



# FESTUS

A Step Ahead



## Cross Country 7th straight state title

On November 7, 2020, the Festus Tigers Boys Cross Country team tied a state record with its seventh consecutive state championship. The boys ran away with the Class 4 state title placing four runners in the top 25. Sophomore Cullen Krieg placed second, sophomore Ian Schram was 9th, junior Jacob Meyers placed 11th and junior Nathan Wolk 15th. This year's championship tied the record for consecutive state titles set by Herculaneum in the late 1970's and early 1980's. The Tigers previous six titles were in Class 3. No seniors ran for the Tigers at the state meet, so the team will come back in 2021 with lots of experience as they race for the record books and a record breaking eighth consecutive state championship.



(L to R): Head Coach Bryant Wright, Josh Thornborrow, Ethan James, Peyton Willis, Jacob Meyers, Cullen Krieg, Ian Schram, Nathan Wolk, Anthony Pittman, Tate Riney, Brynen Johnson, Asst. Coach Wes Armbruster. Not pictured: Asst. Coach Laura Schreckenber

Scan this QRcode to watch a special video celebrating 7 years of state titles.



## Letter from our Board President



Dear Patrons,

Happy New Year! As 2021 begins, I first want to take a moment to say "thank you" to all students, parents, administrators and staff for their hard work and dedication that it has taken to remain in school 5 days a week since August 24th. It hasn't been easy. In fact, Festus is one of just a handful of schools in our region that has remained in class 5 days a week since the school year began. Teachers are working extra hours to provide both a quality in-person learning experience for students and an online education that

is comparable to what in-person students are receiving. Staff are adding extra duties to their daily routine to make sure the schools are sanitized. Students are being vigilant in following the mitigation protocols set out by the District to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 at school. Parents are being supportive of teachers and staff during these trying times.

I would also like to take just a few moments to highlight some of the accomplishments in just the last few months of 2020. Work is well underway right now on the new state of the art Performing Arts Center. Thanks to your gen-

erous support, the new PAC will be open and hosting events before the end of the year. A new multi-purpose field is under construction right now behind the high school. This will provide a new field for the Tiger baseball and softball teams as well as a new practice field for marching band and it will provide space for physical education classes to utilize closer to school. The Festus Tigers Boys Cross Country team brought home its seventh consecutive state title. That ties a state record. They'll be going for their 8th title this year and a spot in history. Our students contributed thousands of dollars in cash, toys and food to various causes during the holiday season. You can read more about all of these accomplishments in this edition of "A Step Ahead."

Finally, on behalf of the Festus R-VI Board of Education, I want to thank all of the Festus R-VI patrons for their continued support of the District. The 2020-2021 school year has certainly been a challenging one, but our community has met the challenge head-on and we can all be proud of what's been accomplished. As we look forward to the new year, I am certain we will work together to continue to "educate all students to meet tomorrow's challenges."

Educationally,  
*Todd Oetting*

Todd Oetting, President  
Festus R-6 school District  
Board of Education



# Festus School District

## New Food Services Director Takes Over

The Festus R-VI School Board approved the hiring of Brooklyn Ragsdale as the new Director of Food Services at its October meeting. Brooklyn comes to the Festus R-VI School District from Lakeland Marketing where she was the School Sales Director. Before that she worked at Kohl Wholesale Food Distributor, a company that supplies food to many area school districts, including Festus.

Brooklyn was born and raised in Quincy, Illinois and moved to Florissant, Missouri two years ago. She has been married for two years and had her first child, Liam, in June. In her spare time she loves to get lost in a good book (she's a huge Harry Potter fan), go to the gym, and play softball (she's been doing it for 28 years.). She says, "I am excited to make the Festus School District my new home and embark on this new journey."

Brooklyn replaces Peggy Carle, the longtime Director of Food Services who retired in May, but has been working in a part-time capacity until a replacement was hired.



**Brooklyn Ragsdale**  
Food Services Director

## Buchheit's Makes Donation to Keep Chromebooks Clean

R-VI Director of Technology Mr. Josh Bauman, Buchheit's store manager Jamie Schilling, Tiger Tech Team member Nathan Bohn, Buchheit's front end manager Donna Krysl.



