



# Blackcat News

**Mission Statement:**  
*"Educating Today for a Better Tomorrow"*

VOLUME 23

ISSUE 79

SCHOOL YEAR 2018-2019

APRIL 25, 2019



## Book Donation

It wasn't suggested by a teacher or part of a club activity. She just saw some inexpensive children's books at Goodwill and wanted to share them. Emily Enghauser says, "When I was little I loved reading; it was one of my favorite things to do." She purchased a couple of the 50-cent books. The Herculaneum High School senior is a volunteer at Taylor and is going to school for early childhood education and special education.

Enghauser knew plenty of students could benefit from these books, like children in Brenden's Friday Backpack program. She thought if families don't have money for food, then they may not have money for books. She turned to her

friend Trenton Tinsley who has been setting money aside for charity. He agreed to help, and they visited four or five Goodwill stores, purchasing 200 books. After removing the stickers, several books were wrapped like presents. Soon the students at Taylor Early Childhood Center and Pevely Elementary School were ripping into their gifts.



## Student Council Has Successful Blood Drive



Tori Hutt and Jordan Allen are supporting Angelica Wooten at the Student Council Blood Drive.

The Herculaneum High School Student Council held a Red Cross Blood Drive in March. They surpassed their goal of 50 units with a total of 58 donations. Sponsor Lindsey

Fitzgibbons says the Red Cross offers scholarship money based on the donations but a total wasn't available at press time. The blood drive came at an ideal time for the Red Cross as they were down to a three-day supply because of the inclement weather.



## In This Issue of Blackcat News

- ◆ Board President Message
- ◆ Arbor Day
- ◆ Senn-Thomas Houses
- ◆ Notes
- ◆ MAP Information
- ◆ Running for Team Connie
- ◆ Blood Drive
- ◆ Book Donation
- ◆ Green School Team
- ◆ Taylor Early Childhood
- ◆ Runzi's Hall of Fame
- ◆ Prop S Update

### WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK ON THE BLACKCAT NEWS!!!!!!

The Blackcat News is a quarterly communication tool that we use as one way to keep you informed about Dunklin R-5 School District. We want this publication to be useful to you as a patron of our schools- "Must-Read Material!"

Is there...

- Something you've read that you don't understand?
- Information that you would like to see included that is not?
- Something you want to see more often or less frequently?

We value your input! Please email your feedback to our Communications Director, Matt Lichtenstein, at [mlichtenstein@dunklin.k12.mo.us](mailto:mlichtenstein@dunklin.k12.mo.us)

Don't use email? Call Matt Lichtenstein at 636-479-5200 ext. 1010.

# Message from the Board President

Dear Dunklin R-5 Community:

Welcome to the home stretch of the school year! In March we held kindergarten registration at Pevely Elementary, where we had quite a few families show up eager to begin a new chapter and enroll their child in school. Welcome Class of 2032! As we greet a new generation of Blackcats, we also prepare for graduation of the senior class at HHS. On May 22, the Class of 2019 will walk across the stage and receive their diplomas. Graduation is a celebration of hard work and achievement for this group of young men and women.

This part of the year is an amazing time for every school district as they welcome in the new students and say congrats to the graduating class! It makes you think of all the amazing things the new students are going to learn and all of the tools that the graduating seniors will take with them as they embark on their new journey! Again, such a memorable and exciting time.

Since the last edition of the Blackcat News, the board has honored Emily Schultz for her service as our Student Board Representative. We appreciate all of the input she has provided during her time serving with us. We also welcomed our new Student Board Representative, Jonathan Coffman. We look forward to seeing what insight he will bring to us as he represents the students of Dunklin R-5.

The staff and students of our district have been working this year on projects where they have given back to the community in many ways. There are so many great stories such as the high school shop class building stairs to help with therapy at Mapaville State School, or a bear toss to donate stuffed animals to children, the lending libraries that have been installed at several locations to encourage reading, to the presentation at the Mineral Area Relays to a beloved member of

our staff who is beating cancer. These are just a few of the great things they have done this year; it is wonderful to hear about how our Blackcat Family enjoys volunteering and helping around the community. It shows great character! I encourage our community to check out the school's website and social media to keep up to date on the great things our kids are accomplishing and how they are making a difference not only in their own lives but in the lives of others. #blackcatpride

I would also like to thank our community again for their support as projects from Proposition S continue to move forward. In the coming months you will really start to see progress on the Pevely Elementary campus as well as the relocation of the bus garage to its new location. These projects are just one example of things we are doing to improve the quality of education and learning for the children of our district.

