

March 2021

Mehlville Messenger

A Mehlville School District Publication

Mehlville Summer Session will be offered through July

Mehlville School District is offering more in-person and virtual learning opportunities during Summer Session than it has in the past. Summer Session is free for all children entering kindergarten through 12th grade.

High school students will have the opportunity to earn up to four credits this summer, and elementary and middle school students can pick and choose which Summer Session theme weeks they'd like to attend between June 7 and July 30.

"We know some students struggled with virtual and blended learning during the 2020-2021 school year," said Dr. Brian Smith, assistant superintendent of teaching and learning. "The pandemic made high-quality instruction challenging. This expanded Summer Session allows our teachers to revisit and reinforce our curriculum while also providing enrichment activities at the elementary and middle school."

Elementary School Summer Session June 7 through July 2, and July 12 through 30

Families can pick as many themed weeks as they'd like for their incoming kindergarten through fifth-grade students. Summer Session is 8:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Locations include Bierbaum Elementary, Trautwein Elementary and Wohlwend Elementary.

Middle School Summer Session June 7 through July 2, and July 12 through 30

Families can pick as many themed weeks as they'd like for their incoming sixth-through eighth-grade students. Summer Session is 7:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. at Bernard Middle.

High School Summer Session June 7-18, June 21-July 2, July 12-23 and July 26-Aug. 6

Students can earn up to four credits if they attend both morning and afternoon classes during all sessions of High School Summer Session. The morning class is 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. and the afternoon class is 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Summer Session will be held at Oakville High School.

Free meals will be available to Summer Session students. Transportation shuttles will be available from students' home schools. COVID-19 safety procedures, including the use of face coverings as determined by St. Louis County Department of Public Health, will be followed during Summer Session.

Half-day virtual programs may be available to students entering grades 1 to 8. Some virtual classes will also be available to high school students.

Support for students with disabilities

Special School District of St. Louis County will be providing Universal Summer Supports (USS) during Mehlville Summer Session. Special education



Mehlville Summer Session

Explore, Discover, Achieve with Mehlville School District

enrichment activities offered through USS will support the education of children in grades K-12 with disabilities whose typical learning opportunities were impacted due to COVID-19 closures. Activities will focus on literacy, numeracy, and social and emotional development. More information will be provided later this spring.

Additional information on theme weeks and high school courses will be available at bit.ly/summersessionmehlville by March 31. Registration will open on March 31.



Vermicomposting helps Forder Elementary School cut down on its cafeteria waste. Elementary Summer Session students had the opportunity to tend to the worms in the summer of 2019.

Board of Education

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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

Kevin Schartner



Spring brings renewed hope that brighter days are ahead

Spring is a time of hope and looking forward to better times. As the weather shifts from February's frigid winter spell to the comfort of a warm spring that brings open windows, singing birds and blooming flowers, many of us are starting to feel a sense of renewal and are looking forward to better days ahead.

This feeling may never have been more true than it is this year. As we see improvements in the fight against the coronavirus, students being back in classrooms, and people starting to travel and get together with loved ones, there is a strong sense that a return to normalcy is just around the corner.

This same optimism is also taking shape in our school district as we also look to a future where we can continue the progress that has been made in our schools. Prior to the pandemic, we saw four years of education innovation, improved academics and more student educational choices than ever before. This all happened while practicing fiscal discipline and while paying off lease debt early. In addition, over these past two years our district leadership and community were coming together to tour our schools and prioritize capital needs across our district. School safety was deemed our most pressing need, followed by HVAC and other critical infrastructure. Because of this, Prop S will be on the ballot on April 6. Prop S asks our community for

permission to transfer funds from our operational tax levy for the purpose of issuing bonds that will fund these critical capital projects. All of this will be done within our existing tax rates, meaning there are no tax rate increases associated with this bond measure. See page 6 for more information.

The optimism I have this spring is undeniable as our community advances on this path of improving school safety, educational opportunities and fiscal responsibility.



High school students returned to campus four days a week on Tuesday, March 9. On their first week back together, students in the Human Body Systems course at Mehlville High School completed a urinalysis lab to diagnosis different kidney diseases.

Two candidates file for Board of Education

Two Mehlville School District citizens have filed their candidacy for two positions on the Mehlville Board of Education, incumbent Tori Behlke and newcomer to the board Patrick McKelvey.

Typically, when the number of candidates who file is the same as the number of positions to be filled, then there is no election. However, under the provisions of Missouri Statute Section 115.124, the Board of Education election will appear on the ballot because we are also placing Prop S on the ballot. Prop S is a bond issue that if passed would allow the district to make facilities improvements to address safety and critical infrastructure needs without raising the tax rate.



Tori Behlke



Patrick McKelvey

The new board members will be sworn in during the April 15 Organizational Meeting of the Board of Education. The two candidates will each serve three-year terms.



Addressing community priorities through Prop S and a renewed strategic plan

Starting in January 2019, we began soliciting feedback about our facilities. Through the Facilities Steering Committee, families, staff and community members shared their concerns about our school buildings and campuses and their priorities for repairs and upgrades.

