



# FESTUS



A Step Ahead



## Festus Elementary School: 2020 National Blue Ribbon Schools Award Recipient

Festus Elementary School is a 2020 National Blue Ribbon Schools Award winner. On Thursday, September 24, the U.S. Department of Education announced the list of 2020 winners. The 2020 award is Festus Elementary's third selection, the most of any school in the state of Missouri. The National Blue Ribbon School Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools based on their overall academic excellence and their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Dr. Nicki Ruess, Festus R-VI Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning says the award is an honor for the entire school, "Being recognized, once again, as a National Blue Ribbon School affirms the continuous hard work of our students, educators, families, and community."

To be eligible for the Blue Ribbon Award, a school must score in the top 15% in the state on Reading/ELA (English Language Arts) and Math on state assessments. Festus Elementary School is a consistent top performer in those areas. Superintendent Dr. Link Luttrell says the award is a testament to the consistent approach staff members take every day to make sure students are successful. "High Student Achievement does NOT happen solely by chance but

takes a myriad of stakeholders all working together towards accomplishing identified goals aimed at individual student success," he said. Last month, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education named Festus Elementary a Missouri Gold Star School. This is the third time Festus Elementary has been named a Gold Star/Blue Ribbon School. The previous two times were in 1999 and in 2014. Festus Elementary School Principal Dr. Darin Seifert says winning the award a third time is humbling. "It is possible because of the tireless work of teachers, staff, and administrators to ensure that all students are succeeding at high levels, no matter their individual circumstances." Seifert adds, "It also would not be possible without the support of great parents, families, community members and most importantly the students themselves!"

Festus Elementary is the first school in the state of Missouri to be named a Blue Ribbon School three times. Luttrell adds, "It speaks volumes to what we already know – Festus Elementary School is a great place to learn!"



2nd grade teacher Mrs. Decker teaches her class about context clues in a story.



1st grade teacher Mrs. Warren working one-on-one with her students



## Letter from our Board President

Dear Patrons,

The Festus R-VI District just completed a first quarter that was unlike one anyone in education has ever seen. The staff of the R-VI School District have gone above and beyond the call of duty to help make sure students are as safe as possible. During the day they are cleaning and disinfecting surfaces in their classroom. They are making sure students stay socially distant and when they cannot, they are making sure students are wearing facial coverings. They are also working extra hours to ensure an equitable and quality education for both in-seat and online students. Students are also doing their part to stay safe. They are listening to their teachers, staying six feet apart when they can and wearing their facial coverings. On behalf of the Festus R-VI Board of Education, I want to take a moment to thank our teachers and staff for their hard work and dedication to our students. In an effort to help everyone recharge and gear up for the remainder of the first semester, next week, November 2 - 6 is now a Fall Break for the Festus R-VI School District. There will be no classes for in-seat or virtual students any day next week. Classes will resume on Monday, November 9.

Because of the pandemic, attendance at our athletic events has been limited. Don't forget that the R-VI District live streams all high school home athletic events and will live stream all band and choral concerts, when they resume. Live streams can be found on our District Facebook and YouTube pages, the Festus R-VI website and on the Boxcast app on Roku, Amazon Fire and Apple TV. Music performances will NOT be available on Facebook or YouTube. A special

thank you goes out to T-Mobile who is sponsoring the live stream this school year.

I want to offer congratulations on behalf of the Board of Education to Festus Elementary School and to the counseling departments at Festus Elementary, Intermediate and Middle Schools. For the third time, Festus Elementary has earned a National Blue Ribbon Schools award. It is the first school in the state of Missouri to earn the award three times. The counseling departments at Festus Elementary, Intermediate and Middle Schools have earned the Gysbers Comprehensive School Counseling Award. The high school earned the award last school year. Festus is now the only school district in the state to have all of its buildings holding a Gysbers Award. You can read more about these accomplishments inside this edition of A Step Ahead.

The R-VI Board of Education thanks all of our patrons for their continued support of the Festus R-VI School District, its students and staff.

Educationally,  
*Todd Oetting*

Todd Oetting, President  
Festus R-6 school District  
Board of Education

## District Calendar

### Cook's Kitchen

#### Festus R-6 School District

November 2020 - May 2021

#### Calendar of Events

Nov. 2-6	No School (Fall Break)
Nov. 25-27	No School/Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 21-22	No in-person classes (all virtual)
Dec. 22	End of 2nd Quarter (42 days) Early Dismissal
Dec. 23-Jan 4	No School/Winter Break
Jan. 5	Students Return - School in session
Jan. 18	No School/MLK Day
Feb. 12	No School/Teacher PD
Feb. 15	No School/Presidents Day
Mar. 11	End of 3rd Quarter (45 days)
Mar. 12-15	No School
Apr. 2-5	No School
May 20 Early Dismissal	Last Day of School/End 4th Quarter (46 days)
May 31	Memorial Day

Quarter ending dates are subject to change. Dismissals for unexpected reasons will be made up in the following order: May 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28. If May 28 is the last student attendance day, teacher work day will be June 1.

Kindergarten promotion is held on the final student attendance day of the school year.

Final exams are held the last three attendance days of each semester at the High School.

*Note: Wednesdays - Professional Learning Communities - One hour delayed start of classes.*



Ms. Peggy Carle

The Festus R-VI School District received some great news this month! For the rest of the school year all student meals at school will be FREE. That's right, I said free meals for the rest of the school year. In September, the United States Department of Agriculture issued a waiver allowing for free meals for students. Initially, the waiver was only good until December 31, 2020 or until funds run out. However, earlier this month the USDA extended the waiver through June of next year. This applies to meals for in-seat as well as the Grab and Go meals provided for our Festus Online students. The R-VI District is reimbursed by the USDA for every free meal distributed. Current lunch debts must still be paid. A la carte items, extra food items, and extra milk are not covered by the program. Students must have funds in their accounts if they plan to purchase any of those items.



#### The Tiger Team Store

is now online.

Visit us at:

[https://festustigerteamstore.](https://festustigerteamstore.square.site/)

[square.site/](https://festustigerteamstore.square.site/)

or scan the QR Code



**Mr. Josh Bauman**



**Educating All Children To Meet  
Tomorrow's Challenges**

## Tech Talk

The COVID-19 pandemic has touched every area of education, including technology. We spent a considerable amount of time addressing areas of need relating to wireless connections in our buildings. During this process we identified the need for outdoor coverage in our parking lots. Around that same time ArubaNetworks, our wireless vendor of choice, approached us with a donation opportunity. The company donated three outdoor wireless access points as well as a few network switches to our district to expand coverage. So, with the help of our awesome Maintenance team, we mounted the outdoor access points on the Elementary, Intermediate and Middle School Buildings. The areas covered include the parent pickup lot between the Elementary building and stadium complex, the parking lot at the gym end of the high school, the parking lot between the Intermediate and Central Office, and the front parking lot at the Middle School. The wireless access in these areas can be used by any school chromebook issued to students. A student chromebook will automatically connect to these networks when in the parking lots. We would like to thank ArubaNetworks for their VERY generous donation, and allowing us to expand coverage.

