

Local Schools



[TOP](#)

November Athletes of the Month named

JANUARY 01ST 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

November Athletes of the Month named

Poplar Bluff, Missouri - The Mules Booster Club has named Kiley Bess and Tyler Cline of Poplar Bluff High School the November Athletes of the Month, presented by Academy Sports + Outdoors.

Tyler, a senior basketball player, averages 13 points, four rebounds, three steals and two assists per game. He won MVP for the game at the Norm Stewart Classic held Saturday, Dec. 1, in Columbia. His grade point average was 10.7 for the first quarter of the school year, and 9.6 overall.

“Tyler has shown to be a young man of character, intelligence and talent,” his coach William Durden said. “Tyler is a relentless competitor and hard worker on the court and in the classroom. He displays the work ethic and leadership that every coach hopes for from his players. He does all of the little things to get the job done.”

Kiley, a junior basketball player, averaged 14.5 points and 7.2 rebounds per game during the recent SEMO Conference Tournament. She has already received six full-ride scholarship offers to National Collegiate Athletic Association Division 1 educational institutions. She is currently ranked 19th in her class with an 11.179 GPA.

“Kiley is growing into a great leader on and off the floor,” her coach John David Pattillo stated.

Pictured: Kiley Bess and Tyler Cline are awarded AOM plaques on Wednesday, Dec. 12, from Booster Club member Brian Taylor.

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

LAST UPDATED ON JANUARY 01ST 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

<https://showmetimes.com/Blogpost/vbq8/November-Athletes-of-the-Month-named>

[Go to post](#)



More from ShowMe Times:

[TOP](#)

Foundation funds \$3.5K in teacher grants

JANUARY 01ST 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Foundation funds \\$3.5K in teacher grants](#)

Poplar Bluff, Missouri - The Poplar Bluff School Foundation recently funded two 'innovative educational projects' valued at more than \$3,500 so students can collect data for NASA and participate in group activities using digital microscopes.

The foundation board unanimously approved the projects during a meeting held last month as part of the nonprofit's mini-grant program, which funds proposals based on merit above and beyond regular classroom budgets.

Board treasurer Emily Wolpers commented that Ashley DeBerry of the Middle School, the teacher over the NASA submission, went out of her way to receive a certification in Alabama over the summer; and new board member Bobbie Tinsley noted that 375 high school biology students would benefit from the microscopes.

DIGITAL MICROSCOPES

“Instead of using microscopes one at a time, it’ll be a shared experience,” PBHS science teacher Gretchen Pendley said upon receiving the device. “Students can have that ‘aha moment’ together.”

Pendley’s colleague, Karen Harris, added: “I’ll be able to point and show the students exactly what to find in an individual slide, as they’ll be able to look up at the projector and see what I’m seeing.”

The model, made by Wolfe, interfaces with a computer and projects high-resolution images on an interactive whiteboard. The microscopes can additionally create time-lapse video screenshots, the proposal explains.

The team of educators, also including Stephanie Hillis, plan to use the digital microscopes in January when they begin teaching photosynthesis in biology class. Students will follow along with the instruction on regular compound microscopes already available in labs.

GLOBE CLASSROOM

NASA-grade meteorology equipment—including a rain gauge, barometer, hygrometer, infrared thermometer and pH test strips—will be used by Middle School students in DeBerry’s fifth grade math and science classes come spring.

The GLOBE program will allow students to collect data for the region and enter it into the database to be made available to globe.gov visitors. “This is data that like,” DeBerry stressed, “NASA uses.

“Southeast Missouri will contribute and produce maps so data can be seen worldwide to gauge rain, average highs and lows, cloud coverage, temperature rating,” she continued.

DeBerry received her special training at the Marshall Space Center. Her principal, Dr. Brad Owings, noted that his favorite part about the new forged partnership with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration is that Poplar Bluff may be able to temporarily house a moon specimen under strict protocol. “We get to see moon rocks,” Owings exclaimed.

Teacher Gretchen Pendley points to cells on an aquatic plant leaf during her freshman advisory on Friday, Dec. 14, while student Hannah Tipton looks into the digital microscope and classmate Summer Worley observes the projection.

