

Local Schools



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Chartwells Receives National Recognition

OCTOBER 29TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Chartwells Receives National Recognition

Poplar Bluff's school dining service has received national recognition within its corporation for forging numerous partnerships and giving back to the community.

Chartwells Food Services Director Dixie Harden received the 2018 national 'Be-A-Star' Compass in the Community award out of over 600 nominations on Wednesday, Oct. 10, in Orlando, Fla. Poplar Bluff was among six districts that were honored in different categories out of 4,000 schools total under the Compass Group.

"I do it because I enjoy doing it," stated Harden, who has led the district's dining service since 2016. She added, half-serious: "It's not for the recognition; they can mail me the award."

According to a press release from the company, Chartwells was selected for partnering with 18 community organizations, including leading the Mule Packs program, sponsoring the Missouri Foster Adoption dinner and participating in Relay for Life to benefit the American Cancer Society, among other fundraisers.

Harden began her career with Chartwells 23 years ago at the former Kinyon Elementary just several years into what would become a longstanding partnership with the food service provider. She bounced around the district for a few years before accepting a director position in De Soto, only to later return home.

She has a soft spot for children in need, Harden explained. “I think that’s the big thing: You have to enjoy your job – enjoy what you do, because it takes some of your own personal time. Like everyone else, I like my weekends too.”

Chartwells employs about 60 people to operate the breakfast and lunch program at Poplar Bluff Schools. The food service vendor will host its annual free Community Thanksgiving in partnership with the Student Council from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 13, at PBHS.

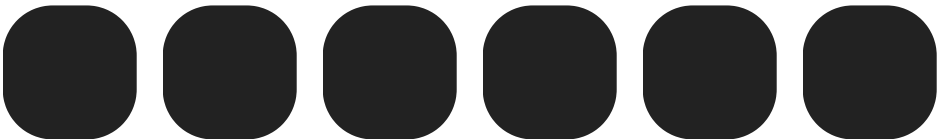
Pictured: Dixie Harden (far right) is recognized nationally among other top executives within the Chartwells K12 organization at Universal Studios.

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

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DHS Daily Announcements for Thursday, October 25, 2018

DHS Daily Announcements for Thursday, October 25, 2018

Dexter High School Daily Announcements for Thursday, October 25, 2018.

Thursday, October 25th

Winter Sports Dead Period

Talent Search (6th - 7th periods)

Industrial Arts Fundraiser - Stonie Sausage

National Honor Society Induction at 6:00 pm in auditorium

National Honor Society Induction is tonight at 6:00 pm in the auditorium.

Boys basketball conditioning after school in the BEC until 5:00 pm.

Our Varsity Football team will be traveling to Ste. Genevieve on Friday to take on the Dragons in the first round of districts. We hope to have a BIG and LOUD student pep section to cheer on our BEARCATS!

Shout Out Drawing Winners - Austin Malloy, Blake Carrillo, Mr. Myers, Carson Hankins, Courtney Northcutt, John Williamson, Sophie Freeman, Sierra Hawkins - Go to Bearcat Den by Friday for your award.

Membership drive for the SkillsUSA/Industrial Arts Club ends on October 26th. Club Fundraiser will begin Oct. 17 thru Oct. 31st.

Friday, October 26th

Winter Sports Dead Period

Industrial Arts Fundraiser - Stonie Sausage

Varsity Football vs. Ste Genevieve at 7:00 pm (away)
player bus 3:00, cheer bus 4:15 pm

Fall Sports Recognition Ceremony is November 13th at 6:30 pm

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Breakfast of Champions

OCTOBER 24TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Breakfast of Champions

Student advocates stressed the importance of investing in the next generation of leaders during the fifth annual Bright Futures breakfast symposium held Friday, Oct. 19, at the Holiday Inn.

“This is our community and our home, so every kid who lives here is our business,” said host Becky Winters, program director for AmeriCorps, before nearly 100 community leaders in attendance.

Run by R-I social workers, Bright Futures serves as an umbrella organization for community partners who work together to see that the basic needs of students are met so they can focus on learning. Poplar Bluff Schools became affiliated with the national nonprofit in 2014.

Each school has its own site council made up of parents, faith-based officials, business folks and social service representatives to help identify the unique needs of the building. Programs highlighted at the ‘Breakfast of Champions’ event included lunch buddies, club day, and a young women’s group known as Chi & Company.