## Student Services

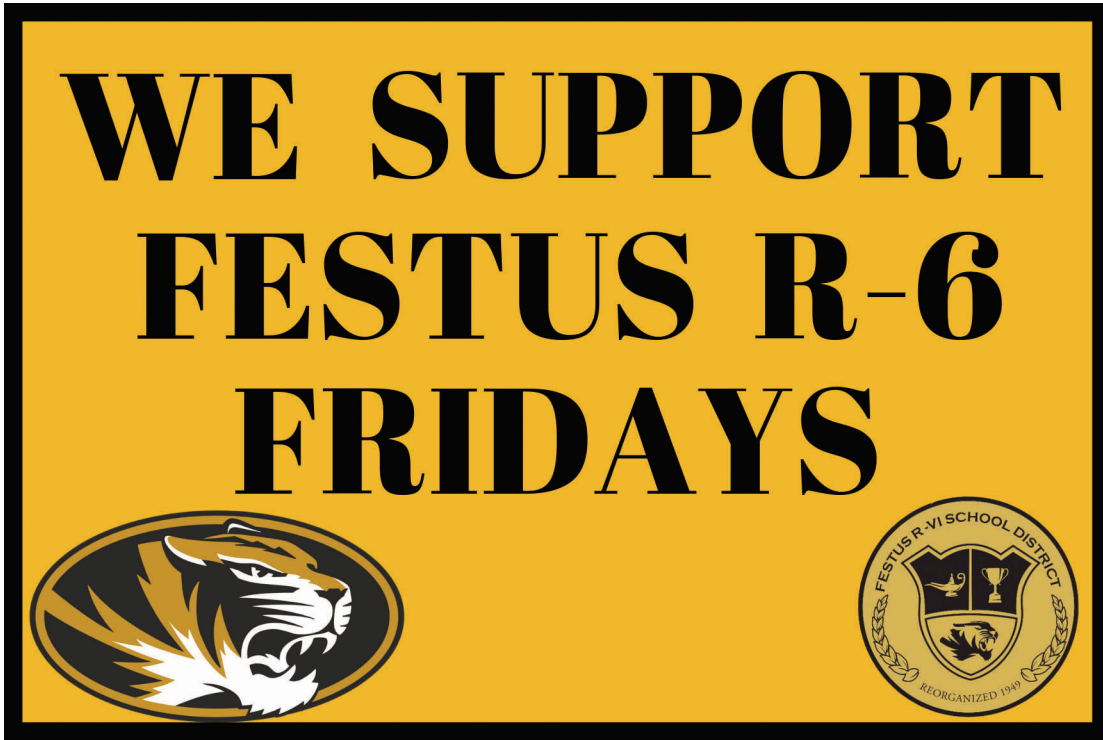


**Mrs. Cara Pellerin**

On Monday, October 5, Festus High School was recognized by ESPN for becoming a Special Olympics Unified Champion School. Festus High School is one of 36 Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools in the county. In order to be recognized, the school has demonstrated commitment to inclusion by achieving 10 standards. Examples of these standards include: Unified sports is officially recognized by the school in a similar style as other athletics/activities, a Unified Club or student group that offers leadership opportunities/training for students with and with intellectual disabilities, and students with and without disabilities are involved with planning and leading the awareness activities. For the past several years, Festus has provided the opportunity for Unified Sports to our students. Jena Bohn, high school special education teacher, has worked with the high school Student Council, the 6th grade Character Council and 3rd and 6th grade Special Education students to create an inclusive environment for all students. In the past they have participated in Unified Basketball in the winter and Unified Soccer in the spring. The banner presentation for becoming a Special Olympics Unified Champion School will occur in November.



The Festus R-VI School District is partnering with area businesses for Festus Fridays. The goal behind the project is to encourage school spirit throughout the district. Businesses display the “I support Festus Friday” signs and allow their employees to wear Festus Tigers or black and gold apparel to work that day. If your business would like to participate, contact Communications Coordinator Kevin Pope by phone at 636-638-3004 or by email at popekevin@festusedu.com.



## The Tiger Team Store

is now online.

Visit us at: <https://festustigerteamstore.square.site/>  
or scan the QR Code

## Festus School District Nurse's Office

Ten weeks into the school year, COVID-19 is obviously the big health concern around school. So far, the R-VI District has seen relatively few students and staff members test positive for the virus. And as of the deadline for this article, there have been no cases of COVID-19 transmitted at school. However, we have been involved with contract tracing for those who got the virus away from school. They, along with anyone who is a close contact, will be told to either isolate or quarantine. Isolation and quarantine help protect the public by preventing exposure to people who have or may have a contagious disease.

- Isolation separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.
- Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick. It is a monitoring period to make sure an individual is not going to develop the disease.

If you're quarantining at home because you might have been exposed to COVID-19 or you have had close contact with someone with COVID-19, the CDC recommends that you monitor yourself as follows:

- Stay home for 14 days.
- Watch for common signs and symptoms, such as fever, cough or shortness of breath.
- Keep distance (6 feet, or 2 meters) between yourself and others.
- Stay away from other people as much as possible, especially people at high risk of serious illness. Wear a mask if contact with other people can't be avoided.
- Isolate yourself at home if you feel ill. Call your doctor if symptoms worsen.



Please remember to always notify your child's school if anyone in your household is being swabbed for Covid-19. All household members should remain at home until the test results are back. If you have any questions, you can contact me by email at rothlindsey@festusedu.com.

Festus Elementary, Intermediate and Middle Schools learned in late August they are recipients of the Gysbers Missouri Comprehensive School Counseling Program Award. The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education gives the award to schools that have demonstrated a commitment to fully implementing a comprehensive school counseling program. Those programs focus on academic, career and social/emotional development of all students. The counseling departments in all three schools were required to submit detailed documentation outlining their programs, services, support systems and overall philosophy. DESE used that data to make their award decisions.

Last year, the Festus High School counseling department became the first in the state to receive the Gysbers Award. The Festus R-VI School District is now the first in the state with all of its buildings holding a Gysbers Award.



The Festus R-VI Counselors (L to R): Amanda Esparza (High School), Jennifer Kline (High School), Steve Shemwell (High School), Wendy Mickley (Middle School), Steve Williams (Intermediate School), Shannon Helms (Intermediate School), Angie Eisenbeis (Elementary School), Tricia Nahlik (Elementary School)



The Gysbers Awards

## Counselor's Corner

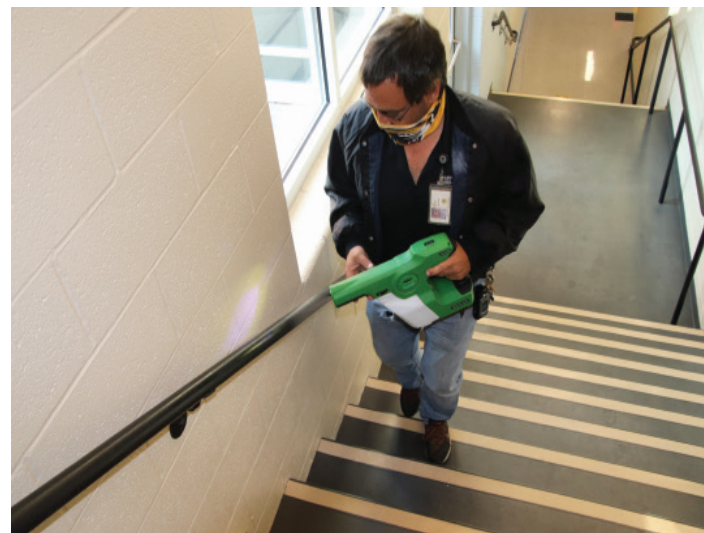
The Festus R-VI Comprehensive School Counseling program is an integral part of a school district's total educational program. This program is developmental by design and includes sequential activities organized and implemented by professional school counselors with the active support of parents/guardians, teachers, administrators, and the community. As a developmental program, it addresses the needs of all students by supporting their academic, personal/ social, and career development while creating a positive and safe learning climate. This program also assists students as they face issues and resolve problems that may prevent a healthy development.

Currently, as our country faces a pandemic, school counseling, just like all aspects of education, has had to adapt to meet the needs of all students and families. At all building levels, the school counselors are meeting student needs through counseling websites, Google Classrooms, and Google Meets. We have adapted our school counseling lessons with social distancing and on-line learning in mind. We have been able to continue our lessons with our virtual learners and provide instruction in the areas of Career Exploration, Academic Development, and Social Emotional Health and Development. Through the counseling website at the elementary, along with Google Classrooms in all other buildings, students and parents have the opportunity to reach out to us when they have questions, concerns, or need additional support and resources. Having the technology to support our students this year whether in person or online has been crucial for instruction and communication to take place with our students and families. You can find updated resources for families that include COVID related topics on the district website.

