

WHAT'S INSIDE:

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- Mena Summer Program
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- AR THRIVE Leader Academy
- Mena School District Celebrates 125 Years

RED

A R O U N D T O W N

Publication of Mena School District

SPRING 2022



MENA SUMMER ALE PROGRAM

The summer program was created during the 2020-21 school year and designed around service learning projects throughout the community. Students have worked at CMA, Humane Society and throughout the city as needed. This year students will have the opportunity to visit various businesses as well as attend informational sessions with guest speakers.

The program was created because service learning opportunities provide students with the opportunity to serve the community and allow students to see their role as a change agent. They are able to see themselves as part of a community rather than a community against them. Community service has proven to positively affect students' problem solving skills, responsibility, and social skills. Summer programs provide students with a safe, supportive environment when school is out for break. For students who are at risk, summer programs are imperative for their social emotional wellbeing. This summer program will continue to reinforce what each student has gained during the school year and provide further learning opportunities. For students who are on probation this would be an opportunity to grow in the community as well as grow as an individual. Summer programs are proven to reduce crime among adolescents and increase desired behaviors. After school programs will also provide our students with community relationships, mentors and a sense of belonging. Studies show that students who are engaged positively within their community are more likely to transition into adulthood successfully, compared to those not surrounded by uplifting mentors or youth programs.

This program is an effective experience for Mena's most vulnerable population. This program provides students with a "Big Audience," enhancing our students' internal desire to achieve greater outcomes. They were able to make significant progress and gain achievements.

Five students successfully participated and completed the program during the 2020-21

school year. Each student gained 32 volunteer hours, collectively earning 160 hours. Students were able to gain employment, interpersonal skills, personal gains and community resources that will be invaluable in their future endeavors.

This year the program runs through the month of June for two to three days a week from 9am-2pm. Transportation is provided for all students as well as lunch and snacks. The snacks have been provided for students by Mena Insurance Agency. Our schedule for this year is as follows:

June 6th	CMA (All Day)
June 7th	Repos/Nidec tour (CMA)
June 8th	UARM Tour/Hiking
June 13th	Morgan Nick Speaker (1 hour) CMA (All Day)
June 14th	Extension Office (Cooking with Bridgett Martin)/Humane Society
June 15th	First Responder Day (Seth Smith) (City work)
June 20th	JP Dinnell (1 hour) CMA (All day)
June 22nd	Train Station Museum tour- Rich Mountain hiking and activities
June 27th	CMA Day
June 28th	Library and Art Museum/Work for City
June 29	"Team Building Day" T-Rex

The last day is a Team Building Day. Students spend a fun day in the park. The program is for middle school and high school students who are in the Alternative Learning Classroom or who might benefit from working with the community and creating new connections.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

As we have closed out the 2021-22 school year there is much to be excited about at Mena. After beginning the year with so much uncertainty, we have ended the year with a renewed sense of school spirit. Our school day returned to normal, and students once again



participated in the many clubs and extracurricular activities that add so much value to a student's school experience.

Graduation causes me to reflect on how education truly pays a dividend for life. Students and staff have worked hard to finish strong. Our seniors now have diplomas in their hands and their futures in front of them. They will be taking some time to reflect on their time here, thinking back over their experiences, not even truly realizing how much they have grown since they entered our doors as kindergartners.

Education has become one of the clearest indicators of life outcomes such as employment, income and well-being.

Mena prides itself on preparing students for their future. From vocational programs to dual credit to a wide variety of experiences that guide students to settle on a career path, our students are ready. We have had this goal in place since they were in early childhood.

On behalf of the teachers, staff, administration and community, I would like to wish all of the graduates good luck in your endeavors and congratulate you on your hard work and dedication. It has certainly paid off! Congratulations to the Class of 2022!

Dr. Lee Smith, Superintendent of Mena School District

MENA PRESCHOOL'S ABC PROGRAM

Now Accepting Applications for the 2022-23 school year. Pre-register your child now in order to start in August for the new school year.

- First Step: Fill out an application and be accepted into the program (This can be done now).
- Second Step: Fill out the Enrollment Packet (This is done after being accepted).

