

Ruess Roundup



from Superintendent Dr. Nicki Ruess

HAPPY
Valentines
DAY

School Year

Today is the 108th school day (out of 171 student attendance days.. 63% of the school year is complete). As of today we have used 4 traditional snow days (**any days missed at this point will be virtual learning days**) This puts our last day on **Thursday, May 25th** (our original last day was Friday May 19th).

Friday, February 17th, 2023 will be a Professional Development Day and school will not be in session on Monday, February 20th, 2023 in observance of Presidents Day. School will resume a regular schedule on Tuesday, February 21st, 2023.

Kindergarten Registration

March 16, 17, 18

Appointments are now open!
festus.k12.mo.us



Kindergarten Registration for the 2023-2024 School Year

Kindergarten registration for the CLASS OF 2036 will be held March 16-18th. Any child who will be age 5 before August 1 will be eligible to attend Kindergarten starting in August 2023. Appointments are open. You can [click here](#) for more information and to make an appointment. Required documentation includes: proof of residency, birth certificate, immunization record, and parent/guardian ID

[Kindergarten Registration Information](#)



Graduation

Graduation has been set for the Class of 2023. An initial date is set for Tuesday, May 23rd, 2023 at Tiger Stadium. However, in the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be moved to Wednesday, May 24th, 2023 (at Tiger Stadium). If inclement weather occurs again on Wednesday, May 24th the ceremony will move to Jefferson College with limited seating.



As you are well aware there are many legislative bills being filed and discussed during this legislative session. Many of these bills have a direct impact on public education. I will be more than happy to speak personally with any individual or group and provide specific information in regards to the proposed bills. It is important to know the facts and be informed about the topics that will likely have widespread impact for Missouri public schools.



The Annual Performance Report from DESE will be released to the public Tuesday, March 7th, 2023. Our PLC teams in collaboration with building administration will begin analyzing the data and making adjustments to our building improvement plans based on the information provided. Just a reminder - this is the first year the APR will be released under the “new” MSIP 6 guidelines. There have been several changes to the calculations which will result in scores that should not be compared to previous years. This is truly a baseline year for all Missouri public schools. However, in terms of state

assessments, Festus R-VI as a whole continues to have the highest overall student test scores in the county in all tested areas. The continued strong performance is a result of HARD WORK put forth daily from students, parents and staff members.

Grade	Enrollment 2/13/23
K	256
1	277
2	238
3	274
ES	1045
4	270
5	233
6	249
IS	752
7	267
8	284
MS	551
9	294
10	247
11	223
12	208
HS	972
District	3320

Enrollment Update

As of Monday, February 13th, our enrollment for grades K-12 is at 3320. Last year at this same time our K-12 enrollment was 3245.



Distinguished Service Award

The deadline is approaching to submit nominations for the Distinguished Service Award. This is an award that is on the level of the District Hall of Fame and is intended to be given to an individual who has show distinguished service to the Festus R-VI School District, its students and its families. It is intended for someone who would be worthy of Hall of Fame induction. Qualifications for nominations are:

1. They had to have worked in the Festus R-VI School District for at least 15 years.
2. They have to be at least one year removed from their R-VI employment
3. They had to have made significant contributions to student success
4. They must show involvement outside school hours (coach, club sponsor, PTO, tutoring, community involvement)

Nominations will require two nomination letters, one from a former colleague and the other from a former student/parent. The person submitting the nomination can submit one of the letters. After compiling the nominations, the committee will evaluate the nominations and select an individual to receive the award. The recipients will be recognized at the annual back

to school staff convocation in August. Nominations are due by March 31 to be considered for August recognition. You can [click here](#) to submit a nomination. If you have questions, contact Mr. Pope for more details.

Distinguished Service Award Nomination



Festus R-VI Hall of Fame

The deadline for Festus R-VI Hall of Fame nominations is May 26th. This award is for graduates of Festus High School or Douglass High School. Nominees shall have distinguished themselves in the areas of Leadership, Character, Achievement, Service, Suitability as a Role-Model, and/or Contributions to Society as a Whole. The permanent honor of being elected to the Festus R-VI School District Hall of Fame will represent individuals who, through their individual actions, have exemplified the established vision of the Festus R-VI School District.