# Festus School District Students Return to School

Students returned to class, either in-person or online, on Monday, August 24. After more than five months away from school, teachers and staff eagerly welcomed students back to campus. But, it wasn't an easy process. More than 70 district personnel spent months meeting and collaborating over the best ways to safely return to school. Out of those meetings, the District produced a more than 70 page document outlining the Festus R-VI School District's ReEntry Plan and its building specific Plans and Procedures. Superintendent Dr. Link Luttrell along with other district administrators held Facebook Live town hall meetings with parents and stakeholders to answer their questions. In the end, nearly 80-percent of all Festus R-VI students chose to return to school in-person.

Mitigation protocols include among other things, daily morning temperature checks, social distancing where possible, facial covering requirements when social distancing is not possible, cleaning desks at the Middle and High Schools every hour, frequent hand washing & sanitizing, one-way hallways at the high school, and reduced capacity in the lunchrooms. Students, faculty and staff have worked diligently to follow these protocols. While not perfect every day, everyone is trying to do their part.



High School custodian Mr. Aaron Grunow cleans stairwell handrails with an electrostatic sprayer. Handrails and restrooms are cleaned at least twice during the school day using the sprayer.



Students in Mr. Nahlik's 4th grade class wear facial coverings while seated at their desks.



Like Festus R-VI School District on Facebook



# Festus School District

## New Faces

The Festus R-VI School District is pleased to welcome six new faces to campus this school year.



**Stephanie Sekelsky**

I grew up in Washington, Missouri and I am currently in my 26th year of teaching band after spending 4 years at Missouri Valley College in Marshall, MO, 11 years at the Clinton School District and 10 years at the Warrensburg School District. I earned my Bachelor of Music Education degree (1994) and Master of Arts degree in trumpet performance (1996) at the University of Central Missouri. I was drawn to the Festus School District because of the long standing tradition of excellence of the band program as well as the community support both for the school and for the band. An added bonus is that Festus is closer to my family. My husband Mike (retired from UCM) and I are enjoying our new home with our two shetland sheepdogs, Dolly and Zippy.



**AJ Ofodile**

I teach Strength and Conditioning at the high school and I am the head football coach. Originally from Detroit, I attended the University of Missouri where I played tight end for the Tigers. I was drafted by the Buffalo Bills in 1994 and spent six years in the league with Buffalo, Pittsburgh and Baltimore. I was an assistant coach under Barry Odom at Columbia Rock Bridge High School, before taking over the head coaching job in 2003. In 2013, we were state runners-up. I held that position until I joined Odom's staff at Mizzou in 2016. My wife Dianna and I are excited to be a part of the Festus Tigers family.



**Megan Lucas**

Hello! I am Megan Lucas, and I am a second grade teacher. I graduated from Missouri Baptist University with a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood and Elementary Education. This is my first year of teaching. Previously, I was a Paraprofessional for Special Education. I am a Festus High School graduate, and I am so excited to be a Festus Tiger again.



**Teri Jo Jokerst**

I teach FACS (Family and Consumer Science) at Festus R-VI Middle School and coach 8th grade volleyball. I graduated from Festus High School and went to Eastern Kentucky University where I received my BS in dietetics and MS in Community Nutrition. I played volleyball at Eastern Kentucky University. I am excited to be teaching at Festus Middle School and I am looking forward to a great year!



**Jennifer Stone**

Hi my name is Jennifer Stone and I am a new teacher at Festus Elementary School. This is my first year teaching; I graduated from the University of Missouri- St. Louis in May with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. I am currently working with first and second grade as a special education teacher. I am so excited to educate and encourage the Festus tigers this year.



**Tammie Yates**

My name is Tammie Yates and I am currently teaching 5th grade ELA and Social Studies. This is my first year teaching at Festus Intermediate. I previously taught for two years at Our Lady's School in Festus. I graduated with my Bachelor's in Education from Central Methodist University in July of 1999. While in school for my Bachelor's, I was a paraprofessional at Festus Middle School for two years. After I taught for two years, I was a stay at home mom for 14 years before I returned to Festus as a paraprofessional for 4 years.

# Festus Elementary Parent Pick-Up

Parents and grandparents are getting used to the new parent pick-up procedure at Festus Elementary School. Parents no longer have to find a parking place and walk inside the school to pick-up their children. Now, students are dismissed from the door by the Upper Elementary cafeteria and parents form a carline to pick up their children. The line cues up in the back parking lot and extends across Sunshine Drive and down N. Third Street. In an effort to keep the line moving and get cars off the street, once the parking lot begins to empty, we fill it with more cars from the line. The school is using 'School Dismissal Manager' program for all of its student dismissals and includes scanning a QR code or using a PIN number for pick-ups. If you have any questions, contact the Elementary School. So far the school is averaging about 225 student pick-up every day with about 130 cars in line. The entire process from first QR scan to last pick-up is about 30 minutes.



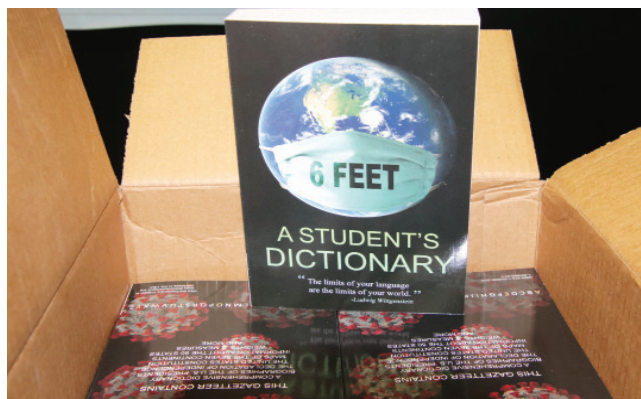
Mrs. Reando monitors as a parent scans the carline QR code.

# Dictionary Distribution

All Festus 3rd graders have a brand new dictionary to use for the rest of their years in school. The COVID-19 pandemic didn't stop the Twin City Area Optimist Club from making their annual dictionary donation. Unfortunately, no members were allowed in school to deliver the dictionaries. That job was left up to Principal Dr. Darin Siefert. This year's dictionary has a slightly different look. The usual picture of the earth is slightly modified to include a facial covering wrapped around the globe. All of the students were excited to receive their own dictionary.



About 55 cars will fit in the line in the parking lot at one time



The unique cover for the 2020 edition



Dr. Siefert presents Eva Rodriguez with her new dictionary



Caroline Beard and Charlotte Moroney look through their new dictionaries to see what's inside

**REMINDER**  
No School:  
Nov. 2-6  
(Fall Break)





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## Kindergarten Students Meet Some Community Helpers

The annual Community Helpers week for our Kindergarten students looked quite a bit different this year. Students got the opportunity to meet Trooper Warren with the Missouri State Highway Patrol. Officer Warren talked to the students about his job and what he does to help the community.

Unfortunately, students didn't get to visit the Festus firehouse, instead, firefighters came to school to visit the students. They talked to them about how to be safe in the kitchen and what to do if they need help. The students also got to see everything the firefighters carry on their trucks.



Festus Firefighter Kyra Gilkey puts on her firefighting equipment to show students firefighters in their protective gear are regular people



Festus teacher Mrs. Jocelyn Kerr volunteers to be handcuffed during Trooper Warren's demonstration



Festus Fire Capt. Jeff Brown talks to students about fire safety



Like Festus R-VI School District on Facebook

## Intermediate School Students Earn Rewards For Living The Tiger Mantra

Festus Intermediate School students participate in character development activities throughout the year. Each morning the students recite the Tiger Mantra during the morning announcements. This mantra was developed by our counselors, Mr. Williams and Mrs. Helms, to promote positive character traits in our everyday lives. During announcements the students are encouraged through the Tiger Mantra to demonstrate these character traits by helping others, working hard on school work, showing respect and kindness to others, and taking pride in our school. Students can receive Tiger Stripe recognition when any staff member catches a student exhibiting these qualities at school. Students turn their Tiger Stripes into the office to be entered into a weekly prize drawing.



5th grader Hunter Eckart receives his Tiger Stripes weekly prize

### Tiger Mantra

I am a FESTUS Tiger!

I help others

I never give up

I show respect to to others

I take pride in my school

I take pride in my work

I am a FESTUS Tiger!