In the summer of 2019, we launched Mehlville Listens, a series of surveys and focus groups to get feedback to help shape a revised and renewed strategic plan. We gathered input from parents, students, staff and the community.

It's clear from our community engagement work that safety is our community's top priority.

When people talk about safety, they generally consider it in two ways. The first is the physical safety of our campuses. Our community wants secured entrances, safe classrooms, parking lots, playgrounds and outdoor areas. Especially during a global pandemic, our community also wants well ventilated buildings with comfortable and healthy indoor air.

The second way people talk about safety is related to the human element. We must prioritize the social and emotional health of our students and our staff. It's clear we need to focus on providing kids with social emotional learning supports and resources.

The second priority our community identified was personalization. Parents and students want an education that supports their unique needs and learning preferences. To support greater personalization, we are looking at ways to

identify each student's learner profile. We are also exploring ways to expand education pathways for students based on their goals after graduation.

I am looking forward to presenting our next strategic plan, which will focus on safety and personalization, to the Board of Education in late 2021.

How Prop S addresses these safety concerns

As we continue to draft the strategic plan, we have an opportunity to make an important improvement in safety if voters pass Prop S on April 6. Prop S is a bond issue that would fund projects to improve student safety and accessibility and complete deferred maintenance without increasing taxes.

Prop S would generate \$35 million to complete these projects. Voter approval would allow the district to transfer 12 cents of the existing tax rate to address facility needs at all schools within Mehlville School District at no additional cost to the taxpayer. I encourage you to read more about Prop S on page 6 and to vote on April 6.

A little over a year ago, we first shut down our schools due to the coronavirus. This was an extremely difficult year for our community. Thank you for your continued patience and understanding over the past year as we've done our best to serve students and the community.

Thank you for your service!

Congratulations to 46 Mehlville School District employees who have announced their retirement at the end of the school year. Our 2021 retirees have a combined 935 years of service to the children of Mehlville School District. We appreciate your dedication.

Candace Austin, Bus Driver

Janice Baker, Point Elementary, Second Grade Teacher

Jimmie Barton, Oakville High, Custodian

Jan Betzer, Oakville High, Counseling Secretary

Gloria Brazell, Oakville High, Art Teacher

Kimberly Buescher, Bus Driver

Karen Chesnek, School Food and Nutrition Services Secretary

Susan Cook, Bierbaum Elementary, Reading Teacher

Jacqueline Dierker, Trautwein Elementary, Fourth Grade Teacher

William Ebert, Oakville High, Social Studies Teacher

Mary Eilerman, Mehlville High, Language Arts Teacher

Cynthia Evans, Oakville High, Business Education Teacher

Peter Frisella, General Maintenance

Linda Funk, Bus Driver

Michael Ghormley, Mehlville High, Math Teacher

Marcia Gleiforst, Blades Elementary, Secretary

Lawrence Haegle, Utility Driver

Cynthia Harper, Bus Driver

Karen Ingenthron, Mehlville High, Activities Director Secretary

Cynthia Jenkins, Oakville High, Science Teacher

Mary Jost, Rogers Elementary, Guidance

Laura Kadlec, Oakville Elementary, Classroom Interventionist

Patricia Kasznel, Hagemann Elementary, Cafeteria Recess Monitor

Tracy Klein, Bus Driver

Patricia Knoll, Hagemann Elementary, Art Teacher

Jeff Kuchno, Oakville High, Language Arts Teacher

Leo McCandless, Mehlville High, Industrial Arts Teacher

Mary Ann McKinney, School Food and Nutrition Services Coordinator

Rhonda McSalley, Hagemann Elementary, Classroom Interventionist

Christine Mehig, Oakville High, CAPS Teacher

Cathrynn Navarro, Point Elementary, Third Grade Teacher

Janis Neff, Rogers Elementary, School Nurse

Cathy O'Brien, Bus Driver

Susan Palazzolo, Bernard Middle, School Food and Nutrition Services Manager

Ernie Perrica, Mehlville High, Social Studies Teacher

Jane Perrica, Mehlville High, Math Teacher

Jessica Riddle, Mehlville High, Art Teacher

Sue Roesch, Executive Assistant to Superintendent

David Schneider, Bus Driver

James Scott, Hagemann Elementary, Physical Education Teacher

Kelly Seim, Washington Middle, Gifted Teacher

Sheila Serati, Point Elementary, Fifth Grade Teacher

Susan Sutton, Buerkle Middle, Social Studies Teacher

James Wiemann, Bus Driver

John Yoey, Bus Driver

Tracie Zera, Bus Driver

As COVID cases decline, students spend more time on campus

As the number of COVID-19 infections dropped this winter, Mehlville School District was able to transition all on-campus learners back to their physical classrooms.

As of March 15, elementary students are learning on campus five days a week, and middle and high school students are learning on campus Tuesday through Friday with a virtual learning day on Monday. On Monday, April 19, middle and high school students will return to campus five days a week.

