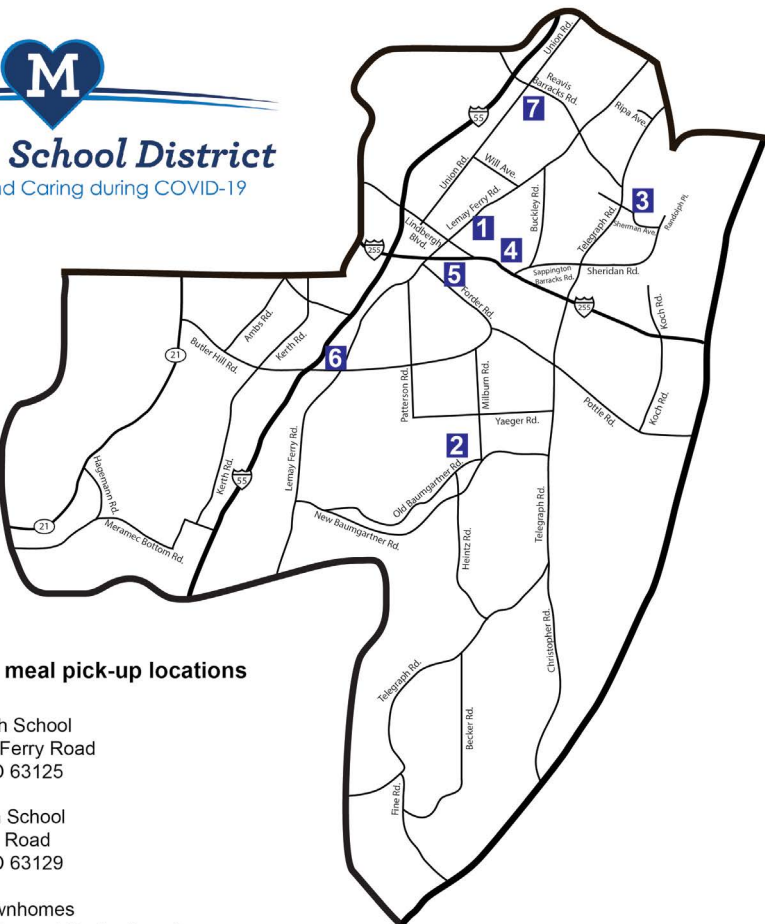
Meal recipients do not need to be Mehlville School District students, nor do they need to be eligible for free and reduced lunch. Children must be present in the vehicle to receive a meal.



Mehlville School District staff have prepared and distributed 28,112 breakfasts and lunches through May 18. Ana Ford, school food and nutrition technician at Mehlville High School is one of several employees who have been preparing meals during the closure.



**Mehlville School District**  
Connecting and Caring during COVID-19



**Grab-and-go meal pick-up locations**

- 1** Mehlville High School  
3200 Lemay Ferry Road  
St. Louis, MO 63125
- 2** Oakville High School  
5557 Milburn Road  
St. Louis, MO 63129
- 3** Jefferson Townhomes  
Tuckahoe Drive and Poplar Forest  
St. Louis, MO 63125
- 4** Lemay 1 and Lemay 2  
Adworth Drive and Barracksview Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63125
- 5** Casa Brazilia  
Casa Brazilia Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63129

- 6** The Vineyards  
Daiquiri Lane, near tennis court area  
St. Louis, MO 63129
- 7** Bierbaum Elementary  
2050 Union Road  
St. Louis, MO 63125

## Operation Food Search will provide additional meals in June

Operation Food Search is providing additional meals for children 18 and under. These food boxes will be available for pick-up from Mehlville High School during grab-and-go meal distribution in the month of June. Food boxes are available while supplies last and are provided in addition to the district's grab-and-go meals.

The food boxes provided by Operation Food Search are paid for by St. Louis County CARES Act funds.

“We are grateful to be able to distribute food boxes,” said Dr. Chris Gaines, Superintendent. “I encourage any Mehlville School District parent who is concerned about feeding their children to visit Mehlville High School on Mondays and Thursdays in June to pick up food boxes.”



Katie Gegg, director of School Food and Nutrition, helps unpack food boxes.

# Connections are key for district's Teacher of the Year

Jefferson Stephens, Bernard Middle School teacher, has been named the Mehlville School District Teacher of the Year for the 2019-2020 school year. Stephens is the sixth-grade Patriot Academy teacher. He teaches a blend of English language arts and social studies, providing students with opportunities to make connections between content areas.

