

June-July 2025 Volume 3, Issue 11

## Commencement 2025

Moniteau School District is proud to celebrate the Class of 2025 at this year's Commencement Ceremony, scheduled for Tuesday, June 3 at 7:00 pm in the Jr./Sr. High School auditorium.

The ceremony will open with the traditional "Pomp & Circumstance" by the high school band. Conner Ealy, Senior Class President, will welcome guests, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Isabella Hernandez, Senior Class Treasurer. Senior choir members will perform the National Anthem, Alma Mater, and other musical selections.

Featured speakers include Salutatorian, Morgan Teets and Valedictorian, Sydney Bayless, introduced by Assistant Principal Mrs. Kimberley McBryar and Principal Mr. Lance Fox. Remarks will also be shared by Mrs. Christina King and School Board Representative, Mr. Travis Beachem.

Mr. Fox will present the Class of 2025, with Superintendent Dr. Aubrie Schnelle officially accepting the graduates. School Counselor, Mrs. Chelsea Vanasco will read the class roll, and Mr. Dustin Thompson will recognize seniors entering the armed forces, including Mason Birckbichler and Isaiah Thompson.

Special thanks go to the School Board, administration, custodial staff, Mrs. Darcie Bishop (Choir Director), Mr. Shawn Holl (Band Director), and Mr. Mike Lafayette (video production) for their support in making this event possible.

As we honor the Class of 2025, we reflect on their achievements and look forward to all they will accomplish in the future. Congratulations, graduates—you have made Moniteau proud!





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#### **UPCOMING**:

6/2—Baccalaureate, 6:30pm 6/3—Graduation, 7:00pm

6/4—Clerical Day for Staff

6/9—Extracurricular

Committee Mtg., 5:00pm 6/9—Board Work Session, 7:00pm

6/23—Board Voting Mtg., 7:00pm

7/21—Board Voting Mtg., 7:00pm



# SUMMER SPORTS SCHEDULES:

All athletic practices and open gyms for the summer months are at the discretion of the coach and facility availability.

Please contact your coach for more detailed information.



## **SPORTS RECAP**

Spring sports season has come to an end, and with it, the 2024-2025 Moniteau sports season.

The boys and girls track teams both finished the season with a record of four wins and three losses. At the District IX track meet, Junior-Riley Ealy finished 5th in the high jump, Senior-Trent Beachem finished 2nd in the 300m hurdles, and Ashton Grossman won the pole vault! Ashton would go on to finish 2nd at States with a pole vault of 14' 6".

The boys varsity baseball team finished the season in 2nd place in the KSAC and a number one seed entering the district tournament with a 9-9 regular season record. Another strong season from the Warriors came to an end in the first round of the tournament with a loss to Curwensville.

The girls varsity softball team finished their season in 3rd place in the KSAC, with a record of 9-9. A hard fought defeat at rival Redbank Valley in the first round of the district playoffs ended the season.

Junior high baseball and softball season has come and gone, with both teams having terrific inaugural seasons, as well as both teams ending with a winning record.

#### **Spring All Conference Winners:**

Alex Stewart—Second Team—First Base
Lily Staab—Second Team—Infield
Alyssa Thompson—Third Team—Infield
Halle Beatty—Third Team—Outfield
Dawson Cook—First Team—Pitcher
Weston Cook—Third Team—Catcher
Connor Ealy—Second Team—First Base
Dawson Cook—First Team—Infield
Blaine Jamison—Third Team—Outfield
Addison Krystek—Second Team—Triple Jump
Riley Ealy—Second Team—High Jump
Isabella Hernandez—Second Team—Javelin
Trent Beachem—First Team—300m Hurdles
Ashton Grossman—First Team—Pole Vault
Braden Beachem—First Team—Discus
Ashton Grossman—First Team—Discus

Way to go Warriors!



## **District Calendars**

Due to increasing costs, the district will no longer be mailing the yearly calendar. A calendar will be available for each family during open house. Calendars will also be available for pickup at the district, elementary and/or high school offices, as well as home athletic events and your local post office.

## **Summer Hours in the District**

Beginning the week of June 9th, all district offices will be closed on Fridays. The administration and high school offices will be open to the public on days of operation from 8:00am—3:00pm. The elementary school will be closed from June 12th—July 11th. All calls and meetings will be held at the high school during this time.

Regular work days and hours will resume the week of August 18th.





