

Local Schools



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New Class Teaches Students Value of Community Service

SEPTEMBER 11TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

New Class Teaches Students Value of Community Service

A focus on developing a sense of community at Poplar Bluff Junior High School has led students to seek out ways to contribute to the community at large.

Last year, each pod within the building's 'house system' adopted a community organization to fundraise for including the Bread Shed, FosterAdopt Connect SEMO, Hearts for Rescue and St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, plus visits were made to area nursing homes.

The student-led efforts were so well-received that a dedicated elective was created this semester called Community Service Learning.

“It fits perfectly with what [Principal Candace Warren] is trying to do with houses—trying to build a community here at school—but also as a town,” social studies teacher Aaron Duncan explained. “The more unity you have in the community, the more energy there is, and the positive influence rubs off.”

Duncan, and his colleague Lyndsee Moon in the social studies department, approached Warren in the spring with the idea of introducing the elective and, upon receiving approval, the class quickly filled up. The course description reads in part: This experience will allow students not only to become familiar with the community in which they live but will also allow them to see themselves as active, powerful people who can make positive contributions through these efforts.

The participants are presently practicing their “elevator speeches” to effectively raise awareness as they learn about different societal issues, according to faculty. Guest speakers from the nonprofit sector may soon be invited to discuss their missions. The ultimate goal will be to select charitable causes to get involved with in the community, or to create their own philanthropic campaigns.

“I feel like a lot of students don’t think they can [make a difference], and we’re showing them that they’re capable of doing something productive,” Moon said. “We’re teaching how you can help make our community a better place no matter what your age is, no matter what is wrong.”

The house system modeled at PBJHS was originated by the Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta to establish a family-like culture by providing students the opportunity to connect with peers across classes and grade levels that they may not otherwise have a chance to interact with.

“In order to give this age group of students a sense of empathy, we’re exposing them to different populations and organizations so they can play an active role in serving others, because we want to develop leaders,” Warren stated. “These students will be the leaders in our community one day, so we might as well start now.”

Pictured: Students Carley Brooks (forefront) and Makayla Schalk, now freshmen, help collect several bags of trash on a walk to Bacon Park during the annual PBJHS EdExpo in May.

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

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TCC Starts First New Program in Over a Decade

SEPTEMBER 10TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

TCC Starts First New Program in Over a Decade

Poplar Bluff, Missouri - The Poplar Bluff Technical Career Center has launched its first new program in over a decade this school year with the addition of computer science in what was once the health occupations classroom.

The instructor, Michael Barrett, received a full month of training through Project Lead The Way in Indianapolis over the summer in order to develop a transformative learning experience for students interested in the burgeoning career field.

“I’m 61 years old and I’m having a blast! I love teaching this stuff, and we’re just getting started. The further we go along, the better,” Barrett said. “And being able to substitute a math or science credit? My goodness, that’s a great opportunity! We’re gonna be packed with students.”

The career educator participated in consecutive workshops in July outlining PLTW Essentials and Principles, covering a year’s worth of curriculum in two-week blocks, he explained. The coursework—designed by the nation’s premier provider of science, technology, engineering and math curriculum and professional development—will teach app creation, coding and programming using software such as Blockly, Python and VEXcode.

"It allows you to think of new ways to problem-solve," commented senior Maria Powell, who was collaborating with classmate Jeremy Bell on Friday, Aug. 30, to create characters for an interactive game using MIT App Inventor. “It’s a disease,” added junior Aron Johnson, referring to the time one can spend working out the details.

Barrett, who obtained his master's degree in administration as well as a bachelor's in engineering management through Arkansas State University, spent almost 20 years of his tenure teaching advanced manufacturing at the Northeast Arkansas Career & Tech Center in Jonesboro, which was also a PLTW certified school. More recently he served as project director for Three Rivers College.

In May, the Missouri State Board of Education approved the updated computer science performance academic standards to include the core concept areas of computing systems, networks and the internet, data and analysis, algorithms and programming, and impacts of coding. Upon receiving district approval, high school students will have the option to substitute a computer science credit in place of a mathematics, science or practical arts credit toward graduation effective in 2019/20, according to a recent memo by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Last year, Gov. Mike Parson signed the STEM Education and Computer Science Bill into law at the Poplar Bluff High School campus in an effort to curb outsourcing and capture some of the job market in Missouri. Sen. Doug Libla of Poplar Bluff served as handler of the legislation, which also established a fund for future public or private financial support.

In January, the R-I Board of Education approved a proposal to add the program at the Technical Career Center, where startup funds are available under the federal Perkins Act and through matching enhancement grants. School officials are currently working on creating a weighted AP module of the program to be offered as early as spring semester, according to Director Charles Kinsey.

