

Local Schools



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PBHS Graduation Rate Exceeds 90% Goal

OCTOBER 05TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

PBHS Graduation Rate Exceeds 90% Goal

Poplar Bluff, Missouri - Poplar Bluff High School's graduation rate was 91.8 percent this year, a gain of 4.2 percent over last year, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education recently reported.

School officials attribute the steady increase since 2011's 78.6 percent to the progress teachers are making in tracking data, building relationships, and generally working harder to engage students and ensure individuals obtain the knowledge necessary to advance.

"Much credit should be given to high school staff for their efforts during the student's final four years," affirmed Patty Robertson, R-I assistant superintendent of curriculum. "However, this is reason for all of us to celebrate. We begin laying an academic foundation and helping students to form dispositions about learning as early as 3 years old."

The Professional Learning Community model was one district-wide initiative implemented over the past several years that has built time into the academic calendar for educators to collaborate across subject areas, grade levels and school buildings. Capturing Kids' Hearts is the cultural piece that centers on building a positive discourse with students by establishing social contracts, among other tools, in various school settings.

The digital transformation, through which a district laptop has been supplied to each student, began at the Junior High and expanded to the High School, allowing teachers to supplement their lessons with educational resources available online that are vetted by

instructional coaches.

The Graduation Center allows students at risk of falling behind grade level due to various life circumstances a chance to catch up in a smaller classroom setting. Because of its success, school leaders are in the planning stages of expanding the non-traditional program into a full alternative school for students who do not excel in a typical campus environment.

Other opportunities tailored to upper grade levels include advisory during which students are provided a class period to check in with a designated teacher and meet with ‘lifeguards’ in each department if they are struggling to grasp a concept. The ICU, or intensive care unit, is a parental notification system utilized when students miss assignments.

Lastly, PB Writes is an activity that puts an emphasis on research and essay writing across all core subjects with monthly prompts designed to prepare freshmen and sophomores for the EOC and upperclassmen for the ACT.

“None of this makes [school] easier, it makes it more student-focused, giving kids opportunities they didn’t have before,” stated Mike Owen, PBHS principal. “These are extra things our staff and students are doing. The easy route would be to sit back and do what’s always been done.”

Owen, a first-year high school principal with five years of administrative experience in secondary education, noted that his pet peeve is what he refers to as the “phantom rule,” or things that are done a particular way simply out of routine. Crediting his predecessor Mike Kiehne for implementing many of the aforementioned initiatives, Owen said he believes the stage is set for him to make the necessary tweaks to improve programs, as his specialty is attention to detail.

“I’ve been in the district for 20 years and this high school did not always have the reputation that it has now,” said Owen, referring to all the dropout prevention measures being implemented today. A total of 340 students earned diplomas in the Class of 2017, marking the largest graduating class since 1980, according to district records.

“We are now a strength for the district,” Owen continued. “Our efforts are being noticed, and the results are showing.”

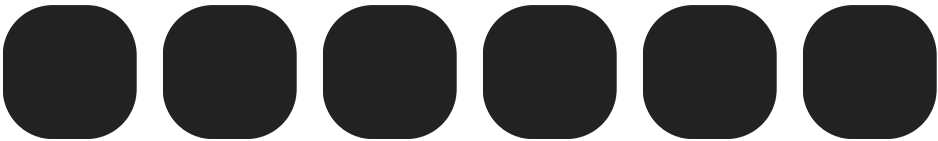
Pictured: Prior to commencement in May, members of the graduating Class of 2017 visit O’Neal in their gowns, an annual tradition at each of the elementary schools across the district.

Photo and article submitted by Tim Krakowiak, Communications/Marketing Director, Poplar Bluff R-I School District

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PBHS Students Make All-District Choir

OCTOBER 05TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

PBHS Students Make All-District Choir

Poplar Bluff, Missouri - A dozen Poplar Bluff High School students were named to the Southeast Missouri All-District Choir, the most to qualify in recent memory, according to educators.

A total of 28 PBHS choral students auditioned on Saturday, Sept. 23, in Cape Girardeau. The finalists will rehearse and perform a concert on Saturday, Nov. 11, at Cape Central High School. The upperclassmen will have an opportunity to try out for the All-State Choir.

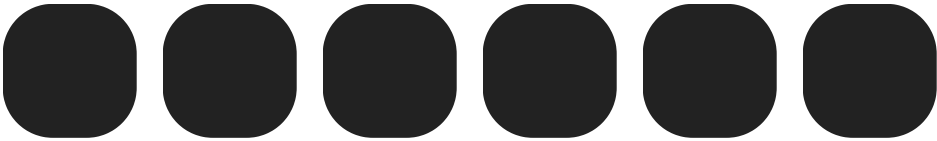
Pictured: (Back row from left) PBHS Director of Vocal Music Joshua Allen, and students Jillian Wendler, Hunter Ellis, Jacob Chippewa and Jayvon Holloway; (middle row, left to right) Natalie Hunsaker, Allison Knowlton, Ross Dare, Michael Allen Ward Jr. and Aaron Taylor; and (front row) Shelby Ross, Kerrigan Moore and Michael Joseph.