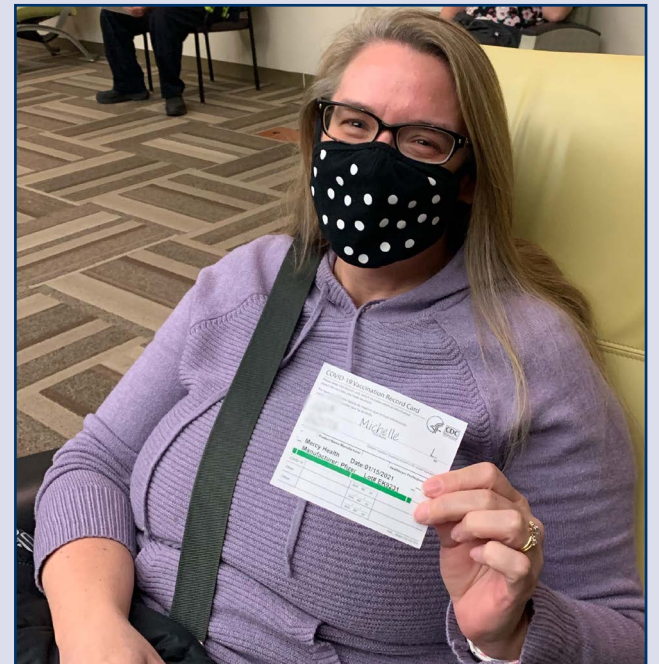
Additionally, more than 1,800 students continue to attend Mehlville@Home, a fully virtual choice program for students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

“More than a year ago, on March 15, 2020, we closed all of our campuses under the guidance of the St. Louis County Department of Public Health,” said Dr. Chris Gaines, superintendent of Mehlville School District. “The pandemic has

been difficult on our families, students and our staff. Since our initial closure, we’ve worked hard to support our families through meal services, technology and tech support, and live teaching via Google Meet or on campus. I appreciate the community’s support as we’ve pivoted multiple times to ensure the health and safety of our staff, our kids and our community.”

The district’s top priority is keeping staff and students healthy so everyone can remain on campus. A key component is ensuring all employees who want a COVID-19 vaccine have access to it.

Mehlville School District has scheduled vaccine clinics for employees on March 19 and April 16. Both days will be virtual learning days as staff receive the first and second dose. These clinics are a partnership between the district and St. Louis Hills Pharmacy, which is owned by Mehlville High alum, pharmacist Dr. Tyler Taylor.



Our school nurses, including Michelle Cook from Point Elementary, received their first COVID-19 vaccine at Mercy Hospital on Jan. 15. Now they are assisting with vaccination efforts.

Grab-and-go meals continue as more students return to campus

Mehlville School District School Food and Nutrition Services staff are continuing to serve free meals for all children 18 and under living in Mehlville School District through our curbside grab-and-go meals program.

Meals can be picked up at the district’s four middle schools and two high schools on Mondays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. through April 12. On Tuesdays through Fridays, meals are available 9-9:30 a.m. at Mehlville and Oakville high schools.

“We’re so excited to continue to provide healthy meals for kids each day,” said Katie Gegg, Director of School Food and Nutrition Services. “I’m so proud of our staff who have worked hard since the beginning of the pandemic to make sure students in our district have food to eat, even when they’re not learning in-person.”

Each meal contains a lunch for that day, as well as a breakfast for the following morning. Since the beginning of the school year, our SFNS staff have served 372,500 curbside grab-and-go meals, in addition to preparing meals for students learning in-person.

Curbside grab-and-go meals can be requested each week at bit.ly/msdr9lunch.

Meals are also free for students on days when they’re learning on campus, with a la carte options available for middle and high school students to purchase.



Mehlville High School cafeteria manager Roy Clemens and technician Pat Holloran serve curbside grab-and-go meals.

Enrolling in Mehlville@Home for the 2021-2022 school year



Mehlville@Home

Enrollment is now open for students interested in Mehlville@Home, Mehlville School District’s fully virtual program for the 2021-2022 school year.

Mehlville@Home was created in response to the diverse needs of our students and is available to any student who prefers learning in a virtual setting. The program is designed to expand opportunities for student choice in their learning.

Mehlville@Home teachers provide highly engaging lessons, and students learn the same curriculum as their peers learning in-person. The majority of courses are taught by Mehlville School District employees through a mix of live Google Meets for instruction and classroom discussion, as well as learning activities to be completed independently.

An informational Zoom meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 14, from 6 to 7 p.m. Enrollment will be open through Friday, April 30. To learn more about enrollment and the meeting, please visit bit.ly/2021enrollmentmah.

eSports team gives students chance to get involved, earn scholarships

Mehlville High School launched an eSports program this year that has helped students stay connected during the COVID-19 pandemic and is opening doors to new scholarship opportunities.

“Colleges are starting to make a big push into eSports,” said Dr. David Pitts, Mehlville High School counselor and eSports coach. “We wanted to find a way for our students to get college paid for.”

eSports refers to competitive video gaming. Players compete either in-person or virtually in popular games, which are streamed to fans all over the world. In addition to high school and collegiate teams, there are now also professional eSports leagues.

