

Community Education Courses CASS CAREER CENTER Spring 2022



Harrisonville Schools
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HARRISONVILLE *Highlights*

A Harrisonville Schools Publication
Winter 2021/22

Phase 1 bond projects complete, phase 2 underway

As the 2021-22 school year began in August, the bond projects that were part of Phase 1 were essentially complete and as the semester continued, the finishing touches were done.

During Phase 1, the main focus was on safety and security.

Secure entrances were added at Harrisonville Early Childhood Center, Harrisonville Elementary School and Cass Career Center. All visitors now pass through a foyer and office area prior to entering any hallway at any of these schools.

At ECC and HMS, the parking lots, bus loop and playground area were reconfigured for safety and efficiency. There are now two separate loops for cars and buses and more parking for events. The bus lane no longer runs through the middle of the playground.

All three elementary schools are getting new playgrounds as part of the bond projects. The ECC playground was completed in September and includes a forest theme. The HES playground was completed in early November with a sky/air



theme. The playground at McEowen is now underway. All three playgrounds include a pour-in-place surface which provides a shock absorbing rubber base. This surface is safer, more durable, and improves accessibility.

With the addition of the secure entry at ECC, the office area was expanded to include a reception area, conference room, expanded nurses office and workroom, and atrium. The outside of the building got a modern facelift with a canopy

to protect students and staff from the weather.

Cass Career Center has undergone the biggest renovation. Improvements at CCC include a renovated welding shop with improved ventilation and new welding booths, renovated fire science classroom and a new fire science shop, and renovated ag shop with new welding booths.

Additionally, the school has a new Practical Nursing wing and
(Continued on Page 12)

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Grades 9-Post-Secondary
Dr. Anne Hickman, Director - ext. 7222

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601 S. Highland • 380-7654
Grades 6-8
Chris Grantham, Principal - ext. 5222

McEowen Elementary School
1901 S. Halsey • 380-4545
Grades 4-5
Beth Love, Principal - ext. 4222

Harrisonville Elementary School
101 Meghan Drive • 380-4131
Grades 1-3
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Early Childhood Center
500 Polar Lane • 380-4421
Grades Preschool - Kindergarten
Becky Campbell, Principal - ext. 2222



HARRISONVILLE *Highlights*

From the Desk of the Superintendent

Focus on hope, building a stronger school district, community

Dear Wildcat Family,

“Hope springs eternal” is a proverbial statement penned by Alexander Hope in “An Essay on Man” around 1732. I believe we are all currently holding fast to this proverb. Through the pandemic, we have experienced a roller coaster of emotions, from trepidation over what the future held, to exhaustion over what we have experienced. As we are currently in the exhaustion phase of the response to COVID, I wish to take this opportunity to discuss hope.

I believe it is a fair statement to say we have all been confused and bewildered by the varying responses to this worldwide pandemic. However, the chaos and frustration has boiled over to a point that it has become detrimental to our school, which in turn becomes detrimental

to our community. One of my charges as Superintendent of the Harrisonville School District is to make every reasonable effort to protect the integrity and promote the positive image of the district. Four years ago, my family and I moved to the great community of Harrisonville because I could see greatness. Together we worked to pass a levy which increased staff salaries so that we could attract the highest quality teachers. Also, together we passed a bond to create safer schools with updated facilities.

Today I urge you, the individual patrons of Harrisonville, to come together once again. I urge you to build up our community by speaking and acting positively for the good of all. As we celebrate Christmas and the holiday season, it is a time to reflect not only on hope but a

season of peace. I am grateful that we have a great relationship with our city and county officials and that we are working together to improve life here for our sons and daughters. We all want Harrisonville to be a successful, desirable community for new families.

I recently had a very positive conversation with a gentleman who disagrees vehemently with the district on one issue. Although he disagreed, he was respectful and was quick to point out the many things which we do agree on. We engaged in a very civil conversation which concluded with an agreement to disagree. We did not pigeonhole or label each other into one “side” or another. It was truly one of the most refreshing conversations I have had in 18 months!

