Superintendent's Monthly Update

Blue Ridge CUSD#18 June 2022

FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

June is one of my favorite months of the year. Warm weather, longer hours of sunlight, and ice cream cones with sprinkles are just a few of the reasons why! I hope that you are enjoying the change of pace and all that summer brings your way.

During the early months of summer, we hope that you'll join us on Facebook for our weekly Summer Knights post. We choose a weekly topic and ask you to share your pictures in the comments of our post. Thanks to those who have joined in already this month!

Following Summer Knights, each week in July we will share a very short video with you that explains our recent strategic planning and mission statement revision processes. After that, we will share bios of our new staff members with you so you can learn a little bit about each of them prior to the first days of school.

Our new Transportation Office Building is nearing completion. We are thankful to have a safe, new space for our transportation staff. The building project was a combined effort by Mr. Seneca's students and 4D Construction. As a reminder, the funding for the new building was provided by refinancing our existing bonds when the interest rates were extremely low. No new taxpayer money was used in this project. Thank you to Mr. Seneca and his students for making this project possible!

As I begin my third year in the role of superintendent, I look forward to the new school year and our new opportunities to make improvements for the sake of our students. We are already making plans to host Blue Ridge Connect in Mansfield in October with a safety theme, in Farmer City in January with a Drug and Alcohol Prevention theme, and we'll be back in Bellflower in April, with a theme yet to be determined.

Looking even further ahead, we are hopeful to complete major roofing projects on both Schneider Elementary and BRHS during the summer of 2023 if the many variables line up as planned. Taking care of our buildings and grounds continues to be a top priority.

Again, we hope you enjoy all that the summer holds. Enjoy and stay safe!

PARTIAL ACTION FROM THE JUNE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Blue Ridge welcomes many new staff members this month! We thank our Department Heads and Administration for their diligent work in finding the best candidates for our open positions.

BRHS welcomes

- Scott Tongate in the role of Industrial Technology Teacher.
- Carolyn Jo Ramirez in the role of Art Teacher.
- Douglas Kramer will be our 2nd Assistant Football Coach.
- Zach Paragi will be the Assistant Girls' Basketball Coach.

BRIJHS welcomes

- TJ Wirth as Jr. High PE Teacher.
- Jeff Zogg will teach Summer School.
- Herb Coffey will be the Assistant Baseball Coach for BRIJHS.
- Zach Paragi will be the Girls' Basketball Coach.
- Josie Grammer will be the Girls' Assistant Basketball Coach.

Schneider Elementary welcomes

- Paige Reynolds as 2nd Grade Teacher.

The O&M Department welcomes summer workers Owen Buchholz and Nathaniel Johnson.

We welcome Anita Beaman as District Librarian and Michelle Case as Schneider Elementary and BRHS School Nurse.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 25-28 K-9th grade Summer School, 8:30-11:30 a.m.
July 29 Online Registration Opens
August 1-4 K-9 Summer School, 8:30-11:30 a.m.
August 4 In Person Registration, Pre-K-12th grade, 10-3 p.m. and 4-7:00 p.m. in your respective school buildings
August 5 Online Registration Closes
August 8-11 Kindergarten Jumpstart, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

IN OTHER NEWS

SCHNEIDER ELEMENTARY

***Pre-K Screenings -** Our fall Pre-K screenings will be July 28 and 29. The developmental screening is for children who are 3 or 4 years old at the time of the screening. Children who turn 5 on or before September 1, 2022 are not eligible for the screening. Please allow up to 2 hours for the screening. We ask you not to bring other children with you since you will be asked to join us during your child's appointment. Please call Schneider Elementary at (309)928-2611 to schedule an appointment or ask any questions. Thank you!

***Kids Heart Challenge -** Congratulations to Mr. Hanson, Schneider students and all our generous school community for raising over $17,000 for the American Heart Association this year. Indria Johnson was our top earner this year raising over $1,000. As a building, we have raised over $100,000 since the 2014-15 school year. The money raised helps make life-saving differences for people in our own community and across the nation.

***Citizenship Award -** Congratulations to Korra Ellis! She was selected as our 2021-2022 Citizenship Award recipient. Korra demonstrated strong leadership skills and promoted a positive classroom environment throughout the school year.