The school received an assist from the Maryville University eSports team. The program upgraded their systems after winning three national championships and donated gaming computers to Mehlville High School.

“This is my first year at Mehlville, and I didn’t have any friends yet,” said Makayla Martin, sophomore at MHS. “When I heard there was going to be an eSports team, I thought that it sounded like a lot of fun.”

In addition to having fun, the MHS eSports team has been successful competing against other teams from across the state. Varsity won their first four matches and were among the final three undefeated teams in Missouri. Junior varsity is 3-1.

eSports has been growing in popularity in recent years. Many colleges are now offering scholarship opportunities to gamers. “We’re in a sweet spot for eSports because it’s still a fairly new activity in high school,” said Dr. Pitts. “Colleges are

eager to get players in, so there’s scholarships available and not a ton of people taking advantage of it.”

The MHS eSports team is currently competing in Super Smash Bros. Ultimate but plan to expand to more games beginning next school year. In addition to playing, the students are also learning about aspects of broadcasting games, developing logos and other skills that can translate over to their future studies.



MHS eSports team members Eric Wallace and Scott Merseal practice while coach Dr. David Pitts watches.

Critical thinking, perseverance take the stage at Oakville High

The Oakville High School theatre program did something it has never done to safely host a play during the pandemic: They livestreamed their performances.

“We didn’t want to lose the opportunities that theatre provides to students just because they couldn’t perform in front of a live audience,” said Melissa Harper, OHS theatre teacher.

OHS freshman Macy Judd’s role in “Bad Auditions ... On Camera!” was her first theatrical performance.

“I liked that we livestreamed the performance because I’m interested in film acting,” Judd said. “Being in front of the camera was a great experience for me.”

Students created 13 different sets for the production so that each actor could have their own area to safely remove their mask during the performance. Throughout the show, crew members shifted cameras around to different sets.

“Our largest challenge was definitely livestreaming and working the equipment,” said Isabella Wirthlin, a senior who served as the play’s director. “We would have camera issues or audio issues that would happen during the performance, and we’d have to quickly work to fix those issues.”

The work of OHS theatre students this spring to both plan and execute a livestreamed performance aligns with Mehlville School District’s Portrait of a Graduate traits of Creative & Critical Thinker and Persistent. While students faced plenty of obstacles along the way, they maintained a growth mindset and collaborated to develop effective solutions.

“I have never been more proud of them,” Harper said. “It gave them a great opportunity to play out that problem solving and working with what they had. Even outside of theatre, it gave them so many opportunities that will benefit them in future programs.”

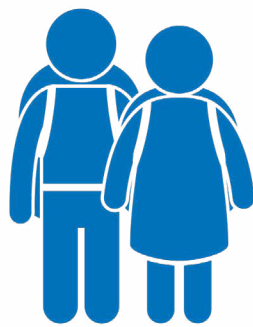


Senior Isabella Wirthlin directs the livestream of Oakville High School Theatre’s production of “Bad Auditions ... On Camera!” This was the first time OHS students have broadcasted a live performance.

PROP S

Safe Schools, Safe Kids

Mehlville School District



How we can make our schools safer without raising the tax rate

In the April 6 election, the Mehlville School District Board of Education is asking voters for permission to use 12 cents of the existing tax rate to fund \$35 million dollars in facility investments through a bond issue. If passed, Proposition S would fund projects to improve student safety and accessibility and complete deferred maintenance without increasing the tax rate.

Specifically, Prop S would fund security entrances at every school; improved accessibility to classrooms for individuals with disabilities; heating, cooling and ventilation upgrades; restroom renovations and additions; parking lot improvements; roof replacements and other projects.

“Our community repeatedly tells us that their top priority is student safety. Our schools were not built with secure entrances,” said Dr. Chris Gaines, superintendent. “This means that visitors can gain access to our students without first checking in with an adult in the office. By constructing security entry vestibules and moving the main offices, we can ensure all visitors are appropriately screened by a school employee before accessing students and classrooms.”

Additionally, our buildings require ongoing maintenance, repair and renovation. However, years of deferred maintenance have created a backlog of projects and facilities in disrepair. This year, Mehlville School District can make repairs and renovations through the passage of Prop S without raising the total tax levy for district residents.

What is a bond issue?

A bond issue is the traditional way schools borrow money to pay for maintenance and repair projects. Bonds allow schools to pay for costly repairs and renovation over time instead of having to pay all at once. They also allow schools to devote most of their day-to-day operating budgets to student instruction and support instead of major repair work. All St. Louis County school districts have passed at least one bond issue to make facility improvements since 2001 — except for Mehlville School District.

If voters approve a bond issue, Mehlville School District sells bonds and uses the funds to complete capital projects. Bond debt is paid back over time similar to a home loan.

Prop S would generate \$35 million to complete critical projects without raising the current tax rate. To pass, Prop S requires a four-sevenths majority, or 57.14 percent yes votes, in the April 6 election.



