



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

# THE BULLDOG BARK

MORGAN COUNTY R-1  
HOME OF THE STOVER BULLDOGS

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 2--APRIL 2025

BE THE 1 IN MCR-1--HAVING FUN BEING THE 1

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

BY MATT UNGER,  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



### **Spring has Sprung:**

Spring has finally sprung! After a long, weary winter, we finally have welcoming temperatures, and soon, we will see flowers blooming and trees budding. The beauty of the Missouri Ozarks will be on full display. Springtime is a busy time in the school world. Many sports, state testing, field trips, and awards assemblies will keep everyone busy until the last day of school on May 15. Here are some items that could be of interest to you.

### **Summer School:**

We are planning on having summer school this year. This year, we will have our traditional summer school from 8:00 am until 1:00 pm. Summer school will be 4 days a week, starting on May 19 and ending June 5. 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. In addition, we will have one book and one school stop for the summer slide for our elementary students. We will be sending more information regarding summer school very soon.

### **Football:**

The Board of Education recently voted to allow us to CO-OP Junior High Football starting next year. 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 steady interest in football, and we currently have over 20 Junior High Students wanting to play football. A Junior High Co-op is a great way to start a program.

During the school year, we have had a group of parents meet frequently to get the football initiative going. They will soon be starting fundraising to develop a youth football program. A common, summarizing question I have repeatedly asked the past couple of years is, 'Do you think Stover will get football?' My answer is yes! However, we can only get the students, parents, and community to commit to building and maintaining a program. It takes a village, and you are part of the village! I want to encourage all parents to get involved in helping out in a school-related parent group.

The Board of Education is committed to offering great co/extra-curricular programs at Morgan County R-1. However, we do not have local or school facilities for Track, Baseball, or Softball. A football facility would require a new field, practice field, bleachers, concessions, restrooms, and locker rooms. The Board of Education is studying ideas on solving this issue and will hopefully have a plan soon. To move forward, we need to have facilities.

### **Tornado Safe Room Reminder:**

Springtime weather patterns also increase the risk of violent and severe thunderstorms.

I wanted to remind you that 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-1 School District Stover School campus at 701 N. Oak St., Stover, MO 65078. It is available to students and residents in the community who do not have adequate, safe shelter during severe weather.

Due to the estimated time necessary 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 must sign up through Morgan County Emergency Management ( <http://www.morgan-county.org/offices/morgan-county-911/weather-alerts/> ). Alternatively, Morgan County R-1 School District will send a text message(<https://www.mycallnow.com/Home/CreateAccount?type=0>) indicating the open safe room. If you do not have a text message device, you can receive a traditional phone call by calling or stopping by the Morgan County R-1 School District.

I hope everyone has a great ending to their 2024-25 school year. We have 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.

## Spring Events in Full Swing for the Elementary

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 the winners for our school that would then advance to the Kaysinger Math & Spelling Bee on March 27th. 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! Each grade level sent their top two Stover Math & Spelling Bee award winners to the Kaysinger event. For our elementary school, Victor Storment tied for 2nd place in the Kaysinger 4th grade Math Bee, and our math team placed 3rd

overall! Way to go, Bulldogs!

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 March. We had a great turnout of children participating in this initial event. We will host a second Round Up event on **May 8th** 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 who is 3 years old on or before July 31st, 2025, OR Kindergarten- any child who is 5 years old on or before July 31st, 2025.

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-alouds, 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 15<sup>th</sup>. Students enjoyed a free meal, a free book, games, crafts, and had the opportunity to take pictures with their favorite book characters, too!

Finally, 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 and Pastries with Parents! Our students had a great time at both events, which were well attended and enjoyed by our community!

## Learning and Having Fun!

By: Brittney Thompson,  
Middle School Principal



Hello Stover community! The 2024-2025 school year has been such a great year for our Middle School students. This year, our focus has been on attendance, positive behavior, and high student engagement and achievement. I am very proud of how hard our staff has worked to provide rigorous instruction and meet students where they are while promoting growth and academic success. I am also very proud of our students for persevering and putting forth effort to increase their academic understanding and success.

