



Community Education Courses

CASS CAREER CENTER

Fall 2022

Harrisonville Schools
503 S. Lexington
Harrisonville, MO 64701
816-380-2727

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HARRISONVILLE

Highlights

A Harrisonville Schools Publication
Summer 2022

From the Desk of Superintendent Paul Mensching

Bond, levy provide needed updates to buildings, salaries

Dear Wildcat Family,

As I prepare to conclude my final year in Missouri education, I am fortunate to reflect on the many positive experiences which I have enjoyed in my career. Few experiences have been greater than the work with our community to pass Propositions I and N in June of 2020. With these two issues, Harrisonville demonstrated its foresight and dedication to the children and staff of the school district for years to come. As we enter this final year together, I would like to share an update of these issues.

Three key components of Proposition N were to address the growing need for real world preparation of students, to increase the safety of our staff and students, and to provide the ability to repair and replace key infrastructure issues in the district. Now that most of the projects are nearing completion, we can see how important that timing was.

The safety issues which we were able to address have become even more pressing in the last few months. All our schools are now equipped with secure vestibules at their entrances, and glass safety film has been installed.

The real world preparation of our students has been enhanced with our dramatic improvements at the Cass

Career Center.

And finally, the replacement of our roof top heating and cooling units, boilers, roofs, track, and playgrounds ensure that those key infrastructure components are in good shape for years to come with a solid plan for a replacement cycle.

The supply chain issues have caused delays in the projects, however, except for some roofing at the high school and McEowen, we are scheduled to be done with all of our improvements by the start of school. The roofing at HHS and McEowen should be done by December.

On an even brighter note, we were able to capture a higher premium on our bond sales when they were issued which allowed us to stretch the bond dollars even farther. That market has since turned with the increase in interest rates. Timing is everything!

Proposition I was the increase in operating funds by .50 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation for the purpose of increasing salaries. The results of this increase are not as easy for the general public to see, so I would like to take the opportunity to dem-

(Continued on Page 3)

Administrative Offices

503 S. Lexington
380-2727

Harrisonville High School

1504 E. Elm • 380-3273
Grades 9-12
Mark Rorvig, Principal

Cass Career Center

1600 E. Elm • 380-3253
Grades 9-Post-Secondary
Dr. Anne Hickman, Director

Harrisonville Middle School

601 S. Highland • 380-7654
Grades 6-8
Chris Grantham, Principal

McEowen Elementary School

1901 S. Halsey • 380-4545
Grades 4-5
Beth Love, Principal

Harrisonville Elementary School

101 Meghan Drive • 380-4131
Grades 1-3
Dr. Tricia Falke, Principal

Early Childhood Center

500 Eastwood Road • 380-4421
Grades Preschool - Kindergarten
Becky Campbell, Principal

Teachers gain industry knowledge to use in classroom



Six HHS teachers participated in a weeklong experience this summer to bring real-world learning to students. The Show-Me Careers program provides educators with a unique, hands-on learning experience inside Kansas City area employers to learn about skills and mindsets needed in today's professional environments. *Read more about Real World Learning on page 2*



This summer the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation approved the district's plans for the Real World Learning program which included the release of grant funds to support year one of the program. Real World Learning (RWL) seeks to prepare students for the future by giving them real world exposure and learning opportunities. The goal is for all students across the Kansas City region to graduate with market value assets and a diploma by 2030.

During year one, the district will work on the development of market value asset pathways. Market value assets are defined by the Kauffman Foundation as one of the following: work experiences such as internships or client-centered projects, college credits, industry-recognized credentials, or entrepreneurial experiences. The pathways will help guide students in the course selection process by matching their interests and career aspirations with RWL experiences.

ation requirements.

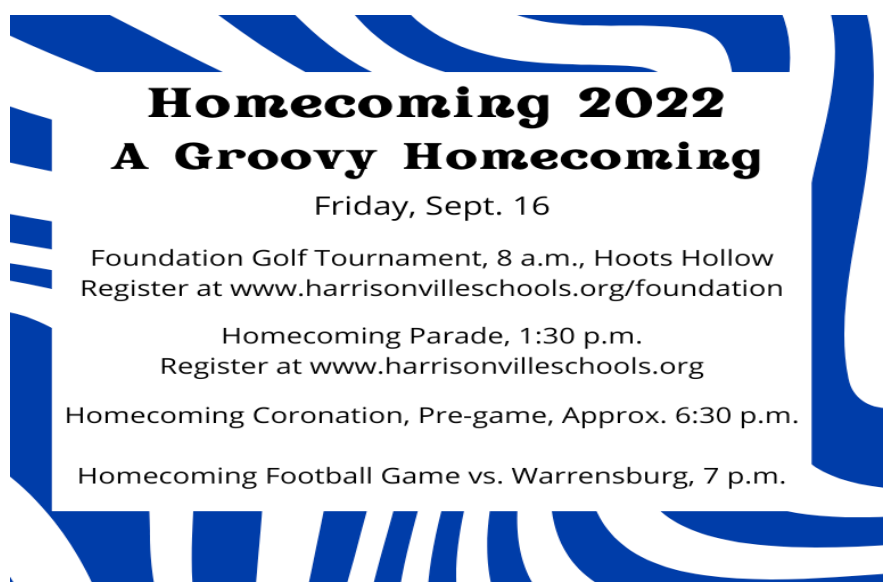
Already in place for year one is the addition of a new program at Cass Career Center - Teaching Professions - which increases our students' opportunity to earn industry-recognized credentials and college credit. Another addition at CCC is an Internship class in the marketing program which will match students with businesses and organizations in the community as marketing interns.