# BOONE THE THERAPY DOG VISITS DASSA MCKINNEY

Recently, students at Dassa McKinney Elementary School had a unique opportunity to visit with Boone, a therapy dog and ambassador for Joey's PAW. Joey's PAW is a non-profit organization that provides animals with special needs with prosthetics and wheelchairs to increase their mobility and improve the lives of animals.

With his owner, Tanya Diable, Boone traveled from classroom to classroom, visiting students and sharing his story with his new friends. In Mrs. Bach's classrooms, students visited with Boone, but also had a chance to read him a story. Additionally, students also learned to make homemade dog treats to share with their new furry friend.

The visit provided students with meaningful learning experiences that extend beyond the traditional classroom. Boone's presence offered joy to everyone he met. Students immediately connected with him, giving him hugs and gentle pets.

The impact of Boone's visit was positive for our students. They were offered an opportunity to participate in hands-on learning experiences while making new friends. We hope to continue connecting with Boone to further enhance student learning!



#### REGISTRATION

When you're ready to enroll your child, for any grade level, please come to our central registration location:

Moniteau School District C. Foster McGarvey Administration Center 1810 West Sunbury Rd. West Sunbury, PA 16061

Be sure to bring the following documents:

- Child's original birth certificate
- Immunization records
- Two (2) proofs of residency
- Picture ID

Registration appointments can be made during the school year from 8am-1pm by calling Mrs. Becky Kristufek, (724) 637-2117 x2004 or emailing bkristufek@moniteau.org.

#### Kindergarten Registration

Children must be 5 years old on or before September 1st of the current school year in order to register for kindergarten.

In addition to the registration documents (listed above) the Department of Health mandates that each new student complete a physical and dental exam before attending school. We will accept exams completed up to six months prior to registration.

# **Challenge 24 Tournament**

Students in 5th and 6th grade math classes at Dassa McKinney have been sharpening their math skills all year long by playing Challenge 24. Challenge 24 is a math skill game where students have to make the number 24 from four given numbers on a card. You can add, subtract, multiply, and divide. You must use all four numbers on the card, but use each number only once. Each card is labeled with a certain number of points and if you solve the card correctly you collect those points. The person at the end of the round with the most points is the winner.

Students competed in classroom tournaments during the first few weeks of May to narrow down a top sixteen from 5th and 6th grade. These 32 students moved on to the tournament held on Tuesday, May 27th. Students played 10 minute qualifying rounds to move onto the quarterfinals of 16 students. These 16 students were narrowed down to the semi-finals and then the final four competed for the title.

Winning the tournament was 6th grade student Ryder Carter. In second place was Landon Kumpfmiller (6th); 3rd place was Sydnee Klixbull (5th); and fourth place was Gavyn Kearns (6th). Congratulations to our winners and all of our participants!



At left from left to right: Gavyn Kearns, Sydnee Klixbull, Landon Kumpfmiller, Ryder Carter

At right: Ryder Carter— 1st place winner



#### **Top 16—Fifth Grade**

Barret Funfer, Trent Glenn, Adam Scott, Landen Cogswell, Mackenzie Negley, Callie Pry, Addison Fritz, Sydnee Klixbull, AJ Kaiser, Haylie Stugart, Haylee Benninger, Arika Simpson, Makayla Negley, Keagan McNany, Daisy Patton, Nathan Thompson

### Top 16—Sixth Grade

Carsen Warner, Ryder Carter, Meredith Cubbage, Korben Scroggins, Kameron Blair, Cadence Johnston, Sydney Karnes, Belle DeVore, Gavyn Kearns, Avery VanGorder, Ryder Snow, Gavin Prorok, Landon Kumpfmiller, Mason Overly, Emalee Rice, Liam McCall

## **Transportation Update**

As we start our summer break, please make sure to update our transportation office with any changes to your student's transportation for the 2025-2026 school year. Bus arrival times will be communicated later in the summer with an "all-call" to check your child's Skyward account.

Kevin Boariu—Transportation Director kboariu@moniteau.org x 2000 April Campbell—Transportation Secretary acampbell@moniteau.org x 2000



## Congratulations and best wishes...

At the conclusion of the 2024-2025 school year, Mrs. Zoe McDowell and Mr. Jeffrey Campbell will be retiring. With over 50 years of combined service, each of these individuals have made a significant impact on the Moniteau community. Mrs. McDowell served as a health and physical education teacher, a cross country coach, an athletic director, and a department chair to name a few, during her tenure. Some of Mr.