As a school district we are mov-

ing forward to complete our bond projects. We are working diligently to align our curriculum resources and practices to improve student achievement and instruction. We have partnered with the Kauffman Foundation and regional schools to define success for graduates so that they are better prepared to enter the workforce and contribute positively to society. At the Harrisonville School District, hope springs eternal that we will weather this storm together as we move beyond one issue or another and focus on those things which make us stronger.

We truly want the best for our community because every day is a great day to be a Wildcat!

Sincerely,

Paul Mensching, Superintendent

District begins Real World Learning initiative

Last spring, the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation announced that Harrisonville Schools had been accepted into the third cohort of the Foundation’s Real World Learning program. This program seeks to prepare students for the future by giving them real world exposure and learning opportunities. The goal is for all students across the Kansas City region to graduate with market value assets and a diploma by 2030.

A market value asset is defined as one of the following: work experiences such as internships or client-centered projects, college credits, industry-recognized credentials, or entrepreneurial experiences.

The district currently has several market value asset opportunities in place including industry-rec-

ognized credentials at Cass Career Center and college credit opportunities at Harrisonville High School.

The Kauffman Foundation supports the work to implement Real World Learning through a grant and outlines the steps for districts to take over a three-year implementation period. During the first year, Harrisonville will develop a plan to present to the Kauffman Foundation in March.

Although Real World Learning’s market-value asset work will take place once students reach high school, the skills and career prep will be implemented throughout the students’ education. As part of the planning process, the district will develop a

“Portrait of a Graduate” - the characteristics and qualities of an HHS graduate. This “picture” will guide work at both the elementary and middle school levels to prepare students for their high school market-value asset experiences.

Other area districts involved in the Real World Learning initiative include Belton, Raymore-Peculiar, Kearney, Hickman Mills, and Platte County.



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New CCC program seeks to grow teaching profession

Cass Career Center plans to open a new program for students next fall - Career Pathways for the Teaching Profession. The program proposal was approved by the Harrisonville Schools Board of Education in November.

Cass Career Center Director Dr. Anne Hickman quoted in her proposal to the board said, "Staffing shortages in the teaching profession have consistently been a challenge for a number of years. There is every reason to believe that COVID only exacerbated the problem. The decline impacts all schools but particularly schools with high percentages of students of color, schools with high percentages of students in poverty, and urban and rural remote schools the most. Therefore, it was

decided to start a Career Pathways for the Teaching Profession program at CCC to help combat this growing crisis in Cass County."

The program will be open to high school juniors and seniors and will be a two-year program - Teaching Professions I and Teaching Professions II. During the first year, the school anticipates an enrollment of 24 students between the morning and afternoon sessions.

Teaching Professions I will introduce students to the various roles within the school setting and other education-related careers. Students will explore the history of teaching, teaching practices, various contexts of teaching, and contemporary issues related to education. Teaching Professions II will provide the opportunity

to gain experience in a classroom setting by interning in local Pre K-8 classrooms under the direct supervision of a host teacher.

"A grow-your-own program builds a pipeline of future teachers by initiating, cultivating, and supporting local school students and other individuals to consider the teaching profession. In fact, research indicates that high school students who become first-year teachers are likely to go back to teach in the school they attend," Dr. Hickman noted in her proposal

The new program was made possible through voters' support of the Proposition N bond issue through which new classroom space is being added to the school.

The new program will provide

the opportunity for students to earn high school English and math credit in addition to three hours of teaching course credit per year through the career center's English IV and Math IV programs. Students will also be able to participate in the career and technical student organization, Education Rising.

Dr. Hickman said, "Graduates of the 2023 class could be working in Cass County schools by August of 2023 as paraprofessionals and substitute teachers and be employed by August of 2027 as certified teachers."

High school students will receive additional information on the new program during their enrollment process this spring.

First semester packed with honors, awards, and giving back

- District students, staff and families filled a box truck with donations for the local food pantry in November.
- The Harrisonville Public School Foundation presented more than \$6,000 in classroom grants to teachers this fall.
- Cass Career was awarded the GEER II Equipment and Expansion Funds which is a grant that was established to support career centers across the state. The grant is for \$135,000. The award money will allow the CCC to purchase equipment and perform renovations to multiple high-demand programs. The first purchase was an ambulance for the EMT program.
- The Wildcat soccer team brought home 4th place in State. Three players earned 2nd Team All-State honors - Cort DeVenney, Tucker Lawson, and Travis Eddleman.
- 2021 HHS graduate George Frees won the National FFA Agriscience Plant Systems Proficiency Award at

the National FFA Convention. He also received 2nd Place in the National FFA Agriscience - Plant Fair. His project focused on the effects of gibberellic acid application on sugar cane production for the production of ethanol.