At the middle school, all eighth graders will take the Career Explorations course which will provide an introduction to a variety of career pathways.

For additional information on Real World Learning, you can watch our Speaker Series episode available on the district YouTube Channel,

www.youtube.com/
HarrisonvilleSchools.

July 30-Aug. 7	Fall Sports Dead Week
July 25-Aug. 12	Online Registration for Returning Families
August 22	Meet the Teacher Night
August 24	First Day of School
September 5	No School (Labor Day)
September 16	Homecoming
October 21	No School (Staff Work Day)
November 1	No School (Staff In-Service)
Nov. 21-22	No School - Parent-Teacher Conferences
Nov. 23-25	No School (Thanksgiving Break)
December 21	Early Release for Students
Dec. 22-Jan. 2	No School (Winter Break)
January 3	No School (Staff In-Service Day)
January 16	No School (MLK Day)
February 17	No School or Snow Make-up Day #1 (Staff In-Service)
February 20	No School or Snow Make-up Day #2
March 20-21	No School or Snow Make-Up Days #5 & 6
March 22-24	No School - Spring Break
April 7	No School
May 19	Class of 2023 Graduation
May 24	Last Day of School - Early Release for Students
May 25-26	Snow Make-Up Days #3 & #4



Homecoming 2022
A Groovy Homecoming

Friday, Sept. 16

Foundation Golf Tournament, 8 a.m., Hoots Hollow
Register at www.harrisonvilleschools.org/foundation

Homecoming Parade, 1:30 p.m.
Register at www.harrisonvilleschools.org

Homecoming Coronation, Pre-game, Approx. 6:30 p.m.

Homecoming Football Game vs. Warrensburg, 7 p.m.



Financial planning, levy support staff raises

(Continued from Page 1)
onstrate the growth in salaries associated with that increase.

In 2010-11 the base salary for a teacher in Harrisonville was \$32,600. On teaching salary schedules, all staff receive the amount of increase added to the base salary, plus a vertical "step" amount for each year of service. On these schedules, teachers also receive additional pay as they obtain graduate college hours or degrees.

From 2010-13, there was no change to the base salary. Those who could move based on graduate hours were able to advance on the schedule all three years, but advancement based on years of service only happened in 2011-12 and 2012-13.

From 2013-16, teachers could move based on years and graduate hours and increases of \$300, \$400, and \$500 were made to the base pay. Over the next three years, only \$200 was added to the base pay each year, plus movement for years and graduate hours.

In the spring before I came to Harrisonville, the board increased the base by \$600 for the 2019-20 school year which brought the starting salary

to \$35,000. In 10 years, the base salary had only increased \$2,400.

Another salary issue was the fact that teachers with a Master's degree and 25 years experience were "frozen" on our schedule in terms of their years of service. We didn't have steps for years 26-30 for those teachers.

Finally, we had to strategically control spending as fund balances were decreasing with declining enrollment. The Board took aggressive steps to control spending by reducing staff through attrition. Staffing numbers had not decreased despite the consistent decline in enrollment.

Then, in 2020, thanks to your support, we passed Proposition 1 and increased the base salary by \$2,500! In addition to the base increase, each teacher received their experience step (minimum of \$500). In 2021-22 we added another \$750 to the base salary, plus the movement for experience and/or graduate hours. Finally, for 2022-23 we have added \$750 to the base salary for a starting salary of \$39,000. This is the highest starting teacher salary of any school district that shares a border with us! In

comparison, the average starting salary for a teacher in Missouri last year was \$33,234. We also added \$100 to each vertical step for experience, making all steps at least worth \$600. Additionally, over the last three years, we completed our goal to get the Master's Degree column all the way to 30 years of experience which equates to the typical retirement service for a teacher.

The Board recognizes that teachers are underpaid, particularly in Missouri. Missouri starting pay ranked 50 of 51 (Washington D.C. included) last year, only Montana was worse as a state. However, through our district's strategic planning process in 2019, we identified the problem and have been consciously striving to be marketable and competitive for years to come.