Melanie Hamann of Three Rivers College and R-I school board member Roger Hanner provided heartfelt testimonies about their involvement mentoring students over the lunch hour. Lunch buddies taught Hamann to “look at life through a different lens,” while Hanner said he views the commitment as a future investment.

“Thirty years from now, these kids will be running this town,” Hanner said, adding half-jokingly: “I may need one of them in the nursing home.”

Lake Road fourth grader Somaria Simpson discussed club day, which gives students an opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities twice a month at the elementary school. PBHS freshman Serena Davis talked about gaining confidence as a Junior High student through Chi & Co., an organization started by banker Christy Frazier-Moore to empower females.

“You have to treat every child as if he or she will be the next human success story,” said speaker Bill Dee of Poplar Bluff Realty, longtime sponsor of Oak Grove Elementary School.

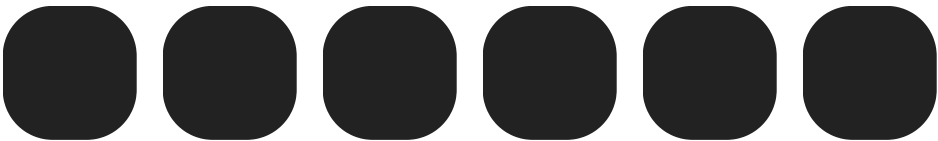
Pictured: Roger Hanner of the Board of Education challenges the audience to volunteer to become lunch buddies for the district.

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

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George Gasser Has Been Named Director of Alumni Relations at Southeast.

OCTOBER 24TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

George Gasser Has Been Named Director of Alumni Relations at Southeast.

George Gasser, assistant director of admissions for recruitment at Southeast Missouri State University, has been named director of Alumni Relations at Southeast.

Gasser will begin his new duties Nov. 26. He was selected after a national search and will replace Jay Wolz who recently retired.

Gasser says he is thrilled for the opportunity to extend the traditions and spirit of the Southeast Alumni Association, while connecting alumni with students and the University community.

“I’m very excited to build upon the amazing foundation of those before me and continue to help alumni feel connected to the University they know and love,” he said. “I hope to bring a lot of new energy, and design events and programs that are successful and showcase how alumni are important to the fabric of our Southeast community and how they can continue to support the students and the University.”

Dr. Trudy Lee, interim vice president for University Advancement and executive director of the Southeast Missouri University Foundation, said, “We are so pleased that George Gasser will be joining our advancement team as director of Alumni Relations. This is an extremely important position to Southeast Missouri State, and we are excited to see how he leads the University in both traditional and innovative ways to connect and engage with our alumni.”

Southeast's Alumni Association builds valued and lasting relationships with alumni and friends of the University. The Alumni Association develops relationships with alumni by providing opportunities for social interaction, career enhancement and occasions to give back to the University, as well as honoring the traditions and rich history of Southeast. The Alumni Association also provides a channel for communication between the University, its alumni and the student body.

As director, Gasser will be responsible for administration and evaluation of the alumni program, including strategic planning, program development, volunteer management, communication and relationship development. His duties will focus on creating, implementing and evaluating programs that connect alumni to Southeast, including online and social media outreach. He also will be responsible for developing and implementing a range of activities and institutional events both on and off campus for alumni and friends of the University. Other duties include coordinating and managing activities and events of the Alumni Association Board and alumni chapters and coordinating Homecoming events, including overseeing the selection of alumni awards and honors, and identifying potential candidates. Gasser will develop and manage affinity programs and sponsorships related to an Alumni Association membership program and collaborate with Career Services to develop opportunities for alumni and student mentorship programs. The Alumni Relations director also provides leadership to the Student Alumni Association and liaises with campus student groups to promote future alumni connections.

Gasser has been employed at Southeast since December 2010, having previously served as admissions counselor, admissions counselor II and assistant director of admissions for recruitment, all in the Office of Admissions.

His leadership has extended into the community as well, volunteering for the Humane Society of Southeast Missouri, the annual FIRST LEGO League and FIRST Technology Challenge robotics competitions hosted by Southeast, and the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Conference.

