

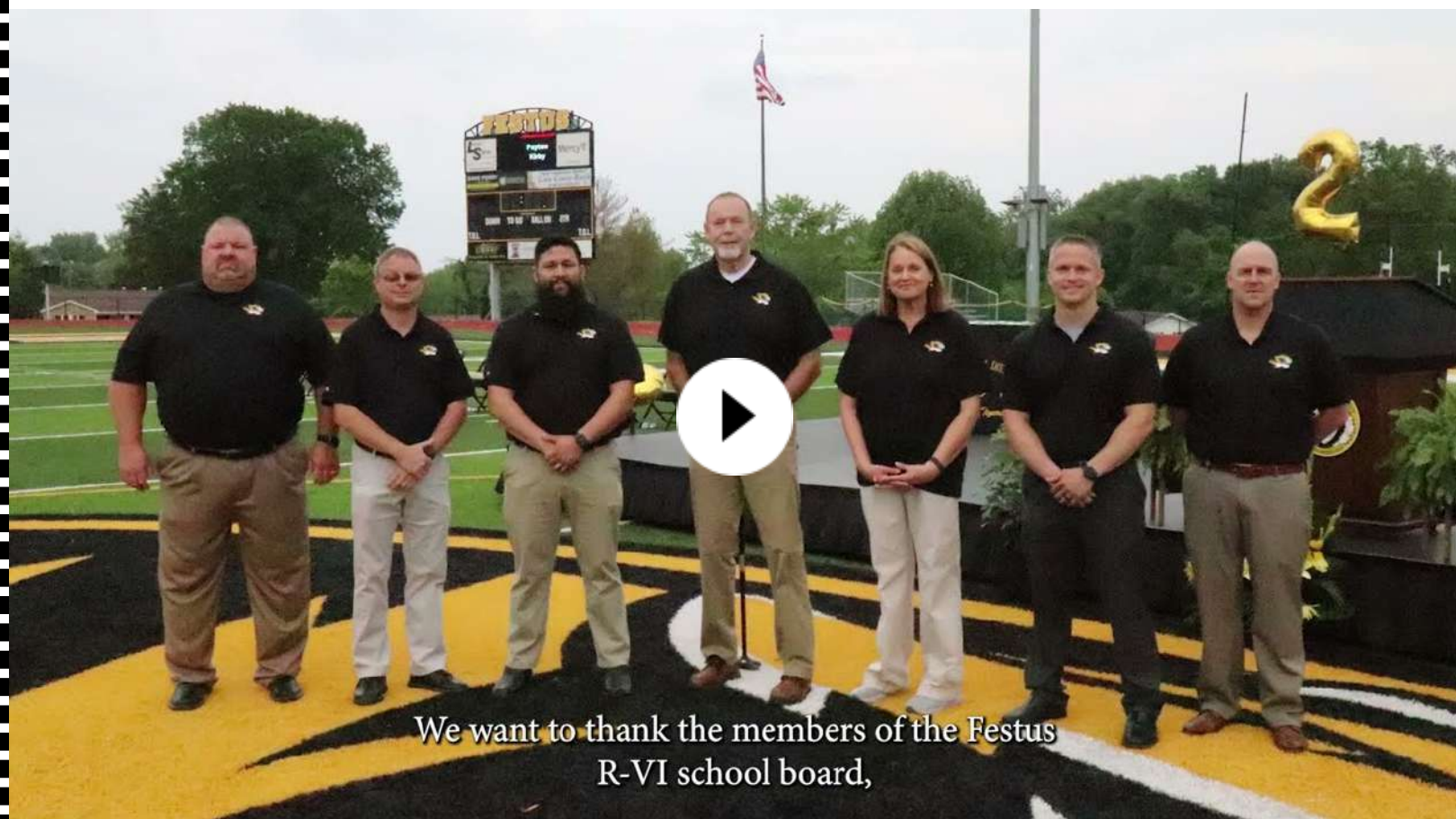
Ruess Roundup



from Superintendent Dr. Nicki Ruess

Board Appreciation

March is School Board Appreciation Month and Festus R-VI would like to thank our School Board for their leadership, guidance and many hours they volunteer their time looking out for the best interest of our school district.