5th grader Elise Nelson receives her Tiger Stripes weekly prize



6th grader Ethan Radford receives his Tiger Stripes weekly prize

## Intermediate School Teacher Recieves \$25,000 Grant

Festus Intermediate music teacher Mr. Joshua Rhine is the recipient of a \$25,000 grant from the Festus R-VI School Foundation for his “Expanding Music Skills with iPads” project. Mr. Rhine will use the iPads to improve the basic music skills of his students. He says they will help motivate students to be more creative. The iPads should be delivered in the coming weeks. The Festus R-VI School Foundation was originally founded in 2008, but disbanded in 2012. Last year, the Foundation re-formed and awarded the grant.



## Pep Assembly



Festus Middle School students celebrated their school spirit and their sports teams at an all-school pep assembly at Tiger Stadium on Thursday, October 1. The students sat six feet apart in the stands. Members of the football, volleyball, cross country and cheer teams were all introduced. Several teachers also took part in a friendly competition, won by Mr. Reece. His prize? A cream pie to the face!

Mr. Reece takes a cream pie to the face



Middle School students sat socially distanced in the stands



The Middle School volleyball team is introduced to the students

## 9/11 Commemoration

On Friday, September 11, the 19th anniversary of the terror attacks on New York and Washington, D.C., students at Festus Middle School experienced the events of that morning the same way students did when it happened. Social Studies teachers Mr. Tim Krysl, Mrs. Kelly Genova and Mr. Jarad Sheppard organized the Middle School's 9/11 commemoration. The day began with a replay of news reports recorded on September 11, 2001. Events played out in real time for students. "I wanted to see kids not be able to wait to get to the next hour because the video was playing live," Krysl said. "When the bell rang it was up to them, 'Do you want to make the choice to get to your next class as fast as possible so you can see the continuation of the events?' We saw a lot of that." Krysl also said many students also had the same physical reaction to the events of the planes hitting the towers that he did 19 years ago, watching the video live. Genova added "I was surprised by the number of students who said they had never seen any video from that morning, so from that perspective, I am really glad we were able to do this." After



FMS students watch the events of 9/11 on video

watching the video, the students had several activities to complete to reflect back on what they saw and felt. 8th grade student Cecelia Meppiel said, "It was emotional. We hadn't seen it like this before so it was touching and emotional because our parents had gone through it, but we hadn't."



FMS students watch the events of 9/11 on video

# Middle School Athletes Honor The Memory Of A Lost Classmate

Festus Middle School athletes are paying tribute to classmate Jolie McFarland this year. Volleyball players enter the court to every home game by passing under a sign that reads “Play for Jolie.” Cross country team members wear yellow scrunchies on their wrists or in their hair and yellow fingernail polish, and the football team wears yellow sweatbands, Jolie’s favorite color. On 8th grade parent night, the FMS cheerleaders all wore bows that said “Jolie Belle.” Jolie passed away after a tragic accident over the summer. She would be an 8th grade student this year and was friends to many of the Middle School athletes. The tributes to her, and her memory, are student-led.



A “Play for Jolie” sign hangs above the athlete entryway to the FMS gymnasium.



The Middle School Cross Country team wears yellow scrunchies in honor of Jolie.



The Middle School Football team wears yellow wristbands in honor of Jolie



The cheerleaders wore hair bows with Jolie’s name on them

# Festus High School

## FHS Student Council Receives National Awards

The Festus High School Student Council has received two prestigious national awards in recent months. On October 5, the council learned it was one of 36 Unified Champion Schools across America to be named to the 2020 ESPN Honor Roll. The student council learned earlier in the summer that it was the only Missouri School to be named a Unified Champion School for its Special Olympics Play Unified program. For the past two school years, student council members organized “Play Unified” basketball games among sixth grade students at the Intermediate School. “Play Unified” is a Special Olympics program that fosters relationships among students of all levels. The Student Council has also involved third grade students in a soccer game.

In the spring, the 2019-2020 Festus Student Council was honored to receive the National Gold Council of Excellence awarded by the National Student Council Organization (NatStuco). Festus Student Council is one of about 20 schools in Missouri to be recognized. The National Gold Council of Excellence is the highest award a student council can receive. It is awarded to student councils that have a record of community service, participating in activities in the classroom, and addressing the needs of their school and community. This year’s executive board includes President Jeanna Brantley, Vice President Lily Knickman, Secretary Jada Staat, Treasurer Anna Baldonado, Public Relations Director Caleb Jewell, and President-Elect Cletus Pippin. The council’s faculty advisors are Terri Satchell and Jeffery Kopp.



Ethan McVay, Emme Coplin, Livi Kearns, Jada Keith,  
Collin Richard, Avin Luo



**2020-2020 Student Council:** Bottom Row Left to right: Caleb Jewell, Jada Staat, Lily Knickman, Jeanna Brantley, Cletus Pippin  
Second Row L-R: Izzy Spicer, Chloe Jewell, Kaylee Hogan, Sophia Basler, Maison King, Ava McKinney  
Third Row L-R: Ethan James, Peyton Willis, Logan Kuykendall, Anthony Pittman  
Fourth Row L-R: Isaac Schnable, Zach Beers, Peyton Besore, Lily Walker, Josie Allen, Presley Perry, Tate Riney  
Top Row L-R: Sawyer Partney, Saigel Mickan, Emma Vivrett, Kennedy Hale, Lily Besore, Abigail Schnable, Ava Beers, Riley Vogel  
Not Pictured: Anna Baldonado, Lily Brickhaus, Hope Green, Kristin Otte, Abby Wilson, Molly McDaniel, Allison Faerber, Dustin Peters, Emily Holt, Courtney Fadler, Kenzie Yates, Astaria Herring, Becca Partney, Mya Courtois, Maddy Geiler, Angela Bloodworth  
2019-2020 Seniors (not pictured) who were part of winning the award: Ksiah Wansley, Ashton Croft, Jennifer Jones, Alexis Shane, Taylor Jackson, Alexandria Little, Dan Nguyen, Simon Ogle, Jacob Raye, Kenzie Warfel, Kate Todd, Abby Rickermann, Miranda Allen, Mason Tucker, Alaina Valleroy, Logan Massey, Julia Myers, Izzy Smith.

Maison King

October Student of the Month

Jeanna Brantley

September Student of the Month



Maison King is the Festus High School October Student of the Month. She says it is a big honor to be chosen as the Student of the Month because there are many amazing people in her class and the classes are so competitive. She is the drumline captain in the marching band and senior class president. She is also active in Renaissance and Gold and Black Pack. She says her favorite class is marching band because she loves music and the people in band. After graduation she plans to attend Missouri State University where she plans to major in Psychology with the goal of becoming a child therapist.



Jeanna Brantley is the Festus High School September Student of the Month. She is the daughter of Jennifer Brantley. She is the Student Body President, she is a member of the National Honor Society, Renaissance, TREND, and a Drum Major in the marching band. She says her favorite class is marching band. She plans to attend SEMO after graduation to pursue a degree in special education with a minor in music.

## Boys State/Girls State Winners

For six Festus High School seniors the COVID-19 pandemic meant another lost opportunity. Cayden Glaze, Aiden Dollar and Andrew Nahlik were selected to attend Boys State and Katie Herren, Demi White and Emma Horsley were selected to attend Girls State over the summer. But all is not lost. The boys will have the option of attending this coming summer. The girls are still waiting for a decision on whether they will be invited this summer as well.



Andrew Nahlik



Cayden Glaze



Aiden Dollar



Demi White



Emma Horsley



Katie Herren

# Scholarships and Grants

The Festus Senior High Guidance Office is online at: <https://sites.google.com/site/counselorsteveshemwell/>

You can also access this site from the Festus R-VI web page. Parents and students may stay advised of available scholarships, upcoming ACT testing dates, area college information sessions and the dates and times that college representatives will be at our school by visiting this site.