We are currently entering such an important time for our students as we prepare to take the state assessment, the MAP test. Our students are working diligently to master state expectations and standards. Fifth and eighth grade students will be assessed in ELA, Math, and Science and our sixth and seventh grade students will be assessed in ELA and Math. What makes MCR1 different from other schools is how fun our staff are making lessons and MAP preparation. Students are actively participating and engaged in so many fun activities that will help them be successful on the MAP test.



A huge achievement that I would like to highlight is our fifth and sixth grade students who represented Stover Middle School at the Kaysinger Conference Math and Spelling Bee. We took eight students and four of those students placed within the top three in multiple areas. Congratulations to the following students: Brooks Hewett took 1st place in the fifth-grade spelling bee, Dallas Offield took second place in the fifth-grade math bee, Kelsey Viebrock took third place in the sixth-grade spelling bee, and Colten Leonard took first place in the sixth-grade math bee. Stover took third place overall for math. We are so proud of all our participants and they did a phenomenal job representing themselves, Stover Middle School, the MCR1 district, and the Stover community.



Another achievement from our middle schoolers that is deserving to celebrate again is our girls and boys basketball teams. During the Junior High Conference basketball tournament both our girls and boys teams made it to the championship game. The boys did an excellent job and walked away with second place. Our girls team worked very hard all season and showed up to the championship game ready to dominate. They took first place and did a phenomenal job! Congratulations to them both!



**STOVER ELEMENTARY**  
**Preschool & Kindergarten**  
**2025-2026 Round Up**

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR OUR PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN SCREENING ROUND UP EVENT!  
Please call the Elementary office at 573-577-2219 ext. 226 to schedule a time!

**THURSDAY**  
**May 8**  
**4:00 pm**

**REGISTER & ATTEND FOR A CHANCE TO WIN PRIZES!**

CHILDREN MUST BE REGISTERED IN ADVANCE TO ATTEND BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

PARENTS WILL NEED TO BRING A COMPLETED REGISTRATION PACKET, BIRTH CERTIFICATE, SHOT RECORDS, AND PROOF OF RESIDENCY.

WHERE:  
ELEMENTARY GYM

Who should attend?  
Preschool age eligible:  
Children  
3 years old  
on or before  
July 31st, 2025

Kindergarten age eligible:  
Children  
5 years old  
on or before  
July 31st, 2025  
(and not currently enrolled in our PreK program).

# Missouri State Testing: What Families Need to Know and How to Prepare

By Dr. Molly Roe  
Director of Curriculum and Instruction



State testing is an important component of Missouri's educational system, designed to assess students' academic progress and ensure that they are meeting the state's academic standards. For families in Missouri, understanding the testing process and how to best support your child is crucial to their success. Here's a guide on Missouri state testing and how you can help your child prepare.

## 1. Overview of Missouri State Testing

Missouri administers several state assessments as part of the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP). The main tests include:

- **Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) Tests:** These tests evaluate students in grades 3-8 in English Language Arts (ELA), Math, and Science (in some grades). High school students take end-of-course exams (EOCs) in subjects like Algebra 1, English 2, Government, and Biology.

The tests are designed to measure how well students are meeting Missouri's academic standards, which are aligned with the Missouri Learning Standards.

## 2. When Does State Testing Take Place in Missouri?

Our students will take the state assessments at the end of April and the beginning of May.

## 3. Promote Healthy Habits

Healthy habits play a crucial role in ensuring that your child is well-prepared for testing. Here's how to help your child physically and mentally prepare for test day:

- **Encourage Restful Sleep:** Make sure your child is getting enough sleep leading up to the test. Aim for 8-10 hours of sleep each night, especially during the week of the test.
- **Provide Nutritious Meals:** A well-balanced breakfast on test day can help your child stay focused. Avoid sugary cereals or heavy meals, which may lead to energy crashes. Instead, offer a breakfast with protein, whole grains, and fruits or vegetables. We will offer breakfast to all of our students on days that they will be testing here at school.
- **Physical Activity:** Regular exercise can help reduce stress and improve concentration. Encourage your child to stay active, whether it's through sports, outdoor play, or family walks.