“We’re highlighting the fact that career and technical education in 2019 is not what people may think it was back in the 70s, 80s and even 90s,” Kinsey stated. “Students [pursuing] career technical fields, no matter the program, will attain the same entry-level of knowledge as college graduates, if not higher.”

Pictured: Maria Powell, a senior, performs a magic trick utilizing binary numbers. “With computer programming, math is our friend,” instructor Michael Barrett (left) says.

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

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Greaser of the Week Featuring Kylan Moore

SEPTEMBER 10TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Greaser of the Week Featuring Kylan Moore

Dexter, Missouri - School is back in session and DHS Choir students are already preparing for their upcoming musical "Grease". Jamie Sepulvado and her crew are featuring a "Greaser of the Week!" so you can get to know DHS performers!!

Performances will be Wednesday, November 20th through Saturday, November 23rd! We'll let you know when tickets go on sale etc, but until then get to know your castmates and prepare for a spectacular show!!

Greaser of the Week featuring Kylan Moore

Kylan is a freshman this year, and he will be starring as "Doody" in the Black Cast Performances (Thursday and Saturday).

While this is Kylan's first role in a DHS musical, he is not a stranger to the stage.

He has participated in several school and community productions and small groups.

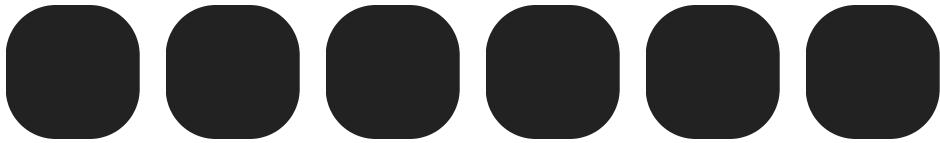
He represented middle school at National Beta Club for special talent in 7th grade, and he had a lead role in the 8th grade play.

Kylan is a talented singer, and he would like to pursue singing in the future.

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Bloomfield School Board Meeting Minutes - September 9, 2019

SEPTEMBER 10TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Bloomfield School Board Meeting Minutes - September 9, 2019](#)

Bloomfield, Missouri - The Bloomfield School Board met at their regular meeting on Monday, September 9, 2019. Below are the minutes from that meeting.

The board had its regular September board meeting last night.

During the meeting, the board approved:

1. 2019-20 bus routes
2. 2019-20 Bus Handbook
3. 2019-20 Professional Development Handbook
4. Board Policy JHCD and Board Regulations EBBA-AP1 and JHCD-AP1
5. To Bid Depository Services
6. To Sale Old Bus

In executive session, the board approved:

1. Substitution List pending all background checks and proper paperwork - Rachel Huntsman and Demi Parker.

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Dexter School Board Meeting Minutes for August 29, 2019

SEPTEMBER 06TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Dexter School Board Meeting Minutes for August 29, 2019

Dexter, Missouri - The Dexter School Board meeting minutes for August 29, 2019 have been released.

Regular Board Meeting Notes - August 29, 2019 - 5:50 PM

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

Consent Agenda: The Consent Agenda was approved.

Set Tax Rate: The board approve tax rates for the 2019-20 fiscal year.

Public Comments: There were no public comments made.

Old Business:

A. Approve MCE policy updates P2871, P4870, and P5550

New Business:

A. The board approved policy P0342 Nepotism, Conflict of Interest and Financial Disclosure.

B. The board approved budget amendment for the 2019-20 school year.

C. The board approved bus routes for the 2019-20 school year.

D. The board approved the Special Education Local Compliance Plan for the 2019-20 school year.

E. The board approved the purchase of a 7 passenger vehicle to be used for small group travel.

Discussion Items:

A. Discussed the success of district registration day

B. Discussed the district Head Lice procedures for the 2019-20 school year.

C. The Special Education - Determination Category was shared with the board. The special education department received a perfect score of 4 in all categories.

D. The superintendent gave his report to the board.

In Closed Session:

1. The board approved substitutes for the 2019-20 school year.

2. The board approved resignations at the end of the 2018-19 school year.

Jennifer Ritchie

Melissa Raley

Dee Wamble

3. The board approved aides for the 2019-20 school year.

Christina Hampton-Fortner

Mandy Allard

Reeda Burleson

Stephanie Ordway

Rebecca Williams

4. The board approved bus driver and bus aides for the 2019-20 school year.

Jenny Carr full time bus driver

Kim McQuin full time bus aide

Caroline Tucker bus aide sub

Items at the conclusion of Executive Session

A. The board approved September 24, 2019 at 6:00 for the September board meeting.

<https://showmetimes.com/Blogpost/vd4j/Dexter-School-Board-Meeting-Minutes-for-August-29-2019>

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