## A+ Schools Program

Requirements to earn the A+ Scholarship are as follows: complete an A+ Program enrollment form, must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, graduate with a minimum 2.5 unweighted GPA and a minimum 95% attendance rate, complete a FAFSA form, attend an A+ designated high school for three years, graduate from an A+ designated high school, complete 50 hours of Peer Tutoring, have strong citizenship, and earn a qualifying Math testing score on an EOC exam or the ACT. Contact Steve Shemwell at 937-5944 or email [shemwellsteven@festusedu.com](mailto:shemwellsteven@festusedu.com) if you have any questions related to the A+ Program.

LIKE the Festus High School Guidance Office on Facebook in order to stay up-to-date with pertinent information!



## Graduation Requirements

	Academic Diploma	Honors Diploma
ELA	4 units	4 units
Social Studies	3 units	3 units
Mathematics	3 units	4 units
Science	3 units	4 units
Fine Arts	1 unit	1 unit
Practical Arts	.5 unit	.5 unit
Physical Education	1.5 units	1.5 units
Health	.5 unit	.5 unit
Personal Finance	.5 unit	.5 unit
Electives	7 units	6 units
Foreign Language	0 units	2 units*
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>24 units</b>	<b>27 units</b>

\*2 units of the SAME language



**Educating All Children To Meet Tomorrow's Challenges**

## Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP)

The four years of Senior High School education are an important preparatory period in one's life. Therefore students' selection of classes to fit into their career pathway should be taken seriously. An ICAP can best be created by the coordinated efforts of students, parents, advisors and counselors. Starting in late January or early February, the guidance staff meets with students in classroom groups to help them select courses best suited to their interests, abilities and career goals. Advisors will also be working with students as they select their courses for the 2021-2022 school year. Counselors review with students the results of interest surveys and achievement tests. Counselors also help students develop career goals and instruct students on the use of the school's computer-based career information systems which give students information about job requirements, outlook and salaries. Counselors work directly with students, but counselors encourage all students to talk with their parents to gain their input on making course selections which are best suited to their individual needs. Parents are encouraged to contact the Senior High School counseling office if they have any questions concerning their child's educational programs. After the students have conferred with their parents, counselor, and advisor; students and parents will then meet with their Advisor on an evening in early March to finalize their course requests for the 2021-2022 school year. Students have a choice of working toward an Honors Diploma, which will best prepare a student for a four-year college program, or an Academic Diploma, which is geared more to help students meet the minimal graduation requirements and allow students to explore more classes in the vocational area.



The Festus Senior High Guidance Office is online at: <https://sites.google.com/site/counselorsteveshemwell/>



## Grants, Local Scholarships, Loans Available To College-Bound Students

There are many ways to help finance the cost of attending college. Here are some options available to Festus High School graduates:

**Student Aid:** Student aid is money provided by the federal government or another entity, such as a school or state government, to help students pay for continuing education. The U.S. Department of Education offers three major types of aid: grants, loans, and work-study. Grants are most often awarded based on financial need and generally do not have to be paid back. Loans allow you to borrow money for school and must be repaid. Work-study programs provide part-time employment while you are enrolled in college to help offset your educational expenses. A sampling of the types of student aid available:

**Grants:** Federal Pell Grants, the foundation of federal financial aid, are awarded to undergraduate students and certain post baccalaureate students who demonstrate exceptional financial need. The amounts can change yearly. The amount you get will depend on your financial need, your cost of attendance, and your enrollment status. Pell Grants do not have to be repaid. Pell Grants were valued up to \$6345 in 2020-2021. Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG) vary by institution for students with exceptional financial need. Funds are designated of a first-come, first-served basis after the FAFSA becomes available October 1 each year.

**Federal Student Loans:** A federal student loan is for eligible students and parents that borrow directly from the U.S. Department of Education. **Direct PLUS Loan:** A federal student loan that requires credit approval and is available to parents of dependent undergraduate students or to graduate or professional students. Financial need is not required. **Direct Subsidized Loan:** A loan based on financial need for which the federal government pays the accruing interest on a borrower's behalf while the borrower is enrolled at least half time, during the grace period (for some borrowers) and during authorized deferment periods. **Direct Unsubsidized Loan:** A loan for which the borrower is fully responsible for paying the interest regardless of the loan status. Interest on unsubsidized loans accrues from the date of disbursement and continues throughout the life of the loan. Financial need is not required. Other types of Federal Student Aid might be available. For more information, contact your college's financial aid office.

**State of Missouri Student Aid:** The State of Missouri has many programs similar to the Federal Guidelines.

ALL federal and state student aid programs begin with a single application called the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). For May 2021 graduates, complete the FAFSA online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) as soon as possible starting October 1, 2020. Students, parents, and borrowers are required to use a FSA ID, made up of a username and password, to access certain U.S. Department of Education websites. Your FSA ID is used to confirm your identity when accessing your financial aid information and electronically signing your federal student aid documents. Visit financial aid information and electronically signing your federal student aid documents. Visit <https://fsaid.ed.gov> to obtain your FSA ID.

### LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS

**Maurice O. Lucas Family Scholarship:** Applicants must have at least a 3.0 GPA, good citizenship, financial need, and be friendly, helpful, respectful, and caring.

**JoAnn Thurman-Mangan Drama Scholarship:** Student must demonstrate excellent character and have a minimum 3.0 GPA. Participation in school plays is preferred.

**"Miss Sue" Scholarship:** Applicants must plan to enroll in a secondary school as a full-time student.

**Doug and Lisa Mouser Scholarship:** NEW IN 2020! Applicants must plan to pursue a college major in a business related field.

**Morgan Anderson S3 Foundation Memorial Scholarship:** NEW IN 2020! Applicants must have a minimum 2.0 GPA.

**Warren Bingham Scholarship:** NEW IN 2020! Applicants must have a minimum 2.0 GPA.

**Peebles-Vaughn-Wideman Post 253 John C. Vollmar and William Naucke Scholarship:** Applicants must rank in the top 50% of their class and be a good citizen.

**Ralph B. Tynes Scholarship:** The student must rank in the upper one-half of his/her class, exhibit financial need, demonstrate leadership and participation in school, community, sports and church activities, and be a good citizen.

**Lt. Kent M. Kiepe Scholarship:** To qualify, the student must exhibit progressive self-improvement through seven semesters; maintain a 2.667 cumulative GPA, show financial need; participate in athletics and physical fitness, show leadership and participation in school, community and church activities, and be a good citizen in school and the community.

**Vinyard Scholarship:** To apply, students must have at least a 2.667 GPA, participate in school activities, and have good school and community citizenship.

**Byrd Scholarship:** Applicants must be students with at least a 2.667 GPA, have lettered in at least one sport; participate in school activities, and have good school and community citizenship.

**Wint Johnson Scholarship:** Applicants must have at least a 2.667 GPA, must intend to pursue a career in journalism or related field, and demonstrate leadership and participation in school activities.

**Gladys and Howard Litton Scholarship:** Applicants must rank in the upper one-half of their graduating class and must intend to pursue a career as a classroom teacher at the secondary or elementary level in public education.

**Rose Mary and Paul Tom Poole Scholarship:** Applicants must have a 2.333 GPA, demonstrate leadership and participation in school and community.

**Festus MNEA Scholarship:** Applicants must rank in the upper one-third of their class.

**Ronald Charles & Rodger Neal Herrington Memorial Scholarship:** Each applicant must have a 2.667 GPA, and demonstrate leadership and participation in school, community and church activities.

**Douglass School Alumni Association Dr. A.C. Shropshire Scholarship:** Applicants must be students who intend to further their education and have demonstrated good academic achievement and involvement in extra-curricular activities.

**The B. Clark Berry Memorial Scholarship:** Applicants must maintain a 2.667 GPA, participate in school and community activities and have good citizenship.

**Festus R-6 MSTA Scholarship:** Graduating Senior.

**Leslie Rose Govero:** Applicant must be a member of the Tigerettes Pom Team.

**Matthew M. Lucas Memorial Scholarship:** Candidates should have a 2.667 GPA, be a good citizen, have financial need, and exhibit friendliness, helpfulness, respect, and a care of others. Preference will be given to students who plan to pursue a career working with young children.