In addition, we also recognize the value in all of our staff, not just our teachers. Each year we analyze our non-teaching schedules and work to make them competitive as well. This year the Board approved an 11% average increase for our secretarial staff!

All of this work was accomplished while adding to the operating fund

balances the last two years after a nine-year decline. We were also able to begin transferring funds into our capital projects fund for rainy day projects in the future. I often tell the Board that it takes time to turn a battleship, and we have been able to make that big turn. Most of us recognize that a recession is most likely to happen this year. With strategic planning, and proper foresight, I believe we are prepared to weather the storm ahead as we continue to work together.

Along with a reflection on the great things we were able to accomplish, I am excited that we will be able to welcome parents and visitors back into our schools. Through the recent pandemic we have all felt the loss of the positive impact of community involvement in our schools. We are excited that we can experience them once again. We are all looking forward to a great school year!

Paul Mensching

Paul Mensching
Superintendent

District welcomes new staff for 2022-23 year

As school begins in August, the district will have several new faces.

New teachers to the district include Michele Pavin, part-time ELL; Morgan Cooper, 1st grade; Hailey Comfort, 3rd grade; Margaret Knight, 2nd grade; Carly McFadden, McEowen counselor; Lesli Lame, HMS math; Allyson Maxwell, 1st grade; Chad Stroud, HMS math; Laura Boland, 5th grade; Brandon Hord, HHS band; Meagan Keeney, HMS counselor; Sybil Frost, CCC EMT; Barbara Campbell, HMS special education; David Cavanah, HHS counselor; Cayla Luzadder, HMS social studies, Kelsey Tillotson, HHS math; Erin Smith, HMS band; Emily Studley, 2nd grade; Emelia Long, HMS Tech/Explo; Sarah Harper, kindergarten; Julie Parker, HMS science; CJ Keeney, HMS science; Jennifer Hawkins, 2nd grade; Taylor Brown, 3rd grade; and Kaitlin Holloway, HHS journalism.

www.harrisonvilleschools.org

Some of these faces are not completely new to the district as they are Harrisonville High School graduates. Wildcat alumni returning home include Hailey (Wilson) Comfort, Taylor (Croy) Brown, and Cayla Luzadder. Margaret Knight, Barbara Campbell, and Kaitlin Holloway are also familiar with the district. Knight previously worked in the district for two years; Campbell has been a paraprofessional in the district for two years; and Holloway has served as an HHS secretary for two years.

Several teachers will also be in new places including Karli Enderle, CCC Teaching Professions; Lisa Elifrits, CCC Math IV; Becky Bruns-Porta, HMS art; Megan Hayden, HMS PE; Jamie Crutchfield; HHS math; and Caleb Noland, HHS PE.

In terms of staff, we welcome new faces in several buildings - Janet Stultz, elementary para; Brandi

Bottomf, Parents As Teachers; Aubrey Graeve, HES library aide and Lisa Warden, HMS para.

Additionally, some staff are changing roles including Suzy Ryman, ECC principal's secretary, Jacklyn Danforth, elementary para; RoseAnn Bostic, preschool para; and Lori Turk, ECC focus facilitator.

During late July/early August, check our Facebook page for video introductions featuring our new teachers - www.facebook.com/HarrisonvilleSchools.

Below: Many of our new teachers enjoyed dinner and a bus tour of the district in mid-June.