Buchheit Stores in Herculaneum donated a large supply of wipes and cleaners to help keep students' Chromebooks clean and germ-free. The donation included 35 Isopropyl Alcohol Aerosols, 300 Blow Off Electronic cleaning wipes in canister, 300 Blow Off Electronic cleaning wipes in a packet, and 25 Blow Off Foaming Screen Cleaner.

## A Step Ahead Designers

Festus High School Seniors Tony Marmonti (left) and Collin Doyel are the layout designers for the 2020-2021 editions of "A Step Ahead." Tony and Collin are responsible for the layout and look of the newspaper. They take the articles and pictures that are sent to them and they place them on the pages. They are independent study students working with Mrs. Jessica Doyel. This is the second year that students are responsible for the layout and design of A Step Ahead. It's part of an effort to give students an opportunity to work on real-world projects to help them better prepare to be college or career-ready.





## 2 Major Construction Projects Make Progress

Construction crews are making great progress on two major projects on the R-VI campus. Construction began in the summer on a new Performing Arts Center that will be located on the west side of the high school. Crews have completed the shell of the auditorium and are working to get the roof over the structure. Progress is also being made on the outer areas of the building, including the multipurpose room, green room and lobby areas. Construction is scheduled to be complete on the 750 seat Performing Arts Center in October.



**The auditorium (background) towers over the lobby area (foreground)**

Work is also moving along on the construction of a new baseball/softball/multipurpose field located on the west side of the high school. Work began to clear, expand and level the area in November. The project is scheduled to be completed in July.



**Crews have been working for weeks to clear and level the area for the new ball field.**





# Festus School District

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## Send a Special Message to a Teacher

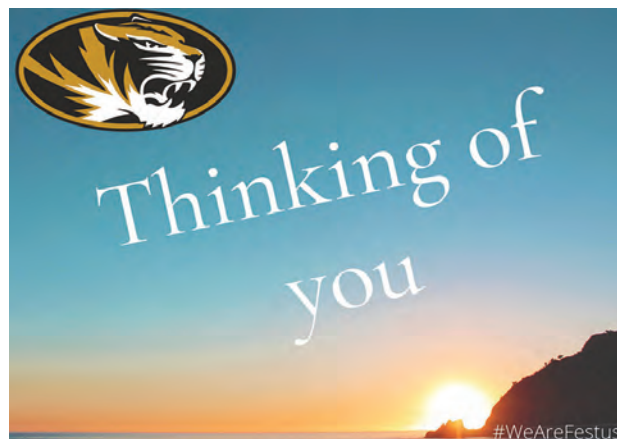
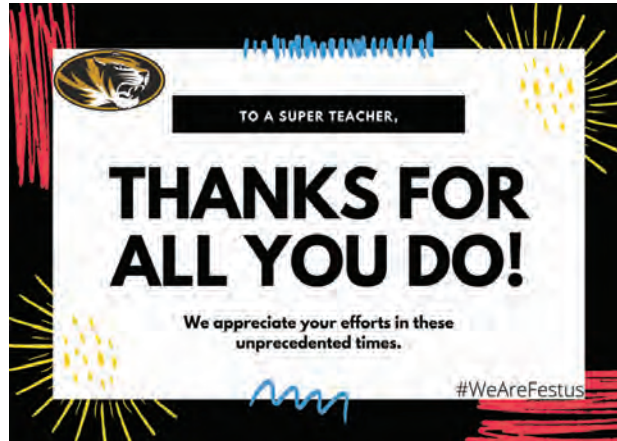
During the first semester of school, students spent 76 days in school. During that time, many parents and patrons reached out to individuals to express their gratitude for the hard work and dedication it takes to keep students in school during a pandemic. Some of the communications received included:

“To all the Festus teachers and administrators: We just want to thank you for all your hard work to keep our school open 5 days a week and our kids in a chair in front of a teacher face to face. I know it is stressful and you guys are working your tails off, but I also know you are making a difference in my kids’ education and future. So, THANK YOU!!”

“I appreciate everyone at Festus!!!! Our teachers are the best!!!”

“I am thankful for the wonderful teachers that have helped my daughters get acclimated to Festus and for providing them with such great guidance!! All of the teachers have been great. To name a few...Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Irelan, Mrs. Yates and Mrs. Baseler. I consider us very blessed that we have been able to attend school in person!! It has made such a positive impact.”