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

LAST UPDATED ON JANUARY 01ST 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

<https://showmetimes.com/Blogpost/vbq9/Foundation-funds-35K-in-teacher-grants>

[Go to post](#)



More from ShowMe Times:

[TOP](#)

PBHS Named National Beta School of Distinction

DECEMBER 18TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

PBHS Named National Beta School of Distinction

National Beta has named Poplar Bluff High School a 2018/19 National School of Distinction for the chapter's boost in membership and commitment toward academic achievement, exemplary character, and demonstrated leadership and service to others.

Membership has increased last year to present from 16 to 91 students, according to instructional coach Stephanie Kuper, who sponsors the organization along with guidance counselor Sara Holloway.

“This prestigious honor is a true indication of Poplar Bluff High School's dedication to academic excellence, leadership development and commitment to celebrating their student's achievements,” said National Beta's Chief Executive Officer Bobby Hart in an issued statement.

Founded in 1934, National Beta is the largest independent, nonprofit, educational youth organization in America. The organization recognizes outstanding achievement, promotes character and social responsibility, encourages service involvement to school and community, and fosters leadership skills.

Pictured with school sponsors Stephanie Kuper and Sara Holloway (front, right), the PBHS Beta Club participated in the annual Missouri Senior Beta Convention in Springfield over the weekend for the first time in more than a decade.

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

LAST UPDATED ON DECEMBER 18TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

<https://showmetimes.com/Blogpost/vboe/PBHS-Named-National-Beta-School-of-Distinction>

[Go to post](#)



More from ShowMe Times:

[TOP](#)

Extreme Math Class Captures Student Interest

DECEMBER 12TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Extreme Math Class Captures Student Interest

Poplar Bluff, Missouri - Six graders were issued surgical masks and latex gloves upon entering math class on Thursday, Dec. 6, at the Poplar Bluff Middle School.

A scenario about a zombie outbreak was detailed over the SMART Board using the online tool Flippity, and students had to problem solve in groups in order to unlock the cure.

While it appeared to be a game upon first glance, the purpose of the activity was to prepare students for an exam the following day that would involve unit rates, proportions and measurement conversions.

“They’re reviewing without realizing they’re reviewing for the test,” teacher James Hunt explained. “I try to help them study without making them feel like they’re studying.”

Hunt, a third-year faculty member, goes over the top transforming his classroom the day before each chapter test. Other classroom themes this semester have included Legoland to review ratios and the ‘decimal diner’ in which Hunt dressed as a chef wearing an inflatable suit with self-contained ventilation. He said he is willing to “look ridiculous” if it means improved outcomes.

Student Elerik Stotts’ favorite activity was when he got to be an agent of the FBI and catch a diamond thief in a makeshift jewelry store, he said, noting he did very well on that unit.

“I don’t like boring classrooms because I can’t sit still long enough,” the 12-year-old said. “It’s probably one of the best math classes around.”

The parent of sixth grader Kassidy, Tori Russell, commented how she likes hearing about the creative learning techniques after her daughter returns home from school.

“Kassidy has told me several times how much more she enjoys school this year and her grades have shown improvement,” Russell said. “Thank you, Mr. Hunt, for finding ways to keep our kids engaged and wanting to learn!”

Having the appropriate administrative support is also key for an unconventional teacher. As luck would have it, Hunt’s boss, Dr. Brad Owings, could recently be spotted greeting students in the morning while wearing a red and white Christmas suit that illuminates, and the principal is known to swap the color of his neon shoelaces to coincide with the seasons.

“Rita Pierson, notable educator, says ‘Kids don’t learn from people they don’t like,’” Owings said. “Mr. Hunt does a great job in engaging students and making them like school.”

A time commitment that goes above and beyond is also necessary to maintain Hunt’s teaching style as well as out-of-pocket expenses, but the young educator has a number of online sources such as Teachers Connect and We Are Teachers that he frequents to secure materials. He has had iPads and Kindle Fires crowdfunded in the past through the channel Donors Choose. To avoid “teacher burnout,” he said he networks with other instructors across the country and shares lesson plans through social media platforms like Instagram and Twitter. “It’s about following the right people,” Hunt suggested.