Community Calendar of Events

July 25	Online Registration begins for current families	Oct. 20	Chamber Luncheon, TBD, 11:45 a.m.
July 27	Physical Night, 6-8 p.m., HHS, Open to 7-12th graders, \$10	Oct. 20	CCPL Haunted Gingerbread Houses, 3 p.m., Grades 6-12
July 30-Aug. 7	Fall Sports Dead Week	Oct. 20	HES Book Fair Family Event, 5-6:30 p.m.
Aug. 5	Chamber First Friday Coffee, Chamber Office, 7:30 a.m.	Oct. 20	McEowen Dodgeball with Dudes
Aug. 8	First Day of Fall Sports Practice, HHS	Oct. 21	No School - Staff Work Day
Aug. 12	Online Registration Deadline for current families	Oct. 22	CCPL Haunted Cabin Escape Room, Registration Required, Grades 6-12
Aug. 17	CCPL Beginning Drawing Program, 6 p.m., Adults	Oct. 23-31	Red Ribbon Week
Aug. 18	Chamber Luncheon, Chamber Office, 11:45 a.m.	Oct. 31	ECC, HES, McE Fall Parties
Aug. 18	CCPL Bad Poetry Day at the Library, 3 p.m., Grades 6-12	Nov. 1	No School - Staff In-Service Day
Aug. 22	Meet the Teacher Day	Nov. 21-22	No School - Parent-Teacher Conferences
Aug. 22-29	CCPL Fine Arts Members Art Show	Nov. 23-25	No School - Thanksgiving Break
Aug. 24	First Day of School	<i>**CCPL - Cass County Public Library (Harrisonville Branch)</i>	
Aug. 30	Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., Admin Office	<i>**CRMC - Cass Regional Medical Center</i>	
Sept. 2	Chamber First Friday Coffee, Prime Accounting, 7:30 a.m.	<u>CCPL Regular Programs</u>	
Sept. 5	No School	General Book Club – 2nd Monday of the month, 2 p.m. via Zoom (Adults)	
Sept. 10	CCPL Program partnering with Historical Society, 10 a.m.	Brown Bag Book Club – 2nd Monday of the month, 12 p.m. (Adults)	
Sept. 15	Chamber Luncheon, TBD, 11:45 a.m.	Mystery Book Club – 2nd Tuesday of the month, 4 p.m. (Adults)	
Sept. 15	CCPL "Give Virginia a Hand" Program, 3 p.m., Grades 6-12	Loosely Bound Book Club - Aug. 19, Sept. 16, Oct. 28, 2 p.m. on Facebook (Adults)	
Sept. 16	Homecoming	Underground Anime Club - 4th Thurs. of the month, 3 p.m. (Grades 6-12)	
Sept. 20	Tech Department Appreciation Day	Underground Storytime for Teens - 1st Thurs. of the month, 3 p.m. (Grades 6-12)	
Sept. 20	Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., Admin Office	Adulting 101 - Tuesdays in August, 5 p.m. (Grades 6-12)	
Sept. 22	ECC Culver's Night	Aug. 2 - Saving Money and Budgeting	
Sept. 23-24	CRMC Foundation Plant Sale	Aug. 9 - Balancing Bank Accounts	
Sept. 29	CCPL Underground Teen Hangout, 3 p.m., Grades 6-12	Aug. 16 - Credit Cards and Debt	
Sept. 30-Oct. 1	Log Cabin Festival	Aug. 23 - Shopping and Major Purchases	
Oct. 2	Custodial/Maintenance Appreciation Day	Underground Readers Book Club - 2nd Thurs. of the month, 3 p.m. (Grades 6-12)	
Oct. 5	McEowen Culver's Night	August 11 - The Grace Year	
Oct. 10-14	CRMC Foundation Celebration Basket Raffle	Sept. 8 - The Bootlace Magician	
Oct. 12	CCC Culver's Night	Oct. 13 - My Friend Dahmer	
Oct. 17	CCPL Worldwide Sips, 6 p.m.	Girls Who Code - Tuesdays in Sept. & Oct. 5 p.m., Grades 6-12	
Oct. 17-20	ECC, HES, McEowen Fall Book Fairs		
Oct. 18	McEowen Donuts with Grown-Ups		
Oct. 18	ECC Book Fair Family Event		
Oct. 18	Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., Admin Office		

Staying connected to, informed about our district

It is important for our families and community to have access to the latest information from the school district. The district offers several ways for families and patrons to stay up-to-date on school events and news.

District Website

www.harrisonvilleschools.org

In the District News area of the website, anyone can access the most current news and information updates. This is the “go to” location for district news.

The website also includes calendars, lunch menus, school board meeting agendas and summaries, and links to individual building web pages.

Key News

A twice monthly e-mail newslet-

ter from the district office which includes news, school board information, and event/activity dates.

How do I sign up?

District parents will automatically receive the newsletter, however anyone in the community can receive it. Please email jill.filer@harrisonvilleschools.org to be added to the distribution list.

Facebook

Become a “fan” of Harrisonville Schools on Facebook. Just go to www.facebook.com/HarrisonvilleSchools and “like” the page. Updates will include celebrations, photos, reminders, and more.

District App

The district app was developed to provide parents and community

members with the most needed information in a mobile, on-the-go format. You can download the free district app through the Google Play store or the App store. Search for Harrisonville Schools. This app provides information including a staff directory with immediate connection to phone and email, current news, a calendar, sports schedules, website access, and access to the Parent Portal. You can also sign up to receive push notifications based on your personal preferences.

Parent Portal

Parent emails, phone calls and text messages are sent using the contact information in Parent Portal. Parents are strongly encouraged to ensure contact information is up to

date. The portal also offers parents access to their student’s attendance, grades, and meal account balance.

Please note that the district will use the most direct communication for all information. If the information is for families, it will be sent via email, phone or text using the contact information provided in the Parent Portal.

Key News is intended for a wider audience to include our community. The most recent edition is always available on the district website in the Quick Links section.

For additional information on any of these information sources, contact Jill Filer, Director of Communications, at 380-2727, ext. 1224 or jill.filer@harrisonvilleschools.org.