

701 N. Oak Street Stover, MO 65078 573-377-2217

# QUARTERLY BARK 

 MORGAN COUNTY R-I HOME OF THE STOVER BULLDOGS VOLUME 10 ISSUE 2--MARCH 2024 BE THE 1 IN MCR-1--ASPIRE TO BE THE 1
## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE BY MATT UNGER, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



## Spring has Sprung:

Spring has finally Sprung! After a long, weary winter, we are finally experiencing welcoming temperatures. Soon, flowers will bloom, trees will bud, and the Missouri Ozarks' beauty will be fully displayed. Springtime is a busy time in the school world. Many sports, music programs, and awards assemblies will keep everyone busy until the last day of school on May 10. Here are some items that could be of interest to you.

## Summer School:

At this time we are planning on having summer school this year. We could not have summer school last year because of all the bathroom remodels. This year, we will have our traditional summer school from 8:00 am until 1:00 pm. The summer school will be four days a week, starting May 13 and ending May 31. We will have summer bus routes, which are similar to what we have with our after-school BEAT program. We also hope to conduct youth sports clinics after 1:00 pm on summer school dates. We will be sending more information regarding summer school very shortly.

## Football:

We recently had an informational meeting regarding the possibility of the district starting a football program in the future. During the past several years, we have surveyed students and parents regarding the possibility of adding Football as a sport offered at Morgan County R-1. Our enrollment has resulted in increased interest in football. Several years ago, we were able to CO-OP junior high football at Cole Camp, and last year, we had discussions with a neighboring district about CO-OP football. While CO-OP would be a great way to start a program, it also has some significant drawbacks related to MSHSAA's sports classification.

In addition to survey data, we discussed the extreme need for a greater level of parent participation if we were to start a football program. School districts with football programs typically participate actively and highly from parent-led booster clubs. Parents are tasked with fundraising, coaching youth teams, having pregame meals, and assisting at the games by working concessions or being on the chain crew. We currently have a dedicated Booster club of around 4-5 people. However, our elementary PTO has a much larger group, which gives us hope for the future.

The need for a large and active booster club becomes more evident regarding the cost of maintaining a football program. School districts can expect to spend between $\$ 40,000$ to $\$ 60,000$ annually to support a football program. The cost of helmets, shoulder pads, and all the other safety and training equipment is much greater than that of our different sports programs. This is compounded at MCR-1 because we need track, baseball, or softball facilities in town or school. A football facility would require a new field, practice field, bleachers, concessions, restrooms, and locker rooms. It would be hard to start a football program unless we commit to getting facilities for all our programs.

A common, summarizing question I was frequently asked at the informational meeting was, 'Do you really think Stover will get football?' My answer is Yes!, but only if we can get the students, parents, and community to commit to building and maintaining a program. We will have another meeting shortly to set goals to make a football program a reality. Stay tuned!

## Construction Update:

If you have driven by the school, you've noticed much progress in the elementary addition. Once completed, the addition will allow for six additional elementary classrooms, which will help free up space. We should see the outside bricks finished and the roof system installed shortly. I appreciate everyone's grace and patience with the closing of $7^{\text {th }}$ Street. Sometimes progress is inconvenient, but the result will allow for much-needed space, a great PK playground, and a safe sidewalk along 7th Street.

## Tornado Safe Room:

Springtime weather patterns also increase the risk of violent and severe thunderstorms. The school district has a Community Tornado Safe Room for use during tornadoes and dangerous high-wind events. The Safe Room is on the Morgan County R-I School District Stover School campus at 701 N. Oak St., Stover, MO 65078. Students and residents who need adequate shelter during severe weather can use it.

Due to the estimated time it takes to reach the Safe Room after a warning has been given, residents living more than five minutes away must come to the Dome before the tornado sirens sound. Once the tornado sirens have been activated, law enforcement and safe room managers will determine when the safe room doors will be locked. Anyone not in the safe room will be sent to a secondary location.