**Adam and Willa McCullough Scholarship:** Students eligible for this award must have a 2.333 average and show a need for financial aid. **Canepa Family Scholarship:** Applicants must have a 2.667 GPA, be a good citizen, and show need for financial assistance.

**Morris and Rosalind Golman Memorial Scholarship:** Applicants must have a 2.333 GPA, be a good citizen, have financial need, and scores of level 3 or higher on 10th and 11th grade MAP tests.

**Scholar Athlete Scholarship:** Sponsored by Nancy Johnson and the late Don Johnson in recognition of the FHS recipient of the annual Post-Dipatch Scholar Athlete Award.

**Murrell Godwin Memorial Scholarship:** Students must have at least a 2.667 GPA, participate in school and community activities, demonstrate good citizenship, and participate at least one year in athletics during high school.

**Seyvee Sirintrapun Memorial Scholarship:** Student must have at least a 2.667 GPA, participate in school and community activities, and demonstrate good citizenship.

**Mid-East Missouri Contractor's Association Scholarship:** Student must pursue a degree in a construction related field.

**Byrd Family Scholarship:** Applicant must attend the University of Missouri. Applicants with financial need are preferred. Applicants enrolling in the Trulaske College of Business, College of Education, or students majoring in a STEM program are preferred.

**Follow Your Dreams Scholarship:** Student must submit an essay detailing his/her "dream".

**Karen Tesreau Trust Scholarship:** Student must plan to pursue a degree in music.

**Weier Family Scholarship:** Student must attend the University of Missouri in Columbia, rank in the top 25% of the class, have financial need, demonstrate good citizenship, and participate in school activities.

**Antonio Tullock Scholarship Fund:** Students with a B or C average that have demonstrated progressive self-improvement throughout high school are encouraged to apply.

**Orville E. Jones Jr. Memorial Baseball:** For varsity baseball players.

**Mary Katherine Memorial Nursing Scholarship:** For Nursing majors. **National Women's Athletic Association:** For female athletes.

**Cole's Hope Foundation:** For students with an IEP or hardship.

**Emma Jane Vance Memorial Scholarship:** Students with a GPA in the B/C range are strongly encouraged to apply.

**Festus Food Service Department Scholarship:** Must have a minimum 2.0 GPA.

**Festus Band Boosters:** Must be a member of FHS Band during high school, continue to study music at college, and at least 3.333 GPA.

**Ready, Set, Be Awesome Kim Showmaker-Allen Memorial Scholarship:** Applicants must have a 2.0 GPA.

**FMS Inspire Scholarship:** Sponsored by the Festus Middle School.

**Festus Football Booster Club Tiger Strong Scholarship:** Students associated with the football program are eligible to apply.

**Kinder Grappler Award:** Applicants must participate in FHS Wrestling.

**Homer Boyer Scholarship:** Provided by the Sons of the American Legion Post 253 for applicants related to a current military member or a deceased veteran.

**Janis Williams Scholarship:** NEW IN 2020! For members of the Women's Track & Field team.

**FHS Men's Track & Field Scholarship:** NEW IN 2020! For members of the Men's Track & Field team.

### CLUB SCHOLARSHIPS

The following school activity organizations offer scholarships to seniors who are members of their respective clubs. Students should apply in May by completing an application obtained from the club advisor.

**FHS Speech & Theater • FHS Student Council • FHS National Honor Society • FHS TREND**

### OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS

There are numerous academic and talent scholarships available from individual colleges and universities. For more information, students can contact the financial aid office at the college of their choice, or contact one of the counselors in the senior high guidance office.

Be on the lookout for great scholarship opportunities from many local organizations such as **Twin City Area Chamber of Commerce, Vantage Credit Union, Twin City Optimist Club, Festus/Crystal City Elks Lodge 1721, Rotary Club, Conservation Club, AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary, and Chapter EH PEO.** Other organizations will also provide scholarships opportunities.

Application deadlines vary from year to year. An updated list of available scholarships with deadlines is provided weekly in the senior high guidance office. The list should be checked frequently as new scholarships are established and announced throughout the year.

**REMINDER**  
**No School:**  
**Nov. 2-6**  
**(Fall Break)**





## 2020 Varsity Football

Bottom row (L to R): Landen Yates, Kaleb Murphy, Dalten Yates, Cole Wagner, Caden Glaze, Gavin Grass, Mike Corssen, Tony Marmonti, Illiljah Stinson

2nd row (L to R): Nate Moore, Landen Bradshaw, Luke Shaver, Rodney Campbell, Thomas Meczowski, Austin Anderson, Cayse Martin, Judson Holland, Daylen Wagoner, Luke Valleck, Luke Greenstreet, Collin Doyel, Trent Ellis

3rd row (L to R): Tyson Beffa, Cooper Hudson, Henry Roux, Riley Bond, Max Merriman, Eli Williams, Connor Hot, James Muellersman, Tyler Shepherd, Stephen Darden, Carter Cupp, Dominic Stinson

4th row (L to R): Trent Harris, Desmond Davis, Cade Blankenship, Eli Ortman, Jack Uskiwich, Peyton Besore, Kian Roberts-Day, Isaac Stucke, Lucas Smith, Trent Young, Cole Rickermann

Coaches (L to R) Coach Martucci, Coach Morrice, Coach Martin, Coach Sardo, Coach Driemeier, Coach Ofodile, Coach Propst, Coach Pryor, Coach Bidlack

Not pictured: Damarion Anderson



### Softball

Front row (L to R): Hunter Ellsworth, Anna Arman, Kenzie Douglas, Maddie Kisse  
 Second row (L to R): Liv Isbell, Tristan Foulk, Makenzie McJunkins, Baylee Hanewinkel, Alexis Gauch  
 Back row (L to R): Head Coach Jeff Montgomery, Bailey Propst, Abigail Varone, Morgan Green, Paige Perry, Bri Teer, Madelyn Geiler, Varsity Assistant Drew Horrell(not pictured Allison Rousseau)



### Volleyball

Front row (L to R): Delaney Willis, Ella Shy, Devin Younger, Alexis Biehle, Madison McHawes  
 Second row (L to R): Sophie Nolen, Kinsey Benack, Lily Brickhaus, Gretchen Burkard, Hannah Warfel, Jessica Hebenstreit  
 Back row (L to R): Coach Karen Biehle, Gabbi Burkard, Kali Oshia, Claire Martin, Makenzie Welsh



### Boys' Cross Country

Front row (L to R): Mike Kostial, Nathan Wolk, Anthony Pittman, Ethan James, Tate Riney, Bryson Rhine  
 Second row (L to R): Connor Hartman, Jackson Bauman, Josh Thornburrow, Peyton Kirby, Trey Anderson, Ian Schram, Evan Hogan, Anden Murphy  
 Back row (L to R): Coach Bryant Wright, Zach Beers, Peyton Willis, Jacob Meyers, Cullen Krieg, Angelo James-Gordon, Coach Wes Armbruster



### Cheer

Front row (L to R): Mykalia Batee, Trinitie Asinger, Abbie Rogers, Natalie Mazur, Grace Arman, Emma Horsley, Abby Tate, Savannah McElyea, Ella Boyer  
 Back row (L to R): Reese Boyer, Hailey Brown, Jaiden Sells, Abby Marr, Jada Staat, Ella Harris, Alexia Penberthy, Demi Polk, Kennedy Hale



### Soccer

Front row (L to R): Jake Steward, Conner Zustiak, Collin Brewer, Kyle Crawford, Tucker Uding, Tyler Schumer  
 Second row (L to R): Ben Oppelz, Connor Rowland, Michael Albrecht, Owen Hyde, Conner McDonald, Matt Martin  
 Back row (L to R): Coach Burgert, Stephn Darden, Aidan Grant, Jack Uskiwich, Dawson Little, Alec Bell, Coach Uskiwich  
 Not pictured: Steven Rogoz, Reese Johnson



### Girl's Cross Country

Front row (L to R): McKenna Rhine, Kylie Kempfer, Riley Vogel, Livia Barnett, Madison Caskanett, Emma Stevens  
 Second row (L to R): Olivia McIntyre, Kirsten Klein, Taylor Thompson, Courtney Fadler, Abigail Schnable, Lauren Hartman, Kaylee Hogan  
 Back row (L to R): Coach Bryant Wright, Ava Leftwitch, Kenzie Yates, Allison Faerber, Molly McDaniel, Dari White, Ava Wilson, Coach Wes Armbruster



### Dance

Front row (L to R): Emily Heibeck, Katie Herren, Jordan Campbell  
 Second row (L to R): Lainey Coplin, Emma Harris, Rylie Wallis, Karleigh Bayer  
 Back row (L to R): Kaylee Sumpter, Emma Vivrett, Emma Meadows, Chloe Rowland, Katelyn Bishop



### The Tiger Team Store

is now online.

