



Community Education Courses

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Fall 2023

Harrisonville Schools
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HARRISONVILLE

Highlights

A Harrisonville Schools Publication
Summer 2023

District welcomes new staff for 2023-24 year

As school begins in August, the district will have several new faces.

Dr. Josh Chastain is the new superintendent and Dr. Joe Parkhurst is the new assistant superintendent of operations. Annie Knox moves to assistant superintendent of academic and student services from her role as director of special services.

New teachers to the district include Amy Inderlied, HMS communication arts; Whitney Powers, HHS life skills; Jennie Jaynes, HHS social studies; Brenda Schaefer, HHS business; Peyton Hern, HES 1st grade; Laura Peters, HES 2nd grade; Laney Peeples, HHS art; Leslie Blomquist, HES 1st grade; Leslie Parks, HMS life skills; Chloe Willmeth, ECC kindergarten; Abby Masters-Schlueter, elementary curriculum specialist; Kassidy Hannah, HES 3rd grade; Ikanwie Acha, HMS communication arts; Kim Bales, HHS communication arts; Robin Colburn, HHS FACS/Business Liaison; Amy Kilgore, HMS social studies; Abigail Snyder, CCC agriculture; Carol French-Ward, HES 1st grade; Emily Davis, CCC adult & community education; Ashley Barnes, HES special education; Audrey Mayberry, HMS special education; Sam Crust, HHS math; DeLaina Finley, HHS social



Many of our new teachers enjoyed dinner and a bus tour of the district in late June.

studies; and Lynn Aswegan, CCC practical nursing.

Some of these faces are not completely new to the district as they are Harrisonville High School graduates. Wildcat alumni returning home include Jennie Jaynes, Peyton Hern, Laney Peeples, Kim Bales, Abigail Snyder, Ashley Barnes and Audrey Mayberry. Hern, Peters, and Willmeth completed their student teaching in the district in the spring

and Masters-Schlueter taught at HES for two years. Barnes and Mayberry have also served as paraprofessionals in the district for several years, while Kim Bales previously taught at HMS.

Several teachers will also be in new places including Megan Bathgate, HES art; Amy Wilson, HES Life Skills; Valarie Ellsworth, secondary curriculum specialist; (Continued on page 12)

Administrative Offices
503 S. Lexington
380-2727

Harrisonville High School
1504 E. Elm • 380-3273
Grades 9-12
Mark Rorvig, Principal

Cass Career Center
1600 E. Elm • 380-3253
Grades 9-Post-Secondary
Dr. Anne Hickman, Director

Harrisonville Middle School
601 S. Highland • 380-7654
Grades 6-8
Chris Grantham, Principal

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

Harrisonville Elementary School
101 Meghan Drive • 380-4131
Grades 1-3
Dr. Tricia Falke, Principal

Early Childhood Center
500 Eastwood Road • 380-4421
Grades Preschool - Kindergarten
Becky Campbell, Principal



HARRISONVILLE *Highlights*

From the Desk of Superintendent Josh Chastain, Ed. D.

New superintendent looks forward to growing, excelling together

Wildcat Family -

I hope this letter finds you well and filled with the same excitement and anticipation that I feel as I take on the role of Superintendent of Harrisonville Schools. It is an honor to serve such a dedicated community, and I am thrilled to share my vision for the district's future.

Harrisonville is undeniably a remarkable place to live, and our exceptional school system is at the heart of what makes our community thrive. As we embark on this new chapter together, I envision a district where the school, families, and community work in harmony to support student success and foster a continued sense of pride.

Student Success and Real-World Learning lie at the core of our educational mission. We are committed to equipping our students with the knowledge, skills, and experiences they need to thrive in an ever-changing world. By providing innovative and engaging learning opportunities, we will empower our students to become critical thinkers, problem solvers, and lifelong learners.

Strategic Growth is another key aspect of our vision. As word spreads about the exceptional education provided by our district, more families

will be drawn to our community. We embrace this growth and the opportunities it presents. Through careful planning, collaboration with community stakeholders, and investments in our infrastructure, we will ensure that our district continues to flourish while maintaining the high standards that define us. Our careful planning will continue in the spring as we start our strategic planning process to outline our district goals for the next 4-6 years. This process will involve all members of our community and school district. Together we will plan for our future while honoring our past success.