“Mr. Stephens instills his passion for inquiry and learning in his students as he personalizes the classroom to meet their individual needs and unique interests,” Bernard Middle School principal Lauren Cumming said. “He recognizes the value of fostering meaningful relationships with staff and students to drive innovation and change within our Bernard classrooms.”



Stephens has taught at Bernard Middle School for the past three years. Prior to his work at Bernard, Stephens taught at the Lift for Life Academy. He has a

reputation for being a classroom innovator, incorporating inquiry-based and transdisciplinary instruction, project-based learning and technology in his teaching practices.

“Jefferson’s most meaningful work includes the connections he makes with all students and his ability to work collaboratively with colleagues,” said Dr. Jeff Bresler, Assistant Superintendent of Schools. “Never settling for mediocre, Mr. Stephens always pushes himself to discover and implement new teaching strategies that will impact student learning everyday.”



## Congratulations to our employees of the year and retirees!

### School-Level Teachers of the Year

**Laura Wagner**, Early Childhood Special Education Teacher, John Cary Early Childhood Center

**Jenna Hutson**, Third Grade Teacher, Beasley Elementary

**Anne Savio**, English Language Teacher, Bierbaum Elementary

**Jill Hudson**, Librarian, Blades Elementary

**Kristin Steingruber**, Reading Teacher, Forder Elementary

**Stephanie Bailey**, Fourth Grade Teacher, Hagemann Elementary

**Sarah Bradley**, Fourth Grade Teacher, MOSAIC Elementary

**Brittany Sollberger**, Fifth Grade Teacher, Oakville Elementary

**Diane Edwards**, Reading Interventionist, Point Elementary

**Tracy Czapl**, Kindergarten Teacher, Rogers Elementary

**Diana Flaherty**, Kindergarten Teacher, Trautwein Elementary

**Suzanne Schmidt**, First Grade Teacher, Wohlwend Elementary

**Jefferson Stephens**, Sixth Grade Teacher, Bernard Middle

**Kari LeBrun**, Seventh Grade English Language Arts Teacher, Buerkle Middle

**Chelsea Baughman**, Seventh Grade Social Studies Teacher, Oakville Middle

**Elizabeth Swope**, Art Teacher, Washington Middle

**Beth Johnson**, Foreign Language Teacher, Mehlville High

**Rebecca Bruning**, English Teacher, Oakville High

**Steven McEntee**, Teacher, SCOPE

### School-Level Classified Employees of the Year

**Katy Miller**, Parents as Teachers Parent Educator, John Cary Early Childhood

**Teresa Wright**, Nurse, Beasley Elementary

**Andrea Knapp**, Paraprofessional, Bierbaum Elementary

**Rick Storz**, Custodian, Blades Elementary

**Kelly Kittinger**, Title 1 Student Support, Forder Elementary

**Anne Bollinger**, Paraprofessional, Hagemann Elementary

**Chris Fowler**, School Food and Nutrition Technician, MOSAIC Elementary

**Kristi Lanham**, Nurse, Oakville Elementary

**Missy Dayton**, Bus Driver, Point Elementary

**Lisa Siebel**, Paraprofessional, Rogers Elementary

**Stacey Bader**, Nurse, Trautwein Elementary

**Rachel Bevell**, Nurse, Wohlwend Elementary

**Cara Hickey**, Nurse, Bernard Middle

**Bonnie Thompson**, Paraprofessional, Buerkle Middle

**Sherry Dorste**, Secretary, Oakville Middle

**Dail Follmer**, Paraprofessional, Washington Middle

**Kathy Eisele**, School Nurse, Mehlville High

**Stephanie Ponciroli**, Secretary, Oakville High

**Kevin Helldoerfer**, School Resource Officer, SCOPE

**Sue Roesch**, Secretary, Central Office

**Lou Scott**, Painter, Jefferson Barracks - Facilities

**Robyn Turner**, Bus Driver, Transportation

### Congratulations to our retirees!