Other things that we are working on include the addition of the JAG program at Herculaneum High School, updating and enhancing curriculum at all levels, working together between grade levels and building levels to collaborate better and ensure that the students are getting what is needed to transition to the next grade or building. It is all about teamwork. Teamwork includes **EVERYONE**, the students, moms, dads, grandparents, teachers, para-professionals, administrators, counselors, **EVERYONE!** We look forward to continuing to work with all of you, in our Dunklin R-5 Community, as we are "Educating Today for a Better Tomorrow"! Thank you for your continued support!!

Sincerely,  
Dawn M. Warner

## Proposition S Update

Commercial construction projects take many months of planning before an actual groundbreaking can take place. We understand this can be frustrating for those anxious to see improvements. However, it is the belief of the Dunklin R-5 Board of Education that we must take our time and make sure the finished project is the best facility, within budget, for our students, faculty, staff, and community. We continue to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars, and we strive to make the best possible decisions.

Administrators and FGM architects have been meeting and working through many details as it pertains to Pevely Elementary, including the FEMA storm shelter addition and the new bus garage. Currently, the Pevely Elementary drawings are being reviewed by SEMA and FEMA as part of the grant process. We anticipate getting approval in June, and then we will start the final design and prepare for bids.

The bus garage project has already been designed and bid. The bid opening was held on April 5th. District administration interviewed three contractors and will be making a recommendation to the Board of Education at the April board meeting.

Thank you for supporting the Dunklin R-5 School District. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Clint Freeman at [cfreeman@dunklin.k12.mo.us](mailto:cfreeman@dunklin.k12.mo.us).

### DUNKLIN R-5 SCHOOL DISTRICT

497 Joachim Avenue • Herculaneum, MO 63048 • (636) 479-5200  
Stan Stratton, Superintendent Dr. Clint Freeman, Deputy Superintendent

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Renee Richardson, Guidance Counselor,  
grades 11-12  
David Cook, Guidance Counselor,  
grades 9-10 and A+  
Connie Ward, Nurse

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Heather Shadowens, Nurse  
Joycie Gonzalez-Meyer,  
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Matt Lichtenstein, Communications Director  
Tom Moreland, Director of Special Services  
Sue Sharp, Director of Transportation  
Steve Copeland, Director of Maintenance

### Board Meetings are Open to the Public

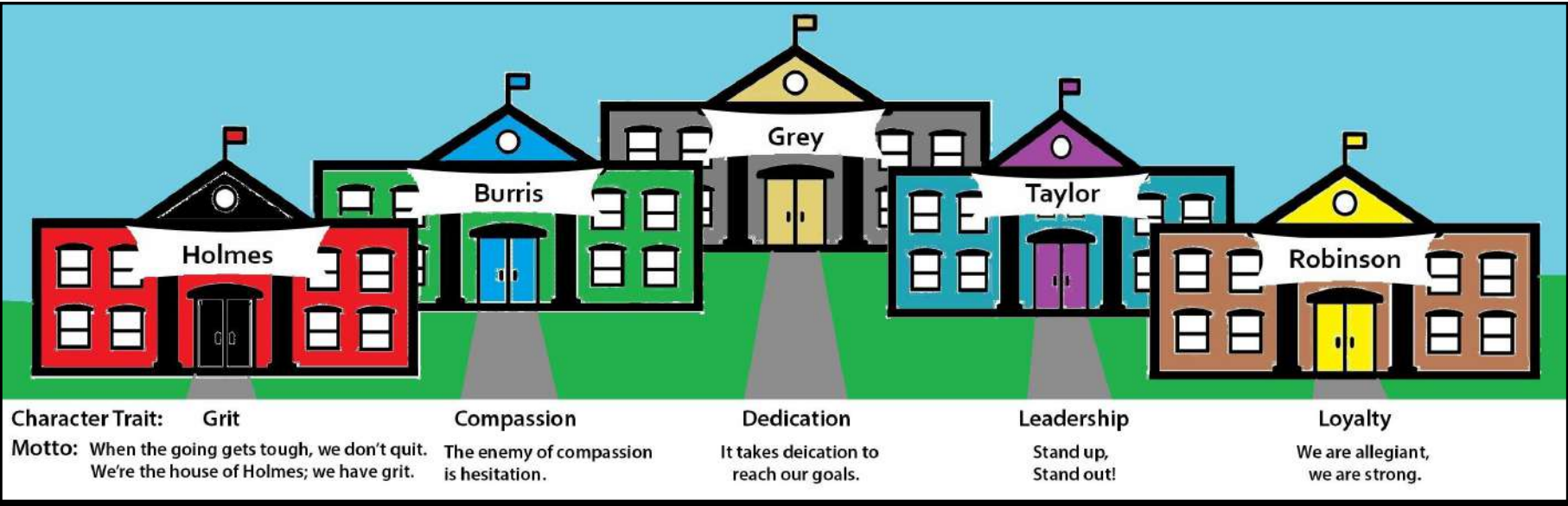
The Dunklin R-5 Board of Education meets on a regular basis on the third Tuesday of each month. The meetings are held in the Dunklin R-5 Central Office beginning at 7:00 p.m. The meetings are open to the public. Patrons may view agendas and items from the meetings by going to our website [www.dunklin.k12.mo.us](http://www.dunklin.k12.mo.us), clicking on the District tab and clicking on "Paperless Board Meetings."