We want to thank the members of the Festus
R-VI school board,

School Year

4th quarter has started and today is the 127th school day (out of 171 student attendance days.. 74% 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). Let's hope warmer weather continues to be in our future. This puts our last day on Thursday, May 25th with a required teacher work day on Friday, May 26th. (our original last day was Friday May 19th).

Friday, April 7th and Monday, April 10th there will be No School and school will resume a regular schedule on Tuesday, April 11th 2023.



APR (Annual Performance Report)

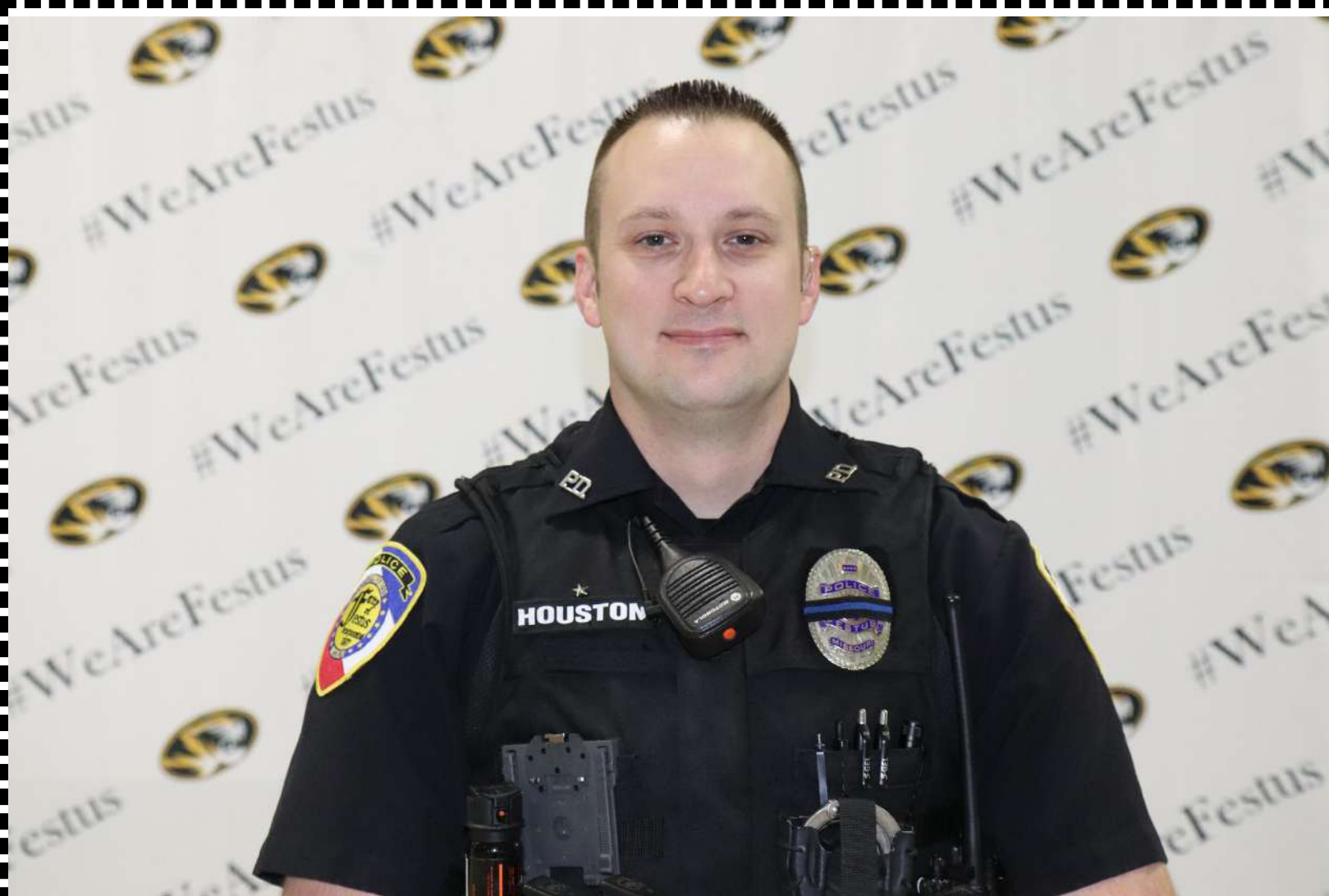
As mentioned in last month's edition of Tuesday Topics, DESE has released our Annual Performance Report (APR). Festus R-VI continues to excel and scored a 90.2% in the Annual Performance Report (APR) released by DESE. That is among the top 10% of all public and charter schools in the state of Missouri. This is the first year of the new statewide school improvement plan called MSIP 6. Scores released publicly were based on state assessment tests taken in the spring of 2022. For various reasons, this is the first APR score schools have received since 2018. However, because the 2023 scores are based on different criteria, it is not possible to accurately or fairly compare the 2023 score to the score received in 2018. DESE awarded points based on different criteria: test scores, student growth, student readiness for college or the workforce, student attendance, graduation rate, the presence of a student academic plan, and the presence of a comprehensive school improvement plan among others. The Festus R-VI School District received 162.4 out of a possible 180 points, or 90.2%. The continued strong performance is a result of HARD WORK put forth daily by our teachers and each of you on behalf of students.