**JoAnn Bryant**, School Food and Nutrition Technician, Beasley Elementary

**Joyce Distefano**, Second Grade Teacher, Beasley Elementary

**Kathleen Jones**, School Food and Nutrition Manager, Bierbaum Elementary

**Karen Colombo**, Early Childhood Special Education Teacher, Forder Elementary

**Paula Kennedy**, Kindergarten Teacher, Hagemann Elementary

**Julie Bell**, Second Grade Teacher, Oakville Elementary

**Nancy Caruso**, Reading Teacher, Oakville Elementary

**Debra Hearst**, School Food and Nutrition Manager, Point Elementary

**Ann Zimpfer**, First Grade Teacher, Point Elementary

**Sarah Johnson**, Reading Teacher, Trautwein Elementary

**Natalie Oleshchuk**, Librarian, Trautwein Elementary

**Cathy Swartz**, Secretary, Trautwein Elementary

**Leroy Curtis**, Custodian, Bernard Middle

**Rebecca Combs**, Music Vocal Teacher, Buerkle Middle

**Steven Michalak**, Science Teacher, Buerkle Middle

**Rebecca Brophy**, Project Lead The Way Teacher, Oakville Middle

**Erin FitzWilliam**, Gifted Teacher, Washington Middle

**Wendy Gicante**, Social Studies Teacher, Washington Middle

**Carol Dittrich**, Custodian, Mehlville High

**Dale Gegg**, Business Ed Teacher, Mehlville High

**Linda Krehbiel**, School Food and Nutrition Technician, Mehlville High

**George Farmer**, Business Ed Teacher, Oakville High

**Steve King**, Guidance, Oakville High

**Amy Learn**, Drama Teacher, Oakville High

**C. Lynn Schmalz**, Math Teacher, Oakville High

**Cindy Miller**, Benefits Supervisor, Central Office

**Victoria Dell**, District Driver, Jefferson Barracks

**Alicia Landers**, Director - Curriculum Technology, Jefferson Barracks

**Deborah Haegele**, Bus Driver, Transportation

**Sandy Kraus**, Bus Monitor, Transportation

**Deborah Maddux**, Bus Driver, Transportation

**Laurie Owens**, Bus Driver, Transportation



## Mehlville School District Senior Class Profile

Mehlville High School and Oakville High School Graduates: 800

Scholarships Earned: \$13,500,602 (over 4 years)

- Students earning Bright Flight Scholarships (31 or higher on ACT): 34
- A+ Certified Students: 136

Students who are joining the military: 9

College-bound student athletes: 39

Students receiving the Seal of Biliiteracy: 14

Summa Cum Laude (GPA of 4.0+): 81

Magna Cum Laude (GPA of 3.75-3.99): 79

Cum Laude (GPA of 3.5-3.74): 97

National Merit Semifinalists: 1

National Merit Commended Students: 2

Students who participated in:

- South Technical High School: 92
- MyPath/Independent Studies: 16
- St. Louis Centers for Advanced Professional Studies (STLCAPS): 31
- Advanced Placement courses: 384
- Project Lead The Way courses (these courses focus on applied learning in a hands-on environment): 268

*Information as of May 29, 2020*



Photo by Goldbeck

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# Congratulations to the Class of 2020!



## Four new administrators will start July 1

The Mehlville School District Board of Education has approved the hiring of four new administrators. All of these staff members will assume their new roles with Mehlville School District on July 1.

### Kelly Roberts, Principal of Washington Middle School

Kelly Roberts, currently the assistant principal at Washington Middle School, will be the school's next principal.



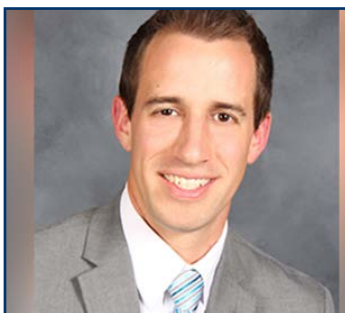
"Mrs. Roberts is a proven leader dedicated to continuous improvement for all students and staff," said Dr. Jeff Bresler, Assistant Superintendent, Supervision of Schools. "Her student-centered approach and passion for learning aligns with the values of WMS, and her commitment to embracing relationships that benefit students will help provide a seamless transition."

Roberts served as assistant principal at Washington Middle since 2017. She also served as assistant principal at Bierbaum Elementary School from 2012 to 2017. Roberts spent nine years as an elementary teacher in Parkway School District. She earned a Bachelor of Arts from St. Louis University, a Master of Arts in Administration from Lindenwood University and a Specialist in Educational Administration from Southeast Missouri State University.

"Over the past three years I have been able to witness firsthand the hard work and dedication of our staff and students," Roberts said. I look forward to working with our students, families, staff and the entire WMS community in my new role to help students learn the values and skills needed to be successful at the middle school level and beyond."

### Bill Murphy, Assistant Principal at Washington Middle School

Bill Murphy will be assistant principal of Washington Middle School next school year.