To receive a text alert that the Safe room is open, you will need to sign up through Morgan County Emergency Management ( http://www.morgan-county.org/offices/morgan-county-911/weather-alerts/ )or Morgan County R-1 School district will send out a text message(https://www.mycallnow.com/Home/CreateAccount?type=0) indicating the safe room is open. If you do not have a text message device, you can receive a traditional phone call by calling or stopping by Morgan County R-1 School District.

I hope everyone has a great ending to their 2023-24 school year. There is so much going on at school that it is nearly impossible to keep up with everything. I appreciate all the support you give us, and as always, Be the \#1 in MCR-1.

# The State FFA Degree 

By Bryan Rumans, FFA Advisor



The State FFA Degree in Missouri is one of the highest awards an FFA member can receive at the state level. This year's recipients from the Stover FFA Chapter are Brandon Fergerson and Saydi Hagedorn. They join 17 other Stover FFA members who have achieved this award since the chapter was chartered in the 2008-2009 school year.

This award is a challenging one to receive. It begins with the student's FFA membership and Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program. Each agricultural education student must have an SAE and keep track of it in their record book. SAEs can be as simple as working for a local ag-related business or as complex as managing their own cattle herd. Brandon's SAEs involve working on the family farm and at Classics Diner in Cole Camp. Saydi's SAE consists of working on the family farm and raising and showing cattle. These FFA members have also actively attended activities and leadership conferences at the Chapter, Area, District, State, and National levels. They have over 80 hours of community service between the two.

The record book lets students track their inventories, hours worked, and money earned/invested in their projects. It also allows students to keep track of their FFA activities and awards. The State Degree application is completed using the information in their record books from the financial side of the SAE and their involvement in FFA.

Each year, only 10\% of the local chapter membership is eligible to apply, and only up to 3\% of the state membership can be selected. On top of that, FFA members must also meet the following criteria to be eligible:

1. Have received the Chapter FFA Degree and have been an active FFA member for at least two years ( 24 months) at the time of receiving the State FFA Degree.
2. While in high school, have completed the equivalent of at least two years ( 360 hours) of systematic school instruction in agriculture education at or above the ninth-grade level, which includes a supervised agricultural experience program.
3. Have earned and productively invested at least $\$ 1000$ or worked at least 300 hours over scheduled class time or a combination thereof in a supervised agricultural experience program.
4. Demonstrate leadership ability by A. Performing ten parliamentary procedures of parliamentary law. B. Give a six-minute speech on a topic related to agriculture or the FFA. C. Serving as an officer and committee chairperson or a participating member of a chapter committee. D. Making a satisfactory score on a written test on FFA.
5. Show outstanding leadership participation in chapter, school, and community activities by A. Participating in planning and conducting the chapter program of activities. B. Serving as a chapter officer or committee chairperson. C. Participating in at least five activities above the chapter level. D. Participating in leadership positions outside the FFA. E. Meeting the minimum FFA Point Score stated in the State Degree Handbook.
6. Have a satisfactory scholastic record certified by the local superintendent or principal.
7. Have participated in at least 25 hours of community service within at least two community service activities. The hours are in addition to and cannot be duplicated as paid or unpaid SAE hours.
8. The Missouri Association shall be entitled to elect at least ten members to the State FFA Degree annually. Where State Membership exceeds 500, a number over ten, but not more than three percent of the State membership may be elected, fractions counted to the nearest whole number. The regional executive committee shall submit written records of achievement verified by the local advisor to the State Advisor at least one month before the State convention. The State Advisor shall review the documents, prepare briefs, and submit his recommendations to the State Executive Committee. This committee will nominate candidates most worthy of the honor at the regular State Convention. The convention delegates shall then elect the candidates most deserving of the State FFA Degree.

FFA and Agricultural Education aren't just about sows, cows, and plows. The National FFA Organization has evolved since it was founded in 1928 in Kansas City, Missouri, as a Vocational Organization for farm boys. While the roots are in agriculture, the goal is career education and to help students become successful leaders with a knowledge of financial accountability. The FFA motto is "Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve," we strive to make that a big part of our Agricultural Education program at Morgan County R-I.


Junior Maggie Unger received the Best of Show at the Conference Art Show in February. Mr. Mitchell is the art teacher, and many of our students have received awards for their work at the Art Show. Congratulations!