Now you can send a personal digital thank you card to any staff member in the Festus R-VI School District. Just visit our website, [festus.k12.mo.us](http://festus.k12.mo.us), or scan the QR code to access our array of 9 different cards. Just fill out the form and type in your very own personal message.





## The Nurse's Office



**Lindsey Roth**  
**Coordinator of Staff & Student**  
**Wellness**

COVID-19 will once again dominate the health landscape at school for the second semester. Mitigation protocols remain in place in all of our schools. Facial coverings are required when social distancing is not possible or when directed by individual classroom teachers. Some of the hallways are one-way, to reduce the amount of students in a confined space. Maintenance personnel and staff members are performing targeted cleaning of frequently touched surfaces every day and are performing a deep cleaning every night. Efforts made by students and staff to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 at school are working. Approximately 80% of students have been attending in-person instruction 5-days a week since August 24th. As of January 6, that was 78 days of in-person instruction. During that time, the R-VI District has had 169 students and staff members test positive for COVID-19. Of that number, the district is aware of just one case where a person was exposed to COVID-19 at school and later tested positive. Again, it is important to remind you that you should not work or send your child to school if they experience any COVID-19 symptoms: persistent cough, difficulty breathing, fever or chills, new loss of taste or smell, extreme fatigue, congestion or runny nose, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea. If anyone in your household is tested for COVID-19, everyone in your household should quarantine until the test results are received. If a student or staff member or anyone in their household tests positive for COVID-19, please contact me right away so you can be advised of your isolation and quarantine procedures.

You are likely aware of the vaccines that are currently approved and will soon be made available to those working in education, and later the general public. First, for those interested, neither vaccine will be available for the majority of our students. One is approved for those 16 and older and the other for those 18 and older. This leaves out most of our student population until further studies are done regarding children. Second, we are still awaiting guidance from the state and the Jefferson County Health Department as to how and when the vaccine will be made available for staff who are interested in being vaccinated. I will keep you updated as the District learns more. In the meantime, feel free to reach out to me with any questions. I can be reached by email at [rothlindsey@festusedu.com](mailto:rothlindsey@festusedu.com)

## Student Services



**Mrs. Cara Pellerin**  
**Director of Student Services**

With the beginning of a new semester it is important to focus on everyone's education. During the first semester, everyone in education realized that online learners typically struggle more than those who are attending school in person. During the first semester, a majority of the students in Festus Online greatly struggled with their grades. As the second semester begins, I want to take the opportunity to provide you and your students with some information that could help your student succeed in the coming months.

### Students

1. Create a daily schedule (plan breaks throughout your day)
2. Don't wait until the last minute to work on assignments.
3. Students, be honest with yourself, your parents and your teachers.
4. Create a regular study pace and stay organized.
5. Eliminate distractions (Cell phone, Netflix, social media, etc.)

### Parents

1. Talk to your students to make sure they stay on track. Ask them about their progress and ask if there is anything you can do to help. Get actively involved.
2. Parents check on your child's progress in the Parent Portal and in Google Classroom at least once a week.

### Students & Parents

1. Email teachers immediately if you have any questions.
2. If you fall behind, don't give up. Create a plan to get back on track.



# Festus School District Cook's Corner

## Counselor's Corner



**Brooklyn Ragsdale**  
Director, Food Services

### Let's talk FREE MEALS!

All students are able to eat one breakfast and one lunch for free, per day, until June 30, 2021. Yes, you heard that right! USDA has approved that all students will eat free for the remainder of this school year. Virtual students may also sign up to pick up breakfast and lunch Monday-Friday from 10:00am-11:00am at the Ele-

mentary School. You can find the sign-up form on the school website by clicking "Coronavirus Resources" and scrolling down to "Lunch and breakfast request form".

I would also like to remind parents that you can apply for Free and Reduced meals anytime during the school year. "Why should I apply for Free and Reduced meals when meals are free this year?" If you are approved for Free or Reduced meals, that status stays with you through the beginning of the following school year. The Free and Reduced application can be found on the school website, in any of the school offices, or it can be sent home with your child. No matter your income, please do not hesitate to apply. Forms can be turned in by students or parents, they can be emailed to [ragsdalebrooklyn@festusedu.com](mailto:ragsdalebrooklyn@festusedu.com), or they can be faxed to 636-937-3650.