Community Engagement and Involvement are essential to our success. I have been actively engaged since the board approved my contract, meeting with dedicated staff members, talking with administrators, and participating in a productive board retreat. These interactions have provided valuable insights into the strengths within our district. I am committed to fostering open lines of communication, encouraging active involvement from families and community members, and creating meaningful partnerships that enhance the educational experience of our students.

Lastly, Wildcat Pride and Culture are vital elements of our district's identity. Our strong sense of community and shared values are what set us apart. As we move forward, I aim to celebrate and build upon this unique culture by fostering a climate of collaboration and respect. Together, we will create an environment where every student feels supported, valued, and empowered to reach their full potential.

I am incredibly grateful for the warm welcome I have received thus far, and I am inspired by the dedication and commitment I have witnessed in our staff, administrators, and community members. Building on these foundations, we will strive for

excellence and pursue continuous improvement.

I am excited about the future of Harrisonville Schools and the opportunities that lie ahead. Together, we will nurture a community where every student can thrive, and our district will continue to be a beacon of educational excellence.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and I look forward to working alongside each of you to achieve our shared vision.

Sincerely,

Josh Chastain, Ed.D.

2023-24 School Calendar

July 30-Aug. 6	Fall Sports Dead Week
July 25-Aug. 4	Online Registration for Returning Families
August 17	Meet the Teacher Night
August 21	First Day of School
September 4	No School (Holiday)
September 8	Homecoming
September 18	No School (Staff Collaboration)
October 2	No School (Staff Collaboration)
October 23	No School (Staff Collaboration)
November 1-2	No School - Parent/Teacher Conferences
November 3	No School
Nov. 22-24	No School (Holiday)
December 21	Early Release for Students
Dec. 22-Jan. 2	No School (Winter Break)
January 3	No School (Staff In-Service Day)
January 15	No School (Holiday)
January 29	No School (Staff Collaboration)
February 12	No School (Staff Collaboration)
February 19	No School (Holiday)
March 11	No School (Staff Collaboration)
March 25-29	No School - Spring Break
April 1	No School (Staff Collaboration)
April 15	No School (Staff Collaboration)
May 10	Class of 2024 Graduation
May 16	Last Day of School - Early Release for Students

**Virtual Learning/AMI will be used for the first 5 snow days; additional make-up days would be added to the end of the year





Frees, Wilson, Diehl earn end-of-the-year awards

The Harrisonville School District recognized several year-end award winners in May.

Gifted education teacher Laura Frees was named the Educator of the Year, Harrisonville High School special education teacher Amy Wilson received the district's newest award, Rising Star; and Harrisonville High School registrar Cassie Diehl was recognized as the Support Staff Employee of the Year.



Frees has worked in our district for 22 years. She started as a middle school science teacher for 11 years and has been the district gifted teacher for the last 11 years.

Frees was selected for the honor by a panel of judges from outside the community who interviewed six finalists.

The judges said, "Laura has a depth of experience that sets her apart. She's a 'stand alone' in terms of her department, but she works hard to find ways to be engaged with

the full staff at HMS. She makes herself available both to parents, mentors new teachers, and looks for opportunities to improve, not only her students' learning experience, but her co-workers' job experience and she is the ultimate professional."

The Harrisonville Public School Foundation will provide Frees with a \$500 grant.

The Rising Star Award is a new award which seeks to recognize teachers in their first five years of teaching and who have already dem-

onstrated the ability to have a positive impact on students. Amy Wilson is in her third year of teaching; however she spent five years as a para-professional before that.

Her nomination said, "Amy has done a fabulous job in the Life Skills program at HHS! Since day one of being hired she has worked diligently to better the life skills program not only at HHS but across the district. She has quickly become a resource for fellow colleagues and someone that many fellow educators look up

to. Each year Amy works to better her teaching, instruction and experiences for students and is always looking for feedback, opportunities and strategies on how to better serve her students."

Wilson received a \$100 award from Community Bank of Harrisonville.

The Support Staff Employee of the Year, Cassie Diehl, has worked as the registrar at HHS for five years.

Her nomination said, "Cassie is fierce in her support of the

students. The students know she is there for them and supportive of them. She offers a safe space for many of them. As a co-worker, Cassie has our backs. When we do not know the answer to a question, she is our go-to person. If she does not know the answer, she figures it out. She is a true asset to our school!"

Diehl received a \$100 award from Sherwood Community Bank.

Students end year by giving back, achieving success

The 2022-23 school year came to an end in May. During the final months of the school year, students excelled in the classroom and also within our community and on the state and national stage.