A photograph of a green chalkboard with the words "SAFETY FIRST!" written in large, white, hand-drawn capital letters. A hand is visible on the right side, holding a piece of white chalk and finishing the exclamation mark.

SAFETY FIRST!

School Safety

School Safety continues to be a top priority. Over the past few months several meetings, training and purchases have been made to continue to enhance safety measures across the district. I am thankful for our positive partnership with the Festus Police Department. Through that partnership, Festus R-VI has been able to sustain 4 SROs that are designated specifically to our school district. Physical facility security enhancements will continue during the summer months. If you have thoughts or ideas about this focused effort please reach out to me.



New SRO

Beginning April 10th, 2023 we will welcome a new SRO to the District. Officer Andrew Houston will be joining us. He will begin on April 10th and work as the Intermediate SRO for the remainder of the school year.

As we do each year, at the end of the school year, 2 of the SROs will return to the road and work for the city as police officers during the summer months. However, once school resumes in August, all 4 SROs will return to us.

Officer Richard Placke - HS SRO

Officer Jaymes Brookshire - MS SRO

Officer Andrew Houston - INT SRO

Corporal Mike Cavaness - ELEM SRO



New HS Assistant Principal & District Athletic/Activities Director

Congratulations to Mr. Jason Therrell. On Thursday night, the Board of Education named him the new high school assistant principal and District athletics/activities director. He will replace Mr. Eric Allen, who is retiring at the end of the school year. Mr. Therrell has been a teacher in the District for 17 years and the head boys basketball coach for the past 7 years.



Classroom Expansion

The classroom expansion committee met Thursday March 2nd to discuss final plans for design of the 6th grade wing. The food service, administration and architects met Monday, March 20th to discuss expansion of the cafeteria, equipment needs and multi purpose areas. I am hopeful that in the next couple weeks the design plans should be complete and we will begin to move forward with securing bids for the project. It is an exciting time to be a Tiger! MANY great things are happening across the district.



Jeffco Shop With A Cop

Jeffco Shop with a Cop program continues to support underprivileged students in our area. This last year the organization raised enough money to provide a shopping experience for 550 children. Each child received a \$125 gift card, visited with Santa and had a great time shopping alongside first responders that came from 27 different Jefferson County first responder agencies (Police, Fire, EMS, Dispatch, etc). We are blessed to be a part of a community that cares so deeply about improving the lives of children in our area. I would encourage you to participate in their many fundraisers throughout the year and support their efforts. If you would like more information on how to help contact them on [Facebook @Jeffco-Shop With A Cop](#)

[Jeffco Shop With A Cop Facebook Page](#)