## The Rise of Vaping at School

By Michael Marriott, High School Principal

As the principal of Stover High School, I find it imperative to address a concerning trend that has been gaining traction within our student body: vaping. Over the past few months, there has been a noticeable increase in vaping on school grounds despite our strict policies against such behavior.

Unfortunately, vaping, with its various enticing flavors and discreet designs, has found its way into the hands of some of our students. This poses a health risk to those who partake and disrupts everyone's learning environment.

As educators and administrators, we are deeply committed to providing all students with a safe and conducive learning environment. However, we cannot tackle this issue alone. We need the support and cooperation of parents, guardians, and even local store owners to address this problem effectively.

To parents and guardians, I urge you to have open and honest conversations with your children about the dangers of vaping. Educate them about its harmful effects on their health and well-being. Additionally, please monitor their behavior and be vigilant for any signs of vaping activity.

Furthermore, I implore local store owners who sell vaping products to be mindful of the potential impact these products can have on underage individuals. Please exercise caution and responsibility when selling vaping devices and e-liquids, ensuring strict adherence to age restrictions and regulations.

As a community, we can work towards creating a safer and healthier environment for our students. Let us join forces to combat the rise of vaping and promote positive behaviors that support the well-being and success of our youth.


Putting the Pieces Together<br>Carrie Hewett, Academic \& Career Director



The high school, college, and career fair was an incredible opportunity for students to explore their options for the future. With a wide range of colleges, tech schools, and military branches in attendance, students could gather information and ask questions about their desired career paths. Attending this fair allowed students to connect with representatives from different institutions, learn about admission requirements and scholarship opportunities, and better understand what they need to do to pursue their desired careers. The fair also provided students with valuable insight into the variety of career options available, helping them make more informed decisions about their future.


Parent involvement was also crucial at the fair. With 75 students attending alongside their parents, families could converse about their child's future and offer support and guidance. Parents better understood the different educational paths their child could follow and could discuss the financial aspects of college or technical school with representatives at the fair. Their involvement also demonstrated their commitment to their child's success and encouraged them to set goals and plan for their future.

Overall, the high school, college, and career fair helped students and their parents plan for the future. It gave students the resources and information to make informed decisions about their education and career paths. By attending the fair, students could explore various opportunities, gain insight into different institutions, and connect with representatives who could offer guidance and support. With parent involvement, these students could have essential discussions and receive the necessary advice to plan for their future success.

# Spring Events in Full Swing for the Elementary <br> By Jessica Smith, Elementary Principal 

Each spring, our Kaysinger Conference hosts a Math \& Spelling Bee at Lincoln Elementary School for our Kaysinger Conference elementary students in March. To prepare for this conference event, each third through sixth-grade classroom narrowed down their top 4 Math and Spelling students. Then, we hosted a Stover Math and Spelling Bee for each grade level to determine our school's winners that would advance to the Kaysinger Math \& Spelling Bee on March 13th. We invited families of our participants to join us for the Spelling Bee and celebrated those who would be competing in our Math Bee, too. It was a great event showcasing our students' academic talents in Math and Spelling! Congratulations to all our participants and award winners!

Our Preschool \& Kindergarten Round-Up is off to a great start! We hosted our PreK \& K Round Up during our Parent Teacher Conference night in February. We had a full schedule of 50 children participating in this initial event. We will host a second RoundUp event in April for those who couldn't attend our first Round-Up. If you have a preschool or kindergarten child eligible for the upcoming school year, please get in touch with our elementary office to sign up to attend our additional PreK \& K Round Up event, which will happen soon! Eligible children must meet one of these two requirements: PreK- any child the age of 3 years old on or before July 31st, 2024, OR Kindergarten- any child the age of 5 years old on or before July 31st, 2024.

We host quarterly Reading Nights in Stover, Florence, and Ivy Bend for our elementary students and their families each year. These events include picture book read-aloud, crafts, music, snacks, and free books! We have had a great year of reading and family fun at our events. We appreciate all who have participated and the community partnerships that have helped make these events happen in all three communities! We are ready to finish the year strong by hosting a Reading Celebration on April 10th from 5:30-7:00 pm! Students will enjoy a free meal, book, games, and crafts and can take pictures with their favorite book characters! Check out our social media pages to get more information!