**Dunklin R-5 School District is an equal opportunity employer**





# The Houses of Senn-Thomas Middle School



It was started from scratch, from the ground up, and we still don't fully know its impact. All the students and teachers at Senn-Thomas Middle School now belong to a house. The house system for education originated in old England, and the rich tradition has countless advocates. One of them is Fulton Middle School Principal Beth Houf, an author and award-winning educator. Senn-Thomas Middle School Principal Tracy Lewis and a couple of teachers visited Fulton to see their house system and decided it would benefit our students.

The mission statement was developed by staff members at Senn-Thomas: Building a safe community based on relationships, collaboration, outreach, and pride. Students took it from there, naming the houses after members of the Blackcat Hall of Fame, choosing character traits and developing mottos. Lewis says, "If everyone has a voice in building something, they are less likely to tear it down." Eventually, all five houses will have their own colors and crests. Each house has students from all three grade levels, with a natural spread of talents, working together. They are teams united in their quest.

One competition between these middle school houses was playing rock-paper-scissors. Another contest is based on attendance, and every member of a house is included. There will be additional competitions next year, and many will align with school goals. While the house system may seem a bit Hogwarts-esque, the science behind the system is solid. Studies indicate that when students have a vested interest in one another, it changes the culture to include more acts of kindness and tolerance.

House of Grey member Lucas Bach is in the 8th grade. He says they have to work together, like when they did skits for an assembly. Bach says, "If I had to run that all by myself, it wouldn't have gotten done and it wouldn't have been good." Students have met with their houses only five times this year, so they need to make the most of it. Kayla Greer, an 8th-grade student in the House of Holmes, sees the big picture. She says, "It's basically to get to know the other grades and make the other grades less scared and more interactive with each other." Greer wrapped up her experience with the house system by saying, "We're working to make school a better place."

## Runzi's Hall of Fame Dinner

He glided through the crowd with a warm smile and a firm handshake, navigating the uncomfortable situation with ease. He doesn't naturally seek the spotlight. It was never about the accolades; it was about teamwork, setting an example, being true to yourself, your family and your community. Dr. Andrew Runzi has made the long journey from a passionate high school player who hated losing to a comforting elder dispensing wisdom. During his speech, Runzi mentioned spending time with peers just trying to figure it all out. It wasn't a wasted effort as today he has a sense of balance that most people seek.

Runzi was a three-sport athlete, but he continued to play baseball after high school. A College All-American in 1992 and 1993, Runzi still holds pitching records at UMSL for career wins, total innings pitched and career shutouts. In 1995, he began his teaching and coaching career at Herculeaneum High School. He led the 1999 Herculeaneum Blackcat Baseball team to a Class 3 State Championship but had to give up coaching when he became the Herculeaneum High School principal in 2006.

The high school cafeteria was decorated for the dinner with curtains and tablecloths. Everyone in attendance seemed to have a special connection to Runzi. He may have been their teammate, coach, coworker or boss. Speakers Dr. Robert Bradshaw, Cheryl Aylesworth, and Josh Thomas brought out his personality with both compliments and funny stories. When Runzi took the microphone, he mentioned being nervous, but once he threw the first pitch, it was a steady, well-paced performance. He had a few stories of his own and still managed to thank everyone from Superintendent Stan Stratton to food service employees.

Activities Director Jon Roop tweeted, "Before coming to Herky I had heard many stories about the profound impact he had on so many people, but tonight I saw it with my own eyes & was completely captivated. What an incredible man." Jo Ann Schomburg took to social media to share Runzi's credo; It's amazing what can be accomplished when no one cares who gets the credit.