Besides the changing ambiance, Hunt’s classroom features flexible seating – video game chairs and miniature barstools. He and colleague Krystal Dover, a fourth-grade teacher, are experimenting this school year with self-paced learning. Students take pre and post-tests, and advance in small groups only after they have obtained a given skillset.

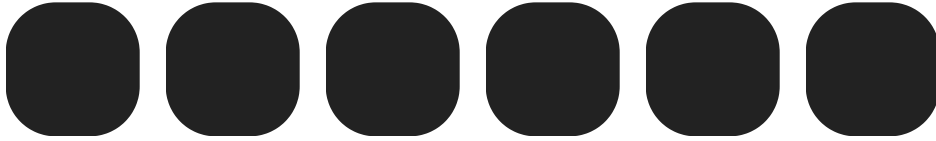
“I feel like when the students are engaged and expectations are set high, students will reach their fullest potentials,” Hunt stated.

Pictured: Middle School students complete an online scavenger hunt using Google Chromebooks on Thursday, Dec. 6, in James Hunt’s math class.

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

<https://showmetimes.com/Blogpost/vbno/Extreme-Math-Class-Captures-Student-Interest>

[Go to post](#)



More from ShowMe Times:

[TOP](#)

Governor Signs Legislation at Poplar Bluff High School

NOVEMBER 07TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Governor Signs Legislation at Poplar Bluff High School](#)

Poplar Bluff, Missouri - Missouri Gov. Mike Parson signed the STEM Education and Computer Science Bill into law during a school-wide assembly held for the occasion on Tuesday, Oct. 30, at Poplar Bluff High School.

Passed during a special legislative session in September, House Bill 3 will allow districts to count computer science courses as high school graduation credit instead of just an elective; create a related certification program for teachers; establish a fund for financial support; and develop a STEM career awareness program online for younger students by the 2019/20 school year, according to lawmakers.

“Improving our workforce is a top priority with this administration, and in order to help move Missouri forward, we need to expand opportunities for our students,” Parson said in an issued statement. “Missouri currently has a high demand in this field, and by signing this bill, our students will be able to get the proper training to succeed in computing jobs.”

The 57th governor told the student body that Missouri is “short 10,000 jobs in this arena.” Parson was accompanied by state Sen. Doug Libla of Poplar Bluff, who served as handler of HB 3. Libla previously promoted the bill during a student assembly hosted at the Junior High in February, when he noted that the coursework would have a coding and programming emphasis.

“Computer science being offered in our schools is so important in preparing our students for the Missouri companies that desire and depend on these skills,” Libla stated this week. “Thousands of high-paying jobs are available right now all across Missouri.”

R-I Superintendent Dr. Scott Dill introduced the distinguished guests, who also included Rep. Steve Cookson of Poplar Bluff and PBHS alumnus Phil Bounds, a retired NASA employee. In the Poplar Bluff School District, the first dedicated STEM class—with an interdisciplinary focus on science, technology, engineering and math—began being offered as an enrichment in 2016 at the Middle School.

“We owe it to our students to provide opportunities to explore and learn about this burgeoning field through the application of an online delivery system,” Dill said. “By promoting unfettered access to this vital curriculum, we ensure that all students have the tools requisite to their future personal success as well as safeguarding the economic stability of our community, the region and the state.”

Pictured: Accompanying Gov. Mike Parson as he signs HB 3 are (seated from left) retired NASA employee Phil Bounds, Superintendent Dr. Scott Dill, Sen. Doug Libla, and (standing) Rep. Steve Cookson, along with the PBHS Student Council.

LAST UPDATED ON NOVEMBER 07TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

<https://showmetimes.com/Blogpost/vbic/Governor-Signs-Legislation-at-Poplar-Bluff-High-School>

[Go to post](#)



More from ShowMe Times:



SUBSCRIBE TO "LOCAL SCHOOLS"

ShowMe Gold Sponsors