Murphy taught sixth-grade math at Sperrang Middle School in Lindbergh Schools. He graduated from Missouri State University with a Bachelor of Science in Education before earning a Master of Science in Education - Middle School Education and Master of Science in Educational Leadership and Administration from Walden University in Minneapolis, MN.

"Mr. Murphy is student-centered and will support our vision of giving students voice and choice in their learning," said Kelly Roberts, 2020-2021 WMS

principal. "He brings a wealth of knowledge with integrating project-based learning in our classrooms. His expertise will help us to continue to grow personalized learning here at WMS and district-wide."

### Michael Wegener, Assistant Principal at Oakville High School

Oakville High School music teacher, Michael Wegener, has been named the school's newest assistant principal.



Wegener has taught music for the past 10 years. He is currently the director of choirs at Oakville High School. Wegener earned a Bachelor of Music and a Master of Music in Music Education from the University of Mississippi. He also earned an Education Specialist in School Administration from Lindenwood University.

"Michael has been an integral member of our school community as a member of our performing arts program," said Tamara Sunkett, principal at OHS. "Michael is extremely bright and thoughtful and has a clear love for our students. I am extremely excited for him to join our administrative team."

### Sadie Lewis, Director of Personalized Learning and Instructional Design

Currently serving as the district's Instructional Design Coordinator, Sadie Lewis was promoted to Director of Personalized Learning and Instructional Design.



"Sadie is a consummate professional and is well-respected by administrators and teachers throughout the district," said Dr. Brian Smith, Assistant Superintendent, Teaching and Learning. "She has been instrumental in providing professional development and support for the personalized learning movement in Mehlville and has assisted staff in becoming comfortable with technology."

Lewis has been a technology literacy instructor at Bernard Middle School. She has also served as an instructional innovation specialist. Lewis is a certified innovator and trainer for Google for Education, and she's a national faculty member for Partner PBL Works (formerly Buck Institute for Education). Lewis earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Missouri - Columbia, and a Master of Arts in Teaching from Lindenwood University.

"We are faced with amazing opportunities in Mehlville, and I am so excited to continue to be a part of the work being done in our district," Lewis said.

## Nominations open for Mehlville School District Alumni Hall of Fame



We inducted 13 incredible men and women in the inaugural class of the Mehlville School District Alumni Hall of Fame in 2019, and now we need your help to select the class of 2020.

The purpose of the Alumni Hall of Fame is to identify and celebrate graduates of Mehlville High School and Oakville High School who have made a lasting impact in the community and nation. The inductees serve as role models for current and future generations of students who aspire to be productive citizens and demonstrate traits that align with the district's Portrait of a

Graduate: creative and critical thinker, ethical and global, self-aware, persistent and communicator.

The nomination must include:

- Completed application
- A letter from the nominator explaining the nominee's professional, cultural, military or athletic accomplishments, and community impact
- Names and contact information of 3-5 references who can speak to the nominee's accomplishments, character and community impact
- Supporting documentation (nominee's resume, news clippings, military records, letters of recommendation, etc.)

To be considered, nominees must have graduated more than 10 years ago. The application must be received by Aug. 1, 2020. Visit the Alumni Hall of Fame website, [mehlvilleschooldistrict.com/community/hall\\_of\\_fame](http://mehlvilleschooldistrict.com/community/hall_of_fame) for more information.

# Virtual Summer Session expands into July, registration is open

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, Mehlville School District is offering virtual summer school this year for students entering first grade through 12th grade.

While the June session has already started, students can still enroll in the July 6-31 virtual Summer Session. Mehlville Summer Session continues to be offered for free.

## Elementary Summer Session

Summer Session for elementary school students is packed with opportunities for exploration, discovery and achievement. Each day students will start their instruction with a Google Meet with their teacher and class. Teachers will provide direct instruction through Google Meet that focuses on skill-building in English Language Arts and math, and enrichment. Students will then work independently to complete some daily tasks offline before checking back in on Google Meet to report on their accomplishments. Parents can enroll their children (entering grades 1-5) in a morning session from 9 to 11 a.m. or an afternoon session from 1 to 3 p.m.



## Middle School Summer Session

Summer Session for middle school students provides instruction in core classes including math and English Language Arts. Students will also be enrolled in two elective classes based on their preferences. Electives include Personal Wellness and Physical Education, World Culture With Food Studies Emphasis, Arts and Graphic Design, Ecology and Biodiversity, World Culture With Foreign Language Emphasis, Weather and Astronomy, Power to Change, and Engineering Design. Parents can enroll their children (entering grades 6-8) in a morning session from 9 to 11:15 a.m. or an afternoon session from 12 to 2:15 p.m.