Visit us at: <https://festustigerteamstore.square.site/>  
 or scan the QR Code

## Model Notification of Rights under FERPA for Elementary and Secondary Schools

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

(1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the School receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the School principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The School official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

(2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.

Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the School to amend a record should write the School principal (or appropriate school official), clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the School will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

(3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the School as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the School has contracted as its agent to provide a service instead of using its own employees or officials (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

(Optional) Upon request, the School discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. (NOTE: FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.)

(4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are: **Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-5920.**

## Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Model Notice for Directory Information

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that Festus R-VI, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, Festus R-VI may disclose appropriate designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow Festus R-VI to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Example include: a playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production;

- The annual yearbook
- Graduation programs; and
- Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories - names, addresses and telephone listings - unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

If you do not want Festus R-VI to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the District in writing within ten days of receiving this notice. Festus R-VI has designated the following information as directory information: (Note: an LEA may, but does not have to, include all the information listed below.)

Student's name • Address • Telephone listing • Electronic mail address • Photograph • Date and place of birth • Major field of study • Dates of attendance • Grade level • Participation in officially recognized activities and sports • Weight and height of members of athletic teams • Degrees, honors, and awards received • The most recent educational agency or institution attended.

These laws are: Section 9528 of the ESEA (20 U.S.C. 7908), as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (P.L. 107-110), the education bill, and 10 U.S.C. 503, as amended by section 544, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (P.L. 107-107), the legislation that provides funding for the nation's armed forces.

## Model Notification of Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

PPRA affords parents certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

- Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas ("protected information survey") if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (ED)-
1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parents;
  2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
  3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
  4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
  5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
  6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
  7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
  8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

- Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of
1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
  2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screening, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
  3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.

- Inspect, upon request and before administration or use -

1. Protected information surveys of students;
2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum. These rights transfer from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law.

Festus R-VI has developed and adopted policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. Festus R-VI will directly notify parents of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. Festus R-VI will also directly notify, such as through U.S. Mail or email, parents of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys noted below and will provide an opportunity for the parent to opt his or her child out of participation of the specific activity or survey. Festus R-VI will make this notification to parents at the beginning of the school year if the District has identified the specific or approximate dates of the activities or surveys at that time. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys listed below and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out of such activities and surveys. Parents will also be provided an opportunity to review any pertinent surveys. Following is a list of the specific activities and surveys covered under this requirement:

- Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales or other distribution.
- Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by ED.
- Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above.

Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with: Family Policy Compliance Office; U.S. Department of Education; 400 Maryland Avenue, SW; Washington, D.C. 20202-5920. **PPRA Model Notice and Consent / Opt-Out for Specific Activities**

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232h, requires Festus R-VI to notify you and obtain consent or allow you to opt your child out of participating in certain school activities. These activities include a student survey, analysis, or evaluation that concerns one or more of the following eight areas ("protected information surveys"):

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parents;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

This requirement also applies to the collection, disclosure or use of student information for marketing purposes ("marketing surveys"), and certain physical exams and screenings.

Festus R-VI School District Policy of Non-Discrimination  
The Festus R-VI School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs or activities. Inquiries related to District programs and to the location of services, activities, and facilities that are accessible by persons with disabilities may be directed to the District Compliance Officer Assistant Superintendent Nathan Holder - Civil Rights Compliance (Title VI / Title IX / Section 504 / ADA / Age Act); 1515 Mid-Meadow Lane; Festus, MO 63028 Telephone 636.937-8044. E-mail: holdernathan@festusedu.com.

## Parents' Right to Know

The Parents' Right to Know provision requires that two types of communication be provided to parents of students in Title I schools. Parent notification by district: A district receiving Title I funds must send a notification to parents, informing them of their right to request information on the qualifications of their child's teacher. The information that the district must provide (if requested) includes the following:

- Whether or not the teacher has met the certification requirements of the state.
  - Whether or not the teacher is teaching under an emergency or other provisional status.
  - The bachelor's degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher in the field or discipline of his or her certificate or degree.
  - Whether or not the child receives service from a paraprofessional and, if so, his or her qualifications.
- Parent notification by school: Additionally, schools receiving federal Title I funds must send parents certain information in a timely manner, in a language that is understandable, to the extent that is feasible. Title I schools must provide the following:
- Information on the child's level of achievement on state assessments.
  - Timely notice that the child has been assigned to or been taught by a teacher who does not meet the highly qualified teacher requirements for four or more consecutive weeks.

## Program for Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of the Festus R-VI Board of Education to provide a free and appropriate education for students with disabilities, including those who are in need of special education and related services. General - If any person knows or believes that a student has a disability and is in need of accommodation, that person should contact Director of Student Services Cara Pellerin at pellerincara@festusedu.com.

All complaints regarding discrimination will be resolved in accordance with policy AC. Anyone who has a complaint or suspects discrimination should contact the compliance coordinator identified in policy AC.

The district will notify all parents and students of its obligations under this policy and the law.

Unless the parents of the child have initially consented to the district's offer to provide special education and related services, the district cannot provide special education services pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and the child will not receive the protections of the IDEA.

The Festus R-VI Board of Education prohibits the use of audio, video, or other recording devices at meetings held pursuant to the IDEA or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as well as other meetings between district employees and parents. Exceptions to this prohibition will be made only when otherwise required by law or under unusual circumstances when such recording is necessary to ensure parental rights guaranteed under Part B of the IDEA. Requests for such exceptions must be made within a reasonable period of time prior to scheduled meetings. This prohibition does not apply to conversations held within view of district security cameras.

## Students Who Are Eligible for Special Education Services under the IDEA

The district's programs and services available to meet the needs of students with disabilities will be in accordance with applicable federal and state laws governing special education services, including the State and Local Plans for the implementation of Part B of the IDEA. However, if the State of Missouri does not receive or accept federal IDEA Part B funds, then nothing in this policy shall be read to require anything, procedurally or substantively, that is not required by the governing law.

## Students Placed in Private Schools by Their Parents

The Festus R-VI School District will provide special education and related services pursuant to state and federal law to eligible students who are placed in private school by their parents and not enrolled in the district. However, no child with a disability enrolled in a private school by his or her parents has an individual right to receive some or all of the special education and related services the child would receive if enrolled in the district.

## Independent Evaluations

An Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE) will be provided as required by the IDEA. Applicable procedures, evaluator criteria and cost guidelines governing the IEE process are available through the district's special services office. The Board delegates the authority to make changes to these procedures, evaluator criteria and cost guidelines of the superintendent or designee. These items will adhere to rule published in the State and Local Plans for Compliance with Part B of the IDEA.

## Extended School Year

Extended school year (ESY) services may be necessary to provide a child with a disability a free and appropriate public education pursuant to law. The extended school year services will be addressed in each student's Individualized Education Program (IEP). The length, nature and type of ESY services will be determined by the IEP team.

## Mediation

The Festus R-VI Board of Education authorizes the special education director to legally bind the school district to a mediation agreement developed in accordance with the IDEA and Missouri law. The Board authorizes district staff to contact an attorney for legal advice prior to making any decisions.