## 4. Help Manage Test Anxiety

Testing can be a stressful experience for students, especially if they're worried about their performance. Helping your child manage their anxiety is essential for their success:

- **Normalize Test Stress:** Talk to your child about test anxiety and let them know it's normal to feel a little nervous. Reassure them that the test is just one measure of their learning and that doing their best is what truly matters.
- **Practice Relaxation Techniques:** Teach your child deep-breathing exercises, positive self-talk, and visualization techniques to calm their nerves before and during the test.
- **Stay Calm Yourself:** Children often pick up on their parents' stress, so try to stay calm and positive. Offer lots of encouragement and praise for their efforts rather than just focusing on outcomes.

## 6. Test Day Tips for Missouri State Testing

The day of the test can feel stressful, but with some preparation, your child can approach the day with confidence:

- **Prepare the Night Before:** Set out everything your child will need the night before, such as pencils, erasers, a water bottle, and any other materials required by the school.
- **Arrive Early:** Ensure your child arrives at school on time, so there's no rush or added stress.
- **Encourage a Calm Morning:** Start the day with a healthy breakfast and a few calming activities. Try to avoid discussions about the test to prevent unnecessary worry.
- **Remind Your Child to Pace Themselves:** Encourage your child to take their time with each question. They should read each question carefully, and if they're unsure, they can move on and come back to difficult questions later.

## 7. Communicate with Teachers

Stay in contact with your child's teachers throughout the testing period. Teachers can provide valuable insights into areas where your child may need additional support, as well as updates on the testing schedule and any accommodations that may be available for students who require them.

## Conclusion

Missouri state testing is an important milestone for students, but it doesn't have to be a source of stress. By starting early with study routines, fostering a positive attitude, and ensuring your child's physical and emotional well-being, you can help them perform their best on test day. Most importantly, remind your child that the test is just one part of their learning journey, and it's their effort, not just the results, that counts. With the right preparation and support, your child will be ready to confidently face the test!



**2024-25 Year in Review**  
**By Eric McNeal**  
**Assistant Athletic Director**

As we approach the mid-point of the fourth quarter of the 2025 school year, it is a good time to make some observations about the outstanding achievements that our students have made since our return to school last August. Whether in Academics, Activities, or Athletics, your Stover Bulldogs have put a strong foot forward and made those around them take notice: Stover is a strong community and school that produces high-quality students and people.

Starting on the academic side of things, the graduating class of 2025 will have fourteen students attending four-year universities, which include the following: University of Missouri, University of Central Missouri, Missouri State University, William Woods University, Missouri Valley College, and Central Christian College. Another twenty-three of our graduating class will attend two-year college programs before entering the workforce or transitioning to a four-year college to complete their degree. Six graduates will attend career training programs while three will answer their country's call and enlist in the US Armed Forces.

At all levels, our students are excelling. More than twenty Stover high schoolers are enrolled in dual credit classes, and several students have earned their associate's degrees before even graduating from high school. Regardless of what career track our students are on, our achievements show that your Bulldogs know how to strive for excellence and success.

We have had a great deal of success in music this year as well. Under the leadership of Mr. Payne, our marching band received first place in each parade this year. If you've never heard our drumline lead the way for our student-athletes as we celebrate their accomplishments in the hallways, you are missing out!. Additionally, we have had two students qualify for the State Music Contest. Shariana Martin qualified with her violin solo while Vincent Hedrick qualified with a vocal solo!

Our various academic teams have been tearing it up as well. Our Math Team placed fourth in the Kaysinger Math Contest and had several individual first-place wins, including Lila Wierman, Vincent Hedrick, and Maggie Unger. At the Kaysinger Science Fair, Katelyn Lester finished second overall in the Earth Sciences category. Eight students from grades three through six are participating in the Kaysinger Spelling Bee and the Kaysinger Math Bee.

Switching gears to our fall sports, we find more Bulldog Excellence! Our girls' golf team finished as a district runner-up and secured a fourth-place finish at the MSHSAA State Tournament. All five team members earned All-State Academic Honors, and Mia Rowland became Stover High School's first-ever All-State Individual Placer with a 7th-place finish. The Volleyball and Cross Country teams earned Kaysinger Championships. In addition to that conference title, the Lady Bulldogs Volleyball team finished undefeated in the Conference and earned a four-peat district title. Don't sleep on next year because the junior high team went undefeated at the conference! The volleyball team will look to reload next year and make another solid run! Finally, one of our senior Volleyball players, Kiley Simon, signed a letter of intent to play for Central Christian College!