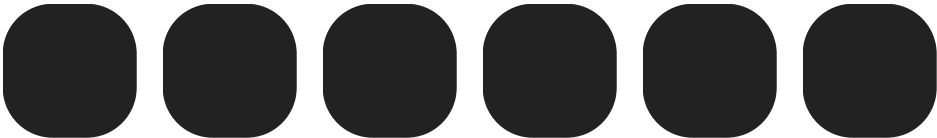
He graduated from Southeast with a Master of Arts in higher education administration in 2010 and Bachelor of Arts in philosophy and a minor in German in 2008. As a student at Southeast, he was heavily involved on campus, having served as Student Government president and holding Student Activities Council offices. He participated in Presidential Ambassadors, the Rock Climbing Club, Wrestling Club and Cycling Club. During his graduate program, Gasser was a graduate assistant in the Office of Career Services and an intern in the office of the vice president for Finance and Administration.

A native of Farmington, Missouri, Gasser has made Cape Girardeau, Missouri, his home and enjoys hiking and fostering dogs for the Humane Society of Southeast Missouri. He also enjoys cooking and spending time with friends, his wife and their four dogs. Gasser is married to Alix Gasser, assistant director of admissions for communications at Southeast and a Southeast graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a major in integrated marketing communications in 2010 and a Master of Business Administration with a major in entrepreneurship in 2015.

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Central Elementary 5th Grade Honor Roll 1st Quarter 2018

OCTOBER 23RD 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Central Elementary 5th Grade Honor Roll 1st Quarter 2018

Dexter, Missouri - Central Elementary School announced their 2018 1st Quarter Honor Roll students for 5th grade. Students must maintain a B average to be on the Honor Roll each quarter.

Making the honor roll is not as easy as one might think. Central Elementary students who are high achievers acquire and develop excellent study habits and skills, especially in time management.

Successful, lifelong learners set aside a time and a space every day to do their homework. Student who can manage their daily workload have a better chance of attaining academic success.

Below are the following 5th grade Honor Roll students in alphabetical order:

SEBASTION BARKER, DAWSON BATTLES, MERIDETH BENTON, CHARLENE BESS, JOURNEY BLAGG, GIBSON BOOKER, AUBREYANN BUDDIE, CADENCE BUENAVENTURA, KARIE ALEXANDRA BURTON, KATIE LYNN BURTON, SERINA CHURCHILL, EMMELIA CLIFF, CALI COMFORT, SHAYDEN CONN, BRITNEY COOPER, and BRANDI CURRAN.

RYAN COLE EATON, KLAIRE ESSNER, BRAILYN EVANS, DAWSON LUKE FICHTEL, ERIN FICHTEL, KEELEIGH FLANIGAN, LOGAN FRITCH, ALEXIS MARIE GALLOWAY, JADYN GOODMAN, SARAH GRANGER, SHAWN HARP, ALLYSON HAWKINS, RILEE HAYES, WYATT HICKMAN, CONNER HILL, WYATT HOCKERSMITH, SARAH HUDSON, PATRICIA JOHNSON, QUENSE JUDD, RYLEE KELLEY, KARIS KENNEDY, CAMERON TYLER KING, and JAXON KING.

ADDISON LACY, NOLAN LACY, AUSTIN LASATER, BLAKE LEE, JAYLYN LINDEMANN, HANNAH MACLIN, LOGAN MARTIN, DREW MARTINEZ, RILEY JAMES MASON, NATHANIEL MATTHEW MCVEY, JAXON MEDLER, AVERY MEDLEY, HALEY MILLER, JACKSON MOORE, LOGAN MORLAN, TRISHA MORRIS, ADRIAN MUNOZ, KENLI MUSGRAVE, and STRYKER MUZNY.

MEREDITH NEA, HOUSTON NEELY, FREDRIC NESSELRODT, ELIZABETH CLAIRE NORRIS, ALEXIS PERKEY, MALIA POLLEY, CONRAD PURNELL, KILIE PYLE, MAKAYLA RALEY, NAKITA RAY, DAVID RODRIGUEZ, ELLIE ROPER, PRESTEN ROSE, JACOB RUPPEL, EMMA SADLER, AVA SCHAEFER, ELI SCOTT, JOHN SEPULVADO, JONAS SHOEMAKER, BRITTON CHAD SIMPSON, LAUREN SINDLE, ASHLYNN STANLEY, CARTER STONE, and NICHOLAS STONIS.

KELBY TERRY, CONNER THOMPSON, MATTIE THOMPSON, LUCY THORNTON, DEVIN WAYNE TURNBO, RHETT WAMBLE, JEREMIAH B WELLS, ELIJAH WHITEMAN, CHEYANNE WILLIAMS, and ALLISON WILLIAMSON.

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