- HHS graduates Brandon Johnson earned a Gold Rating (Top 10 in the nation) for his Turf Grass Management Proficiency project and Trevor Campbell earned a Silver Rating (Top 25 in the nation) with his state winning Ag Mechanics - Repair & Maintenance Ownership Proficiency project.

- HHS junior volleyball player Kennedy Smalley earned Class 4 1st Team All-State honors.

- HHS senior Brooke Hopkins was selected to the 2022 Missouri All-State Choir.

- CCC ag instructor Jason Dieckhoff was recognized with the 2021 National Association of Agriculture Educators Teacher Mentor Award for

Region IV at the NAAE Convention.

- Harrisonville High School tennis players Morgan Evans and Abby Overbay qualified for State as did cross country runners Alex Bartlett and Steven Overbay.

- Two fall sports teams brought home district championships - tennis and soccer. The cross country team earned the conference championship.

- McEwen Elementary School students raised over \$1,000 for St. Jude's Children's Hospital through their Coins for the Cure fundraiser.

- The Wildcat football program was inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame in October. The Wildcat football program also celebrated its 1,000 game in program history on Sept. 24.

- The Royal Regiment Marching Band earned first in class at the Odessa Festival and third in class from Sedalia and hosted a success festival with 15 bands.

- Cass Career Center FFA members Harley Sipple, Emma Fischer, Keigan Rowe and Maecy Claiborne, received their American Degree today at the National Convention.

- The HHS National Honor Society inducted 30 new members - Melaina Beachner, Joey Berg, Lauren Dale, Kate Eickhorst, Sophie Frazier, Karsen Graves, Leah Harris, Trey Hoffman, Brooke Hopkins, Madison Johnson, Mercy Kirkemo, Madison Lalman, Elizabeth Lundeen, Kylie Meeks, Desta Mitchell, Garrett Penterman, Peyton Ritter, Nicholas Saffles, Jenna Schrock, Kadence Schrock, Emma Schroder, Menda Schroeder, Ella Shelton, Kennedy Smalley, Kole Snook, Isabella Tracy, Alexis Walker, Katlyn Walsh, Kale Weber, Katelyn Young.

- HHS junior Luke Burroughs and the Scouts of Troop 3 cleaned and landscaped the HES Outdoor Classroom as his Eagle Scout project.



HARRISONVILLE *Highlights*

Bond projects improve safety, update facilities

(Continued from Page 1)
greenhouse. Both of these projects were completed as part of Phase 1, but were funded through federal and state grants.

The entire building was painted on the inside and outside.

Construction is ongoing at the school on additional classroom space for the agriculture department, a secure student entry on the west side of the building, a new addition

for a future program (see article, page 11), and a carport for the school's emergency vehicles. The road and walking path between HHS and CCC was also redone to improve safety for high school students who take classes at CCC.

Renovations also happened at Harrisonville Middle School during Phase 1 including new hallway collaboration areas, a new makerspace - a room for creativity, construction

and problem solving, renovated office and kitchen area, and expanded cafeteria. Outside, HMS now has a canopy for the bus loop and a terraced lunch/outdoor classroom area outside the cafeteria.

During Phase 1, work was completed to improve the heating/cooling systems at HMS and ECC and as Phase 2 gets underway, additional HVAC work will take place at HHS and McEwen.

Phase 2 also includes a renovated office area and secure entrance at Harrisonville High School. The new office and main entrance will move to the west of the building adjacent to the current Commons Area. This work will begin as school dismisses in May.

The bond projects were made possible by voters' passage of Proposition N - a \$22.7 million bond issue in June 2020.



Above: Harrisonville Early Childhood Center office with mural. Below: Harrisonville Middle School makerspace.



Above: Cass Career Center updated front entrance and exterior. Below: Secure entry at Harrisonville Elementary School.