Our boys' soccer team had four players earn first-team all-district honors and another three earned all-conference honors, while Dustin Koeller achieved All-State Second Team and Brett Rowland received Academic All-State. Our Cross Country team, in addition to its Conference title, took three individuals to state, of which Gabby Sidebottom earned a state medal! Gracie Dale, Nic Newman, Gabby Sidebottom, Brett Rowland, and Mia Rowland also finished with All-State Academic Honors!

Did you know that during our winter season, long-time Stover Coach and activities assistant - Roy Poynter - was inducted into the Missouri Soccer Hall of Fame?! What an honor for the long-time Bulldog! That kicked off a great run for our winter athletes. On the boys basketball side of things, two Bulldogs, Gavin Welpman and Vinny Karstens, finished with All-District honors. And - you might have missed it - Gavin sent the Bulldogs home with a win in one game on a last-second three-quarter court shot! Check out our past Facebook posts for that amazing highlight! Our girls' team had an outstanding season, finishing 23-3, winning the regular season conference schedule, and taking second place at the district tournament. Ashlyn Pinzke, Teagan Morris, and Mia Rowland all earned All-District Honors. Additionally, Ashlyn set the Stover scoring record, was voted district player of the year, earned all-state honors, and was the KMZU Class 3 Player of the Year. Coach Jake Reardon was voted District Co-Coach of the year. Additionally, Ashlyn signed a letter of intent to play basketball at William Woods.

You might have noticed that our wrestling numbers grew significantly as well. Several junior high students finished with double-digit wins in their short season. Meanwhile, the high school boys finished a winning dual season and took third place at the Greater Missouri Wrestling Conference Tournament. They also won the "Battle of the Hammers" Kaysinger Tri - bringing home team wins against Cole Camp and Windsor. Our girls' season finished with a .500 record. Both teams sent an individual to state: Brodie and Chloe Zeller. Brodie wrestled to a 3rd place finish - becoming our first state medalist in wrestling history and also earned All-State Academic Honors. The Archery team sent five students to the state in another winter-sport activity. Those competitors were Hattie Marriott, Owen Rhueter, Bristol Feruson, Cooper Howard, and Jackson Braden.

As our spring sports get underway, we look forward to a strong finish to the 24-25 season. Jenna Nash signed a letter of intent to play softball with Missouri Valley College. Our spring athletes are battling the weather and getting practice time and games where possible. On the activities front, not only do we have the previously mentioned State Music Contest coming in May, but our school play is occurring this very weekend, and spring concerts have been underway.

The community of Stover has every reason to be proud of these student athletes for everything they have accomplished this year. It is definitely Fun to be the 1!

Go Dawgs!

## STOVER SHOWCASE

The Stover Showcase, which the school hosts every other year, was also held on Wednesday at 11:00. The purpose of the Showcase is to invite area business owners to come and have a student-prepared lunch and then tour several departments to show them the skills being taught and how these skills will prepare them for after graduation.

The FACS department made two types of soup and sandwiches for the attendees. The OJT classes made desserts and served drinks. After lunch, the group was divided into small groups, and each administrator led their group on a tour. They visited the new kindergarten addition, the OJT room, the health room, Desiray Marriott's Bio-Med class, FACS, Industrial Arts, Business, Agriculture, and the Dual Credit classroom.



At each stop, two students talked to the groups about the skills they learned and how they would help them become productive adults. The students helping with the tours were Mia and Brett Rowland for the Dual Credit, Luke Viebrock and Bella Bauer for Ag, Olivia Marriott and Ashlyn Pinzke for FACS, Nic Newman and Logan Scott in Business, Natalie Weaver and Addy Hunter for Bio-Med, Jimmy

Finneran, Justus Boyd, and Andrea Wiggs for OJT, and Shelby and Jenna Nash for Industrial Arts.

The high school and junior high school student council representatives welcomed and registered the guests. Maggie Unger, Rhyker Clark, Zane Witte, and Jackson Braiden did a great job caring for our guests.

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