## High School Summer Session

High school students can take elective courses or recover credits in core subjects during Summer Session. High school students can take up to two classes in July for a total of one credit.

Learn more about Summer Session and find registration forms online at [https://mehlvilleschooldistrict.com/summer\\_session](https://mehlvilleschooldistrict.com/summer_session)

## Looking for a great book? Here are some suggestions from educators

The best way to maintain your child's reading skills over the summer months is to spend time reading. This can be reading aloud to your child, reading alongside your child, or having your child read on their own. Any and all ways to engage in books is beneficial – no matter how old your child is! We have put together a fabulous list of titles recommended by our librarians and teachers. You'll find our complete list of suggested summer reading books along with ways to access books online at [bitly/MSDR9summerreads](https://bitly/MSDR9summerreads). Happy reading!

### Kindergarten through First Grade

"Hair Love" by Matthew Cherry  
"Hello, Crabby!" by Jonathan Fenske  
"How Is Ice Cream Made?" by Grace Hansen  
"Only One You" by Linda Kranz  
"Niko Draws a Feeling" by Bob Raczka

### Second through Third Grade

"The Boy Who Dreamed of Infinity: A Tale of the Genius Ramanujan" by Amy Alznauer  
"The Mouse and the Motorcycle" by Beverly Cleary  
"Auntie Luce's Talking Paintings" by Francie Latour  
"The Proudest Blue" by Ibtihaj Muhammad  
"Charlotte's Web" by E. B. White

### Fourth through Fifth Grade

"Winterborne Home for Vengeance and Valor" by Ally Carter  
"New Kid" by Jerry Craft  
"The Night Diary" by Veera Hiranandani  
"As Brave as You" by Jason Reynolds  
"How Emily Saved the Bridge: The Story of Emily Warren Roebling and the Building of the Brooklyn Bridge" by Frieda Wishinsky

### Sixth Grade

"Gregor the Overlander" series by Suzanne Collins  
"Girl Stolen" by April Henry  
"Fish in a Tree" by Lynda Mullaly Hunt  
"Amal Unbound" by Aisha Saeed  
"Piecing Me Together" by Renee Watson

### Seventh Grade

"The Benefits of Being an Octopus" by Ann Braden  
"Alex Rider" series by Anthony Horowitz  
"Renegades" series by Marissa Meyer  
"Ghost" by Jason Reynolds  
"To Catch a Killer" by Cheryl Scarborough

### Eighth Grade

"Look Both Ways" by Jason Reynolds  
"Scythe" by Neil Schusterman  
"Counting by 7s" by Holly Goldberg Sloan  
"Forget Me Not" by Ellie Terry  
"Impostors" series by Scott Westerfeld

### Ninth Grade

"The Nazi Hunters" by Neal Bascomb  
"Ender's Game" by Orson Scott Card  
"We Were Liars" by E. Lockhart  
"Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe" by Benjamin Alire Saenz  
"Maus I and II" by Art Spiegelman

### Tenth Grade

"The Poet X" by Elizabeth Acevedo  
"Moxie" by Jennifer Mathieu  
"Eragon" series by Christopher Paolini  
"The Fountains of Silence" by Ruta Sepetys  
"Dear Martin" by Nic Stone



### Eleventh Grade

"Simon vs the Homo Sapiens Agenda" by Becky Albertalli  
"Ready Player One" by Ernest Cline  
"The Perks of Being a Wallflower" by Stephen Chbosky  
"After the Shot Drops" by Randy Ribay  
"The 57 Bus: A True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime That Changed Their Lives" by Dashka Slater

### Twelfth Grade

"Children of Blood and Bone" by Tomi Adeyemi  
"The Names They Gave Us" by Emery Lord  
"Salt to the Sea" by Ruta Sepetys  
"The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" Douglas Adams  
"Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood" by Trevor Noah



# STUDENT DISTINCTIONS

## Student Council

The **Buerkle Middle School Student Council** earned the 2020 National Gold Council of Excellence honor from NatStuCo.



**Buerkle Middle School Student Council**

## All-State Basketball

Mehlville High School seniors **Davion Bradford** and **Lamontay Daughtery** were named to the Class 5A All-State Basketball team.



**Davion Bradford**



**Lamontay Daughtery**

## Distinguished Leader Awards

Mehlville High School seniors **Hannah Casteel**, **Elisabeth Farrel** (pictured below) **Elizabeth Kittinger** and **Maya Tunstall** received the Distinguished Student Leader Award from the Missouri Association of Student Councils.



