

To: Board of Education
From: Dr. Mark Maus, Superintendent
Re: Superintendent Update
Date: May 21, 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:

- Superintendent's Advisory Council Update
- Incite Design Meetings
- Visits to Piper and Staley High Schools
- Excellence in Education Banquet
- Ratings call with S&P
- Student and Staff Recognition

Student and Staff Recognition

Principal Appreciation:

Early College Program Student:

Quincy Primeau participated in the Early College program and has earned her Associate's Degree from MCC and her SHS diploma this month. She is going to share her experience at Maple Woods this year.

Durham School Services Certificate of Excellence:

The Missouri State Highway Patrol conducts annual inspections of school buses. The inspections cover a wide range of aspects, including brakes, steering, lights, and emergency exits. Durham School Services has been awarded a certificate of excellence in their 2025 inspection.

NCC Skills USA State Recipients:

Our students who attend the Northland Career Center competed in the State SkillsUSA Competition in April at the State Technical College of Missouri. We are proud to introduce the students who placed at the State Competition, as well as their advisor, Teresa Ryun.

Leo Walsh - Welding Fabrication team, 1st place

Merik Wilson - Baking and Pastry Arts Tech Info written test, 2nd place; Career Pathways Showcase: Human Services presentation team, 3rd place

Orrie Draper - Diesel Equipment Tech Info written test, 2nd place; Diesel Equipment, 4th place

Larson Viebrock - Power Equipment, 3rd place

Kadyn Barber - Career Pathways Showcase: Industrial & Engineering presentation team, 4th place

J Day @ Mizzou:

J-Day is a one-of-a-kind experience designed for students interested in journalism, photography, and broadcasting to sharpen their skills and ignite creativity in the classroom. Each year, students have the opportunity to submit their work for evaluation and state-wide recognition. Awards are presented in the following categories: Best in Show, All Missouri, Superior, Excellent, and Honorable Mention. This year, our Broadcasting students proudly submitted multiple pieces of work, and their efforts were recognized with several prestigious awards:

Morgan Holcomb - "The Local Show with Morgan" - Best of Show (Radio/Podcast Promotional Announcement)
Dominic Santulli and Kaylynn Hirni - "The After School Podcast" - Best of Show (Radio/Podcast Promotional Announcement)

Wryker House and Payton Cupp - "The Pulse Podcast with Wryker and Payton" - All Missouri (Radio/Podcast Promotional Announcement)

Julia Fisher - "Y2K" - All Missouri (Radio/Podcast Promotional Announcement)

Morgan Holcomb - "Valentine's Day Marathon" - Superior (Radio/Podcast Promotional Announcement)

Hannah Garcia and Mia Marchetti - "Girls' Softball Field" - Superior (News Story - Broadcast)

Wryker House - "House of Horizons: Know Your Intentions and Be Consistent" - Honorable Mention (Talk Show)

Missouri Missouri Interscholastic Journalism Association Board of Directors:

Dr. Simon has been elected to the Board of Directors for the Missouri Interscholastic Journalism Association. He will serve a two-year term as one of the two Kansas City area representatives. One of the tasks of the KC representative is to get more teachers and students involved in Journalism Day at MU.

Congressional Medal of Honor Society:

We are proud to recognize Joy Vandel, English teacher at Smithville High School, for her recognition from the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. Since first implementing the Medal of Honor Foundation's Character Development Program in 2017 while teaching in St. Joseph, Joy has used the stories of Medal of Honor Recipients to teach students about courage, sacrifice, integrity, and citizenship. Now in Smithville, she continues to inspire students through this meaningful curriculum. Joy has sparked meaningful conversations across generations, inspired letters to Medal of Honor Recipients, and even led to in-person visits by decorated heroes.

[Full Story](#)

Art Students Recognition:

Several of our students recently participated in the Lawson Juried Art Exhibition. This event showcases student artwork from across the region and provides an excellent opportunity for young artists to gain experience and recognition. We are proud to report that several of our student artists had their work selected and received honors in this competitive exhibition:

High School:

Lilah Keller - 2nd place in Drawing and 3rd in Mixed Media

Brenden DonJuan - 1st in Sculpture

Savannah Kitchens - 2nd in Ceramics

Middle School:

Quinn Alexander - 1st in Middle School 2D

Caroline Ochse - 3rd in Middle School 2D