If you have any questions, please contact the Food Service office at 636-937-7747. I hope you all have a very blessed 2021!

The Festus R-6 Counseling Department hosts an Advisory Council meeting once a semester. The Advisory Council is vital to our School Counseling Program management and evaluation procedures. The Advisory Council offers the Counseling Staff support, advice, and reviews the status and priorities of the district Counseling Program. Advisory Council members have a shared enthusiasm for students and school counseling. The Advisory Council consists of District Counselors, Educators, Parents, Students, and other Festus R-6 community members.

The Fall Semester Advisory Council meeting was held via Google Meet on December 9. There were 28 participants. The Counseling Department sends out a newsletter each semester to Advisory Council members. The newsletter contains an invite to attend the next Advisory Council meeting. If you are interested in being a part of our Advisory Council please contact a school counselor via email. Our Spring meeting will take place in May.

## Tech Talk

### Cold weather tips for Electronics



**Josh Bauman**

We are currently in the heart of the winter season, with temperatures dropping well below freezing. Unfortunately electronic devices do not respond well to cold temperatures. One of the more frequent visits to our T3 Help Center during the winter months are related to cold devices due to being left in cars.

A device left exposed to cold temperatures can exhibit several symptoms. When left in the cold for an extended amount of time a battery will deplete itself more rapidly than normal. A student may have left their chromebook in their car with a decent charge, but when they retrieve it from their car after 8hrs below freezing is likely to have little to no charge. Another battery symptom is what we call a "quick drain". This is when a device will power on, and appears to have a full charge, but due to a cold battery it will quickly deplete with use and cause the student to visit the Help Center to recharge during the day. Cold temps can also make the LCD panel look "weird" until it warms up after a bit of use. All of these issues are avoidable by bringing devices inside when it is cold out.

Things to remember, do not leave electronics exposed to cold temperatures for an extended amount of time; bring them inside each night. If they are mistakenly left exposed to cold temps, let the device come to room temperature before powering on or charging. The simple act of bringing devices inside will help extend the life of the batteries and lessen the visits to our Help Center.



# Festus Elementary School

## Elementary School Students Step Up For The Hungry

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Festus Elementary School students collected 5,243 food items to donate to Brenden's Friday Backpack Program during the month of November. "Compassion" was the Terrific Tiger word for November. Elementary students really showed their compassion. To help make it a little more fun for students, classes competed to see which one could donate the most items. Third grade ROCKED IT! Congratulations to Mrs. Johnson's third grade class for donating the most food items, 957! For showing Compassion (our Terrific Tiger word for November) and donating the most items, they will receive a snack party. Mrs. Morelan's third grade class came in second place, collecting 395 food items. Mrs. Oshia's third grade class came in third place with 336 items.



Food collected by students lined the hallway walls by the Elementary library.

## Elementary Students Donate to Make Christmas Merrier

Elementary School students collected \$1042.39 and lots of toys and clothes for the Jefferson County Toys and More Distribution. This was part of the school's annual Green & Silver Days collection. For two weeks in early December, students brought in dollars (green) and coins (silver) to donate to the cause. The school also accepted donations of new toys and clothes. The Jefferson County Toys and More Distribution provides Christmas gifts to low income kids in the area.



Food collected by students lined the hallway walls by the Elementary library.

## Kindergarten Registration for 2021-2022 Coming Soon

Kindergarten registration will be held Wednesday, February 3; Wednesday, March 3 and a Saturday in April that will be announced in the coming weeks. Visit our website, [festus.k12.mo.us](http://festus.k12.mo.us) for more information on Kindergarten registration and to make an appointment for one of these dates. Online registration for incoming Kindergarten students is now open and should be completed before coming to your appointment. Much more information is available at [festus.k12.mo.us](http://festus.k12.mo.us).