Hall of Fame and Distinguished Service Award

Nominations are being accepted for the Festus R-VI Hall of Fame and the newly announced Distinguished Service Award. To be eligible for the Hall of Fame, nominees must be a graduate of Festus High School or Douglass Cooperative School, and must have distinguished themselves in the areas of Leadership, Character, Achievement,

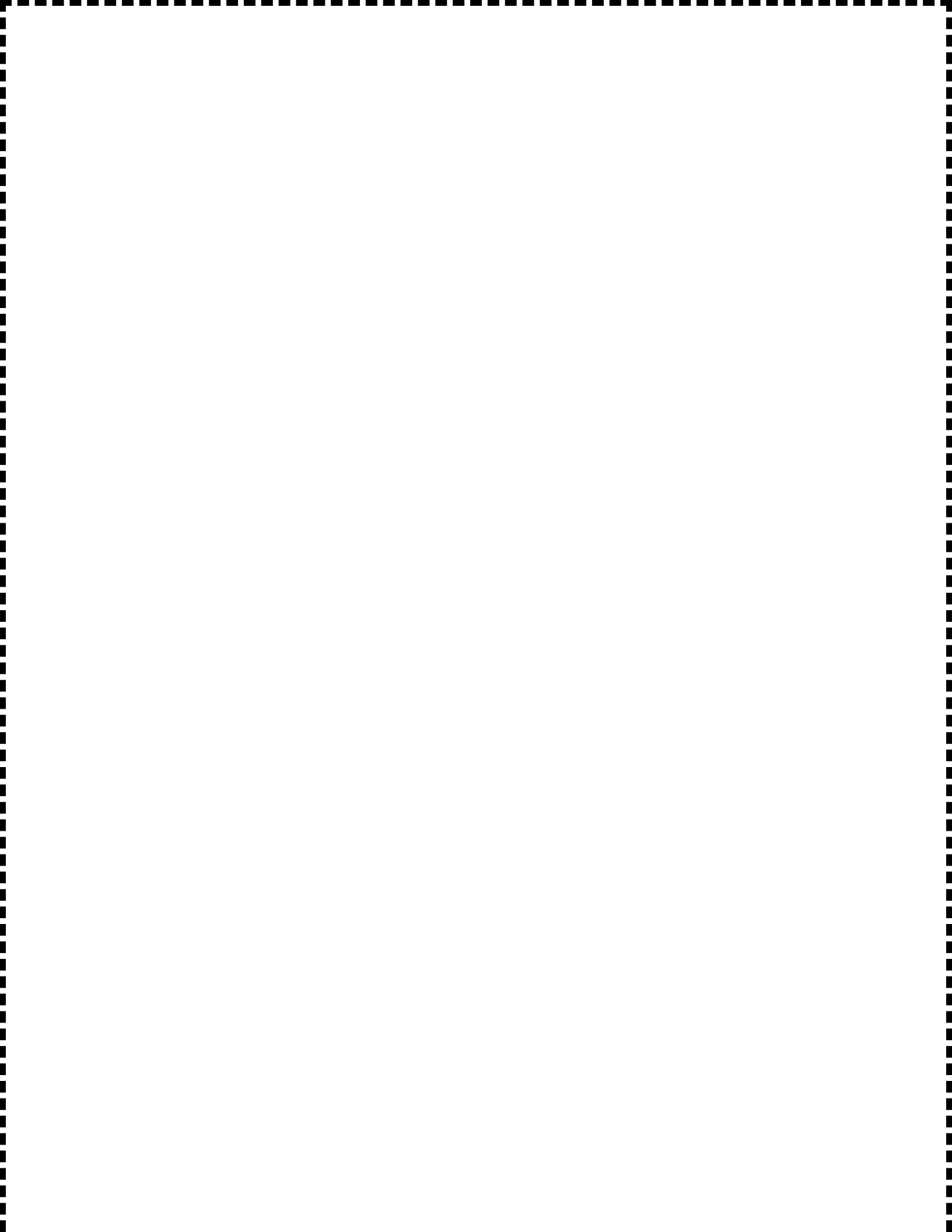
Service, Suitability as a Role-Model, and/or Contributions to Society as a Whole. You can [click here](#) to nominate someone for the Hall of Fame.