Applications can be picked up at Louise Durham Elementary

Required Documentation:

- Completed Application
- Income verification: Federal 2021 Tax Return or W-2 and/or No Income Form if Unemployed
- Copy of Child's Birth Certificate
- Copy of Child's Social Security Card
- Copy of Child's Shot Record (child must be up to date on shots)
- Current Physical/Well Child Check Up
- Copy of Current Utility Bill (showing proof of address)

Children must be three or four years of age on or before Aug. 1, 2022.

For more information please contact the Preschool Director, Mrs. Nance at (479) 243-3813 or christy.nance@dmesc.org

AR THRIVE LEADER ACADEMY

Mena School District leaders will be participating in the AR THRIVE Leader Academy. Eligible candidates are individuals who are currently serving as an administrator, dean of students or interventionist in an Arkansas public school and whose job duties require them to directly manage behavioral expectations for students in the K-12 setting. The academy will prepare participants to support behavior and mental health in their schools both reactively and proactively and strengthen current educational structures to systematically teach academic and social behaviors.

This academy will provide 11 days of face-to-face professional learning that will directly benefit the school district of its participants. All expenses will be covered by the Arkansas Department of Education through the use of ARP ESSER Funds. Mena looks forward to the changes and support that this training will bring.



KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT IS HAPPENING NOW!

PLEASE CONTACT LOUISE DURHAM ELEMENTARY
AT (479) 394-2943 TO ENROLL YOUR CHILD.

MENA HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2022



Ashcraft, Cassidy Joy Marie



Auces, Michael



Baber, Jett Anthony



Bailey, Karlie Elizabeth



Barnes, Cadence Alexia



Bates, Allison Jennise



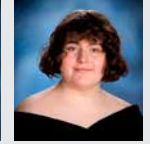
Bazzari, Maria



Beck, Travis Wade



Benefield, Katie Renee



Betz, Olivia Rose



Biard, Jaimeson Albright



Bonnet, Agloé Laurence Jeanne



Booth, Amanda Michelle



Brotherton, Jake Anthony



Brown, Blake Andrew



Brown, Brenden Scott



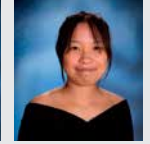
Bump, Miranda Nicole



Burger, Jarrett Brian



Caldwell, Morgan Mae



Chiu, Cheuk Lam Kammy



Cook, Kylie Nicole



Cooper, Masen Neil



Cox, Rachel Nicole



Cross, Samuel Lee



Davis, William Layne



Daramus, Jacob William



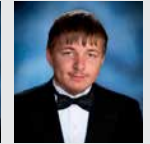
Dilbeck, Lexi Faith



Evangelista, Abri Jaye



Fairless, Grayson Nicole



Fruen, Seth Paul



Gilbert, Richard William



Godwin, Bethany Grace



Goodner, Jadelynn Lanoe



Gordon, Gage Wyatt



Grafton, Zackery Lee



Grogg, Christina Nicole



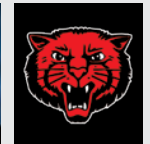
Graves, Evan Matthew



Grenier, Sarah Paige



Grossman, Mathew Payton



Grymer, LaShanti Denise



Hall, Breanna Lynn



Hanley, Dustin Michael



Harris, Jayden Lynn



Henry, Chastin Matthew



Hilderbrand, Alexyss Zuryiah



Hill, Danielle Elisabeth



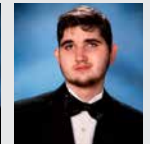
Huff, Trace Lee



Hughes, Ian Robert



Hughes, Wilson Teal



Hunter, John Tate



Jewell, Nathaniel Joseph



Jones, Caleb Bryant



Kelley, Jeremiah Lee



Kirkendall, Billy Auston



Knight, Leilani Sofia



McMellon, Tre' Rodenick



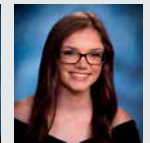
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Milam, Jaiden Breann



Montgomery, Luke William



Morris, Navya Sophia



Myers, Timberty Michelle



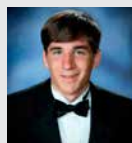
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Ortiz, Christina Michelle



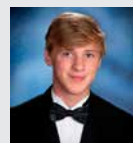
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Peters, Caleb Lane