- Over 150 members of the Class of 2023 graduated on May 19 with Kale Weber named Honor Grad and Cort DeVenney and Kendra Riggs named Boy & Girl of the Year. Twenty-one students ended their HHS career with a GPA of 4.0 or higher and the class earned nearly \$1.6 million in scholarships and qualified for more than \$700,000 in A+ funds.

- Incoming seventh grader Mariah Coffey won the Cass County Spelling Bee in March which qualified her to compete at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in May. Coffey traveled to Washington, D.C. to represent

Harrisonville and Cass County.

- Harrisonville High School choir students were selected for summer honor choirs. Those selected 2023 MCDA 9-10 Summer Honor Choir include Ayden Cunningham, Simon Claxton, Zaylee Lindsey, and Izzy Clark. Those selected to the 2023 MCDA All-State Show Choir include Isabella Tracy, Simon Claxton, & Brooke Hopkins. And those selected to the Missouri 7/8 Summer Honor Choir were Ashlynn Adams, Alex Tieman, and Breonna Johnson

- Harrisonville High School musicians who earned a Gold rating at State Music Contest included Kayla Mason, flute; Jozie Tindle, bassoon; and Olivia Dyer, trumpet and Simon Claxton, Mason, Brooke Hopkins, and Kenny Barnard, vocal solos.

- In track, incoming junior Kayleigh Norris won the State Championship

in the 800m and earned silver in both the 800m and 3200m. The 4x100 relay team of Deegan Beachner, Jayden Hetrick, Adysen Eng and Nate Reynolds earned 5th and Brooklyn Rhoney brought home 7th in the pole vault.

- In soccer, Kennedy Smalley earned 1st Team All-State honors with Maddie Lalman and Abby Overbay earning 2nd Team All-State. Lalman also earned MSHSSCA Small School Academic All-State honors.

- Cass Career Center DECA members Emiliano Arroyo, Cort DeVenney & Josie Moore qualified and competed at the national DECA conference in Orlando.

- Cass Career Center Educators Rising students qualified for national competition. They include Riley Minsky, Jaeda Hasam, Preston

Baker, Lillian Jordan, Makenna Merrifield and Kayde Colin.

- FFA members Dayton Hoffman, Mikayla Myler, Laine Schmalzried, and Summer Wagoner received the State FFA Degree.

- McEowen Elementary students presented a check to Children's Mercy Hospital for nearly \$7,300 which they earned during the school's annual math-a-thon.

- Harrisonville Elementary School second graders donated over \$1,500 to the Harrisonville Animal Shelter. They raised the funds through a pop-up Liberty Kids Store in their classroom.

- One-hundred and fifty HHS seniors completed Senior Day of Service projects at more than 30 sites around the community on the morning of May 16.



HARRISONVILLE Highlights

Calendar of Events

July 25-Aug. 4	Online Registration/Residency Verification
July 29-Aug. 6	Fall Sports Dead Week
Aug. 7	Fall Sports Practices Begin
Aug. 7	Bright Futures Back-to-School Fair, 5-7 p.m., Mill-Walk Mall, Pre-registration required
Aug. 8	Bright Futures Back-to-School Fair, 6-7 p.m., Mill-Walk Mall, Pre-registration required
Aug. 15	McEowen Culver's Night, 5-8 p.m.
Aug. 17	Meet the Teacher
Aug. 21	First Day of School
Sept. 1	McEown Family Picnic, Daytime
Sept. 4	No School (Holiday)
Sept. 6	HMS Culver's Night, 5-8 p.m.
Sept. 8	Homecoming Coronation/Game, 6:30 p.m.
Sept. 8	Homecoming Parade, 1 p.m.
Sept. 8	HMS 5K
Sept. 8	Foundation Golf Tournament, 8 a.m.
Sept. 12	HMS Grandparents Breakfast, 6:30-7:30 a.m.
Sept. 16	HMS Art of the Square
Sept. 18	No School (Staff Collaboration)
Sept. 20	ECC Culver's Night, 5-8 p.m.
Sept. 27	CCC Culver's Night, 5-8 p.m.
Oct. 2	No School (Staff Collaboration)
Oct. 7	Log Cabin Festival Student Art Show, Chamber Office
Oct. 16	HHS Choir Concert, 7 p.m., HHS PAC
Oct. 16-20	Elementary Book Fair Week