Members of the Festus R-VI “Hall of Fame” shall demonstrate the positive impact that Festus and/or Douglass High School had on them as an individual/student. “Hall of Fame” members are positive role models that provide inspiration, hope, support and relevance to our current students as they progress

through their own areas of study, extra-curricular activities, and/or community service. You can [click here](#) to submit a nomination for the Festus R-VI Hall of Fame.

Festus R-VI Hall of Fame Nomination

NOTEWORTHY

Festus R-VI School Foundation Grants

The Festus R-VI School Foundation award five grants totaling nearly six-thousand dollars to teachers last week.



8th grade ELA teachers Tracy Krysl and Karley Lurk received more than 13-hundred dollars to purchase copies of the novel “Ground Zero” to teach students about 9/11.



Middle school counselors Wendy Mickley and Joe Fehler receive five hundred dollars to purchase prizes for their Student of the Month program.



Sixth grade teacher Laura Sellman received eight hundred dollars to purchase STEM kits for her classroom.



The 5th grade ELA teachers received one thousand dollars to purchase five sets of 30 novels for their literature circle.



4th grade teacher Heather Steighorst received two thousand dollars to purchase flexible seating options for her classroom.









Valentine's Day Parties

Students in the elementary school celebrated Valentine's Day today with parties. Students enjoyed treats and played games.



Play Unified Basketball

Dozens of 6th grade students took part in a Play Unified Basketball game last week. Students of all abilities played four quarters of basketball. It was a great demonstration of everyone working together.





1000 points and 100 wins

There were some big sports accomplishments in recent weeks. Senior basketball player Arhmad Branch scored the 1000th point of his career back in December. Senior basketball player Josie Allen scored the 1000th point of her career earlier this month. And boys basketball head coach Jason Therrell picked up his 100th career win this season.

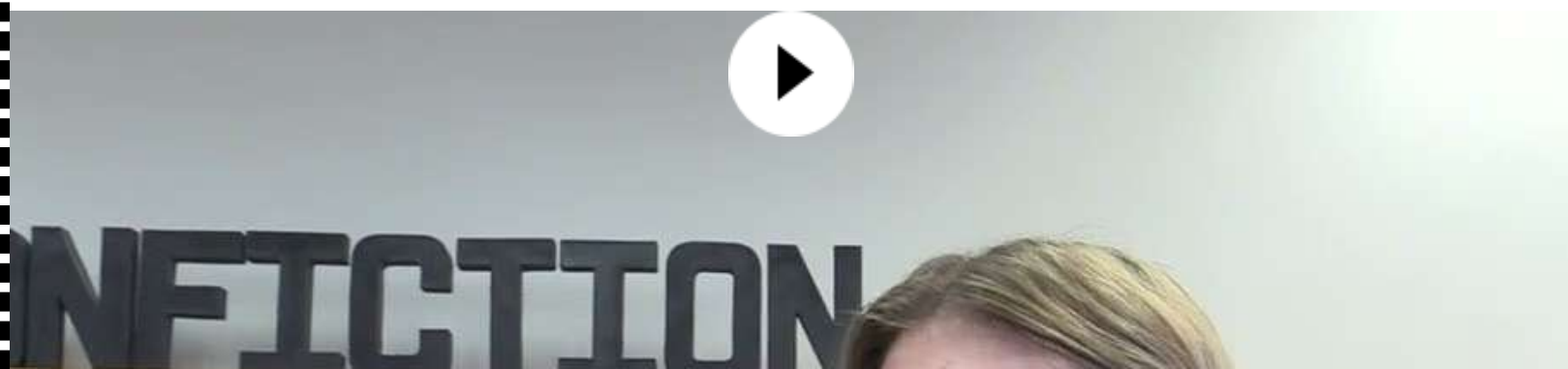


Quiz Bowl

The Middle School Quiz Bowl team competed at Grandview Middle School last week. The 7th grade team finished 2nd in the county at the tournament.

Senior Spotlight

I have a couple of special guests joining me to close out our monthly newsletter. Each month for the remainder of the school year I will be interviewing a few seniors (who have volunteered) to be in the Senior Spotlight! Today I have Madison Griffin and Grace Earnhart.





Senior Spotlight

Email Me

