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2019 Miss DHS Candidate Delaney Lemmon

SEPTEMBER 13TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

2019 Miss DHS Candidate Delaney Lemmon

Dexter, Missouri - The 2019 Miss DHS was announced Friday, September 13th at the Bearcat Event Center. Because of construction at Charles Bland Stadium each candidate was presented and escorted in front of the entire high school.

The third candidate was Miss Delaney Lemmon

Delaney is the 17-year-old daughter of Shannon and JJ Lemmon.

Her activities include FCA, FCCLA, FBLA, Student Council, Pep Club, Beta club, Football Cheerleader, Kicking Cats Dance Team, Beta Show Choir, and she has been cast as Sandy in the upcoming school musical “Grease”.

Delaney’s future plans are to attend Southwest Baptist University in the fall and get a degree in children’s ministry.

Delaney is being escorted by Mr. Jebidiah Hubbard.

Jebidiah is the 16-year old son of Brad and Christi Hubbard.

Jebidiah’s three words to describe Delaney are: kind, courageous, and outgoing

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2019 Miss DHS Candidate Shelby Haynes

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The second candidate presented was Miss Shelby Haynes

Shelby is the 18-year-old daughter of Carrie and David Haynes.

She is active in the DHS Marching Band, Beta club, and National Honor Society.

Her plans for the future are to attend college to earn a Bachelor's and Master's degree in zoology. She hopes to eventually conduct animal research.

Shelby is being escorted by Mr. Ryder Foster.

Ryder is 17 years old and the son of Todd and Angie Foster.

Ryder describes Shelby with the following three words: smart, kind, and pretty.

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2019 Miss DHS Candidate Taylor Babb-Ward

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Dexter, Missouri - The 2019 Miss DHS was announced Friday, September 13th at the Bearcat Event Center. Because of construction at Charles Bland Stadium each candidate was presented and escorted in front of the entire high school.

The first candidate was Taylor Babb-Ward.

Taylor is 18 years old and the daughter of Aaron and Brittany Mathis

Her activities include Tennis, Softball, FBLA, FCA, Beta, and is a delegate in the Model UN.

Her plans for the future are to get a Bachelors of Science degree in nursing with a specialty in neonatology.

Taylor was being escorted by Mr. Kenton Pope

Kenton is 15 years old and the son of Kenny and Angela Pope.

Kenton's three words to describe Taylor are: smart, funny, and outgoing.

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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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