Finally, our Stover Elementary would also like to thank our PTO for hosting two fun breakfast events for our students and their families this year! One event was hosted last fall, and they just finished hosting another this spring in March: Goodies with Grandparents \& Pastries with Parents! Our students had a great time at both events, which were well attended and enjoyed by our community!

Small but Mighty<br>By Alicia Marriott, Math Team Coach



This year, the Math Team faced an unexpected challenge with a smaller roster than usual. They often competed with at least ten members compared to the standard twenty. Despite this, their performance throughout the contests showcased their undeniable talent and determination.

The team defied expectations in the competitive mathematics arena, securing impressive placements in multiple events. They clinched second place at Warrensburg and a commendable fourth place at Smith-Cotton. Their crowning achievement came at Cole Camp, where they emerged victorious in first place. Additionally, they secured second place at Kaysinger and fifth place at Camdenton, solidifying their standing as a force to be reckoned with.

Individual accolades further underscored the team's prowess. Vincent Hedrick distinguished himself as the second-top freshman at Warrensburg, while Mia Rowland and Olivia Marriott claimed third and second place in their sophomore and junior categories, respectively. Maggie Unger's stellar performance earned her the top spot among juniors at Smith-Cotton and notable placements in subsequent competitions.

The talent was not confined to upperclassmen; underclassmen also left their mark. At Cole Camp, Vincent Hedrick and Gabby Sidebottom showcased their potential as top freshmen, while Mia Rowland continued her dominance as the top sophomore. Lilianna Goyette emerged as a formidable competitor, consistently ranking among the top sophomores in multiple events.

The team's success was a testament to its resilience and unwavering dedication to excellence. Despite its smaller size, it proved it could conquer any challenge with skill, determination, and teamwork. As it continues to hone its abilities and strive for greatness, the Math Team stands as a shining example of the adage: it's not the size of the team that matters but the strength of its collective spirit.

## Parker Herrelson Selected to Participate in Pilot Program

In 2022, Governor Parson of Missouri enacted the Missouri Holocaust Education and Awareness Commission Act, which mandates Holocaust education in the state's schools. Scheduled to take effect for the 2024/2025 school year, the act is currently undergoing implementation through a pilot program involving 23 educators across various districts in Missouri. These educators are teaching the revised Missouri Holocaust Curriculum framework.

Furthermore, the Missouri Holocaust Commission, in collaboration with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, organized a workshop from February 28th to March 1st, attended by 26 educators from across the state. Among them was Parker Herrelson, a 6th-grade social studies teacher, who secured a spot in the workshop. Over three days in Columbia, she gained invaluable experience, knowledge, and resources to enhance teaching practices within MCR1.

Governor Mike Parson designated the second week of April as "Holocaust Education Week," coinciding with introducing the new curriculum. This mandate extends to all grades 6-12. Ms. Herrelson had the privilege of attending presentations by esteemed experts in the field, including Helen Turner, Director of Education at the Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum St. Louis, and Jessica Rockhold, Executive Director of the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education. Additionally, she actively engaged in various classroom activities and acquired access to essential resources, which will facilitate teaching this challenging subject matter to our students.

We eagerly anticipate utilizing these newfound resources in the classroom, fostering a deeper understanding of Holocaust history and its implications.

TAKE AIM<br>By Kim Luetjen, Archery Coach



MCR-1 students hit the target this year in archery. 13 students in grades 7-12 competed, for the first time, in 10 NASP archery tournaments throughout the area. Kyle Armstrong,
Ivy Blanchette, Alyssa Campbell, Brystol Fergerson, Hattie Marriott, Cole Palmer, and Zane Witte aimed at our junior high team. Chloe Brotherton, Lexi Estes, Autumn Hajek, Brax Jackson, Cora Munsterman, and Maggie Unger nocked their competition as our high school team. Coaches quivered with excitement as students saw success. Kim Luetjen and Emily Metscher coached the teams.