Kindergarten  
Registration



# Festus Elementary School

## Elementary Pumpkin Patch

What do you do when you can't go to the pumpkin patch? You bring the pumpkin patch to you of course. COVID-19 prevented the first grade from making their annual fall trip to the pumpkin patch, So, the PTO paid to have pumpkins brought to the big field next to the stadium behind the Elementary School. Crystal and Rich's produce stand provided the pumpkins, one for every student in first grade.



(From L to R): Rebecca Tolbert, Elizabeth Lawson, Jamison Welch, Ayden Stabenow with their pumpkins



Students flood the field looking for the perfect pumpkin



Ellie Smith, Kylie Halley, Andrew DeLoss show off their pumpkins



# Festus Intermediate School

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## Character Council Helps Build A Culture of Kindness

The Festus Intermediate School Character Council is a group of students who work at creating a culture of good character and kindness throughout the school year. They sponsor the Share the Harvest canned food drive, they help with Green and Silver days and help decorate the school Christmas tree. The Character council represents the Intermediate as school ambassadors to introduce 3rd grade students to the building in the Spring. The Character Council at Festus Intermediate consists of 10 sixth grade students, 5 fifth grade students and 5 fourth grade students.



Character Council: Front row (L to R): Olivia White (5th grade), Aiden Beelman (6th grade), Sammy Thompson (4th grade), Audrey Plew (4th grade), Aaron Bradley (4th grade), Kiley McDowell (4th grade), Dalton Gamm (5th grade), Tate Moonier (4th grade)



Character Council tree: Some members of the Character Council help put up the Christmas tree in the school lobby.

## Intermediate Students Donate to the Wounded Warrior Project

Festus Intermediate students donated more than \$750 to the Wounded Warrior Project. Students held a fundraiser to honor veterans during veterans day week. Last month, Intermediate School Counselor Steve Williams presented a check for more than \$750 to Chris Miller from the Wounded Warrior Project.

## Intermediate School Students Help Make It a Merry Christmas

The Intermediate School's annual Green and Silver Days brought in nearly \$2000 to help make it a Merry Christmas for some less fortunate in our community. For the first two weeks of December, students brought in dollars (green) and coins (silver) to donate to the Jefferson County Toys and More Distribution. In the end, students donated \$1,878. The Jefferson County Toys and More Distribution provides new toys and other items for less fortunate children in our community to help make Christmas just a little merrier.



Intermediate Counselor Steve Williams presents a check for more than \$750 to Chris Miller from the Wounded Warrior Project.



Like us on Facebook!



# Festus Intermediate School

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## Festus Intermediate Students Break Food Drive Record

The Festus Intermediate School held their annual canned food drive Nov. 9th-20th, sponsored by the Character Council. This year the number of items collected was the highest ever for the Intermediate building, for a grand total of 4767 items. This year the items were donated to the Brandon's Backpack program as well as the Ozark Food Pantry. A class in each grade level received a donut and milk breakfast for the largest donation. This year the winners were 6th Grade Mr. Woolard (3x winner), 5th grade Mrs. Cox/Mrs. Neel and 4th grade Mrs. Schulz. Special thanks to the Character Council for organizing this awesome event.



Lynlee Bloodworth, Mia Metzger, Aiden Beelman, K'Vion Flores, Keeliegh Hankins, Leah Reece help sort and box up food items



All of the food collected gathered along the foyer wall



Some collected food was stacked several feet high



**The Tiger Team Store**  
is now online.

Visit us at: <https://festustigerteamstore.square.site/>  
or scan the QR Code



Like us on facebook!



## FMS Opens its Heart for Jefferson County Foster Children

Every year Festus Middle School students raise money and collect toys for the Jefferson County Foster Children's Fund. The money and toys are used for the agency's annual Christmas party. The Festus Middle School National Junior Honor Society organizes the event every year. This year students collected \$350 and more than 150 toy items to donate to the organization. Because of the pandemic, donations were a bit down this year, so Mr. Zustiak's 8th Grade PAWS choir performed a Facebook live caroling concert in an effort to raise a bit more money. That event brought in another \$415 for the Jefferson County Foster Children's fund.



Mr. Zustiak's 8th grade PAWS choir performs a Facebook live caroling concert to raise more money



Some of the toys and money collected for the Jefferson County Foster Children's Fund

## 7th Grade Earns Essay Recognition

Festus Middle School 7th grader Rosalie Tedford recently placed 2nd in the Patriot's Pen Essay Contest through our local VFW. Rosalie composed an essay over What is Patriotism to Me? The VFW recognized Rosalie for her accomplishment at a ceremony on January 13th.