The newly announced Distinguished Service Award is for anyone former employee who was with the District for at least 15 years and has been away from the District for at least one year. That person must have made a significant contribution to student success. This is a Hall of Fame level award. You can [click here](#) to nominate someone for the Distinguished Service Award.

[Hall of Fame Nomination Form](#)

Distinguished Service Award





FESTUS HIGH SCHOOL THEATER
PRESENTS:

ANYTHING GOES



March 23-25

7 pm

March 26-2 pm

Tickets \$5

**Doors Open 1 hr Prior
to Showtime**

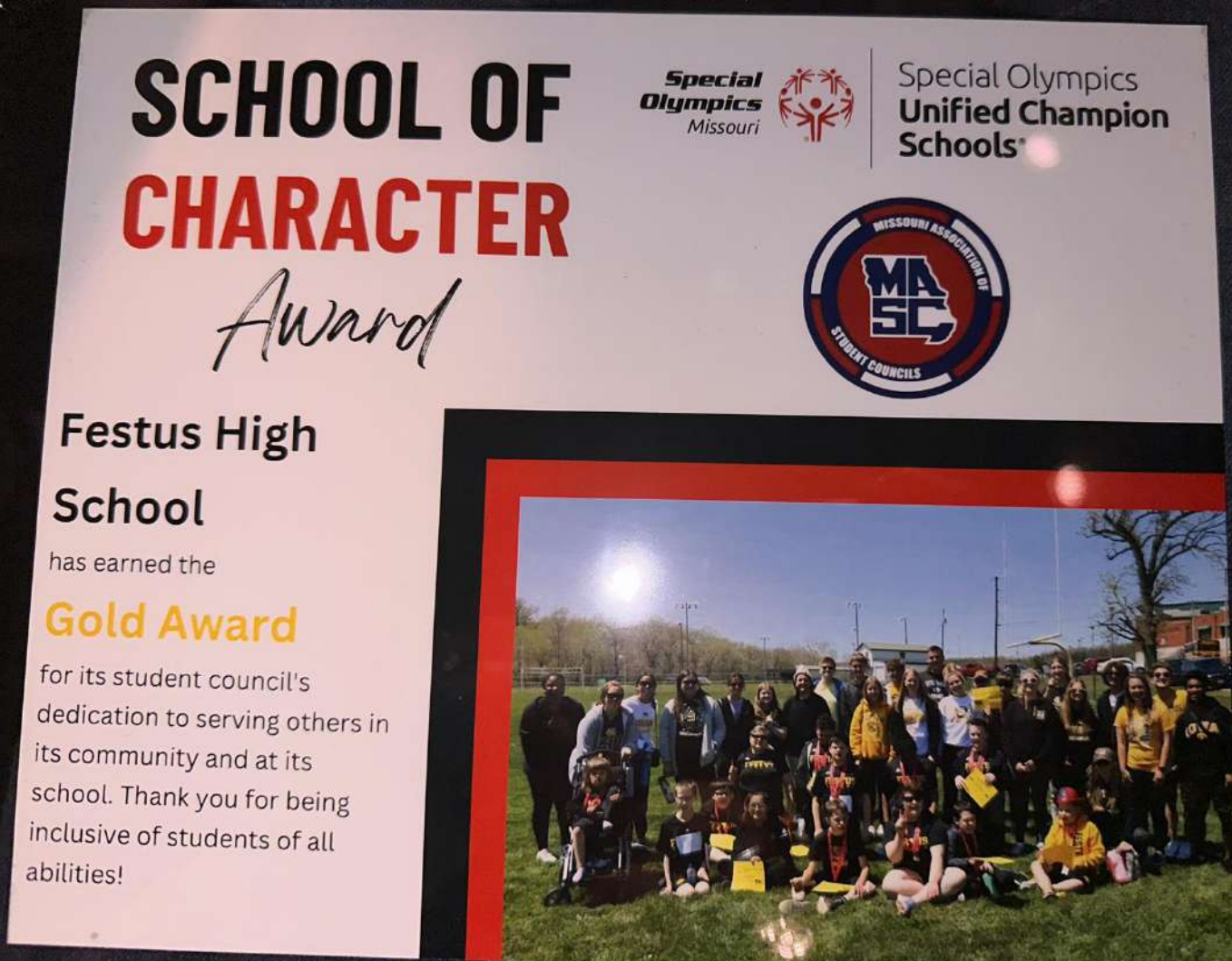
High School Musical

The high school theater department presents "Anything Goes" at the Festus R-VI Performing Arts Center beginning this Thursday night at 7pm. With other performances on Friday and Saturday nights at 7pm. There will be a Sunday matinee at 2pm. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

