

To: Board of Education
From: Dr. Mark Maus, Superintendent
Re: Superintendent Update
Date: April 16, 2025

Members of the Board of Education,

Each month, there will be an update to the Board highlighting our work within our district and the community. Strong communication and partnerships are part of our strategic plan and essential to our work. Topics for this month will include:

- Bond and Levy Transfer Passage
- Kauffman Real-World Learning Retreat
- Legislative Update
 - Open Enrollment
 - Proposed Tax Cut Bills (Capital Gains, Corporate, and Income)
- Superintendent's Advisory Council Update
- Student and Staff Recognition

Student and Staff Recognition

Art Students Recognition:

SHS Art students submitted pieces to the annual High School Juried Art Exhibition at the Albrecht Kemper Museum of Art (AKMA) in Saint Joseph, Missouri. A juried exhibition is where the host hires a set of judges to come in and critique work based on craftsmanship, originality, technical skills, and overall idea. This year there were roughly 155 artists with about 168 works of art. SHS swept the show with many outstanding awards.

Hannah Rudd - Honorable Mention in the Ceramics category for her piece, *Within*.

Aden Thornton - 2nd place in the Drawing-Monochromatic category for his piece, *Back Alley*

Bayley Freeman won BEST OF SHOW for her sculpture, *Unrolling*. In order to receive this award, judges all agree that this work of art stands out amongst the rest of the artwork. There were 9 different categories.

Missouri Scholars Academy:

Kate Crim and Ammon Cardon have earned prestigious spots at the 2025 Missouri Scholars Academy! This highly selective three-week residential program, hosted at the University of Missouri, recognizes and nurtures the state's brightest rising gifted juniors.



Stanford STaRS

Emily Duckwitz has been accepted into the esteemed Stanford STaRS Internship program! Emily is the first Smithville student ever to achieve this incredible feat. This rigorous seven-week program at Stanford University provides gifted students with hands-on experience in healthcare and biomedical research, working alongside leading clinicians/scientists.

State Band Qualifiers:

The following students received Exemplary Rating at the MSHSAA District Music Festival, which qualifies them for State Competition:

Kylee Bollinger, Sophia Dickson, Kirsten Clancy - Saxophone Trio

Brooke Bowlin, Emma Marshall, Avery Maynes - Flute Trio

Morgan LeGrande - Clarinet Solo

Jaxson Leary - Mallet Solo

Gage McClanahan - Snare Solo

Flynn Gray - Alto Saxophone Solo

Cole Hazen - Alto Saxophone Solo

Collin Knight - Snare & Timpani Solos

Ally Pottebaum - Flute Solo

State Choir Qualifiers:

The following students received Exemplary Rating at the MSHSAA District Music Festival, which qualifies them for State Competition:

Natalie Cardon, Aysia Graham, Sophia Ochse, Marissa Quinn, Hannah Smith, Alaina Westhoff, Kara Kay Wilson - SSA7

Maddie Bedow, Natalie Cardon, Maddie Hoyes - SSA Trio

Lynn Hirni - Solo

Emme Holt - Solo

Aubrey Morey - Solo

Alaina Westhoff - Solo

Speech & Debate National Recognition:

Lily earned Premier Distinction, the highest degree in the National Speech & Debate Association (NSDA) Honor Society! This puts her in the top 3% NSDA members across the nation!

Also, coach Nicki Wagner earned the Donus D. Roberts Coaching Excellence Award in the NSDA Honor Society! Receiving the Donus Award is a remarkable achievement, and it indicates that Nicki has earned 10,000 coaching points accumulated by her team's achievements!

KC Science and Engineering Fair Blue Ribbon:

Emily Duckwitz earned a Blue Ribbon for her display titled A Comparative Study of Antimicrobial Substances on both Gram-Positive and Gram-Negative Bacteria at the 74th Greater Kansas City Science & Engineering Fair. This fair aims to help our community grow a science, engineering, math and technology (STEM) literate workforce.