Photo and article submitted by Tim Krakowiak, Communications/Marketing Director, Poplar Bluff R-I School District

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Dexter School Board Meeting Minutes Released for September

Dexter School Board Meeting Minutes Released for September

Dexter, Missouri - The Dexter School Board met at their regular scheduled meeting on September 26, 2017. These are the minutes released by Superintendent C.A. Counts.

Call to Order/Roll Call/Pledge The Board President announced the meeting is to begin, ascertains the attendance status of all board members with everyone being present. He then leads in the saying of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda: The Consent Agenda was approved.

Public Comments: There were no public comments made.

Old Business:

The board approved the final version of the district drug testing procedures.

New Business:

A. The board approved the audit for the 2016-17 school year as presented by Mr. Patrick Kintner.

B. The board approved the substitute handbook for substitute teachers as presented by Dr. Williams.

C. The board approved the ASBR for the 2016-17 school year.

D. The board approved budget amendments for the 2017-18 budget.

E. The board approved the paper bid for the 2017-18 school year. Contract Paper Group Inc. was the approved bid.

F. The board approved the digital two-way radio bid for replacement of districts analog two-way radio equipment. Battles Communication was the approved bid.

Discussion Items:

A. Mr. Counts discussed the creation of a committee to analyze the long range facility goals of the district. The first meeting will be held on October 24, 2017 at 6:00 pm in the BEC

Hospitality Room.

B. Mrs Angie Duncan presented and discussed the Summer School program for 2017.

C. Mr. Counts presented the nurses report prepared by Linda Milam.

D. The building principals gave their reports to the board.

E. Mr. Counts reported to the board on the district's enrollment at this point in the year. He also presented a complimentary report received from a football official that officiated the football game at Bolivar. He recognized and commended our staff and the football team.

F. The October board meeting was set for October 17, 2017 at 6:00.

In Closed Session:

1. The board employed the following substitutes teachers for 2017-18:

Emily Long

Hannah Orton

Arlessa Russell

Shane Stricker

Sara Vise

Nancy Woods

2. The board employed the following for the Middle School

Assistant Volleyball Coach:

Jennifer Bolin

3. The board employed the following substitute bus aide for 2017-18:

Gayla Ogelvie

4. The board approved the following retirement letters effective at the conclusion of the 2017-2018 school year:

Tania Reiker

Marriane Bruce

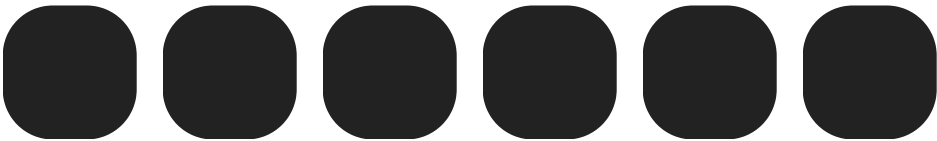
Items presented to the board for informational purposes for future meetings or for discussion include:

None at this time

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Students Earn Certificates at Southwest Elementary

OCTOBER 02ND 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Students Earn Certificates at Southwest Elementary

Dexter, Missouri - Southwest Elementary honors 1st grade and 2nd grade students with Positive Office Referral certificates and Bus Referrals for week of September 25, 2017.

This award is presented to students who consistently show the 3R's RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE, and READY TO LEARN at Southwest Elementary in Dexter.

Each student received a certificate and a FREE Taco from Taco Bell.

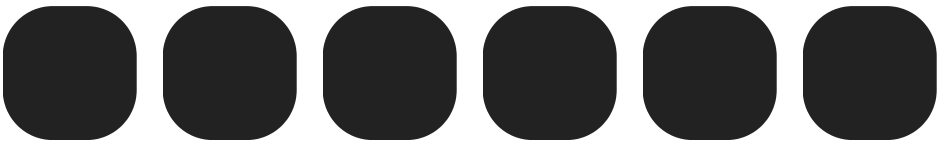
Pictured are front row from left to right: Aiden Ritchie, Myra Whittington, Aspyn Skiles, Easton Bryant, Adeline Wunderlich

Back row from left to right: Payton Kirkman, Blaze Murphy, Kyler Earnest, Alyssa Moore, Adriannah Owens, Addilyn Williams

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Kindergarten Students Earn Awards at Southwest Elementary

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Kindergarten Students Earn Awards at Southwest Elementary

Dexter, Missouri - Southwest Elementary honors kindergarten students with Positive Office Referral certificates and Bus Referrals for week of September 25, 2017.

This award is presented to students who consistently show the 3R's RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE, and READY TO LEARN at Southwest Elementary in Dexter.

Each student received a certificate and a FREE Taco from Taco Bell.

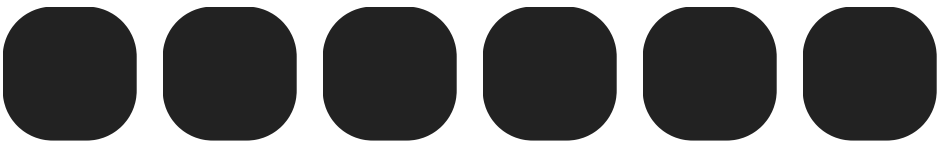
Pictured are front row from left to right: Lynzie Devers, Anasten Jackson, MaKynna Jarrell, Faith Pilgrim

Pictured are back row from left to right: Alaina Ford, Remington Adkins, Noah Torres, Joah Montgomery, Lane Sadler, Rylin Schlieff

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