Campbell's duties included oversight of buildings and grounds, director of transportation, running a water apprenticeship program, and coaching football for many years. Please join us in sharing our heartfelt appreciation for all they have done in, and for, the district and wish them all the best as they enter this new chapter in their lives.

## **Junior Class Trip to D.C.**

On Friday, May 23, students in 11th grade went on a day-long field trip to Washington, D.C. This trip represented a curricular summary of subject matter from 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th grade while also serving as a prelude to the 12th grade government course. Students arrived in D.C. at 9am and began a walking tour from the White House to the Mall. En route, they stopped and viewed monuments and historical sights, including: the Jefferson Memorial, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, FDR Memorial, WWI and WWII Memorials, and the Washington Monument. To learn about local history and Memorial Day, students found the name of Luciano Plesakov, a Moniteau graduate who was killed in action in Vietnam.

Students have the opportunity to have a group lunch at the Ronald Reagan Building and then began their tour of various museums. They started with the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, which featured the original plane from the Wright Brothers. Next, students engaged in a walking tour of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, where they explored exhibits about one of the largest atrocities in the history of the world. Finally, the group visited the Smithsonian Museum of American History. Here, they viewed Dorothy's slippers from the Wizard of Oz, R2D2 and C3PO from Star Wars, Abraham Lincoln's famous hat, and much more.

The day of walking ended with a food truck dinner on the Mall and some great pictures of the U.S. Capitol Building and the Washington Monument. This tremendous experience encompassed much learning over the last few years. With over 14 miles of walking, this 21-hour trip proved invaluable to learning about democracy and the challenges of our young nation. We plan to make this an annual trip for our junior

class! A special thanks for all who made this trip possible, but especially to American Legion Post 117 for their generous donation and sponsorship of this fantastic learning opportunity!





# TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION:

Moniteau School District is working with ABC Transit, Inc. for transportation services.

Please remember the default stop for ALL students at the start of the year is their home address, as listed in Skyward unless the Google Form has been submitted with an update (can be found on the Transportation page on the district website).

Students will only be permitted one (1) stop in the AM and one (1) stop in the PM.

Information regarding transportation updates will be conveyed to all students, parents and guardians via Skyward.

For more specific information please reference Board Policy 810: Transportation, which can be found on the district website.

PLEASE NOTE: Bus passes will only be permitted for emergency situations and not on a day-to-day basis.

For transportation questions please contact:

Mr. Kevin Boariu Transportation Director kboariu@moniteau.org (724) 637-2117 x 2000



# Harvest of the Month: Broccoli

- This dark green vegetable that looks like a tree is a member of the mustard family of plants and is closely related to cauliflower and cabbage.
- Broccoli is native to the Mediterranean region, cultivated in Italy in ancient Roman times and introduced in England about 1720.
- The U.S. is the world's largest producer of broccoli.
- Broccoli was first commercially grown in the U.S. in the early 1920's but did not become a crop of significance in the U.S. until after World War II.
- Broccoli is grown in almost every state in the U.S.



# Celebrating Excellence: Moniteau High School Awards Ceremony for the Class of 2025

Moniteau High School proudly hosted the Awards Ceremony for the Class of 2025 on Friday, May 30, 2025, in the Jr./Sr. High School Auditorium. This cherished annual event continued the school's long-standing tradition of recognizing the hard work, achievements, and dedication of its graduating seniors.

This year's ceremony was emceed by Mrs. McBryar, Moniteau's Assistant Principal, who guided the morning as countless scholarships and honors were presented to the deserving members of the Class of 2025. The event highlighted not only academic excellence but also community service, leadership, and post-secondary aspirations.

Among the many accolades awarded, a few key honors included:

**Top 10 Seniors Recognition** – celebrating the students with the highest academic standing in the graduating class

**The Robert & Donna Young Memorial Scholarship** – awarded in memory of two individuals who valued education and service

**The Principal's Honor Award** – recognizing students who demonstrated exceptional commitment to their academic and personal growth throughout high school.

These awards reflected the diverse talents and future paths of Moniteau's graduates. The seniors prepared to embark on a wide range of journeys, including entering the workforce, attending career and technical schools, enrolling in colleges and universities, enlisting in the military, and pursuing other meaningful post-secondary opportunities.

