

Local Schools



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Poplar Bluff School District earns back-to-back Blue Ribbons

OCTOBER 03RD 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Poplar Bluff School District earns back-to-back Blue Ribbons

For the second consecutive year, a school within the Poplar Bluff R-I District has earned the highest honor achievable for an educational institution in America.

U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced today that Oak Grove Elementary has been named a 2019 National Blue Ribbon School for its leading academic performance measured by state assessments among 362 public and private schools total and only eight recipients in Missouri.

“We recognize and honor your important work preparing students for successful careers and meaningful lives,” DeVos said in a video message to the honorees. “As a National Blue Ribbon School, your students’ success demonstrates what’s possible when committed educators partner with parents and community leaders to create vibrant, challenging cultures of learning.”

Based on all student scores and those of subgroups, along with graduation rates, Blue Ribbon winners are first nominated as Gold Star Schools by the state’s commissioner of education, and third graders must continue to perform at the top level afterward.

During the 2016/17 school year, 86.2 percent of Oak Grove students scored proficient or advanced in English language arts and 72.4 in mathematics on the Missouri Assessment Program test. The following year, the elementary school earned 75.7 percent in English and 84.5 in math. While the current Annual Performance Report will not be released by

the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education until October, measurable objectives at Oak Grove have been met, education officials confirmed.

“They have worked so hard to build teacher teams that are honest with one another and 100 percent committed to improvement,” said Patty Robertson, R-I assistant superintendent of curriculum. “The conversations were not always easy and weekly meetings were a major commitment of time. Classroom teachers, reading teachers, special education teachers and classroom aides all took part in the effort.”

Besides being in the top 15 percent overall, nominees must also be ranked in the top 40 percent for the performance of super subgroups statewide. Oak Grove was nationally recognized in 2018 for closing the achievement gap among student groups by an average rate of 24 percent, earning the National Title 1 or ESEA award.

Additionally, the district’s four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate needs to be in the top 15 percent across Missouri, making the award a district-wide effort. The graduation rate for Poplar Bluff High School currently stands at an all-time high of 94.2 percent, and has increased annually over the past decade, according to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s core data collection system.

“We’ve been nationally recognized two years in a row for having one of the best schools in the country, which is just an indication of the high-quality work that is taking place throughout the district,” stated Dr. Scott Dill, Poplar Bluff superintendent. “There is no secret formula to this. We simply immerse ourselves in research-based best practices with an emphasis on collaborative professional learning throughout our school community. We understand we are better when we work together.”

Since implementing positive behavioral interventions and supports, earning silver recognition under the system last year, discipline referrals at Oak Grove have decreased by 75 percent, dropping from 538 five years ago to 132. Establishing building-wide expectations has allowed educators to focus on using data to differentiate instruction under the professional learning community model, making constant adjustments to meet the needs of all students. The school district also subscribes to Capturing Kids’ Hearts, a relationship-capacity building initiative that gives faculty members the tools to make breakthroughs in the classroom environment.

“Without a positive culture in place through PBIS and Capturing Kids’ Hearts, we wouldn’t have a platform to have effective collaborative teams,” explained Jenifer Richardson, Oak Grove principal of 10 years. “It begins with a strong solid foundation focused on positive culture, and then you have to have the right mindset in order to do the work required to be an effective professional learning community and get results.”

Lake Road Elementary was the first school in Poplar Bluff history to receive the Blue Ribbon award in 2018. For 37 years, the national program has bestowed recognition on more than 9,000 schools in an effort to share best practices. In November, Oak Grove will be honored by the U.S. Department of Education during a ceremony in Washington, D.C., and will be presented a flag to signify its exemplary status.

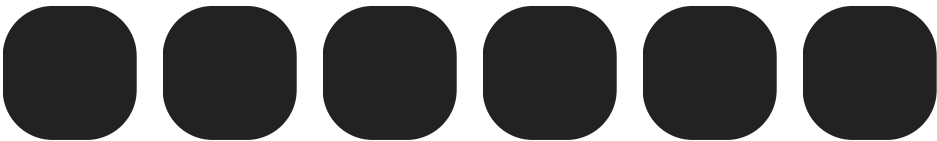
Pictured: The staff at Oak Grove gather at the elementary school on Monday, Aug. 12, in preparation for the 2019/20 school year.

Photo and article by Tim Krakowiak, Communications/Marketing Director, Poplar Bluff R-I School District

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T.S. Hill Middle School Weekly Activities

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T.S. Hill Middle School Weekly Activities

Dexter High School - This listing of weekly activities is a service offered by the ShowMe Times, working in partnership with Dexter High School principal, Alana Dowdy, and DHS Asst. Principal Melissa Hahn for your convenience.