Each year more than 125,000 students in grades 6-8 enter the VFW's Patriot's Pen youth essay contest. The first-place winner from each state competes for national awards totaling \$50,000, with each first-place state winner receiving a minimum of \$500 at the national level. The national first-place winner wins \$5,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., in March.

The essay contest encourages young minds to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society, by drafting a 300- to 400-word essay, expressing their views based on a patriotic theme chosen by the VFW.



Rosalie Tedford, 7th Grade



# Festus Middle School Horridge Retirement

On October 30th, longtime Middle School math teacher Mr. Dan Horridge taught his last class. Mr. Horridge put down his pencil and chalk to head off into retirement. Mr. Horridge was a teacher for more than 30 years, more than 13 were right here in the Festus R-VI School District. During that time, he touched the lives of a countless number of students. He'll always be remembered for his motto: "Do the work." Good luck in retirement Mr. Horridge.



Like us on Facebook!



Mr. Dan Horridge on his last day at work.

# Tiger Talent Records Red Ribbon Week Puppet Show

The last week of October is Red Ribbon Week. This year, students in all of our schools observed the week by taking a stand against drugs and participating in anti-drug programs, and "Spirit Week" type activities. Every year the Middle School Tiger Talent students perform an anti-drug puppet show for all Elementary School students that they present in-person in the gym. Because of COVID restrictions this school year, the students were not able to perform in person, but the show DID go on. They recorded the puppet show that was then played in all of the Elementary classrooms. This is yet another example of how the Festus R-VI school community is adapting to this unique school year.





# Festus High School Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award Winner



**Mindy Ellis-McDonald**

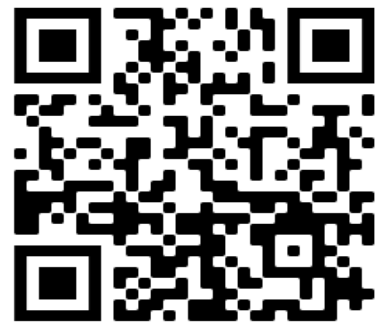
Mindy Ellis-McDonald is this year's Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award winner. Mrs. Ellis-McDonald teaches Special Education at the High School. In nominating her for the award, Principal Dr. Karl Shining said,

*"As a classroom teacher, Mrs. McDonald focuses on helping her students reach their fullest potential. She looks beyond their time in high school and finds ways to develop their skills for independent living after graduation."*

Mrs. Ellis-McDonald says she appreciates Dr. Shining's nomination. *"I love what I do and I feel blessed to be part of the Festus High School team,"* she said.

Dr. Shining pointed to Ellis-McDonald's role as a curriculum leader as an example of why she deserved to win the award. *"She creates a safe and supportive environment within her department that allows her fellow teachers to become the best version of themselves. She sets the example of always staying positive and looking for creative solutions to new challenges"*

But she gives the credit to her colleagues, *"When you surround yourself with like-minded, caring, hard-working colleagues, your job does not feel like a job. Growing up in the Festus area, I was blessed with many amazing teachers, counselors, principals and mentors. I am just paying it forward."*



**The Tiger Team Store**  
is now online.

Visit us at: <https://festustigerteamstore.square.site/>  
or scan the QR Code

## Theater Department Goes to Crazytown

This Fall the Festus Theater Department produced the play Crazytown. The satirical comedy was a combination of 4 small plays that were tied together with news scenes. The cast and crew worked through all the challenges of sanitation and social distancing to safely produce the play live for the Festus community. Audience members were seated in "pods" and socially distanced. The audiences had a great night of entertainment and our talented students did a wonderful job. Nearly 50 students were involved with the production.



