

Ruess Roundup



from Superintendent Dr. Nicki Ruess

Calendar

Today is the 87th school day (out of 171 student attendance days). The 3rd quarter is underway and it has been a great start to the 2023 new year! As of today, our final student attendance day for the school year will be Friday, May 19th, 2023.

School will not be in session on Monday, January 16th, 2023 in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. School will resume a regular schedule on Tuesday, January 17th, 2023.



Classroom Expansion

Conversations surrounding the Classroom Expansion across the district have continued. The Design Phase of the project will continue through March and April 2023. Plans continue to move forward.



New Property

The Festus R-VI School District has purchased the property at the corner of Mid-Meadow Lane (1601 Mid-Meadow). Plans are currently being developed to turn this property into a school based health clinic (SBHC). If you recall, the SBHC was originally part of the Wellness/Gym construction project as an add-alternative in the original build. With the opportunity to purchase the 1601 Mid-Meadow Lane property, it allowed us to save money on renovations rather than new construction. I am excited about this opportunity for our students and families. As you know, the district frequently contracts to have multiple providers on campus throughout the school year (eye thrive van, dental van, wellness vans, physicals etc). These providers frequently are traveling vans that can only stay in one location for a designated number of days. Having the SBHC will allow us to have multiple providers on campus throughout the entire school year. It will also house several other services such as: our partnership project with outside counseling and psychiatric services, mental/behavioral health, and psychological examiners to name a few.

Facilities



Facilities Coordinator

Mrs. Lisa Datillo will be our new Facilities Coordinator/Maintenance Secretary. From this point forward, contact Mrs. Datillo for all facility access needs. Mrs. Datillo will occupy the office in the PAC. Her contact information is as follows:
Email - datillolisa@festusedu.com (636) 638-2008



Polling Place

For many years Festus Middle School has been used as the polling place for local elections each year. The utilization of Festus Middle School has caused the district to have to cancel school or declare the use of an AMI day to ensure students were not on campus during the election. This year, in collaboration with the County Clerk Jeannie Goff, it was determined that the election polling place would be relocated to the Performing Arts Center for elections. School will be in session as regularly scheduled on April 4th, 2023.

SAFETY FIRST!

Safety & Security

As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, safety and security surrounding our district is of utmost importance to me. The SROs and I continue to meet on a regular basis to discuss continued security enhancements at each attendance center. Our SROs along with local first responders recently participated in Tier One Training to continue to enhance their skills in the event of emergency situations. Although they have been through multiple training sessions and are well trained, it is my philosophy that there is always room for improvement and growth.



State Assessment

Per DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) ALL school districts will be required to administer the 2022-2023 state assessments (MAP/EOC). Despite the many opinions about the relevance of administering state assessments it is our state accountability measure and a regulation we must abide by. The state testing window that has been established is April 3rd - May 26th, 2023. Currently each school attendance center is determining their specific testing window. As always, 3rd-8th grade will administer the ELA and Math Grade Level Assessment while 5th and 8th Grade will administer the Science assessment.

Required End-of-Course (EOC) assessments remain for: *Algebra I, English II, Government, and Biology*. R-VI will also administer the optional assessments for English I, American History, and Physical Science.



Inclement Weather

Mother Nature continues to be kind to us, but the threat of inclement weather is always a possibility. Hopefully, no inclement weather will impact our schedule, but it is always better to be prepared.

Keep in mind though that if you **FOLLOW** Me on **Twitter** at [FestusR6Supt](#), you can be among the FIRST TO KNOW when weather is impacting a school day. We also let the local media stations know any time school is canceled. When school is canceled because of snow, you will receive an email, a text and a phone call from the District. All automated calls coming from the District will likely appear in your caller ID as coming from **636-638-2007**, that is the special number set up for automated calls.. If you miss a call from that number, please check your email, texts, and voicemail because the information in that call will also be found in those locations. There is not a need to return that missed call. There have been times that the number will appear as a “Spam Risk.” Be aware, that during times of inclement weather, it could be the District calling, so check your voicemail if you do not answer.



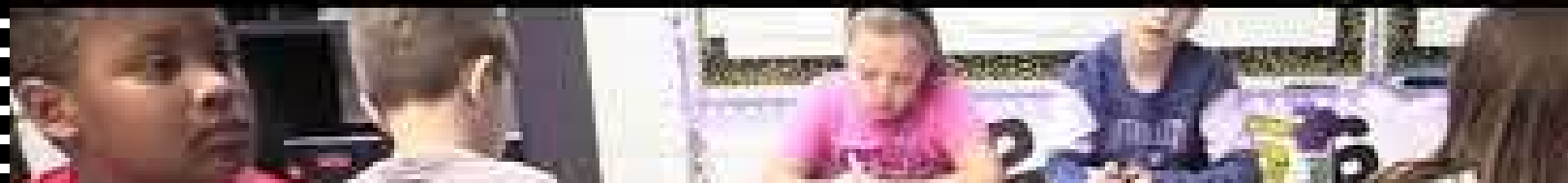
Legacy Circle at Tiger Stadium

TIME IS RUNNING OUT!!! The Festus R-VI School Foundation is wrapping up its latest round of Legacy Brick sales at Tiger Stadium. The next order will be placed THIS Friday, January 13. If you haven't yet purchased a brick, NOW is your time to do so. After Friday, brick sales will be paused for an indefinite time. No orders will be placed after this Friday. This makes a great gift for graduating students, birthdays, anniversaries or celebrations of academic or athletic accomplishments. Bricks ordered by Friday, will be installed this spring.

Bricks are \$100 each. Proceeds benefit the Festus R-VI School Foundation to provide grants to teachers.

Click [here](#) to place your order.

Click on the video below to see how two teachers used grant money they received from the Foundation to help enhance learning in their classrooms this school year.





[Legacy Brick Order Website](#)

[Grant Testimonials](#)

Noteworthy



Soccer Sportsmanship Award

Congratulations to the boys soccer team. The team recently received the United Soccer Coaches Association's Team Ethics and Sportsmanship Bronze Award. The team received the award for receiving no red cards during the season and receiving fewer than one yellow card for every two games played. The team is one of just 135 teams nationwide to receive the award.



Softball Academic All-State

Congratulations to the 2022 Varsity Tiger Softball team. The fifteen member Varsity squad this year carried a 3.30 cumulative GPA and earned a distinguished award as an Academic All State Team. This was the first time since 2018 that the Tiger Softball team earned the award. The Coaches Association also honors individuals who earned a 3.70 or higher GPA for the first semester. This year, Lexi Gauch (#21 - front row right), Mady Geiler (#1 - front row 2nd from right), Paige Pikey (#25 - back middle) and Miranda Machalek (#5 - front row left) earned the award as Academic All State for having a GPA of 3.70 or higher. Congratulations to these four student-athletes. The Missouri High School Fastpitch Coaches' Association sponsors the Academic All State individual and team honors.



2022 Wonder Woman Tournament

Weight Class
125



I have three special guests joining me to close out our monthly newsletter. Each month for the remainder of the school year I will be interviewing seniors (who have volunteered) to be in the Senior Spotlight! Today I have Madelyn Napier, Karleigh Bayer, and Wyatt Huskey.

Senior Spotlight



Senior Spotlight

Email Me