Oct. 17	HMS Choir Concert, 7 p.m., HHS PAC
Oct. 18	HHS College Fair, 9-11 a.m.
Oct. 19	HES Family Night
Oct. 20	ECC Community Helper Parade, 10 a.m.
Oct. 21	Royal Regiment Invitational, Memorial Stadium
Oct. 23	No School (Staff Collaboration)
Oct. 24	McEowen Culver's Night, 5-8 p.m.
Oct. 26	Band Benefit Concert, 7 p.m., HHS PAC
Oct. 31	Elementary Fall Parties
Nov. 1-2	No School (Parent-Teacher Conferences)
Nov. 3	No School
Nov. 8	Fall Family Feast, 1st grade, Lunch
Nov. 15	Fall Family Feast, 2nd grade, Lunch
Nov. 15	HES Culver's Night, 5-8 p.m.
Nov. 21	Fall Family Feast, 3rd grade, Lunch
Nov. 22-24	No School (Holiday)
Dec. 5	HMS Choir Concert, 7 p.m., HHS PAC
Dec. 7	HES 3rd Grade Music Program, HHS PAC
Dec. 12	HMS Winter Band Concert, 7 p.m., HHS PAC
Dec. 14	HHS Winter Band Concert, 7 p.m., HHS PAC
Dec. 18	HHS Winter Choir Concert, 7 p.m., HHS PAC
Dec. 19	McEowen Winter Concert, 6:30 p.m., HHS PAC
Dec. 21	Early Release for Students
Dec. 22-Jan. 2	Winter Break
Jan. 3	No School (Staff In-Service)
Jan. 4	Classes Resume

Staying connected to, informed about our district

It is important for our families and community to have access to the latest information from the school district. The district offers several ways for families and patrons to stay up-to-date on school events and news.

District Website

www.harrisonvilleschools.org

In the District News area of the website, anyone can access the most current news and information updates. This is the “go to” location for district news.

The website also includes calendars, lunch menus, school board meeting agendas and summaries, and links to individual building web pages.

Connections

A twice monthly e-mail newsletter from the district office which includes news, school board information, and event/activity dates.

How do I sign up?

District parents will automatically receive the newsletter, however anyone in the community can receive it.

Please email jill.filer@harrisonvilleschools.org to be added to the distribution list.

Facebook

Become a “fan” of Harrisonville Schools on Facebook. Just go to www.facebook.com/HarrisonvilleSchools and “like” the page. Updates will include celebrations, photos, reminders, and more.

District App

The district app was developed to provide parents and community members with the most needed information in a mobile, on-the-go format. You can download the free district app through the Google Play store or the App store. Search for Harrisonville Schools. This app provides information including a staff directory with immediate connection to phone and email, current news, a calendar, sports schedules, website access, and access to the Parent Portal. You can also sign up to receive push notifications based on your personal preferences.

Parent Portal

Parent emails, phone calls and text messages are sent using the contact information in Parent Portal. Parents are strongly encouraged to ensure contact information is up to date. The portal also offers parents access to their student’s attendance, grades, and meal account balance.

Please note that the district will use the most direct communication for all information. If the information is for families, it will be sent via email, phone or text using the contact information provided in the Parent Portal.

Connections is intended for a wider audience to include our community. The most recent edition is always available on the district website in the Quick Links section.

For additional information on any of these information sources, contact Jill Filer, Director of Communications, at 380-2727, ext. 1224 or jill.filer@harrisonvilleschools.org.

New staff joins district

(Continued from Page 1)

Lana Snyder, HES Title 1; Katie Thurman, McEowen art; Liz Blondell, ECC Title 1; Deena Roedel, PN Coordinator; Crystal Peebles, CCC Health Services; Crystal Nofsinger, HHS special education; Beth Stout, HHS at-risk; and Debbie Binner, assistant special education director/process coordinator.

In terms of support staff, we welcome new faces in several buildings - Jennifer Daniel, HES nurse; Krystina Miller, ECC paraprofessional; Ashley Meyer, McEowen paraprofessional; Haley Hohnacker, HES paraprofessional; and Jenna Bascue, HMS paraprofessional.

Additionally, some staff are changing roles including Kelly Melzer, district social worker; Aubrey Graeve, HES focus facilitator; Tanya Williamson, ECC para; and Laura Hanes, McEowen para.

During late July/early August, check our Facebook page for video introductions featuring our new teachers.