This year, students who participated in the school's new archery program learned about focus, self-control, discipline, patience, and realistic goal-setting. They also learned to self-identify and evaluate their performance and how to ask for help when they are not reaching their personal archery goals. As the season progressed, each member's confidence grew. Archery is about having fun and learning to be yourself.

Winter Sports 24-25<br>By Tony Pace, Athletic Director

Another great season is in the books for Bulldog Nation.


Let's start with the Lady Bulldog Basketball team. The Lady Bulldogs were replacing some key members this year, but the successful tradition continued. The team saw several strong teams early and used these experiences to propel them to a 3rd place finish in a strong field in the Stover Tournament and another top 3 finish in the Kaysinger tournament. The season ended with the ladies clinching the 3rd place spot in the regular season conference standings and advancing to their 4th straight District Title game. The ladies that were recognized at the end of the season were:
Hannah Bauer for All Conference \& All-District Helen Black for Honorable Mention All-Conference Ashlyn Pinzke for All Conference \& District Player of the Year.



The boys' team had similar success and rattled off another exciting season. They started on a real streak, going 8-1. As the season went along, the competition ramped up. The boys finished 3rd in the Stover tournament and 3rd in the Kaysinger by beating Cole Camp. This set up the remaining dates for the conference regular season championship. Although the Bulldogs fell to the 3rd spot in the conference, they finished with 19 wins, the most win in 15 years, and were seeded number 2 in the District tournament. They came up short in the 3rd match-up with Cole Camp but ended the season with an outstanding record and a bright future. The ladies that were recognized at the end of the season were:
Cody Mosher for All Conference \& All-District Jaron Belt for Honorable Mention All-Conference \& All-District Landon Edinger for All Conference \& All-District


Moving on to Coach McNeal and the Wrestling team. What a 2 nd season. The future of the Stover Bulldog Wrestling program is bright. Not only did the numbers go up for participation, but the wins and pins went up also. Going into the district tournament, we had several athletes able to advance. Stover had their first two state qualifiers in school history when the dust settled. Chloe Zeller, sophomore, advanced to the State Meet in the 100-pound weight class, and Alias Murray, freshman, advanced to the State Meet in the ---- pound weight class. Both wrestlers placed 12th in the state and will return next year looking for more. Only in year two will the wrestlers continue to improve and add to the success of Bulldog Athletics.


The high school cheerleaders did a great job cheering at all junior high and high school home games and the Conference and District Tournaments. We can't wait to see what next year brings.

## APRIL ACTIVITIES

## No School

Baseball with Calvary Lutheran at 1:00
Boys Basketball Morning Workouts for grades 6-11 at 6:45-7:30 a.m.
District FFA at UCM
Softball and Baseball with Lincoln at 5:00
Soccer with Eugene at 5:00
JH Track at Osage at 4:00
Versailles Invitational Golf Tournament at 9:00
JH Track at Skyline at 4:00
Volleyball Open Gym for grades 6-11 from 6:00-7:30
Boys Basketball Open Gym for grades 6-11 from 6:00-7:30 (HS gym)
FFA District LDE at UCM at 4:00
Softball and Baseball with La Monte-Baseball Senior Night
HS Track at Warsaw at 4:00
Midterm
Boys Basketball Morning Workouts for grades 6-11 at 6:45-7:30 a.m.
Baseball at Sweet Springs at 4:30
Stover Soccer Classic
Band and Choir goes to Six Flags