Music and Lyrics by Cole Porter
Original Book by P.G. Wodehouse & Guy Bolton and Howard Lindsay & Russel Crouse
New Book by Timothy Crouse & John Weidman

Noteworthy

High School Student Council Awards



The Festus High School Student Council and some of its members received awards at the state convention in Jefferson City this past weekend. The council was just one of 57 student councils statewide to receive the Honor Council Gold Award. The council was recognized for its involvement at the local level, involvement in the Southeast District Student Council, and involvement at the state level. The Council was also named a School of Character Gold Award winner for its participation in the Special Olympics Play Unified program. Three students, Zach Beers, Peyton Besore, and Madison Griffin, earned the Distinguished Leader Award, which is the highest honor a student council member can earn their senior year. Junior Ava Beers was one of the first recipients of the Terri Johnson Award, which is a scholarship to a summer leadership camp, named after the retiring director of the Missouri Association of Student Councils.



Senior Josh Spindler has been selected for the 2023 Missouri Scholars 100. This is a statewide honor that recognizes 100 of the top academic students in the state from the class of 2023. Just to be nominated, students must meet the criteria the "Academic Decathlon." That is made up of ten "events" that are designed to prove the student's academic strength. Those "events are: a minimum GPA of 3.750, ACT score of 29 or better or an SAT score of 1250 or better, be in the top 10% of their graduating class, take high level courses in math, science, English and a foreign language. The student must also have excellent attendance, be an exemplary school citizen and take part in the school activity program.

Missouri Scholars Academy



Freshman Wyatt Johnson has been accepted to the **2023 Missouri Scholars Academy at the University of Missouri-Columbia**. The Missouri Scholars Academy is a three-week summer academic program held on the campus of the University of Missouri-Columbia. Wyatt was selected based on his GPA, standardized test scores, IQ, recommendations, and formal essays.

Middle School Tournament of U.S. History



Rylee Lawrence and Hailey Head were the finalists in this year's 8th Grade Tournament of U.S. History. They faced-off at the Performing Arts Center on Friday. They were debating which historical figure born between 1492 and 1877 had the most significant impact on American history today. Rylee advocated for civil rights leader Ida B. Wells. Hailey advocated for Orville Wright. After a 30 minute debate, the judges determined Rylee won the debate. She got a big trophy and a \$100 gift card.

2023 Superhero Nominee

Congrats to 2023 Back-to-School Superhero Finalist Mrs. Michelle Niehaus!

Mrs. Michelle Niehaus

19 Years as an Educator

Current Position:

Kindergarten Teacher, Festus Elementary,
Festus R6 District

Mrs. Niehaus was nominated by the parent of one of her students who said:

"Mrs. Niehaus is always a positive role model to her students (one of which is my daughter) and when I sub at school, she is always working on making the best possible learning experience for her students."



Best Part of Your Job:

The best part is the kids! I love the excitement they have about learning new things, the stories they tell, the Aha! moments, the celebrations, etc... Every day brings something new.



VOTING ENDS THURSDAY, MARCH 30

Kindergarten teacher Mrs. Michelle Niehaus is one of four finalists for Disability Resource Association's Back to School Superhero Award. The winner will receive \$250 for themselves and \$500 for their school. You can vote for Mrs. Niehaus [here](#).

[2023 Back-to-School Superhero Vote](#)

Senior Spotlight

I have a couple of special guests joining me today 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

Senior Spotlight

Mitchell Thompson
LeeAnn Dobbs



Senior Spotlight

Email Me