**Hannah Casteel**



**Elizabeth Kittinger**



**Maya Tunstall**

## FBLA state winner

Mehlville High School senior **AJ Hutson** placed second in Accounting II at the state Future Business Leaders of America competition. He will compete at the national level in June.



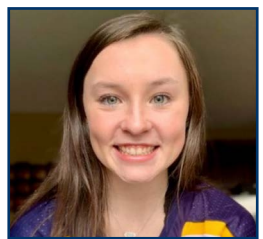
**AJ Hutson**



**Alex Norrenberns**

## Missouri HOSA President

Mehlville High School sophomore **Alex Norrenberns** was named president elect of the Missouri State HOSA (Future Health Professionals). He will serve two years and assume the role of president next term.



**Sydney Lahm**



**John Emelko**

## Missouri 100 Scholars

Mehlville High School senior **Sydney Lahm** was named a Missouri 100 Scholar, an honor bestowed on just 100 seniors across the state each year based on an academic decathlon, school involvement and community service. Mehlville High School senior **John Emelko** was named Missouri 100 Scholar Honorable Mention.

## Princeton Prize

Mehlville High School senior **Umutoni Sebunyenzi** received a Certificate of Accomplishment from Princeton University as part of the Princeton Prize in Race Relations Program.



**Umutoni Sebunyenzi**



**Elisabeth Farrel**

## Rotary Club Student of the Year

Mehlville High School senior **Elisabeth Farrel** was named Rotary Club Student of the Year.

## MHS Speech and Debate

Mehlville High School senior **Erica Rawizza** qualified for the National Speech and Debate Competition and will be representing the state of Missouri in June.



**Erica Rawizza**

## Tops at Tech

Several Oakville High School and Mehlville High School students were named Tops at Tech winners for their work at South Tech High School: Oakville High School senior **Scott Wolf** (Law Enforcement), junior **Sam McFarland** (Information Technology), senior **Emily Deters** (Health Sciences) and junior **Paige Simmons** (Firefighting), and Mehlville High School seniors **Christy Nguyen** (Health Sciences), **Richmond Dawson** (Electrical Trades), **Trenton Erlinger** (Design and Entrepreneurship), **Jadyn Doty** (Cosmetology), **Jonathan Mugavero** (Automotive Technology) and **Benjamin Harrison** (Automotive Technology).



**Top row L-R: Scott Wolf, Sam McFarland, Emily Deters, Paige Simmons, Christy Nguyen. Bottom row L-R: Richmond Dawson, Trenton Erlinger, Jadyn Doty, Jonathan Mugavero, Benjamin Harrison.**

## Stand-out sports journalist

Oakville High School senior **Lily Singer** earned the Sports Video Story of the Year award from the Missouri Journalism Educators Association.



**Lily Singer**

## Missouri TSA Cybersecurity

Oakville High School junior **Tony Swink** and senior **Logan Wyas** placed second in the Missouri TSA Cybersecurity contest.



**Tony Swink**



**Logan Wyas**

## Robotics Award

The **Oakville High School Robotics Team 9612** won the FIRST Tech Challenge Robotics Promoter Award for the state of Missouri for a video created by teammate **Alex Schumacher**.



**OHS Robotics Team 9612**

## OHS Winterguard

The Oakville High School Varsity Winterguard finished sixth in the WGI Tulsa Regional, competing against 26 schools from Arkansas, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas.



OHS Winterguard

## Rosemary Zander Recipients

The Rosemary Zander Awards recognize the outstanding achievements of students who receive Special School District services. **Anthony Bergmann**, Mehlville High School senior, earned the Rosemary Zander Award for his work in the auto body repair program at SSD's South Technical High School. **Morgan Coerver**, Rogers Elementary fifth-grader, received the Rosemary Zander award for her exceptional progress in reading. **Trenton Erlinger**, Mehlville High School senior, received the Rosemary Zander Award for being an ambassador for the Design and Entrepreneurship program at South Tech. **Halle Ezell**, Oakville High School senior, earned the Rosemary Zander Award for her leadership in the law enforcement program at South Tech.



Top L-R: Anthony Bergmann, Morgan Coerver  
Bottom L-R: Trenton Erlinger, Halle Ezell

## STAFF DISTINCTIONS

### Bierbaum principal, Mehlville High counselor earn doctorates

Bierbaum Elementary principal **Paul Morris** and Mehlville High School counselor **David Pitts** both recently earned their doctoral degrees.