We hope you will mark your calendar and we encourage everyone to support our local students and their activities. The education and growth of young people in our community is the key to everyone's future! If you would like to submit information and a picture of a student and his/her accomplishments, send it to news@showmetimes.com

Calendar

Mon Oct 7

GBB @ Doniphan 6:00/4:15

Tue Oct 8

Football vs EP 5:00

Thurs Oct 10

GBB vs. Holcomb 6:00

Football @ Scott City 5:00/3:00

CC @ Saxony 4:00/1:30

Mon Oct 14

GBB @ Woodland 6:00/4:15

CC-SCAA 4:00/2:15

Tues Oct 15

Picture Re Take Day

GBB @ Bluff 5:00/3:45

Wed Oct 16

Talent Search 5-6-7

Thurs Oct 17

GBB vs. Neelyville 6:00

CC SEMO Conference Tourn. 4:00/3:00

Fri Oct 18

End of 1st Quarter

Sat Oct 19

CC @ Farmington 9:30/7:00

Sun Oct 20

Middle School Choir Fall Concert 4:00

Mon Oct 21

GBB vs. Jackson 6:00

Thurs Oct 24

12:00 Dismissal

1:30-7:30 Parent-Teacher Conferences

Fri Oct 25

PD Day 8:00-11:00

Sat Oct 26

CC-Home 11:00AM

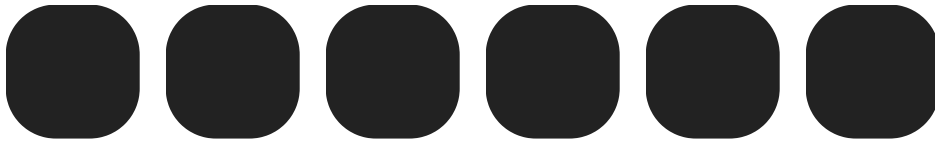
Mon Oct 28

GBB vs. Sikeston 6:00

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Greaser of the Week: Maddie Glaus

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Greaser of the Week: Maddie Glaus

Dexter, Missouri - School is back in session and DHS Choir students are already preparing for their upcoming musical "Grease". Jamie Sepulvado and her crew are featuring a "Greaser of the Week!" so you can get to know DHS performers!!

Performances will be Wednesday, November 20th through Saturday, November 23rd! We'll let you know when tickets go on sale etc, but until then get to know your castmates and prepare for a spectacular show!!

Greaser of the Week: Maddie Glaus

Maddie is a freshman at DHS this year, and this will be her first standout role in one of our high school's musicals.

Maddie is a member of the Red Cast, so she will be performing the role of "Jan" on Wednesday and Friday evenings.

Maddie really likes musicals, and she will bring a lot of fun to her role as one of the Pink Ladies.

<https://showmetimes.com/Blogpost/vd8v/Greaser-of-the-Week-Maddie-Glaus>

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Greaser of the Week Featuring Molly Simmons

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Performances will be Wednesday, November 20th through Saturday, November 23rd! We'll let you know when tickets go on sale etc, but until then get to know your castmates and prepare for a spectacular show!

Greaser of the Week: Molly Simmons

Molly is a freshman, and she will be performing as Miss Lynch with the Red Cast on Wednesday and Friday.

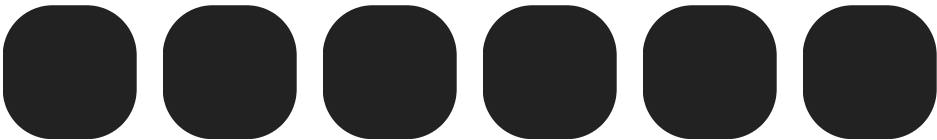
Molly has performed previously in DHS’s Beauty and the Beast.

She says that she started getting involved in musicals because her sister, Meg Simmons, was in them.

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Dexter School Board Monthly Meeting Minutes - September 24, 2019

OCTOBER 03RD 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Dexter School Board Monthly Meeting Minutes - September 24, 2019

The Dexter School Board of Education met for their regularly schedule September meeting. Below are the minutes for that meeting submitted by superintendent C.A. Counts.

Regular Board Meeting Minutes for September 24, 2019

Call to Order/Roll Call/Pledge The Board President announced the meeting is to begin, ascertains the attendance status of all board members present. He then leads in the saying of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda: The Consent Agenda was approved.

Public Comments: There were no public comments made.

Old Business:

A. None

New Business:

A. The board approved a resolution for \$4,100,000.00 bond anticipation note to cover construction cost thru December 2019. This note will be paid off with proceeds from the 2020 bonds.

This was due to work progressing faster than expected at the schools according to superintendent C

B. The board approved budget amendment for the 2019-20 school year.

C. The board approved change orders for various items from the construction project.

D. The board approved the district assessment plan for the 2019-20 school year.

Discussion Items:

A. The board was presented the MCE Board Policy Updates that will be approved at the October board meeting.

B. The nurse's report was shared with the board.

C. The principals reports were shared with the board.

D. The superintendent gave his report to the board.

E. The next board meeting was set for October 15, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

In Closed Session:

1. The board approved the following substitutes for the 2019-20 school year:

Shelly Maddox

Caroline Powers

Peggy McGowan

2. The board approved the following bus driver for the 2019-20 school year:

Ben Beecher

3. The board approved a special circumstance early graduation

Items at the conclusion of Executive Session

None

Stoddard County Clerk Cecil Weeks approached the Board to discuss the possibility of moving voters of Dexter Wards 1, II, and III to the Bearcat Event Center. If this worked well then he would look to move Dexter rural to the location. There would be elections in March, April, August, and November of 2020. After discussion for safety etc the board told Weeks they were on board with the move. He would proceed with printing of new voter ID cards with the new voting location.

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