

## Local Schools



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# Advance Schools 3rd-6th Grade Student of the Month for November is Kelley Tackett

JANUARY 08TH 2025 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Advance Schools 3rd-6th Grade Student of the Month for November is Kelley Tackett

The Student of the Month program is a new initiative to promote positive behaviors among students and recognize their achievements. Each month, staff members can nominate students who demonstrate qualities like respect, initiative, teamwork, perseverance, and consistent performance.

The 3rd-6th grade winner for November is Kelley Tackett.

Kelley's nominator said, "Kelley is new to the district this year. He is very kind to everyone and very helpful at all times. He is very responsible and will help out anyone. He is the kid who will pick up someone else's trash and carry someone's things if they need a hand. He is a smart, sweet kid who deserves some praise."

Congratulations, Kelley!

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## Advance K-2 November Student of the Month is Madilyn Bond

JANUARY 07TH 2025 BY DEE LOFLIN

### Advance K-2 November Student of the Month is Madilyn Bond

The Student of the Month program is a new initiative to promote positive behaviors among students and recognize their achievements. Each month, staff members can nominate students who demonstrate qualities like respect, initiative, teamwork, perseverance, and consistent performance.

The Kindergarten, 1st or 2nd grade winner for November is Madilyn Bond.

Her nominator said, "Madilyn works hard in academics but also has a big heart and includes all students in play and sharing. Assists teacher in the classroom. Cleans up after others. She even picks up big crickets and carries them safely outside to be set free."

Congratulations, Madilyn!

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# Dexter School Board Meeting Minutes - December 17, 2024 - No-tax-increase bond issue for April Election

DECEMBER 20TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

Dexter School Board Meeting Minutes - December 17, 2024 - No-tax-increase bond issue for April Election

## Regular Board Meeting Notes December 17, 2024

### 6:00 PM-Regular Board Meeting

#### **1,2,3. Call to Order/Roll Call/Pledge:**

The Board President announced the meeting is to begin, ascertains the attendance status of all board members, with Mr. Mathis and Mr. Glaus being absent. The Board President leads in the saying of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. Consent Agenda:** The consent agenda was approved.

**5. Public Comments:** Kim Waldner and Travis Gibson made comments during this time.

#### **6. Old Business:**

A. There was no old business.

## **7. New Business:**

A. The board approved a transfer from Fund 001 to Fund 002 to eliminate any negative balances by December 31st.

B. The board approved the December MCE updates. The updates are as follows:

### **Policy-4560-Post Retirement Option**

This update reflects a PSRS rule change increasing the maximum salary for retired certificated employees who are post-retirement hired for non-certificated positions. The change increases the maximum salary from \$15,000 to \$29,685.60.

### **Policy and Regulation 6325-Artificial Intelligence**

This is designed to provide guidance to the district in the use of artificial intelligence. I have shared this with all building principals, assistants, the curriculum director, and the IT dept. for input. These individuals are all proponents of the policy.

C. The board approved the deletion of exempt/non-exempt status in regulation 4221.

A Federal court invalidated the administration increase in the salary required to be considered exempt from overtime under the Fair Labor Standards Act. The exempt salary amount went from \$35,558 to \$55,558. The court's decision invalidates this increase. The exempt threshold reverts to \$35,558. We adopted this language in our regulation and it needs to be deleted.

To see the district's full policy listing, please visit the website:

<https://www.moconed.com/district/DexterRXI/district.php>

D. The board approved a bus purchase for the 25-26 school year. The cost of the bus is \$162,168.

E. The board approved a resolution calling for a special bond election to be held on April 8, 2025.

F. The board approved the draft ballot language for the April 8th no-tax-increase bond issue.

Here is the ballot language:

## **Proposition K.I.D.S. 2025**

Shall the Board of Education of the Dexter R-XI School District, Missouri, without an estimated increase in the current debt service property tax levy, borrow money in the amount of Seventeen Million Dollars (\$17,000,000) for the purpose of providing funds to replace roofs District-wide; to increase safety and security with new entrances/lobby areas; to complete athletic facility upgrades including lighting, concession stands, press box, parking, a new soccer field, and new tennis courts; to expand the Southwest Elementary cafeteria; to construct additional classrooms and restrooms; to modernize science labs; to upgrade technology; to the extent funds are available, complete other repairs and improvements to the existing facilities of the District; and issue general obligation bonds for the payment thereof? If this proposition is approved, the adjusted debt service levy of the School District is estimated to remain unchanged at \$0.8312 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation of real and personal property.

**8. Discussion Items:** The following items were discussed with the board:

A. The building reports were provided to the board.

B. The superintendent report and CSIP update was provided to the board.

### [Superintendent Report December 2024](#)

C. The SRO report was provided to the board.

D. Payroll for all employees and subs will move to direct deposit beginning July 1, 2025.

E. The next regular board meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 21st at 6:00 p.m.

### **In Closed Session:**

1. The board approved the following substitutes for the 2024-2025 school year:

**Lori Anderson**

**Katlyn Young**  
**Shelby Mayabb**  
**Sydney Lawson**

2. The board approved the following transfers for the 2024-2025 school year:

**There were no transfers this month.**

3. The board approved the following resignations, retirements, and/or recensions:

**Shelly Culp-CCE/Broadcasting Teacher at High School, resignation**  
effective at the end of the 24-25 school year.

**Jessica Blake**-Special Services Teacher at Central Elementary, resignation effective at the end of the 24-25 school year.