Prop S would fund security entrances at all schools to ensure visitors are greeted by school staff before accessing classrooms and students. At Forder Elementary, pictured here, visitors often have trouble finding the main office.

Prop S projects at each school

The projects that will be funded by Prop S represent the most pressing facility needs as identified by the Facilities Steering Committee. This committee, which included parents, staff and community members, started gathering feedback in January 2019 in order to prioritize facility needs. The committee recommended security entrances at each school that include an exterior and interior door. Visitors are admitted through the exterior door and must check in with a staff member immediately upon entry before gaining access through an interior door to the rest of the school. [Click here](#) to learn more about Prop S.

Beasley Elementary

Security entrance
Additional restrooms
Restroom renovations
Outdoor lighting
Driveway widening and expanded parking
HVAC replacement

Bierbaum Elementary

Security entrance
Additional classrooms
Expanded, ADA-accessible library and storm shelter
ADA accessibility to two classrooms near office
Restroom renovations
Outdoor lighting
Improved, expanded front parking lot
Additional perimeter fencing to prevent trespassing during school hours

Blades Elementary

Security entrance
Outdoor lighting

Forder Elementary

Security entrance
Outdoor lighting
HVAC replacement

Hagemann Elementary

Security entrance
ADA access to playground
Additional parking lot entrance for improved traffic flow

MOSAIC Elementary

Security entrance
Elevators

Oakville Elementary

Security entrance
Expanded parking with additional accessible parking

Point Elementary

Security entrance
ADA accessibility to back exit door

Rogers Elementary

Security entrance
Parking lot and playground safety improvements
HVAC replacement

Trautwein Elementary

Security entrance
Parking lot improvements, including expanded drive and additional parking
Outdoor lighting
Partial roof replacement

Wohlwend Elementary

Security entrance
ADA accessibility to art and music rooms
Additional ADA-accessible parking
Outdoor lighting

Bernard Middle

Security entrance
Outdoor lighting

Buerkle Middle

Security entrance
Restroom additions and renovations
ADA access to track
Partial roof replacement
Outdoor lighting

Oakville Middle

Security entrance
Outdoor lighting

Washington Middle

Security entrance
Renovate main entrance to improve accessibility for individuals with disabilities
Outdoor lighting
Partial roof replacement

Mehlville High

Security entrance
ADA accessibility to band room
New restrooms at stadium
Improved parking lot walkways and additional ADA parking
Baseball and softball field safety upgrades
HVAC replacement

Oakville High

Security entrance
ADA access to gymnasium
New stadium restrooms
Restroom renovations throughout school
Baseball and softball field safety upgrade
Partial roof replacement

John Cary Early Childhood Center

Security entrance
HVAC replacement

District Facilities

Raze transportation office trailers and garage
Build a 15,000-square-foot transportation garage and office building

How can we complete these projects without raising the tax rate?

Each year, Mehlville School District pays off debt from Certificates of Participation (COP, sometimes called a lease), another type of loan for school facilities. Because of responsible financial management, we will soon pay off all of our COP debt. As a result, about 45 cents of the total tax levy will be freed up for our operating budget. We are asking voters to transfer 12 cents of our operating tax rate into our debt services budget to pay the interest and principal on a \$35 million bond for facilities improvements.

What would happen if Prop S does not pass?

Some maintenance and repair work would continue to be deferred and most school renovation projects would be postponed indefinitely. It will cost more in the future to address the needs that exist today, and money would be spent from our operating budget for critical maintenance and repairs that cannot be deferred — that means less money for classroom instruction, teachers, staff, student supports and supplies.

Prop S addresses overcrowding issues at Bierbaum Elementary School by funding new classrooms. If Prop S does not pass, Mehlville School District will likely need to redraw elementary school boundary lines soon.

If Prop S does not pass, the 12 cents of the tax rate will remain in the operating budget, generating about \$2.4 million a year.

