

Features



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Dexter High School Class of 2020 Valedictorian and Salutatorian Named

MAY 07TH 2020 BY DEE LOFLIN

Dexter High School Class of 2020 Valedictorian and Salutatorian Named

Dexter, MO - The valedictorian for the Dexter High School Class of 2020 is Blair Rogers and the salutatorian is Audrey Marie Lutmer.

Rogers is the daughter of Robin and Scott Northern and the late Aaron Rogers.

During her high school career she was in the top 10% of her class all four years.

Rogers earned the Bearcat Scholar Award her junior and senior years, the Perryville Character Athlete Award her junior year, first-team all-conference volleyball award during her junior and senior years, first-team all-district volleyball award during her junior and senior years, all-county cheerleader award all four years, Dexter High School Volleyball Offensive Player of the Year for her senior year, Dexter High School Cheerleading Award for her junior and senior years and the social studies faculty award.

She was named Missouri volleyball academic all-state the past four years. Rogers was a member of the Dexter High School varsity volleyball team, the Dexter High School varsity cheerleading squad, Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), Student Council and National Beta Club all four years.

She played USAV club volleyball for three years and was a member of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) for three years. She competed on the Dexter High School varsity track and field and was a member of the Foreign Language Club (FLC) and

National Honor Society for two years. She was a member of the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), athletic council and Future Teachers of America (FTA) for one year. She attended the Fulton Leadership Workshop and Missouri Girls State.

Rogers finished her high school career with a 4.337 GPA and plans to attend the University of Missouri-Columbia and major in political science. She then plans to attend law school and become a criminal defense attorney.

The salutatorian for the Dexter Class of 2020 is Audrey Marie Lutmer and is the daughter of Angela Lutmer and Brian Lutmer.

Lutmer is the president of Dexter’s FFA chapter, a service coordinator in the National Honor Society, a captain of the Drama, Speech and Debate team, captain of the Scholar Bowl team, a member of the Senior Beta Club and plays bassoon in the varsity band. She has been in the top 10 percent of her class in all four years of high school and received the faculty award for mathematics, English, scholar bowl and agriculture.

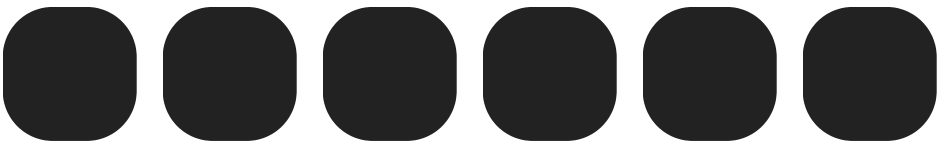
Lutmer finished her high school career with a 4.322 GPA and plans to attend Missouri State University where she will plans to major in sociology.

A graduation parade will be held for the Dexter Class of 2020 Friday evening.

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Mason and Maddox Beaird are the Bernie Parents as Teachers Students of the Month for May 2020.

MAY 02ND 2020 BY DEE LOFLIN

Mason and Maddox Beaird are the Bernie Parents as Teachers Students of the Month for May 2020.

Mason and Maddox Beaird are the Bernie Parents as Teachers' students of the month for May 2020.

They are the children of Justin and Emily Beaird.

Mason is four years old and enjoys riding the tractor with his Dad.

During the family's PAT visits with Mrs. McGarity, he loves learning and playing games and cannot wait to go to school one day.

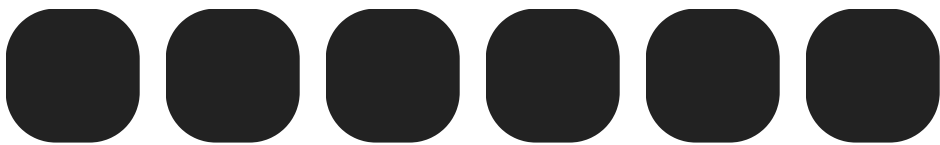
Mason's little brother, two year old Maddox, loves playing outside with his siblings.

During their PAT visits, he enjoys sitting with his family and reading the new books they receive, as well as engaging in all the fun activities his parent educator brings for him.

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Bernie Parents As Teachers April 2020 Students of the Month

APRIL 08TH 2020 BY DEE LOFLIN

Bernie Parents As Teachers April 2020 Students of the Month

Annabeth and Layla Cox are the Bernie Parents as Teachers Students of the Month for April 2020

They are the children of Jeff and Katie Cox.

Annabeth is 2 years old.

She loves dinosaurs, Baby Shark, and books.

Layla is 7 months old and is working on crawling and getting her first tooth.

The family's favorite parts of participating in Parents as Teachers are watching the girls learn new things and reading new books.

The following information was taken directly from the Parent as Teachers Missouri website.

Our Vision

All children will learn, grow and develop to realize their full potential.

Our Mission

To provide the information, support and encouragement parents need to help their children develop optimally during the crucial early years of life.

Our Values

The early years of a child's life are critical for optimal development and provide the foundation for success in school and in life.

Parents are their children's first and most influential teachers.

Established and emerging research should be the foundation of parent education and family support curricula, training, materials and services.

All young children and their families deserve the same opportunities to succeed, regardless of any demographic, geographic or economic considerations.

An understanding and appreciation of the history and traditions of diverse cultures is essential in serving families.

