

Local Schools



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Largest Graduating Class in Decades

JUNE 01ST 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Largest Graduating Class in Decades

Poplar Bluff, Missouri - A total of 340 students graduated from Poplar Bluff High School on Thursday, May 25, at the Black River Coliseum – the largest graduating class since 1980, according to district records.

The Class of 2017 was the first to graduate from the new state-of-the-art campus facility and the last group for Mike Kiehne to lead as principal, the beginning and end of a chapter. He will be succeeded next school year by Mike Owen, who presently serves as assistant principal at the High School.

“We’re doing things a lot differently than we were six years ago when I was hired,” said Kiehne, who accepted a superintendent position in Marble Hill. “But I’ll tell you one thing: We packed the house tonight!”

Education officials utilized the Graduation Center, the ICU program and advisory class to keep students on track to earn diplomas under Kiehne’s administration. Owen plans to move forward with those tools, which helped to increase the graduation rate significantly since 2011.

“In high school, these support systems are almost built in,” salutatorian Katie Huskey stated to the audience. “...As we leave this built-in support system, we cannot forget to find another one.”

Valedictorian Hunter Aud noted that he believes his classmates have the potential to make a difference. “Out in the crowd of graduating students, I see a group of hard-working, determined people ready to positively impact the world around them,” he said.

The graduating seniors collectively earned over \$1.5 million in scholarships, the counseling department reported.

Class president Samara Kilgore concluded her speech with advice from multi-E Emmy Award winner Alan Alda. “You have to leave the city of your comfort and go into the wilderness of your institution. You can’t get there by bus, only by hard work and risk and by not quite knowing what you’re doing, but what you’ll discover will be wonderful. What you’ll discover will be yourself.”

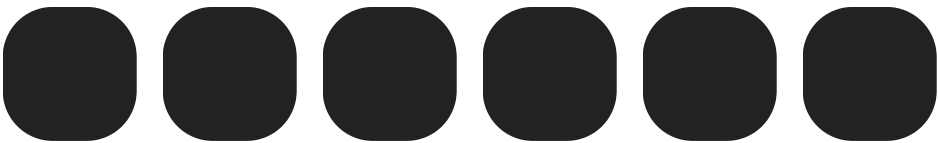
Shown in the photo: Principal Mike Kiehne presents distinguished graduate Maddi West a signed white robe for being voted the most inspirational classmate.

Article and photo submitted by Tim Krakowiak, Communications/Marketing Director, Poplar Bluff R-I School District

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Southwest Students Earn Positive Office Referral Awards

MAY 31ST 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Southwest Students Earn Positive Office Referral Awards

Dexter, Missouri - Southwest Elementary honors students with Positive Office Referral certificates.

This award is presented to students who consistently show the 3R's RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE, and READY TO LEARN at Southwest Elementary in Dexter.

Each student received a certificate and a FREE Taco from Taco Bell.

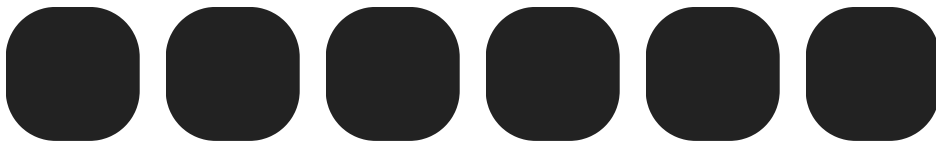
BACK ROW: Ashton Holden, Reese Waggoner, Hailee Foster, Trista Murphy, Brody McFaddin, Wyatt Parkhill

FRONT ROW: Isabella Jeffords, Marcus Rios, Juieta Lugo Taboada, Braelyn Sander, Charlotte Hurt, Carsen Jones

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Second Grade Classroom Earn 3Rs Flag

MAY 31ST 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Second Grade Classroom Earn 3Rs Flag

Dexter, Missouri - The second grade class of Mrs. Boyer earned the Southwest Elementary Positive Behavioral Support Reward Flag.