***Field Day -** Our last day of school was a success! We started the day with an all school assembly to recognize our top readers in 2nd and 3rd grade, our 2021-2022 Citizenship Award winner Korra Ellis, Kids Heart Challenge top

fundraisers and field day activities. Field day activities included games, bounce houses, treats and an outdoor lunch. Thank you again to PIE for funding the bounce houses. It was a great way to end the year!

BRIJHS

How about some scaled up candy? Our 6th graders can help you out thanks to Ms. Kennell!

Jr High Chorus members received a pin from Mrs. Wrestler.
Our junior top academic achievers- Carmen, Indra, Karly, Brody, and Romero.

American Legion Award Winners for courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship, and service- Carmen and Romero.

Who was recognized for good behavior, service to the school, and a positive attitude? This year it was Carmen, Ollie, Indra, Karly, Presley, Romero, and Brody.

Indra Nolan received a scholarship to Scholastic Bowl Camp at Illinois Wesleyan thanks to Brenda Hendricks.

7th graders enjoyed a field trip to Eureka College. Here they are at the Reagan Peace Garden.

Fourth grade field trip fun- planetarium, picnic, hiking, and playground. Yippee!

Class of 2026, BRHS welcomes you!

BRHS

Graduation was held on Sunday, May 22nd. Our BRHS Class of 2022 Valedictorian was Samantha Boogren and our Salutatorian was Grace Coffey. Congratulations to the entire Class of 2022!

RECOGNITIONS

May Athletes of the Month

Softball - Farrah Michaels. Farrah leads the team with 32 runs scored, of which 2 in the park home runs due to her speed around the bases. She is also leading the team and conference in stolen bases with 19. With her speed and experience of the game, she willingly transitioned to outfield and has taken charge. Great role model and team leader to step up and do what the team needs her to do!

Baseball - Dylan Kelley. Dylan pitched in 3 games and will be starting our regional game. As of this writing, Dylan has pitched in 3 games, only allowing 2 earned runs while recording 23 strikeouts and only 5 walks. His ERA this month is currently 1.10, and he picked up his first win of the season this month.

Girls Track - Gracie Shaffer. Gracie continues to work hard to do what's best for the team by filling relays and continuing to improve her discus throwing. Gracie also has found a niche as a very good 300IH runner. She placed 4th in the LPC and Sectional meet in this event. Gracie came through at the LPC meet with a PR time in the 3200 in very hot conditions.

Boys Track - Dawson Raines. Dawson has been a perennial track participant. Typically he specializes in the Shot and Discus throws but has been known to run sprints, middle and long distance events. Dawson is always upbeat even when he is having an off day, always reliable and willing to give his all.

3x4 Award Winners: Ashlyn Voyles and Hank Mitchell
3 sports all 4 years.

Girls Track state qualifier: **Alexis Wike** - for being one of twelve high jumpers out of 33 total to advance to the class A finals at Eastern IL University. She then competed at state and received 8th overall. Alexis will be a senior in the fall.

Boys Track State qualifiers: Matt Schumacher won the shot put with a throw of 44'8", a personal record. Cole Pemble placed 2nd in the long jump with a state qualifying 21'2". They both competed in the finals and Cole was 4th in the long jump and Matt did not place. Both Matt and Cole will be Juniors in the fall.

Conference award winners: Ashlyn Voyles 1st team Softball
Farrah Michaels 2nd team Softball
Riley Pruitt 2nd team Baseball

TECHNOLOGY

- Year End Chromebook Collection from students, inventorying, recycling, repairables identified.
- Asset tags added to all new inventory and identified by buildings
- First of phone replacements received
- State reporting for year end items including attendance, student course assignments, early childhood outcomes, out of district students, and final letter grades
- Thin Client machines rolled out to first district employees - HS secretaries
- Budget FY23 submitted to Dr. Stanifer
- Attended SIS/Qmlativ workshop
- Submitted ECF Invoices for Reimbursement
- Submitted ERate Invoices for Reimbursement
- Turned off all first generation hotspots as replacements have arrived
- Controller setup for new networking equipment
- Replacement servers for both campuses received and setup started
- Door Access hardware received and Checked in
- Replacement switches for oldest Cisco units received and checked in
- Transition to new Asset Management Software started
- Hardware is being prepped for install at new transportation office

Finishing the 2021-2022 School Year…

#br_u_knighted