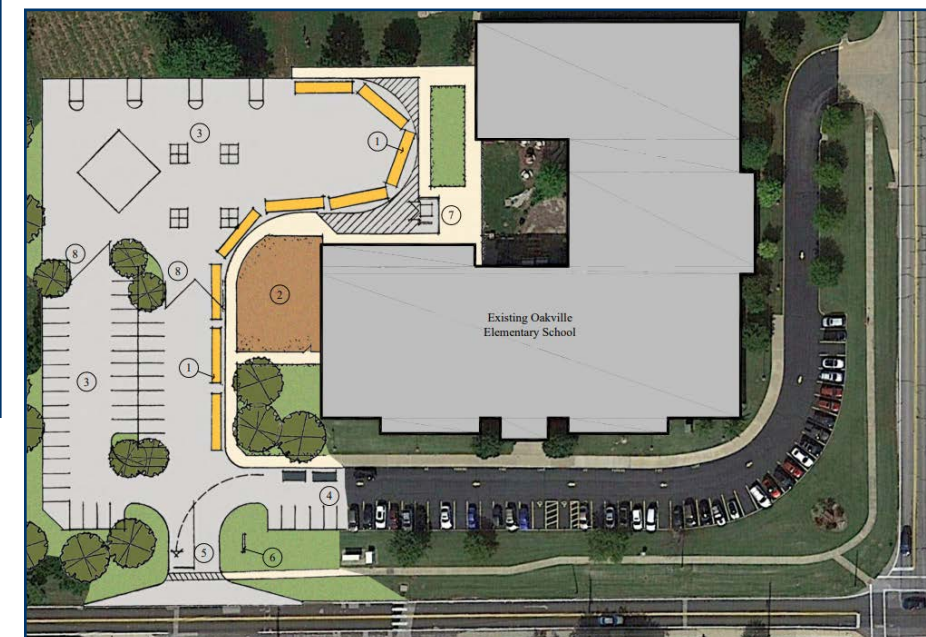
Please vote on April 6

The election is Tuesday, April 6, 2021. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Any Mehlville School District resident, 18 years or older by April 6, who has registered to vote may vote in this election.

Prop S will appear on the ballot as follows:

Shall the Board of Education of the Mehlville R-9 School District, St. Louis County, Missouri borrow money in the amount of \$35,000,000 for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, renovating, expanding, improving, furnishing, and equipping school sites, buildings, and related facilities, including roof, HVAC, security, and parking improvements recommended by the Facilities Steering Committee of the District and issue general obligation bonds for the payment thereof?

If this proposition is approved, the total levy of the school district is expected to remain unchanged due to an anticipated, voluntary decrease in the operating levy of the school district that is expected to offset the estimated increase to the debt service levy of the school district, which debt service levy is estimated to increase from \$0.00 to \$0.12 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation of real and personal property.



Prop S would fund an expanded parking lot at Oakville Elementary School, alleviating congestion and improving student safety. See all conceptual drawings at bit.ly/MehlvillePropS

In the past 20 years, other school districts in the county have spent a combined \$2.4 billion on their facilities through bond issues. Mehlville School District voters last passed a bond issue in 1992. If passed, Prop S would generate \$35 million for facilities projects without raising the tax rate.



Mehlvilleville School District Report Card 2019-2020

[Click here](#) to view Mehlville School District report card.



Our Students

	Our District	State of Missouri
Number of students	9,963	879,661
Students qualifying for free/reduced meals	27.2%	49.3%
Students with limited English proficiency	10.2%	3.9%
Students receiving special education services	15.5%	13.7%
Proportional attendance rate	89.1%	85.3%

*The percentage of students who are in attendance 90% of the time or more.
Note that this is based on the school year through March 2020.*

Our Teachers and Staff

	Our District	State of Missouri
Student-to-teacher ratio	15:1	17:1
Student-to-administrator ratio	255:1	174:1
Average years of experience for teachers	13.9	12.6
Teachers with advanced degrees	78.0%	61.9%

Achievement

	Our District	State of Missouri
Four-year graduation rate	93.1%	89.4%
Percentage of graduates entering post-secondary education	73.0%	63.9%
ACT results (Composite score)	21.0	20.7

Finances

	Our District	State of Missouri
Average expenditure per student	\$9,592	\$9,894
Adjusted tax rate	\$3.7994	\$4.1447

Mehlvilleville School District has one of the lowest tax rates in St. Louis County.

Our Pandemic Response

	Our District
Number of virtual class meetings via Google Meet	295,183
Grab-and-go meals served	372,500
Number of contactless Chromebook repair appointments; help desk requests processed	8,980
Gallons of disinfectant used	30,000
Substitute teachers hired	65
Plexiglass barriers constructed	1,005
Bus routes driven for interventions/supply drop offs	1,600



Photos from around our schools

This time last year, we were all transitioning to virtual learning. After a tumultuous year, we are grateful to have all grades back on campus.



Oakville Middle School



John Cary Early Childhood Center



Beasley Elementary School



Bernard Middle School



MOSAIC Elementary School



Bierbaum Elementary School

Mehlville is home to four outstanding beginning teachers

Four Mehlville School District teachers were named Outstanding Beginning Teachers by the Missouri Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (MACTE). All recipients must be in their first or second year of teaching and are nominated by their college. Only 59 Missouri educators received this award this year.

Olivia Cox - Blades Elementary School

Olivia Cox is in her second year teaching kindergarten at Blades Elementary School. She graduated from Missouri Baptist University in 2019 with a bachelor's degree in early childhood and elementary education and became a teacher because she admired the work her mom did as a teacher.

"Not only am I passionate about teaching kids to read and learn new ideas, but I love getting to know my students," Cox said. "Part of being a successful educator is being able to build relationships with students. I want to be an advocate for them, and I will always be their number one supporter."

She has accomplished that goal since becoming part of the Blades Bobcat family.

"Olivia has shown tremendous work ethic and goes above and beyond for her students," said Dr. Jeremy Booker, Blades Elementary principal. "She takes chances, learns from classroom experiences, works hard every day, seeks out learning opportunities, and, most importantly, has a genuine love for her students."



Joseph Lawson - Oakville Middle School

Joseph Lawson is in his first year teaching at Oakville Middle School after graduating with a degree in middle childhood education from Missouri Baptist University in 2020.

