

# Ruess Roundup



from Superintendent Dr. Nicki Ruess

In today's newsletter:

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Only **11 more school days until Thanksgiving!**

This time of year reminds us all of the many things for which we are grateful and allows us to be very intentional in sharing our gratitude with others. Like each of you, I look forward to taking time to reflect and create the long list of things for which I am grateful. I indeed have a long list of things for which I am very grateful for, some of those include: being an educator and getting the opportunity to do something I truly love each and every day, being a part of the Festus R-VI School community, the tremendous support received from our Board of Education, our School Families and Community Members, the opportunity to work closely with Outstanding Employees who work collaboratively to serve and lead our mission aimed at preparing **ALL** Students for Success. I truly am grateful.

I hope each of you have a wonderful Thanksgiving and that you each have a long list of things for which you are grateful. Enjoy the beginning of this 2022 holiday season.

I hope you have time during the upcoming holiday season to relax and enjoy time with family and friends.



# HAPPY THANKSGIVING

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**Tomorrow is the 54th school day** (out of 171 student attendance days) and the **16th day of the 2nd quarter**. School will **NOT** be in session **Wednesday, November 23rd through Friday, November 25th, 2022**. The R-VI District will resume a regular schedule on Monday, November 28th, 2022.

Mark your calendars: the final attendance day of Second Semester is slated for **Wednesday, December 21, 2022**. This day will be an Early Dismissal with a Regular Start Time. **Thus, that particular Wednesday will NOT be a late-start.**

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## **Facilities**

Conversations surrounding the Classroom Expansion across the district have continued. The Design Phase of the project will continue October - March 2023 with construction (tentatively) beginning in April 2023. Plans will move forward and small group meetings will begin at the end of November.

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A close-up photograph of a hand holding a piece of white chalk, writing the words "SAFETY FIRST!" in large, bold, capital letters on a green chalkboard. The chalk is in the process of finishing the exclamation mark at the end of "FIRST!". The background is a solid green chalkboard surface.

### **School Safety**

It is such a terrible tragedy and so very sad that we live in a society where we have to be mindful daily of the possibility of someone trying to harm children. It absolutely breaks my heart. However, it is our current reality and I want to assure you it is a top priority of mine.

Over the years the Festus School Board has committed and allocated funds to enhance safety and security measures across the district (upgrade to double door entryway vestibules at each attendance center, keyless access at all entryways so all doors remain locked at all times, upgrade of all interior doors in every building to have locking mechanisms and teachers are trained to keep their interior doors locked, changes to drop off and dismissal procedures so that people are not randomly entering the buildings,.... just to name a few enhancements off the top of my head) In my opinion one of the most important additions was supported by our community in 2019 when we were able to hire 4 SROs. There is a designated SRO housed at each building each day. I am forever grateful to our community for voting to allow this addition. Our SROs are not only on campus for security but they are able to build relationships with our students and families. Due to those relationships we often receive information that allows us to be proactive instead of reactive in situations. I meet with the SROs monthly (and more frequently if needed) to discuss procedures, plans and updates that need to be made. I tell the SROs all the time a quote I learned from my husband that people do not "rise to the occasion" they "fall to the level of training" so it is very important to me and imperative that we continue to offer training to our SROs, our teachers/staff, and our students about what to do in these circumstances.

The safety of the students and staff in our school buildings is our top priority. To this end, we continue to invest time and resources to ensure that our schools are as safe as they can be. Strong relationships with students and families are key to open lines of communication. However, we fully realize that all of the systems and measures we can incorporate into our practices and buildings do not make us invincible. It is unfortunate and unfair that we live in a time where we must be ever mindful of these types of horrific events. I continue to strive to strengthen our processes and procedures around school safety.

Please always remind students that if they see something suspicious or something that should not be at school, report it to a trusted adult, like a teacher, counselor, or principal, and, especially if it is outside of school hours, to local law enforcement.