Dr. Morris earned his Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Maryville University.

“So many other principals and district administrators in Mehlville have already achieved their doctorates,” Dr. Morris said. “It brings me a lot of pride to know that I am in such esteemed company.”

Dr. Pitts earned his Doctorate of Education with an emphasis in Leadership in Teaching and Learning at Missouri Baptist University.

“We tell our students about the importance of lifelong learning, so I am excited to be able to be an example of what that actually means,” Dr. Pitts said.



Dr. Paul Morris (left) and Dr. David Pitts (right) celebrate receiving their doctorates.

## Oakville High School is a 2020 National School of Character

Oakville High School has been named a 2020 National School of Character by Character.com. Oakville High School received the award for providing students with opportunities for moral action, fostering shared leadership and engaging families and communities as partners in character-building efforts.

“We are so very proud of this honor and our staff who make it so easy for OHS to highlight character in action,” said Tamara Sunkett, principal of Oakville High School. “Their efforts in the classroom, on the playing field and in the arts provides wonderful opportunities for our tigers to grow, apply and develop their Stripes of Character.”



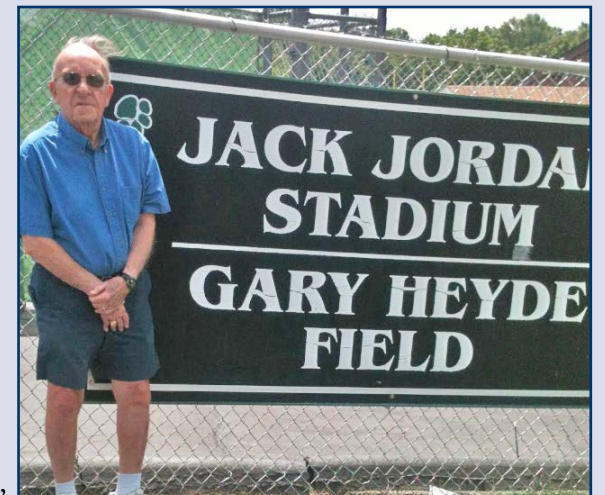
Founded in 1993, Character.org is a national nonprofit based in Washington, D.C. It works with schools, families, workplaces and other communities to inspire, educate and empower people to be ethical and compassionate citizens. Character.org is comprised of character leaders dedicated to individual growth and success through the advancement of quality character development in all schools and communities. The impact of this is seen through improved academic achievement, decline in behavioral problems like truancy and an increase in an overall positive school climate.

OHS qualified for the national distinction after it was named a 2020 State School of Character earlier this year. It was previously named a School of Character in 2015. Mehlville School District was named a National District of Character in 2019.

## In Memoriam: Jack Jordan, 1940-2020

Jack Jordan, known to many in Mehlville School District as the “Voice of the Panthers,” died on April 25, 2020. He was 79.

Jordan was principal at Margaret Buerkle Middle School from 1976 to 1996 when he retired from Mehlville School District. Prior to that, he served as an administrator at Oakville High School and Washington Junior High School (now Washington Middle School).



“Jack Jordan was well respected in the Mehlville School District community,” said Dr. Jeff Bresler, Assistant Superintendent, Supervision of Schools. “He was so proud to serve our district, and he always worked to put the best interest of students first. He had a passion for helping everyone succeed.”

For decades, Jordan’s voice could be heard on fall Friday nights as he announced Mehlville football games. It was a task he loved and continued doing well into his retirement. The Mehlville High School stadium is named in Jordan’s honor.

  
**Mehlville School District**  
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**IMPORTANT DATES**

Find district event information at [mehvilleschooldistrict.com](http://mehvilleschooldistrict.com).

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>June 1-26</b> | Mehlville Summer Session - Virtual                           |
| <b>June 11</b>   | Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., to be determined      |
| <b>June 25</b>   | Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., to be determined      |
| <b>July 3</b>    | District Offices Closed, Independence Day Observed           |
| <b>July 6-31</b> | Mehlville Summer Session - Virtual                           |
| <b>July 19</b>   | Oakville High School Graduation, 1:30 p.m., Chaifetz Arena   |
| <b>July 19</b>   | Mehlville High School Graduation, 6 p.m., Chaifetz Arena     |
| <b>Aug. 20</b>   | Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Mehlville High School |
| <b>Aug. 25</b>   | First Day of School  |
| <b>Sept. 7</b>   | No School, Labor Day   |
| <b>Sept. 15</b>  | State of the District, 7 p.m., Nottelmann Auditorium         |

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Explore, discover and achieve with Mehlville School District's free virtual Summer Session, July 6-31, 2020.