This was the third time Runzi has been inducted into a Hall of Fame, but he's not done yet. He previously told the Blackcat News, "I have more to give." Today he works at an industrial services company. When he started that position, he resisted a nickname they gave him, thinking he hasn't earned it in this new environment. However, he learns quickly and communicates with encouragement, so if you want to find Dr. Andrew Runzi at Thomas Industrial Coatings, just ask for Coach.

Pictured: Cheryl Aylesworth, Jo Ann Schomburg, Dr. Andrew Runzi, Terry Jo Springmeyer, Stan Helms. They are all members of the Blackcat Hall of Fame.





# Developmental Disability Awareness Month



In March, Taylor Early Childhood Center celebrated "Developmental Disability Awareness Month." This year each class focused on a different disability and made a handprint poster. A large banner displayed reads "Special You, Special Me, Celebrate Different Abilities." Some of the disabilities they focused on this year were: developmental delays, muscular dystrophy, epilepsy, spina bifida, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, and autism. The banner and posters were displayed on the fence for parents, students, teachers, and passers-by to enjoy.

The HHS Theatre Department Presents:  
**The Addams Family: A New Musical**  
 Comedy

Dates/Times: May 2nd, 3rd & 4th 2019 at 7:00 P.M.  
 Ticket Prices: \$3 Students and \$5 Adults  
 Place: Herculeaneum High School Theatre



"So will love triumph, or will everyone go home vaguely depressed?" – Uncle Fester

The Addams Family is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide, 1180 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 640, New York, NY 10036. [www.theatricalrights.com](http://www.theatricalrights.com)

THE ADDAMS FAMILY A NEW MUSICAL Book by MARSHALL BRICKMAN and RICK ELICE Music and Lyrics by ANDREW LIPPA Based on Characters Created by Charles Addams. Originally produced on Broadway by Stuart Oken, Roy Furman, Michael Leavitt, Five Cast Productions, Stephen Schuler, Decca Theatricals, Scott M. Delman, Stuart Oken, Terry Allen Kramer, Stephanie P. McClelland, James L. Nederlander, Eva Price, Jam Theatricals/Mary LuRuffe, Pittsburgh CLO/Guterman-Sovinsky, Vivac Theatre/Gary Kaplan, The Weinman Company/Clemence, LLC, Adam Zlotovsk/Tribal Theatricals By Special Arrangement with Elephant Eye Theatrical



## Postcard Exchange

Art students in the second through fifth grades at Pevley Elementary School have been making postcards. Soon they will be sent off in an exchange with Westwood Elementary School in Greenwood, Indiana. Teacher Arina Fanning says students worked hard on the designs and put a written explanation on the back of each card. The idea for the exchange came from a Facebook page used by grade school art teachers. If everything goes well, next year they would like to exchange postcards with students in another country. Fanning grew up in Ukraine and she always teaches a little geography when they talk about an artist.

For updates and district news, including inclement weather school closing information, follow Communications Director Matt Lichtenstein on Twitter:  
**Matt Lichtenstein@BlackcatMatt**





# Herculaneum High Takes Second in Green School Quest

Herculaneum High School teachers and students gave a presentation at the Missouri History Museum on becoming a greener and more environmentally sustainable district . They were one of 59 St. Louis area schools participating in the 12th Annual Green Schools Quest, a project-based challenge. It was sponsored by the Missouri Gateway Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council. The Blackcats tied for second place in the high school category, and they were the only high school to give a formal presentation.

Biology teacher Erin Graves and Art teacher John Purvis worked with high school classes and clubs on several green projects over the past six months. The Ecology Club, biology classes, and art classes learned from guest speakers about numerous environmental issues. They worked with Jefferson County Recycling to host more events. The foods classes made a recipe book from recycled materials and added recipes for preparing invasive and abundant wildlife like Asian carp and deer. A math class collected data on the types and amounts of waste we have on campus to create a statistical display. Language arts classes made environmental poetry on recycled paper.

Herculaneum may have been the only school to incorporate art into the environmental challenge. The centerpiece was the Eco Art Fair where students created projects based on five categories: water, trees, reuse, global issues, and how to help. Seeds were collected from the high school wildflower garden and given away at the fair. The Industrial Arts classes contributed bags of wood shavings to be used as bedding or mulch. Over one-third of the student body at the high school participated in this challenge. Joining the Green School Quest was voluntary, and the lessons learned may never be on a college entrance exam. However, Mrs. Graves has fond childhood memories of exploring the woods, wading in the creek, and discovering nature. The biology teacher wants to preserve that for her students. Graves says, “I want them to know that what they do every day makes a difference...”