Pierce, Jessalynn Nicole



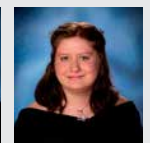
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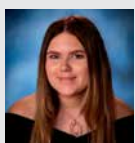
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Roberts, Jordan Raymond



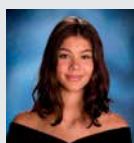
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Rodriguez, Angel Jean



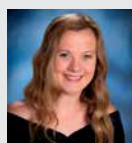
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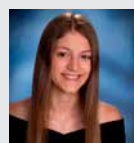
Sereni, Valentina



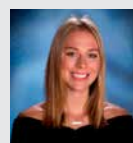
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Sharp, Liberty Alexis



Simmons, Sarah Nicole



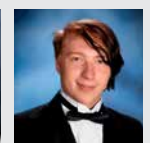
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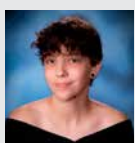
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Snider, Noah Israel



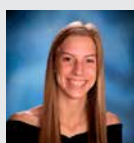
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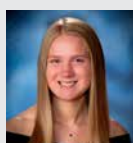
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Summit, McKenzie Skye



Thacker, Taylor Grace



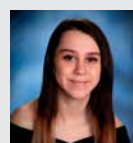
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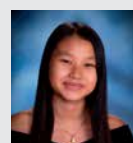
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Tong, Trang Thi Y



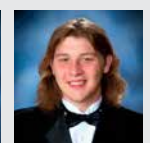
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Vue, Vanessa Paj Suab



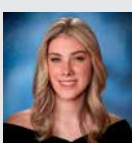
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White, William Wright



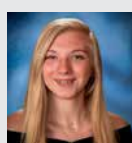
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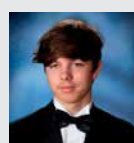
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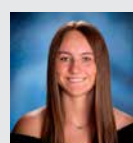
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Williams, Elizabeth Rose



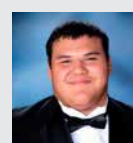
Williams, Tanner Lane



Wilson, Rachel Elizabeth



Wood, Ayden Charles Jude



Yang, Logan Houawa



YOU'RE INVITED

The Mena School Board meets on the third Tuesday of each month. Executive Session at 6pm and open meeting at 7pm in the Administration Building.

SCHOOL BOARD

Clint Montgomery..... President
Susan Rowell..... Vice President
Todd Aynes..... Secretary
Kyle Cannon..... Member
Robert Hines..... Member
Edd Puckett..... Member
Phillip Wilson..... Member

CONTACT US

Mena High School..... (479) 394-1144
Mena Middle School..... (479) 394-2572
Holly Harshman Elementary School..... (479) 394-3151
Louise Durham Elementary School..... (479) 394-2943
Polk County Virtual Academy..... (479) 394-2572

OUR WEBSITE

www.menaschools.org

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MENA SCHOOL DISTRICT CELEBRATES 125 YEARS

Mena School District began 125 years ago and here is the story of how it came to be.

In 1896 when the Kansas City Southern Railroad came through Mena and the people began to come to work on the railroad, the first thing they were interested in was a school for their children. So, at the site where the Polk County Library is now located, a one room tent was set up with wooden boards around the bottom. One teacher taught all the children who enrolled in the new school.

Later, a small school was built on the site where the First Baptist Church is now, and another teacher was added. These two teachers taught all the children.

The Mena School District was organized in April 1897 by the election of six directors. The district comprised the entire town of Mena which was about two square miles. W. M. Pipkin was elected as superintendent of this first school. Superintendent Pipkin was a young man who had several years of successful teaching experience. He was a graduate of Peabody Teachers College in Nashville, Tennessee. He was noted for his earnestness and zeal in the cause of education.

The town was growing rapidly but there was no data available as to just how many pupils there would be when school opened in the fall. Pipkin said that on the first morning when he walked into the primary teacher's room there were 125 children crowded into every available inch. To meet the emergency, the school board arranged for the building of three temporary rooms on the grounds and secured the use of the Baptist Church.

In spite of over-crowded conditions and lack of any special equipment, Superintendent Pipkin was able to arrange and use a well-balanced course of study and to practice many modern methods of teaching and management.