"I wanted to be a teacher because I enjoy helping people," Lawson said. "There's nothing more satisfying than seeing the lightbulb come on for students as they gain understanding and learn to apply the concepts you're teaching them."

Lawson has quickly become an important part of the Oakville Middle family by finding ways to relate to his students and the staff.



"Mr. Lawson makes math relevant, fun and connects lessons to everyday, real-life situations," said Mike Salsman, Oakville Middle principal. "His positive attitude and student-centered approach have made him a great addition to the OMS staff."

Anissa Quilling - Mehlville High School

Before taking over the choir program at Mehlville High School, Anissa Quilling received her bachelor's degree in music from Murray State University and her Master of Arts in Teaching from Lindenwood University.

"My goal as a teacher is to reach young people," said Quilling, who is in her second year at MHS. "Everyone should feel like someone is in their corner and that someone truly cares about their well-being and supports them in their journey."

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Quilling has been coming up with innovative ways for her students to continue to perform and showcase their talents.

"Anissa brings so much energy to her classroom, builds positive relationships with her students and helps them grow as singers and musicians," said Jason Landherr, Mehlville High principal. "When I visit her classroom, I can see how much she cares for her students and the choir program."



Daniel Wangler - Oakville High School

Daniel Wangler began student teaching at Oakville High School in spring 2019. He was hired full-time at OHS after graduating from University of Missouri - St. Louis with a degree in secondary education.

"I love getting to know the students, working together and having fun while doing it," Wangler said. "I try to go to several sports games a season to cheer them on and support them beyond the classroom. They are why I wanted to teach and why I love teaching."

This year, Wangler has been helping students at OHS and those across the district enrolled in Mehlville@Home.

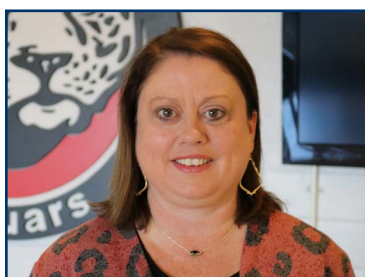
"Mr. Wangler brings a fresh, innovative approach to learning," said Tamara Sunkett, Oakville High principal. "His relatability to students and his ability to make science interesting and relevant for them has led to his students' success."



STAFF DISTINCTIONS

Published on character

Andrea Deane, Beasley Elementary School principal, had an article on self-motivation and staff learning published in the Journal of Character Education.



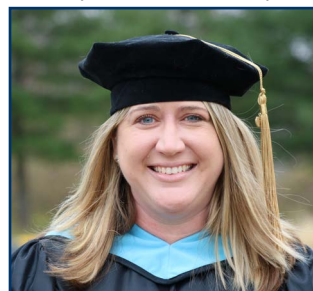
Andrea Deane

Two principals earn doctorates

Bernard Middle School principal **Dr. Lauren Cumming** and Hagemann Elementary School principal **Dr. Julie Durham** each earned their doctorate in education from Maryville University.



Dr. Lauren Cumming



Dr. Julie Durham

OMS teacher receives Vantage Grant

Zack Gotsch, a seventh-grade social studies/science teacher at Oakville Middle School, received \$1,000 from the Vantage Credit Union Impact Education Contest. He plans to use the funds for an Edpuzzle learning license.



Marina Gakhutishvili with Vantage Credit Union, and Zack Gotsch.

STUDENT DISTINCTIONS

National Merit Finalists

Matthew Hansen and **Angelina O'Brien**, seniors at Mehlville High School, and **Aurora Baker**, **Andrew Curran** and **Katie Seithel**, seniors at Oakville High School, have been named National Merit Finalists.



Matthew Hansen **Angelina O'Brien** **Aurora Baker** **Andrew Curran** **Katie Seithel**

Boy Scout Eagle Scout

Andrew Sadl, a senior at Mehlville High School, earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest achievement from the Boy Scouts of America.



Andrew Sadl **Angelina O'Brien**

College Board award

Angelina O'Brien, senior at Mehlville High School, was named a Hispanic Scholar by the College Board National Recognition Programs for excellence in academic achievement.



Josh Neighbors **Nikki Prodes**

Thespian awards

Josh Neighbors and **Nikki Prodes**, seniors at Mehlville High School, obtained Superior ratings for their events at the 2021 Missouri Thespian Conference.

Journalism awards

Oakville High School sophomore **Lejla Pozegic** earned honorable mention in the Yearbook Copy and Captions: Sports category at the 2020 National High School Journalism Convention.



Lejla Pozegic

Honor choir

Khamani Collins, sophomore at Mehlville High School, and **Josh Neighbors**, senior at Mehlville High School, were selected to the St. Louis All Suburban Honor Choir.



Khamani Collins **Josh Neighbors**

Kiwanis Outstanding Student

Angel Garcia, eighth-grader at Buerkle Middle School, was named an Outstanding Student by the South County Kiwanis.