Pictured: Anna Pfaff, Mrs. Graves, Lexi Baiter, Emmasue Eberhardt, Kaylee Reed, Austin Ly, Mr. Purvis.



## Running for Team Connie

She found the lump during a self breast-exam and soon found out it was cancer. Connie Zimpfer has worked in food service for 21 years at Herculaneum High School. She knows and loves all the students. Her personality fills a space three times her size, but cancer doesn't skip over good people. Bill Hammock and Judy Sobol led the fundraising efforts and they reached out to Zimpfer's sister Carrie. The "Running for Team Connie" shirts started selling, and they collected outside

donations. Zimpfer was honored during the Mineral Area Relays. About 20 supporters were expected to gather at mid-field, but they kept coming through the gate. Soon over 40 people circled around the guest of honor to get the ceremonial checks. Zimpfer says, "I knew it was happening, but I was a little overwhelmed." She received \$2,000 from the fundraising efforts and the Student Council, who loves Connie back, gave her another \$500. Zimpfer says, "You know what, it helps. It helps your heart, your head. It really feels good."





# MAP Testing Information

Students will start taking standardized tests next week. These Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) tests are part of our district's accreditation process, and they contribute to the score on our Annual Performance Report (APR). The basic categories are Math, English Language Arts, and Science. High school students are required to take End-of-Course Assessments (EOC), and they are tested on more specific subjects. If you are a parent, please help us by making sure your child gets plenty of sleep the night before a test and has a good breakfast at home or school in the morning. We are excited to find out how much our students have learned this school year. Go Blackcats!

	April 30th	May 1st	May 2nd	May 3rd	May 6th	May 7th	May 8th	May 9th	May 10th	May 14th
3rd Grade	ELA	ELA	Math	Math						
4th Grade					ELA	ELA	ELA	Math	Math	
5th Grade	Science	Science	ELA	ELA		Math	Math	Math		
6th Grade	ELA	ELA	Math							
7th Grade	ELA	Math	Math							
8th Grade						ELA	ELA	Math	Science	
High School			Algebra I	Algebra II		ELA II		Govt	Geometry	Biology
				ELA I						

## Dunklin R-5 Notebook

The last day of school is Friday, May 24th, and students will be released early. Summer school is from May 28th to June 28th.

The HHS Prom is Saturday at Royale Orleans in South County.

Special Education Teacher Kathy Sardo, winner of the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award, just received a grant from the same organization. The \$5,000 grant will be split between the high school and her classroom. She wants to purchase a job skills unit for her students.

Girls on the Run – Students in the 3rd to 5th grade will run a 5K on May 11th.

The HHS Chess Team placed 19th out of 35 teams in the state championship! The competition was for all public and private schools, and the Blackcats were the only team from Jefferson County.

The HHS Baseball Team will play Grandview at GCS Ballpark on May 2nd. The home of the Gateway Grizzlies is located 11 miles from the JB Bridge. Ask a player about buying tickets.

Volleyball Camps – The Pevely Mini Volleyball Camp is May 7 & 8th for 3rd -5th grade, and May 9th for K-2nd grade. The Jefferson College Summer Volleyball Camp is June 10th and 11th, from 3:30-5:30 pm, for incoming 6th graders to 9th graders.

Finally, the STMS Summer Volleyball Camp is June 12th and 13th, from 3:30-5:30 pm, for incoming 6th to 8th graders. There are fees for these camps.

Email Coach Meda  
at [ameda@dunklin.k12.mo.us](mailto:ameda@dunklin.k12.mo.us)  
for more information.

Matt Lichtenstein  
Communications Director



## Help a Child Learn to Love Reading

**Pevely Elementary is  
Seeking Older Adult Volunteer Tutors  
Starting Fall 2019**

### FACTS

- Help a child feel important
  - Build self-esteem
- Encourage reading and learning
- Kindergarten - 3rd grade children
- Up to one hour a week per child
- No teaching experience or college degree necessary
  - Training will be provided
  - Background check required

If interested, please contact: Lori Deubner,  
Jefferson County OASIS Coordinator  
314-862-2933 x225.

**Thank you!**

We are looking forward to working with new volunteers at  
**Pevely Elementary.**



# Senn-Thomas Participants in the Go! St. Louis 5K Race



Nine students from Senn-Thomas Middle School participated in the Go! St. Louis 5K race in Forest Park with nurse Heather Shadowens, and teachers Sarah Brotherton and Crystal Brakhage. These students have been training after school with Shadowens since February. They practiced running and strength training at least twice a week.