No School-Solar Eclipse
Boys Basketball Morning Workouts for grades 6-11 at 6:45-7:30 a.m.
Cheer meeting during Seminar for grades 6-11
Band Informational Meeting about Florida trip
FFA Plant Sale from 3:30-5:30
Softball and Baseball at Green Ridge at 5:00
Volleyball Open Gym for grades 6-11 from 6:00-7:30
No BEAT
HS Track at Skyline at 4:00
JH Track at Cole Camp at 4:00
Reading Celebration 5:30-7:00
Boys Basketball Open Gym for grades 6-11 at 6:00-7:30 (Elem. gym)
Conference Golf Tournament at Clinton at 9:00
FFA Plant Sale from 3:30-5:30
Softball and Baseball with Cole Camp at 5:00-Softball Senior Night
Soccer with Osage at 5:00
Conference Softball Tournament
Boys Basketball Morning Workouts for grades 6-11 at 6:45-7:30 a.m.
District Scholar Bowl at Conway
FBLA Leadership Conference at Springfield
Softball at Warsaw
Soccer with California at 5:00
HS Track at Versailles at 4:00
Boys Basketball Morning Workouts for grades 6-11 at 6:45-7:30 a.m.
Third Grade Field Trip
Immunizations Clinic at School at 1:30
FFA Meeting at 7:30 a.m.
Windsor Tri Golf Match at Clinton at 4:00
Softball and Baseball at Windsor at 5:00
Volleyball Open Gym for grades 6-11 from 6:00-7:30
State FFA Convention at Columbia
Soccer with Laquey at 5:00-Senior Night for Soccer, Track, and Golf
Boys Basketball Open Gym for grades 6-11 from 6:00-7:30 (HS gym)
Fourth Grade Field Trip
Softball and Baseball at Tipton at 5:00
JH Track at Versailles at 4:00
Boys Basketball Morning Workouts for grades 6-11 at 6:45-7:30 a.m.
Last Day to purchase a yearbook
Preschool Field Trip
Marshfield Soccer Tournament
Baseball at Stoutland at 5:00
Softball with Osceola at 5:00
Conference Baseball Tournament at Cole Camp and Lincoln
JH Music Contest
State Testing
Softball at Versailles at 5:00
Soccer at Blair Oaks at 5:00
JH Track at Osage at 4:00
$5^{\text {th }}$ Grade Field Trip
Boys Basketball Morning Workouts for grades 6-11 at 6:45-7:30 a.m.
Calvary Lutheran Golf Tournament at Oak Hills at 9:00
FFA Plant Sale from 3:30-5:30
Softball at Northwest at 5:00
Soccer at Lone Jack at 5:00
Conference Track Meet at Smithton at 9:00
FCCLA $8^{\text {th }}$ Grade Recruitment lunch

FFA Officer Interviews at 5:00
Volleyball Open Gym for grades 6-11 from 6:00-7:30
Boys Basketball Open Gym for grades 6-11 from 6:00-7:30 (Elem gym)
Kindergarten Field Trip
Stover Invitational Golf Tournament at Versailles
School Calendar Activity Meeting in the Library at 3:30
Soccer at Smithton at 5:00
Boys Basketball Morning Workouts for grades 6-11 at 6:45-7:30 a.m.
Second Grade Field Trip
FFA Plant Sale from 3:30-5:30
Jr/Sr. Prom
Project Prom Night
Mental Health Spirit Week
Preschool/Kindergarten Screenings from 4:00-7:00
Softball at Crest Ridge at 5:00
Baseball at Prairie Home at 5:00
Boys Basketball Morning Workouts for grades 6-11 at 6:45-7:30 a.m.
First Grade Field Trip
Soccer at Sacred Heart at 5:00
Softball and Baseball with Smithton at 5:00
Talent Show at 6:00
MAY ACTIVITIES
FCCLA End of the Year Party
FFA Banquet at 6:00
Marshall Golf Tournament at Indian Hills at 9:00
Baseball at Sacred Heart at 5:00
Soccer with Knob Noster at 5:00
Softball Districts
FFA Plant Sale from 3:30-5:30
Baseball at Crocker at 5:00
Soccer at Fatima at 5:00
Track Districts
Retirement/Staff Dinner at the Community Center
Golf Districts
Soccer at Crocker at 5:00
Baseball at Climax Springs at 5:00
Soccer with St. Paul's at 5:00
Baseball at Otterville at 5:00
Elementary Field Day
Elementary Awards Day
Last Day of BEAT
Baseball with Northwest at 5:00
Baseball Districts
Last Day of School
Early Release
Soccer with Southern Boone at 5:00
Sectional Track
Soccer Districts
State Golf
State Track
Graduation Practice at 10:00
Graduation at 3:00