**Accommodation of Students with Disabilities Including Those Not Eligible for Special Education Services under the IDEA**

The district seeks to identify, evaluate and provide free and appropriate education services in the least restrictive environment to all qualified students with disabilities within the definitions of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). No qualified student with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any district program, including nonacademic services and extracurricular activities. Students with disabilities may be eligible for accommodations under this policy even though they are not eligible for services pursuant to the IDEA. The district will initiate a referral if a student requiring accommodation is also believed to be a student with a disability under the IDEA. Implementation of an IEP in accordance with the IDEA satisfies the district's obligation to provide a free and appropriate education under Section 504.

**Parent / Family Involvement in Instructional and Other Programs**

The Festus R-VI School District Board of Education believes that engaging parents and families in the education process is essential to improved academic success for students. The Board recognizes that a student's education is a responsibility shared by the district, parents, families and other members of the community during the entire time a student attends school. The Board believes that the district must create an environment that is conducive to learning and that strong, comprehensive parent / family involvement is an important component. Parent and Family involvement in education requires a cooperative effort with roles for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the district, parents / families and the community.

**Parent / Family Involvement Goals and Plan**

The Festus R-VI Board of Education recognizes the importance of eliminating barriers that impede parent and family involvement, thereby facilitating an environment that encourages collaboration with parents, families and other members of the community. Therefore, the district will develop and implement a plan to facilitate parent and family involvement that shall include the following six (6) goals:  
 Promote regular, two-way, meaningful communication between home and school. Promote and support responsible parenting.  
 Recognize the fact that parents and families play an integral role in assisting their children to learn.  
 Promote a safe and open atmosphere for parents and families to visit the schools their children attend, and actively solicit parent and family support and assistance for school programs.  
 Include parents as full partners in decisions affecting their children and families. Use available community resources to strengthen and promote school programs, family practice and the achievement of students.  
 The district's plan for meeting these goals is to:  
 Provide activities that will educate parents regarding the intellectual and developmental needs of their children at all age levels. This will include promoting cooperation between the district and other agencies or school / community groups (such as parent-teacher groups, Head Start, Parents as Teachers, etc.) to furnish learning opportunities and disseminate information regarding parenting skills and child / adolescent development.

Implement strategies to involve parents and families in the educational process, including:  
 Keeping parents and families informed of opportunities for involvement and encouraging participation various programs.  
 Providing access to educational resources for parents and families to use together with their children.  
 Keeping parents and families informed of the objectives of district educational programs as well as of their child's participation and progress within these programs.  
 Enable families to participate in the education of their children through a variety of roles. For example, parents and family members should be given opportunities to provide input into district policies and volunteer time within the classrooms and school programs.  
 Provide professional development opportunities for teachers and staff to enhance their understanding of effective parent and family involvement strategies.  
 Perform regular evaluations of parent and family involvement at each school and at the district level.  
 Provide access, upon request, to any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

**If practical, provide information in a language understandable to parents.**

**Title I, Migrant Education (MEP) and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Programs**

The Festus R-VI Board also recognizes the special importance of parent and family involvement to the success of its Title I, MEP and LEP programs. Pursuant to federal law, the district and parents will jointly develop and agree upon a written parental involvement policy that will be distributed to parents participating in any of these programs.

**Title I Program Parent Involvement**

The district and parents of children participating in the Title I program will jointly develop and agree upon a written parent involvement policy that will describe how the district will:

1. Involve parents in the joint development of the Title I program plan and in the process of reviewing the implementation of the plan and suggesting improvements
2. Provide the coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.
3. Build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement.
4. Coordinate and integrate Title I parental involvement strategies with those of other educational programs.
5. Conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content of the parental involvement policy and its effectiveness in improving the academic quality of the schools served. This will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by law, particularly by parents who are economically disadvantaged, have disabilities, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background. The district will use the findings of such evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise, if necessary, the parental involvement policies.
6. Involve parents in the activities of the schools served.

Each school receiving Title I funds will jointly develop with and distribute to parents of children participating in the Title I program a written parental involvement policy agreed upon by such parents in accordance with the requirements of federal law:  
 1. The policy must be made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.  
 2. The policy shall contain a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff and students will share the responsibility of improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children.  
 3. Each school participating in the Title I program will convene a meeting annually to inform parents about Title I and to involve parents in the planning, review and improvement of Title I programs, including the planning, review and improvement of the school parental involvement policy.

**Migrant Education Program Parent Involvement**

Parents of students in the MEP will be involved in and regularly consulted about the development, implementation, operation and evaluation of the Migrant Education Program.  
 Parents of MEP students will receive instruction regarding their role in improving the academic achievement of their children.

**Limited English Proficiency Program Parent Involvement**

Pursuant to federal law, parents of LEP students will be provided notification regarding their child's placement in and information about the district's LEP program.  
 Parents will be notified of their rights regarding program content and participation.

**Policy Evaluation**

The district, with parent and family involvement, will review and evaluate the content and effectiveness of this policy and each school level policy at least annually. The district will revise this policy as necessary to improve or create practices that enhance parent and family involvement.

**Asbestos Notice**

Asbestos is an issue that we have been dealing with for many years. The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Act of 1986 was enacted to determine the extent of and develop solutions for any problems schools may have with asbestos.  
 To give you some background, asbestos has been used as a building material for many years. It is a naturally occurring mineral that is mined primarily in Canada, South Africa and Russia. Asbestos' properties made it an ideal material for insulating, sound absorption, decorative plasters, fireproofing, and a variety of miscellaneous uses. There have been over 3,000 different products made using asbestos material. EPA began action to limit use of asbestos products in 1973, and most uses of asbestos products as building materials were banned in 1978.  
 In 1988, the Festus School District developed an asbestos management plan for our facilities which include: this notification letter, education and training of our employees, a set of plans and procedures designed to minimize the disturbance of the asbestos-containing material.  
 A copy of the asbestos management plan is available for your inspection in the Administrative Office during regular working hours. Mr. Nathan Holder, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, is the Asbestos Program Manager, and all inquiries regarding the plan should be directed to him.  
 We continue to implement our asbestos-management plan. We plan on taking necessary steps to ensure that your children and Festus R-VI employees have a healthy, safe environment in which to learn and work.



**Festus School District**  
 1515 Mid-Meadow Lane • Festus, MO 63028 • Administrative Offices (636) 937-4920  
 Dr. Link Luttrell, *Superintendent* • Mr. Nathan Holder, *Asst. Superintendent* • Dr. Nicki Ruess, *Asst. Superintendent*  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
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The Festus R-VI Board of Education meetings are the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Roy D. Burnside Administrative Building, 1515 Mid-Meadow Lane. Visitors are welcome!

Senior High 501 Westwind Drive 937-5410 Main	Middle School 1717 West Main Street 937-5417 Main 937-5417 (nurse)	Intermediate School 1501 Mid-Meadow Lane 937-4750 Main 937-4799 (nurse)	Elementary School 1500 Mid-Meadow Lane 937-4063 Main 937-5917 (nurse)
Karl Shinniger, Principal Joel Roth, Asst. Principal Eric Allen, Asst. Principal/ Athletics/Activities Counseling Office: 937-5944 Steve Shemwell, Counselor Jennifer Kline, Counselor Amanda Esparza, Counselor Maggie Ellis, RN, Health Room	Jacob Munoz, Principal Kim Neel, Asst. Principal Melissa Coahuilas, Psy. Examiner Counseling Office: 937-2035 Wendy Mickley, Counselor Nichole Townsend, RN, Health Room	Spencer Kearns, Principal Deana Brown, Asst. Principal Counseling Office: 937-4750 Shannon Helms, Counselor Steve Williams, Counselor Tiffany Yates, RN, Health Room	Darin Siefert, Principal Saundra Benack, Asst. Principal Counseling Office: 937-2991 Angie Eisenbies, Counselor Tricia Nahlik, Counselor Jessy Beard, RN, Health Room

FOOD SERVICE - Peggy Carle - 937-7747  
 TRANSPORTATION - Joan Rupp - 937-5716  
 STUDENT SERVICES - Cara Pellerin - 937-8044  
 COMMUNICATIONS - Kevin Pope - 636-638-2004  
 Staff & Student Wellness - Lindsey Roth - 636-638-2006