After all the hard work, the Blackcats headed to Forest Park on April 5th for the big race. Logan Tooley, Gavin Tooley, Leland Schnur, Kaylyn Yamnitz, Kenlea Yamnitz, Lauren Nappier, Lily Wood, Olivia Lindamann, and Julie Britton all worked hard and pushed through a tough race. Julie Britton's impressive run earned her a first place finish in her category of girls ages 1-19 with a time of 23 minutes, 33 seconds. Brotherton says, "The most rewarding part of the whole evening was watching the kids hurry over to the finish line to cheer on others as they crossed the finish line with hugs and high-fives."

## Learning About Chicks

Another batch of eggs hatched at Pevely Elementary School, to the delight of students. The annual event of bringing fertilized eggs and incubators into each kindergarten classroom is made possible by the University of Missouri Extension Program. They usually hatch on a Monday and the baby chicks are picked up at the end of the week. That gives teachers like Danielle Temperato time to talk about life cycles, habitats and the fragile nature of babies.

Once they hatch, they are put in a separate container with a heat lamp. She says, "At first the kids get very excited around the chicks, but once they see the chicks' reaction the students calm down." The babies cower away from loud noises and big movements. Students are only allowed to pet them with two fingers, but there is plenty of interaction like the peeps coming from the yellow balls of fluff. After about five days the chicks are more active and feathers are starting to grow on their wings. It's time for classroom embryology project to come to an end the chicks to get back to the farm.



Oscar Thone is reading to the baby chicks during his free time.

## Renaissance Recognized Achievements

Another Renaissance assembly was held in March to recognize achievement in the third quarter. The winners for each class were freshman Samantha Maddox, sophomore Josh Moreland, junior Jordan Allen, and senior James Schanz. They were all cheered as they took the stage, often with family members, to get their certificate. Many high school students were recognized for perfect attendance. The award for the most improved attendance went to Marcie Stamps. The Teacher of the Quarter was Mr. Chris O'Connell, and the Staff Member of the Quarter was Mrs. Kim Black.





HHS Renaissance Third Quarter Winners are Samantha Maddox, Josh Moreland, Jordan Allen, and James Schanz.



## Over 400 students have registered for summer school. Is your child one of them?

Summer Journey is May 28th to June 28th. It's an exciting summer enrichment program designed for young thinkers. It's free to attend and there are cash incentives for good attendance. There are no tests but plenty of hands-on activities. Go to the Dunklin R-5 website to download the forms. They are under the Parents tab. Children entering kindergarten this fall are encouraged to attend.

# FREE PRESCHOOL



Taylor Early Childhood will continue to offer Title One Preschool (Free Preschool) services to children living in the Dunklin R-5 school district for the 2019-2020 school year.

On April 25th & 29th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. we will be partnering with Parents as Teachers to provide child screening services for this free program. Screenings will take place at the Taylor Early Childhood Center; please plan at least 45 minutes to 1 hour for your appointment (child must be present).

If you're interested in this opportunity, please contact our office at 636-479-5200 option 5.

### REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Must be a Dunklin R-5 resident.
- 2) Child must be 4 years old on or before July 31, 2019.
- 3) Qualify for state aid (medicaid, food stamps, WIC, etc.).

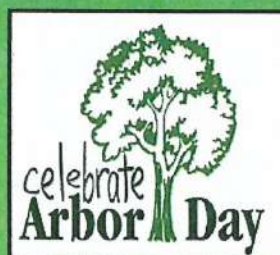
*Title One Preschool is FREE, but transportation is NOT provided by the school district. Parents/guardians are responsible for transporting their child(ren) to and from preschool.*

**CALL TODAY FOR AN APPOINTMENT!**  
636-479-5200, option 5



## CITY OF HERCULANEUM

# 13th Annual Arbor Day Celebration



**Friday, April 26, 2019 - 1:00 PM**  
**Herculaneum City Park**  
**776 Joachim Avenue**

Tree City USA 2018 Presentation (12th Year)  
Arbor Day Proclamation - Tree Planting & Dedication  
Music & Readings by HHS Students  
5th Grade Poster Contest Awards  
Free Tree Seedlings (while supplies last)  
Light refreshments

For information:  
636 475-4447 -314 852-4964

Sponsored by:  
Herculaneum Today & Tomorrow - City of Herculaneum