Additionally, the Missouri Highway Patrol maintains the Courage 2 Report hotline to be used by anyone wishing to report issues concerning safety or security. Calls to the Courage 2 Report are anonymous, though callers may leave information that would allow a return contact to be made. The phone number for Courage 2 Report is 1 (866) 748-7047

Festus R-VI will continue to work together to ensure that our schools are as safe as they can be. Our deepest sympathies to the Central Visual and Performing Arts High School and the entire St. Louis Public School system.



### **Veterans Day**

On Veterans Day, Friday, November 11, the Festus R-VI School District will host a parade for any veteran wishing to participate. The parade will begin in the parking lot behind the Intermediate School and will proceed along the traditional homecoming parade route through campus and down Main Street. The parade will begin at 11:30, with line-up beginning at 10:30. Any veteran wishing to participate is asked to call the Middle School at 636-937-2035.



# **Festus R-VI Hall of Fame**

## **30th Anniversary & Relocation Celebration**

You are invited to a 30th anniversary celebration and  
unveiling of the new Hall of Fame location in the Festus  
R-VI Performing Arts Center

**Thursday, November 10**

**7pm**

**Festus R-VI  
Performing Arts Center**



### **Hall of Fame Celebration**

You are invited to a Festus R-VI Hall of Fame 30th Anniversary Celebration. It is being held Thursday, November 10 at 7pm in the Performing Arts Center. Some Hall of Fame members and their families will be at the celebration. The District will also be celebrating the relocation of the Hall of Fame from the high school to a more publicly visible location in the Performing Arts Center. A new interactive Hall of Fame will also make its debut. Please join us at 7pm on Thursday.

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[www.reallygreatsite.com](http://www.reallygreatsite.com)

### Communications Survey

In an effort to communicate with all patrons of the Festus R-VI School District, the District is currently undergoing a communications audit. That audit takes a look at all ways the District uses to communicate with staff, parents, and the community at large. If you haven't done so already, please take a few minutes to complete [the communications survey](#), which is part of the audit. It will take you about 10 minutes to complete, but the feedback you provide will be valuable in making our District and school communication more efficient.

[Communications Survey](#)





### **Distinguished Service Award**

Nominations are now open for the Distinguished Service Award in the Festus R-VI School District. Do you know a former Festus R-VI employee who had a significant impact on student success? The R-VI Board of Education wants to recognize their contributions. You can nominate an individual to receive this award. There are just a few requirements:

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

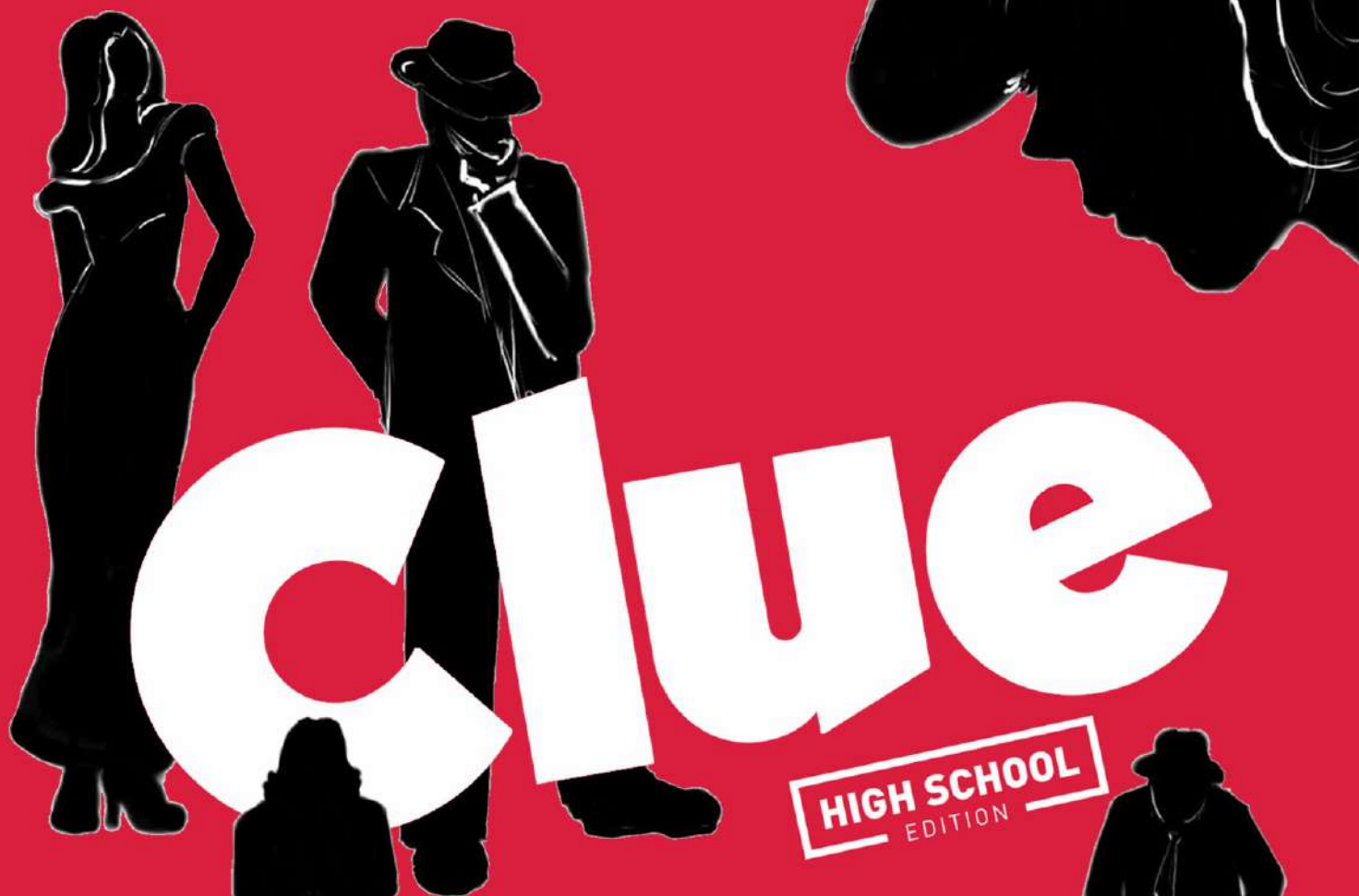
Nominations will require two nomination letters, one from a former colleague and the other from a former student/parent. The person submitting the nomination can submit one of the letters. After compiling the nominations, the committee will evaluate the nominations and select an individual to receive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



nominate an individual, you can [click here](#) to submit an electronic nomination, or you can pick up paper copies from the Central Office in the Roy Burnside Administration Building.

Distinguished Service Award Nomination Form

FESTUS HIGH SCHOOL  
THEATER PRESENTS:



# Clue

HIGH SCHOOL  
EDITION

Thursday-Sat  
November 17, 18, & 19  
7:30 PM

FHS Performing  
Arts Center  
501 Westwind Drive

Tickets



TICKETS

\$5

Produced by Special Arrangement with Playscripts, Inc  
(www.playscripts.com)

### Clue

The Festus High School Drama Department's first production of the year is quickly approaching. "Clue" hits the stage on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, November 17-19 at 7:30pm in the Performing Arts Center. Students have been working hard preparing for months.

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### Inclement Weather

Thankfully we have had recent beautiful fall temperatures, BUT since it is November, the threat of inclement weather is always a possibility. Know that for the 2022-23 school year, the first four (4) school days that are cancelled due to weather/emergency conditions will be traditional snow days and those missed days will be added to the end of our school year calendar. Any day missed above those 4 will be designated as an Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI) day whereby students will have a virtual learning day. Individual teachers and building principals will (if they have not already) be sending more specific plans in the event we use an AMI Day. 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 cancelled.