**Abby Ohlau (left) and Grant Otto play newscasters in Crazytown.**



**From Left to Right: Saigel Mickan, Trinity O'Leary, and Kyle Schackmann  
On the floor: McKenzie Stockton and Rachel Acey  
In a scene from Crazytown.**



# Festus High School

## Students of the Month

### November



**Caleb Jewell**

Caleb Jewell was the Festus High School November Student of the Month. He is president of the National Honor Society and an executive board member for the Student Council. He is also active in marching band, Renaissance and the Gold and Black Pack. Caleb says his favorite class is Leadership and Service because it gets him out into the community and he can also devote time to community service hours. On being named the FHS November Student of the Month Caleb said, "I think it's a huge honor because I'm being recognized for my hard work and dedication to school. There are always a lot of people to be around and to be picked out of all of them is an honor." After high school, Caleb plans to attend college where he wants to focus on pharmacy. Caleb is the son of Scott and Heather Jewell.

### December



**Sophia Basler**

Sophia Basler is the Festus High School December Student of the Month. She says it's an honor, "I'm so excited to represent our school and our student body." She is the Vice President of Student Council, President of the Spanish Club and a member of National Honor Society, Gold and Black Pack and Renaissance. Her favorite class of the day is when she gets to go to the Elementary School for Cadet teaching. She says she loves helping the students and getting to know them. She calls it an amazing experience. After high school, Sophia plans to attend Southeast Missouri State University where she will major in Education. She is the daughter of Michael and Christi Basler.

### January



**Lily Brickhaus**

Lily Brickhaus is the Festus High School January Student of the Month. "It's an honor," she said. "I found out on Christmas break, so seeing that was a good way to start my 2021 year." Lily is the Senior class treasurer and she is involved in Renaissance. She played varsity volleyball for four years and she is a member of the track and field and soccer teams. Her favorite class is P.E. because she got to be with her friends and go bowling for class. After high school she plans to attend a junior college and enter the ROTC program. She wants to study dentistry. Lily is the daughter of Jennifer and Mike Brickhaus.

## Festus Athletics

### Boys Basketball

**Front row (L to R):** Carter Roth, Arhmad Branch, Desmond Davis, Connor Westhoff, Collin Weinhaus, Logan Cash, Hayden Bates, Garrett Tidwell, Tyler Meyers

**Back row (L to R):** Cole Rickermann, Collin Reando, Damarion Anderson, JD McDowell, Evan House, Kaian Roberts-Day







"Photo courtesy Wagner Portrait Studio"

## Boys Wrestling

Front row (L to R): Gavin Grass, Kyle Kellogg, Tyson Beffa, Neal Kausler, Blake Sexton, Blake Naumann

Middle row (L to R): Carter Wallace, Lucas Mercurio, Nick Pruett, Neal Kausler, Andrew Nahlik, Bobby Buehre, Chris Bentrup

Back row (L to R): Coach Ox, Coach Nahlik, Dawson Tucker, Jordan Banks, Connor Holt, Austin Reece, Braden Hanlon, Luke Shaver, Coach Holt, Coach Turnbough

## Girls Wrestling

(L to R): Lee Ann Dobbs, Sarah Gazaway, Kirsten Klein, Lauren Mills



"Photo courtesy Wagner Portrait Studio"



"Photo courtesy Wagner Portrait Studio"

## Girls Basketball

Front row (L to R): Mya Courtois, Josie Allen, Brianna Teer, Taylor Thompson, Anna Arman

Second row (L to R): Olivia Schnable, Kinsey Benack, Samantha Helbrueck, Kayla Roberts-Day

Back Row (L to R): Coach Steve McFarland, Lily Knickman, Emily Holt, Coach Jessica Ecker



"Photo courtesy Wagner Portrait Studio"

## Winter Cheerleaders

Bottom row (L to R): Abby Marr, Abbi Rogers (Captain), Trinitie Asinger (Captain), Abby Tate

Middle row (L to R): Haley Brown, My'Kaila Batee, Kyla Hatfield

Top row (L to R): Ella Harris, Lydia Koessel, Demi Polk, Alexia Penberthy

\*\*Not pictured

Savannah McElyea and Reese Boyer



**Festus R-6 School District**  
**February 2021-May 2021**  
**Calendar of Events**

Feb. 3. AMI-X (All-Virtual Day)  
Feb. 12 No School/Teacher PD  
Feb. 15 No School/Presidents Day  
Mar. 3. AMI-X (All-Virtual Day)  
Mar. 11 End of 3rd Quarter (45 days)  
Mar. 12-15 No School  
Apr. 2-5 No School  
May 20 Last Day of School/End 4th Quarter (46 days) Early Dismissal  
May 31 Memorial Day

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Quarter ending dates are subject to change. Dismissals for unexpected reasons will be made up in the following order: May 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28. If May 28 is the last student attendance day, teacher work day will be June 1. Kindergarten promotion is held on the final student attendance day of the school year. Final exams are held the last three attendance days of each semester at the High School. Note: Wednesdays - Professional Learning Communities - One hour delayed start of classes.