The Awards Ceremony served not only as a time of recognition but also as a moment to reflect on the strength, perseverance, and character of the Class of 2025. Families were invited individually to join in celebrating this exceptional group of students as they prepared to take their next steps beyond Moniteau.

The school community was proud to honor the seniors on this special morning and extended heartfelt congratulations to each member of the Class of 2025.



## DASSA DASH 2.0

The Dassa Dash was newly revamped for the 2024-2025 school year into the Dassa Dash 2.0 Walk-a-thon! All students were able and encouraged to participate to walk, run or jog the 250m course for 30 minutes to promote health, fitness and teamwork. 7,615 total laps were completed by students in grades K-6!

Prizes were awarded for the following categories:

- Most laps by an individual student
  - K-3 winner, Luke Bishop, Grade 2
  - 4-6 winner, Liam McLean, Grade 5
- Class with the most laps:
  - K-3 winner, Mrs. Long's room: 298 laps
  - 4-6 winner, Mr. McCollough's room: 345 laps
- Student who raised the most money:
   Warren Baronetski—\$449
- Classroom who raised the most money:
   Mrs. Heather Baptiste—\$1,219





## **Ag Adventure Day at Dassa McKinney**

What does FFA mean to you? For our fourth grade students at Dassa, FFA means a great day of fun and learning. Thanks to Mr. Dean and his FFA organization, the fourth grade students at Dassa spent a day in May learning about all things farming. Fourth grade students were given the opportunity to learn how to cast a fishing line, learn the anatomy of a horse, and learn about the various types of corn that grow right here in our region. These lessons were taught by several high school students who researched and presented information related to the various aspects of agriculture. They even brought tractors, excavators, and emergency response vehicles to explain to the students all of the components that are necessary in making the field of agricultural production a successful one. The fourth grade teachers and students at Dassa want to thank Mr. Dean and his FFA group for all of their hard work, dedication, and focus in creating a program full of engaging activities.



Way to go FFA Warriors!



## CONTACT INFORMATION

#### **Administration**

C. Foster McGarvey Administration Center 1810 West Sunbury Rd. West Sunbury, PA 16061

> P: (724) 637-2117 F: (724) 637-3862

Dr. Aubrie Schnelle Superintendent aschnelle@moniteau.org x 2001

Mr. Jeffrey Campbell
Director of Buildings and Grounds
jcampbell@moniteau.org
x 1770

Mr. Alix Greenawalt
Director of Technology
ajgreenawalt@moniteau.org
x 1310

Mr. Austin Blauser Business Manager ablauser@moniteau.org x 2850

Mrs. Carrie Plecher
Director of Food Services
cplecher@moniteau.org
x 1760

Mr. Dustin Thompson
Coordinator of Student Support Services
dthompson@moniteau.org
x 1450

## Student Hours:

7:15am—2:25pm

Moniteau Jr./Sr.

**High School** 

**Dassa McKinney** 

**Elementary School** 

**Student Hours:** 

8:50am—3:30pm

Staff Hours:

8:15am—3:45pm

Staff Hours:

7:05am—2:35pm



#### **School Board Directors**

Dr. Michael Panza, President

Mrs. Kathy McBride, Vice-President

Mr. Travis Beachem

Mrs. Janeen Beatty

Mr. Mark DeMatteis

Mrs. Linda Dillaman

Mrs. Brittney Larimore

Mrs. Jennifer Rottman

Mr. Christopher Stamm

#### **Junior-Senior High School**

1810 West Sunbury Rd. West Sunbury, PA 16061 P: (724) 637-2091

F: (724) 637-3878

Mr. Lance Fox
Principal
Ifox@moniteau.org
x 1000

Mrs. Kimberley McBryar Assistant Principal kmcbryar@moniteau.org x 1001

Mr. Dylan Beachem
Director of Athletics & Activities
dbeachem@moniteau.org
x 1128

### **Elementary School**

391 Hooker Rd. West Sunbury, PA 16061 P: (724) 637-2321

F: (724) 637-3877

Mr. Kevin Boariu
Principal/Director of Transportation
kboariu@moniteau.org
x 3121

Mrs. Nicole Fox Assistant Principal nfox@moniteau.org x 3123

Moniteau School District is an equal opportunity education institution and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its activities, programs or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title IX and section 504. The Moniteau School District prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates. Individuals may report concerns or questions to the Title IX Coordinator. The notice of nondiscrimination is located at www.moniteau.org/Title-IX.