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People frequently tell me they would not want to be in my shoes, referring to the responsibilities that come with running a school district during a pandemic. On some days, I must admit that I don’t want to be in my shoes either. The task of meeting the needs of our students in this foreign environment is not unlike our first year teaching all over again. Make no mistake, it is really hard!

The truth is, however, COVID-19 has been hard on all of us. Everyone’s life has changed significantly and most of our jobs are very different too. As we keep pushing forward, there are many bright spots that deserve recognition.

First, at the time of this writing only about 1% of our school community has contracted the virus. That number will continue to rise just like more and more people have had the virus in our communities. What really impresses me, however, is only one of those roughly 32 people can trace their exposure directly back to our school community. That means that people in our school community are catching the virus, albeit at a low rate of transmission, but they are not catching it and spreading it at school. This is indicative of the exemplary job of our staff for implementing our safety protocols and our students for working hard to comply with those protocols.

The school district continues to work closely with the Clay County Public Health Center as we evaluate opportunities to bring our students back full time. The community wide COVID data at this time does not justify making significant changes to our hybrid schedule for secondary students but we look at this data daily and will move towards 100% in-person instruction as quickly as possible!

Thank you for doing your part in wearing your masks, washing your hands, and keeping your distance!

Sincerely,

Todd Schuetz, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
HOMECOMING 2020

The pandemic has cancelled many events for our students and community, but SHS STUCO was not going to allow it to cancel Smithville's longest living tradition; Homecoming. Although many of the events looked a little different compared to years past, the spirit was all the same.

Friday festivities kicked off with a parade through town which included the Grand Marshall, Steve Tingler, Homecoming King and Queen Candidates, and a special escort by the Smithville Police Department.

The Court Parade made its way back to campus where students from Smithville High School joined for a traditional, but socially distanced, pep rally at the stadium. During the rally, Senior Javi Salinas was crowned 2020 Homecoming King.

Shortly after, a “reverse” Homecoming Parade took place on the main campus of Smithville School District. Welcoming community members to drive through while traditional floats were stationary.

The day wrapped up with Smithville Football beating Louisburg (KS) 35-7. During halftime, Senior Grace Albright was named 2020 Homecoming Queen.

Prior to the 2020 Homecoming Football Game, Cheryl Taylor and Mark Littrell joined the ranks as the eighth group of inductees in Smithville Schools Distinguished Alumni Wall of Fame.

Smithville Schools Wall of Fame honors some of the district’s most outstanding graduates who have distinguished themselves and contributed to society in an exemplary fashion. Their success serves as motivation and inspiration to all associated with the Smithville School District.
COVID-19 DASHBOARD

located at SmithvilleSchoolDistrict.net/CovidDashboard

Stay updated on how SSD is navigating education during the pandemic.

Smithville School District has created plans to address the myriad of issues associated with COVID-19. Working in collaboration with medical professionals, public health agencies, parents, teachers, and support staff to ensure the health and well-being of our students and staff. Due to the everchanging nature of the pandemic, the information may change frequently.

The COVID Dashboard is home to the most up-to-date plans and COVID-19 related data that is collected from around our district. COVID-19 related data is updated every Wednesday. To view the COVID-19 Dashboard, visit www.smithvilleschooldistrict.net/coviddashboard.

smithvilleschooldistrict.net/CovidDashboard
2019-2020 Special Services

ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

The Special Services Advocate of the Year award was first presented in August 1997. It has become a tradition of reflection and recognition of the efforts and accomplishments of dedicated individuals in our school and community. The intent of this award is to recognize annually an individual who has demonstrated a commitment to special services students or programs in the Smithville School District.

This year’s Advocate of the Year is **Mr. Luke Temperelli** from Smithville Middle School. Thank you from Smithville School District for all that you do!

FREE MEALS FOR KIDS

FOR ENTIRE SCHOOL YEAR.

**On October 9, 2020,** U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced today that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is extending flexibilities to allow free meals to continue to be available to all children throughout the entire 2020-2021 school year. This unprecedented move is part of USDA’s unwavering commitment to ensuring all children across America have access to nutritious food as the nation recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.

“As our nation recovers and reopens, we want to ensure that children continue to receive the nutritious breakfasts and lunches they count on during the school year wherever they are, and however they are learning,” said Secretary Perdue. “We are grateful for the heroic efforts by our school food service professionals who are consistently serving healthy meals to kids during these trying times, and we know they need maximum flexibility right now. I appreciate President Trump for his unwavering commitment to ensuring kids receive the food they need during this pandemic and for supporting USDA in continuing to provide these unprecedented flexibilities.”

“These waiver extensions are great news for America’s students and the school nutrition professionals working so hard to support them throughout this pandemic,” said School Nutrition Association President Reggie Ross, SNS. “Families struggling to make ends meet can be assured that their students will have access to healthy school meals, whether they are learning at home or in school. School meal programs can remain focused on safely meeting nutritional needs of children in their communities without having to worry about burdensome regulations. The School Nutrition Association appreciates USDA’s ongoing efforts to address the many challenges our members have faced while working on the frontlines to feed hungry children.”
Parents As Teachers (PAT) is a FREE early childhood family education program to assist and support families in preparing their children for success in school and beyond. All families who are expecting a baby or who have a child aged from birth to 5 years old is welcome to participate. Certified parent educators make personal visits monthly focusing on child development and parent-child interactions. Additionally, educators complete a developmental screening annually.

To enroll in PAT, email grusenmm@smithville.k12.mo.us or call (816) 532-0406.
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AP® SCHOLAR AWARDS
Sixty-two students at Smithville High School have earned AP Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement on AP Exams during the 2019-2020 school year.

The College Board’s Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) provides academically prepared students with the opportunity to take rigorous college-level courses while still in high school, and to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams. About 22 percent of the 2.2 million students worldwide who took AP Exams performed at a sufficiently high level to also earn an AP Scholar Award.

Joshua Grandstaff has been awarded the AP International Diploma Award. Joshua is the first Smithville High School student to earn this award. The AP International Diploma designation is given to students who meet the following criteria:

- Students must score a 3 or higher on 5 or more AP Exams, in the following content areas:
- Any two eligible AP world language or English exams, if the exams are across two different languages.
- One AP Exam offering a global perspective
- One AP Exam from either the sciences or math and computer science
- One additional AP Exam

Jonah Palmer earned the AP Capstone Diploma. The AP Capstone Diploma is granted to students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on 4 additional AP Exams of their choosing.

Noah Cline, Joshua Grandstaff and Alexander Sharkey are recognized for earning the National AP Scholar Award which is given to students in the United States who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.

Thirteen current students and recent graduates qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

Twelve current students and recent graduates qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

Thirty-seven current students and recent graduates qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Exams with scores of 3 or higher.
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