Angel Garcia

Photography honors

Alexandria Lay, senior at Mehlville High School; **Ivona Bala**, senior at Oakville High School; **Matthew Chirco** and **Bella Halley**, juniors at Oakville High School; and **Grant Howison**, **Taylor Kohring** and **Max Talley**, sophomores at Oakville High School had their photos selected to appear in the May Gallery at Webster University.



Alexandria Lay **Ivona Bala**



Matthew Chirco **Bella Halley** **Grant Howison** **Taylor Kohring** **Max Talley**

Middle school honor band

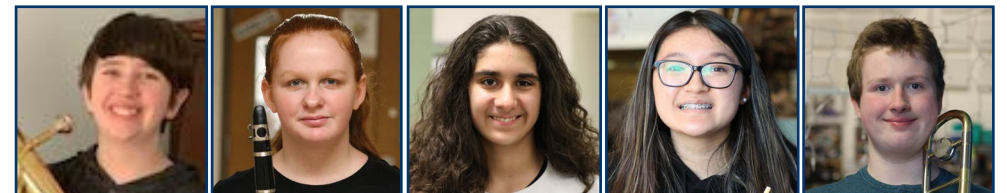
Maura Niebrugge, seventh-grader at Bernard Middle School; **Jonathan Selph**, eighth-grader at Bernard Middle School; **Aiden Guntli**, eighth-grader at Buerkle Middle School; **Kelley Akers**, **Paige Hughes**, **Theo Long**, **Ian Moore** and **Destiny Rubatt**, eighth-graders at Oakville Middle School; **Eva Brown**, seventh-grader at Washington Middle School; and **Haylie Hong** and **Ian Parai**, eighth-graders at Washington Middle School were selected to the St. Louis All Suburban Honor Band.



Maura Niebrugge



Jonathan Selph **Aiden Guntli** **Kelley Akers** **Paige Hughes** **Theo Long**



Ian Moore **Destiny Rubatt** **Eva Brown** **Haylie Hong** **Ian Parai**

High school honor band

Mehlville High School juniors **Hunter Eystone**, **Sean Gallagher** and **Nick Karr** were selected to the St. Louis All Suburban Honor Band.



Hunter Eystone **Sean Gallagher** **Nick Karr**

Seven Oakville High students were named to the St. Louis All Suburban Honor Band: freshman **Rachel Kauffman**, sophomores **Anna Brand**, **Jared Hasty** and **Thomas Kallaos**, juniors **Ryan Dunham** and **Nathan Waggoner**, and senior **Ethan Kauffman**.



Rachel Kauffman **Anna Brand**



Jared Hasty **Thomas Kallaos** **Ryan Dunham** **Nathan Waggoner** **Ethan Kauffman**

Artists on exhibit

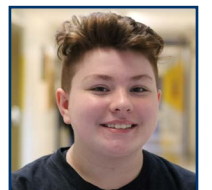
Olivia Rausch, junior at Oakville High School, and **Selena Seim**, senior at Oakville High School, had their artwork selected for display at the 2021 High School Art Exhibit at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville.



Olivia Rausch **Selena Seim**

Patriot's Pen

Seth Moreno, eighth-grader at Buerkle Middle School was recognized by the VFW for his Patriot's Pen essay on "What is Patriotism to Me."



Seth Moreno

Attn: Postal Patron

ECRWSS

IMPORTANT DATES

Find district event information at mehlvilleschooldistrict.com.

Mar. 22-26	No School - Spring Break
Apr. 5	No School - Election Day Break
Apr. 6	No School - Election Day - Teacher workday and professional development
Apr. 15	Board of Education Reorganization Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Mehlville High School
Apr. 16	Virtual Learning Day/Staff Vaccine Clinic
Apr. 19	Middle and high school students return five days a week
Apr. 29	Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Mehlville High School
May 20	Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Mehlville High School
May 25	SCOPE Graduation, 4:30 p.m., Mehlville High football field; rain date: Thursday, May 27, 4:30 p.m., Mehlville High football field
May 31	No School - Memorial Day
June 2	Finals for grades 6-12/half day for students/teacher workday
June 2	Last day of school/End of 4th quarter
June 7	Mehlvilleville Summer Session begins
June 7	Mehlvilleville High School Graduation, 7 p.m., Family Arena
June 8	Oakville High School Graduation, 7 p.m., Family Arena
June 10	Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Mehlville High School
June 24	Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Mehlville High School

Work with us!

We are hiring the following positions:

- Bus drivers (training provided)
- Certified teachers
- Custodial and facilities staff
- School food technicians



Learn more: bit.ly/employmentmsdr9

Mehlvilleville Messenger


PROP S
 Safe Schools, Safe Kids
 Mehlville School District



Safer entrances

Prop S would make school entrances safer and fund critical maintenance projects without raising the tax rate. See more on page 6.

IN THIS ISSUE

Summer Session expands..... Page 1
 President's Note Page 2
 COVID-19 update..... Page 4
 The show goes on for theatre..... Page 5
 How Prop S would improve our schools..... Pages 6-7
 District report card..... Page 8
 Photos from around our schools..... Page 9
 Outstanding new teachers..... Page 10
 Student Distinctions Page 11