# District Makes Changes to School Calendar

At its regularly scheduled meeting in December the Festus R-VI Board of Education voted to make a change to the school calendar. On Wednesday, February 3 and Wednesday, March 3 the District will use Alternative Methods of Instruction - Extended (AMI-X) days. This means that on these two days, NO students will

have in-person instruction. ALL students in the district will use remote learning for these two days. Teachers and staff will work from school. The board made this change to give teachers extra time to work with Festus Online students.

**Festus R-VI School District | 2020-2021 Amended Third Quarter Calendar**

**JANUARY 2021**

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

**January (18 att. days)**  
1-4 No School/Winter Break  
4 No School/Teacher Flex day  
5 Students Resume  
18 No School/MLK Day

**FEBRUARY 2021**

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2		4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

**February (18 att. days)**  
3 AMI-X Day (all virtual)  
12 No School/Teacher PD  
15 No School/Presidents' Day

**MARCH 2021**

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**March (21 att. days)**  
3 AMI-X Day (all virtual)  
11 End of 3rd Qtr. (45 days)  
12 No School  
15 No School



**Festus School District**  
1515 Mid-Meadow Lane • Festus, MO 63028 • Administrative Offices (636) 937-4920  
Dr. Link Lutrell, *Superintendent* • Mr. Nathan Holder, *Asst. Superintendent* • Dr. Nicki Ruess, *Asst. Superintendent*  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
Todd Oetting - *President* Doug Wendel - *Vice President* Mike Wolk - *Treasurer*  
**BOARD MEMBERS**  
Brent Abrams • Doreen Berezowski • Richard Fadler • Tracy Anderson  
Lynn Stanley- *Secretary* to the Board of Education

The Festus R-VI Board of Education meetings are the third Wednesday of each onthat 7:00 p.m. in the Roy D. Burnside Administrative Building, 1515 Mid-Meadow Lane. Visitors are welcome!

**Senior High**  
501 Westwind Drive  
937-5410 Main  
Karl Shinniger, Principal  
Joel Roth, Asst. Principal  
Eric Allen, Asst. Principal/  
Athletics/Activities  
Counseling Office: 937-5944  
Steve Shemwell, Counselor  
Jennifer Kline, Counselor  
Amanda Esparza, Counselor  
Maggie Ellis, RN, Health Room

**Middle School**  
1717 West Main Street  
937-5417 Main  
937-5417 (nurse)  
Jacob Munoz, Principal  
Kim Neel, Asst. Principal  
Melissa Coahuilas, Psy. Examiner  
Counseling Office: 937-2035  
Wendy Mickley, Counselor  
Nichole Townsend, RN, Health Room

**Intermediate School**  
1501 Mid-Meadow Lane  
937-4750 Main  
937-4799 (nurse)  
Spencer Kearns, Principal  
Deana Brown, Asst. Principal  
Counseling Office: 937-4750  
Shannon Helms, Counselor  
Steve Williams, Counselor  
Tiffany Yates, RN, Heath Room

**Elementary School**  
1500 Mid-Meadow Lane  
937-4063 Main  
937-5917 (nurse)  
Darin Siefert, Principal  
Saundra Benack, Asst. Principal  
Counseling Office: 937-2991  
Angie Eisenbies, Counselor  
Tricia Nahlik, Counselor  
Jessy Beard, RN, Heath Room

FOOD SERVICE - Brooklyn Ragsdale - 937-7747  
TRANSPORTATION - Joan Rupp - 937-5716  
STUDENT SERVICES - Cara Pellerin - 937-8044  
COMMUNICATIONS - Kevin Pope - 636-638-2004  
STAFF AND STUDENT WELLNESS- Lindsey Roth - 636-638-2006