**Curtis Baisden**-Bus Driver, retirement effective January 31, 2025.

**Marc Thrower** - Assistant Track Coach at Middle School, resignation  
effective at the end of the 24-25 school year.

4. The board approved the hiring of the following individuals for the 2024-2025 school year, pending a favorable background check and appropriate certification:

**Morgan Wilkinson**-Bus aide.

5. The following items were discussed with the board:

- 

Legal updates.

### **Items at the Conclusion of Executive Session**

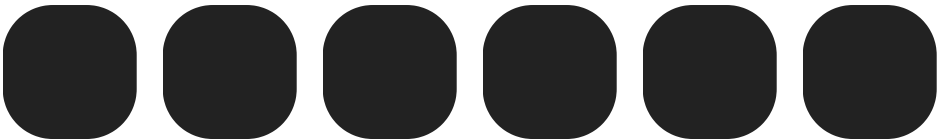
A.

There were no items to be considered.

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# Seventeen Poplar Bluff band students earn All-District honors

DECEMBER 20TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

Seventeen Poplar Bluff band students earn All-District honors

The Southeast Missouri All-District Band featured a dozen students from Poplar Bluff Schools on Saturday, Nov. 16, at Cape Central High School.

PBHS students who successfully auditioned against districts across the region earlier in the month at Jackson High School included Preston Ethridge, Claire

Funke, RJ Hester, Jackson Kennedy, Jazlynn LeGrand, Mylee McClintock, William Montgomery, Aubrea Morrow, Ma'Kayla Oses-Arviso and Bethany Winters. Junior High students selected were Addyson Henson and Kaitlyn Hillis.

"Each student is required to learn and perform a difficult set of musical excerpts in front of a judge and their overall score is pitted against all other students who audition," explained Stephen Winters, band director. "...They are placed in order by their audition score and then meet at Cape High School to learn an entire concert's worth of music during one day's rehearsal."

Also during the audition held on Tuesday, Nov. 5, the following High School students were chosen to perform in the Southeast Missouri District Jazz Band: Ian Gholson, Brayden Keeling, Wyatt Lindsey, Logan Simpson and Isaac Stork. These students will have the opportunity to showcase their talents during the Jazz Festival on Thursday, Feb. 6, at Three Rivers College.

Kaitlyn Hillis (left) and Addyson Henson, both flute players, recently performed as members of the Southeast Missouri All-District Junior High Band.

(From left) Ma'Kayla Oses-Arviso, William Montgomery, RJ Hester, Preston Ethridge, Mylee McClintock, Jackson Kennedy, Bethany Winters, Jazlynn LeGrand, Aubrea Morrow and Claire Funke performed as members of the All-District High School Band.

(Left to right) Logan Simpson, Ian Gholson, Brayden Keeling, Wyatt Lindsey and Isaac Stork are slated to perform with the All-District Jazz Band in February.

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## Three Rivers College Students Selected to All-Collegiate Band

DECEMBER 18TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

### Three Rivers College Students Selected to All-Collegiate Band

Three Rivers College students Emma Harris and Hannah Winters were recently selected to perform for the All-Collegiate Band and will perform at 9 p.m. January 29 at Margaritaville/Tan-Tar-A Convention Center in Osage Beach, Mo., during the 87th annual Missouri Music Educators Association In-Service Workshop/Conference.

“This is an incredible accomplishment for our students and our music program,” Three Rivers music professor William White said. “The nomination and audition process for the All-Collegiate Band is very competitive and both of our students worked hard to achieve this high honor.”

Both Harris and Winters will perform in a nine-person percussion section. The All-Collegiate Band is comprised of 97 students selected from 26 colleges and universities throughout Missouri.

“We are proud that Emma and Hannah will be almost ¼ of the percussion section,” White said. “This means they are among the finest college percussionists in our state.”

Three Rivers offers an Associate of Arts degree with courses in Music for students who plan to transfer to a four-year college or university to major in Music and an Associate of Arts in Teaching – Music Education degree for students who want to transfer into Central Methodist University’s completion program, offered at the Three Rivers College Poplar Bluff campus, to earn a Bachelor of Music Education Degree. Both the AA and AAT degree programs provide an affordable way to fulfill general education requirements and to explore a variety of performance opportunities. Students can specialize in choir or instrumental music. There are courses for ensembles and

private instruction. There also are music scholarship opportunities for both music majors and non-majors. Students do not need to major in music to enroll in music ensembles.

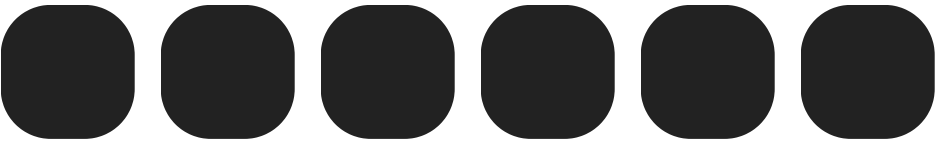
For more information about the Three Rivers College Music Department, call 573-840-9639.

Three Rivers College is committed to contributing to the quality of life in Southeast Missouri with quality, affordable higher education opportunities and community services that support and encourage the economic, civic, and cultural vitality of the region. For more information about college and workforce programs and upcoming events, visit [trcc.edu](https://trcc.edu).

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