History

In 1981, Missouri pioneered the concept of helping parents embrace their important role as their child's first and best teacher. Today, Parents as Teachers continues to equip early childhood organizations and professionals with information and tools that are relevant and widely applicable to today's parents, families and children.

The Parents as Teachers leadership team and Board of Directors is engaged in a three-year strategic plan, which positions the organization as a valued partner to support the organizations and professionals who serve families and children, especially those most vulnerable.

The concept for Parents as Teachers was developed in the 1970s when Missouri educators noted that children were beginning kindergarten with varying levels of school readiness. Research showed that greater parent involvement is a critical link in the child's development of learning skills, including reading and writing.

Early childhood professionals suggested that a program to provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues, and parent education to help parents understand their role in encouraging their child's development from the beginning could help improve school readiness and parent involvement.

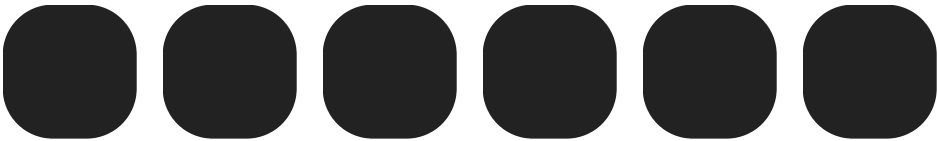
With funding from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and The Danforth Foundation, Parents as Teachers began in 1981 in Missouri as a pilot project for first-time parents of newborns. Recognizing the program's benefits and cost effectiveness, the Missouri legislature provided state funding in 1985 to implement

Parents as Teachers programs in all Missouri school districts. Since 1985, Parents as Teachers has expanded to all 50 states and six other countries.

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Central Gardens Enacts Visitor Restrictions for the Safety of Residents

MARCH 16TH 2020 BY DEE LOFLIN

Central Gardens Enacts Visitor Restrictions for the Safety of Residents

Dexter, MIssouri - Central Gardens is dedicated to protecting the health and safety of their residents, families and employees. They are required to follow guidelines mandated by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

"We wanted to update our families and friends and let everyone know that things are going well here at Central Gardens even though we have been required to restrict visitation. All the residents have been doing great. We will continue to take great care of everyone to ensure their health and safety is not being compromised. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call and speak to our Administrator, Kim Polen.

Visitors Restricted to the following:

- + Essential healthcare providers serving residents
- + Necessary vendors and delivery personnel
- + Ombudsman Representative
- + Employees

Employees/Health Care Personnel: You must sign in and complete your wellness check upon entering the building and adhere to the infection control policies.

Delivery Drivers/Vendors: Call for product to be accepted.

Central Gardens thanks everyone for their understanding and support as they work to ensure a safe and controlled environment for their residents.

If you have further questions please call (573) 624-0011 or (573) 380-1390.

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Tweedy Law Office Named 2020 Bloomfield Chamber Business of the Year

MARCH 13TH 2020 BY DEE LOFLIN

Tweedy Law Office Named 2020 Bloomfield Chamber Business of the Year

Bloomfield, MO - The Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce held their annual 2020 Awards Banquet on Thursday, March 12th at the Assembly of God Church.

Jim Tweedy opened Tweedy Law Office, LLC in Bloomfield in January 1994. Sara Pounds joined soon after in September, 1994. She has been the fresh, smiling face greeting clients at the front door ever since. Kathy Daniel was the next to join the team in 2001, following a short retirement, after working at the Circuit Clerk's office for many years. Other part timers have come/gone over the years, working part time during their college years. Currently, Marla Swindell and Trish Julian are the current office part time assistants.

Jim and his assistants strive to provide quality legal representation in the small town setting. His services range from basic estate planning, probate, criminal/traffic matters, family law and collection work. When cases are outside his comfort zone, he does not hesitate to either co-counsel with specialist in personal injury cases or complex estate planning.

Outside the office, Jim has been involved with the Stoddard County Children's Home since 1996, serving as secretary, treasurer and fundraising chairman at various times over the years. He has also served terms on the board of directors of Dexter Memorial Hospital, Center for Family Resources and the Bloomfield Housing Authority. In addition to the local boards, Jim has served on the MU Ag Alumni Association for nearly a decade, serving as President in 1999 and The Missouri Ethics Commission, serving as

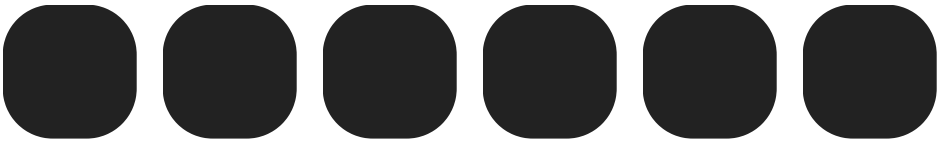
Vice-Chairman and hearing officer his last two years of service. Within the legal community, he also has served as President of the Stoddard County Bar Association, Chairman of Southeast Missouri Legal Services Board of Directors and was the district representative for the Young Lawyers Section of the Missouri Bar in his younger years. He is currently one of six members of the Missouri Bar serving on the Client Security Fund.

Pictured are Jim Tweedy and staff, Travis Westbrook, Kathy Daniel, Sara Pounds, Marla Swindell, Herman Morse, 151st State Representative, Dee Loflin, Bloomfield Chamber Board Member, and Amy Haas, Chamber President.

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