School Wide Positive Behavioral Support (SWPBS) award is presented at the start of each month at Southwest Elementary. One classroom in each grade is recognized for exhibiting the high character with regard to observing the school's 3R's.

The 3R's stand for being Respectful, Ready to Learn and Responsible. The class with the highest attendance average, combined with the fewest disciplinary measures and general good character are awarded a 3R red flag to be posted in their classroom for the next month. The students are also awarded "superhero" capes to wear and parade around the gym before returning to class.

Pictured front row from left to right: Jasmine Jones, Jaxon Akridge, Brice Pollard, Palyn West

Middle Row: Evan Worthington, Savanah Mayabb, Harlow Russell, Kasyn Stearns, Bailey McCoy, Riley Adams, Lexi Morris

Back Row: Mrs. Boyer, Eli Moon, Pliera Davis, Chase Guiling, Sarah Fleetwood, Chris Bennett, Aubrey Jarrell, Ms. Tori Sayre

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First Grade Classroom Earns 3Rs Flag

MAY 31ST 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

First Grade Classroom Earns 3Rs Flag

Dexter, Missouri - The first grade class of Mrs. Ridings earned the Southwest Elementary Positive Behavioral Support Reward Flag.

School Wide Positive Behavioral Support (SWPBS) award is presented at the start of each month at Southwest Elementary. One classroom in each grade is recognized for exhibiting the high character with regard to observing the school's 3R's.

The 3R's stand for being Respectful, Ready to Learn and Responsible. The class with the highest attendance average, combined with the fewest disciplinary measures and general good character are awarded a 3R red flag to be posted in their classroom for the next month. The students are also awarded "superhero" capes to wear and parade around the gym before returning to class.

Pictured front row from left to right: Jack Smith, Brayden Tilley, Isaiah Torres, Aiden McClish, Tarryn Bridges, Tayton Williams, Kelsey Foster.

Middle Row: Mason Spencer, Kale Midgett, Bryson Barnes, Jaycie March, Bryce Burnett, Devyn Bennett, Vyvianne Pflasterer

Front Row: Liberty Ellis, Melody Jarrell, Kynnedi Yates, Taylinn Conn-Harris, Maddilyn Childers, Jozalyn Shepard, Shae Renfro

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Kindergarten Classroom Earns 3Rs Flag

MAY 31ST 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Kindergarten Classroom Earns 3Rs Flag

Dexter, Missouri - The Kindergarten class of Mrs. Cecil earned the Southwest Elementary Positive Behavioral Support Reward Flag.

School Wide Positive Behavioral Support (SWPBS) award is presented at the start of each month at Southwest Elementary. One classroom in each grade is recognized for exhibiting the high character with regard to observing the school's 3R's.

The 3R's stand for being Respectful, Ready to Learn and Responsible. The class with the highest attendance average, combined with the fewest disciplinary measures and general good character are awarded a 3R red flag to be posted in their classroom for the next month. The students are also awarded "superhero" capes to wear and parade around the gym before returning to class.

Pictured are front row from left to right: Addilynn Gordon, Michael Pesina, Evan Sisk, Khloe Merritt, Trista Murphy, and Blake Pfeffer

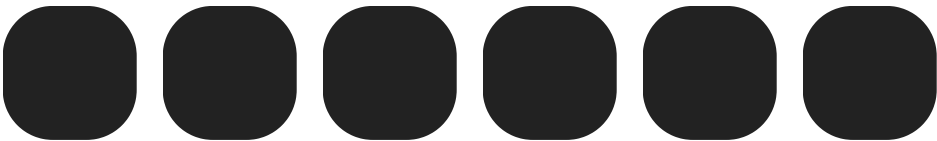
Middle Row: Cooper Huddleston, Wyatt Brockway, Dixie Oliver, Makinley Crosby, Taran DeProw, Owen Reed, and Gunner Matney

Top Row: Eli Earnheart, Trystan Fischer, Cori Lovelady, Madyson Harris, Jazelle Horne, Ronie Taylor, Ashton DeBerry, and Kingston Banken

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