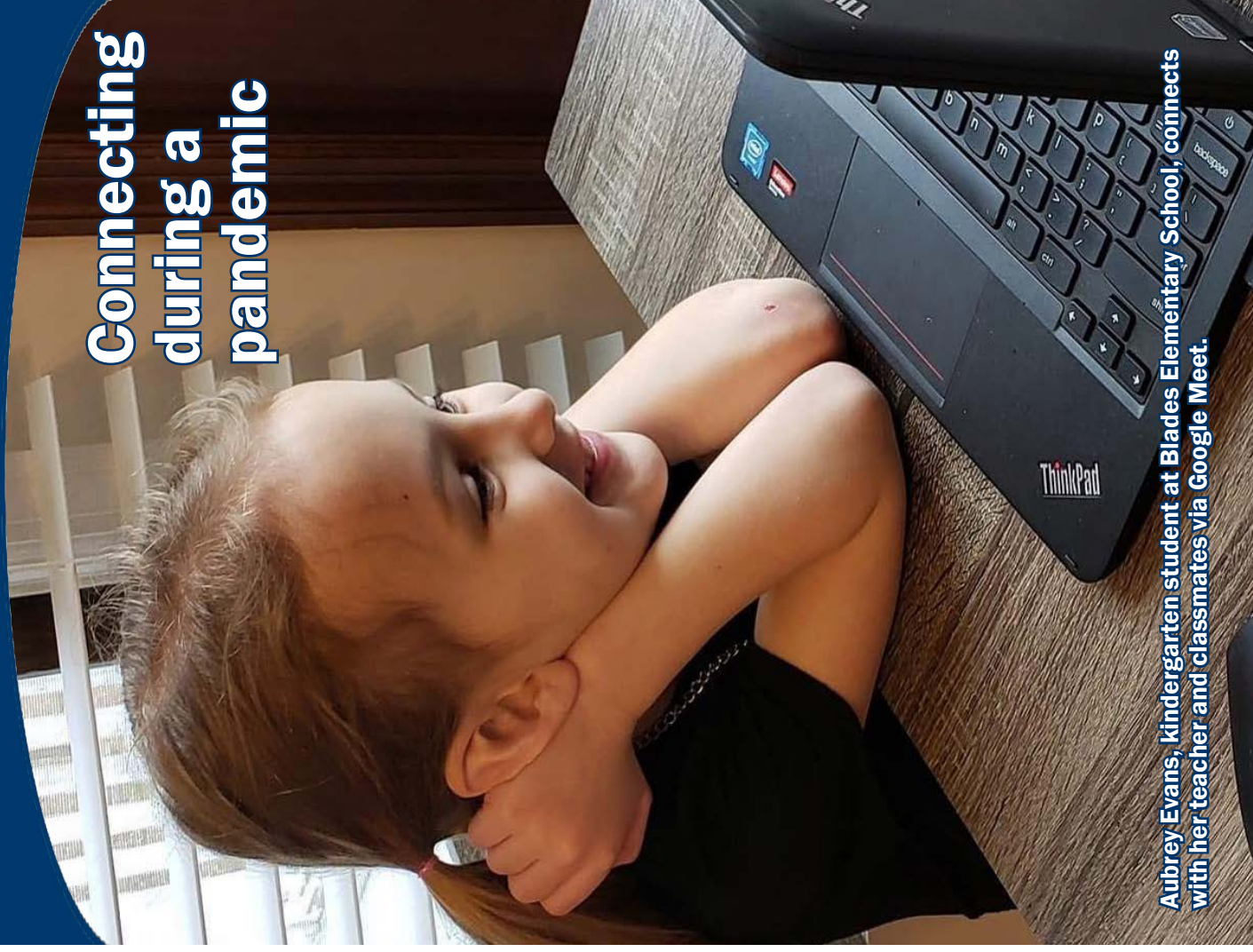
  
**Mehlville Summer Session**  
*Explore, Discover, Achieve with Mehlville School District*

Learn more at [mehvilleschooldistrict.com/summer\\_session](http://mehvilleschooldistrict.com/summer_session)

A Mehlville School District Publication

# Mehlville Messenger

## Connecting during a pandemic



Aubrey Evans, kindergarten student at Blades Elementary School, connects with her teacher and classmates via Google Meet.

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**Mehlville School District**  
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**JUNE 2020**