

# Bearcat Happenings

by Gasconade County R-1 Superintendent: Dr. Scott Smith

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The 2020 - 2021 school year is in full swing at the Gasconade County R-1 School District. It has been exciting to see students on campus once again. This year, not only do we have students on campus and learning in person, we have approximately 6% of our student population learning virtually. No matter what platform of education chosen, it is great to have students back with us. After being away from the school setting for five months, those who chose the in-class option certainly appear happy to be back in session.

As challenging as this year was to get started with the COVID-19 situation, I am very proud of how well our staff has adapted new practices to provide a safe learning environment for students. I commend all of our faculty, staff, and administrators for making sure the new protocols were implemented with success. We are so fortunate to have a caring group of educators working in the district.

With the first week of school complete, we are very pleased with how well the year began. As I walked the hallways and visited numerous classrooms throughout the district, it was obvious our students are already getting to experience some great lessons. It has been fantastic to see our students quickly getting back into the routine of school.

It is vital to remember that we are still dealing with a pandemic. Although we have numerous safety measures in place for the school year, the number of positive cases in the community is continuing to grow. However, at the time of this article being written, none of the positive cases are a result of school being open. If we see positive cases within the school system, we will work with the Gasconade County Health Department and follow their recommendations.

If you have a child that is showing any signs of sickness, please keep them home. Even if they are not running a fever and you do not think it could be COVID-19 related, they should not be at school until they are symptom free. If your child is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms such as sore throat, fever, fatigue, cough, headache, shortness of breath, etc, please do not send them to school. Please contact your healthcare provider. If your child has been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or COVID-19 symptoms, they should not be at school. With the situation at hand, we must show extra precaution for the safety of our community. Attendance incentives have been removed this year. Please communicate with the school office if your child will be absent from school.

A situation that we are currently addressing relates to those who are being quarantined. We have students and staff members in quarantine due to exposure to a non-school person that tested COVID-19 positive. While these students are on quarantine, we are providing virtual instruction by Gasconade County R-1 staff. If situations escalate throughout the school year, we may have to quarantine a classroom, grade, wing of a building, or even one building. It is our intention to continue with on-site instruction in the safest manner possible for students and staff. We must have parent and community support to continue with on-site instruction.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have been working with the county health departments that encompass our district. Our partnership will continue with them as long as this pandemic is impacting our community. Should we experience positive cases in the school setting, we will be working with the health department to identify those that are considered close contact. Any student and/or staff that is considered a close contact will be notified

immediately by phone and email. To expedite the notification process, we will be utilizing our messaging system as much as possible.

As a district, school activities have started for the fall season. This is an exciting time for our students and the community. School activities are a time for our students to showcase their skills. As a way of helping to reduce possible exposure to COVID-19 for students, coaches, officials, and spectators, we will be implementing some event guidelines. This was a collaborative decision made by the Four Rivers Conference schools.

For the fall season, the guidelines below will be implemented for high school football, volleyball, band and choir events, as well as middle school girls' basketball and football. For softball and cross country, we recommend that spectators be limited to immediate family only and lawn chairs are brought to allow for social distancing.

- Facility capacity will be at 50%, and each participant will be given tickets to disperse how they choose, except for softball and cross country as noted above.
- For football games, there will be 250 general admission tickets available on a first-come-first-serve basis. Gates will open at 6:00 p.m. on game nights.
- For volleyball games, participants will be given tickets to disperse and there will be approximately 250 general admission tickets available on a first-come basis as well.
- We ask that social distancing is practiced at all events.
- Masks are recommended to be worn at all events, especially those taking place indoors.
- Fans who are sick, showing symptoms, or have been in direct contact with a COVID positive individual are asked to stay home.

Admission for all athletic events is \$3 for adults and \$2 for students. Adults age 65 and over and those under 5 years of age, can attend free of charge. For a complete list of district activities, check out the "upcoming events" section found on our district webpage at [www.hermann.k12.mo.us](http://www.hermann.k12.mo.us) Also like our Facebook page: "Gasconade Co. R-1 School District."

With the limited number of spectators being allowed at events, we are working with a company to provide live streaming options for events held in the high school gym, as well as Bearcat Memorial Stadium. We anticipate the equipment installation in the coming weeks. Once installed, we will be sharing additional information on how to subscribe to events.

Prior to our first home football game scheduled for this Friday, September 4, 2020, we are hosting two other events. The first event is the Bearcat Memorial Induction Ceremony. This event is definitely one of the district's most prestigious and honored events of the year. The ceremony will be held at Bearcat Memorial Stadium, Friday, September 4th, starting at 5:30 p.m. During the ceremony, we will induct Mr. Lloyd Stock. Mr. Stock served the Gasconade County R-1 School District from 1951-1978. Many will remember him as a high school principal. He was a champion for Hermann students as he helped them prepare for life after high school. Mr. Stock was known as a fair man who held his students to a very high standard. He believed that not one quality made or represented a person but that students should be involved in a variety of academic and extra-curricular activities while in high school. We continue to recognize students with an annual Lloyd Stock award and scholarships who exemplify these traits.

He also bravely served our country in the U.S Army during World War II from 1941-1945 Mr. Stock passed away on October 23, 2016. We are proud to honor Mr. Stock and recognize his family at this special event.

As many will recall, the Bearcat Memorial began in the fall of 2007 as a way of honoring local residents who made a significant contribution to the school, community, state, and nation.

The previous Bearcat Memorial Honorees include:

- 2007 1st Lt. Steven Bezold, Carol Binkholder, Lnc. Cpl. Erik Heldt, Charlie Page
- 2008 James T. Shaw, M.D.
- 2009 Jody Stiers-Herbst, Matt Lampkin
- 2010 Don Gosen, Sr., G. W. Heying, Imogene Story Meyer & Nan Sellenschutter
- 2012 Elmer Danuser, Art Draper, Earl Hauser
- 2013 Chris Arand, Elvira Bohl
- 2014 Sylan "Bud" Krone, Leroy & Janet Lerbs
- 2015 Leon Toedeman & Missy Frink
- 2016 Anna Kemper Hesse & Clara Eitmann Messmer
- 2017 Ralph Sellenschutter & Charles Eitzen
- 2018 Landon Grosse & Kenneth Lerbs
- 2019 David Schulte

The second event held prior to kickoff will be Senior Recognition Night. This is a time when we recognize our senior band, cheer, cross country, dance, and football athletes alongside their parents. This event is scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m. on the evening of Friday, September 4th at Bearcat Memorial Stadium.

As always, please know I am here to assist in any way possible. Should you have any questions or concerns you are welcome to contact me at 573-486-2116 or by email at [ssmith@hermann.k12.mo.us](mailto:ssmith@hermann.k12.mo.us). Thank you for your continued support of the Gasconade County R-1 School District! Stay healthy and go Bearcats!



From the desk of Dr. Scott Smith, Ed.D.

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Superintendent, Gasconade County R-1 Schools