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### Noteworthy

#### All-District/All-Conference Recognition

Congratulations to Festus students who are earning all-district and all-conference recognition in sports and fine arts.



# 2022 All-District Band



Sara Clonts  
oboe



MacKenzie Fish  
clarinet



Crystal Nguyen  
clarinet



Anna Muellersman  
clarinet



Abie Luo  
clarinet



Elijah Katinsky  
base clarinet (alt.)



Wyatt Johnson  
trombone (alt.)



Connor Raebel  
tenor sax 1 in Jazz 2



Addison Smith  
bass alt. for Jazz 2





**Macie Drury**  
**Alto**



**Maddy Griffin**  
**Alto**



**Saigel Mickan**  
**Alto**



**Sara Clonts**  
**Soprano**



**Annabelle  
Whitener**  
**Alto**





**Austin Johnson**  
**Bass**



**Bryson Rhine**  
**Bass**



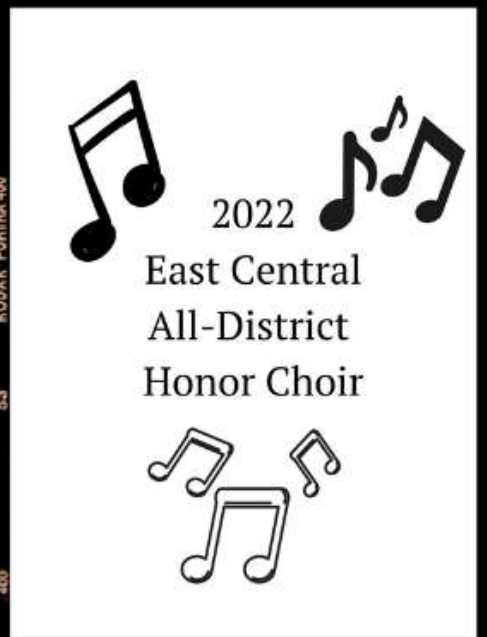
**Connor Zustiak**  
**Tenor**



**Wyatt Carter**  
**Bass**



**Alex Kester**  
**Bass**





# Jefferson County Activities Association

## Volleyball All-Conference Selections





# All-District Volleyball Selections



**Gabbi Burkard**  
**1st Team**



**Claire Martin**  
**2nd Team**



**Delaney Willis**  
**2nd Team**





# Jefferson County Activities Association All-Conference Softball Members



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## Veterans Day Poetry Contest Winner

Congratulations to Katherine Carr, winner of the Festus Middle School's Veterans Day Poetry Contest



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### **Elementary Cafe Cart**

Mrs. Pullins and her students opened the Tiger Cafe cart for the first time this school year. She and her students made and delivered coffee, hot chocolate, a special witches brew punch to elementary staff who placed an order. They also delivered homemade cupcakes. This helps the students learn to follow directions, talk on the phone, interact with people and make change. It was a huge success





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### Intermediate School Donation

Intermediate School students raised more than \$528 for the Wounded Warrior Project. The students paid \$1 each day to wear pajamas or hats to school on October 31 and November 4.

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## Legacy Bricks

The Festus R-VI School Foundation still has bricks available to purchase to be placed at Legacy Circle at Tiger Stadium. These bricks are a great way to honor a loved one, friend, colleague or former classmate. And they make great holiday gifts. They cost \$100 each. The proceeds go to the Festus R-VI School Foundation which in turn provides grants to teachers to help enhance learning in the classroom. In the past three years, the Foundation has provided grants to teachers totaling nearly \$35,000. [To order a brick \(or 2\) click here.](#)

[Legacy Brick Order Form](#)

## Senior Spotlight

Lexi Flotron & Tate Riney

Senior



# Spotlight



Email Me

Website

