

WARRIOR WIRE



A PUBLICATION OF
SMITHVILLE
School District
WINTER 2022



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BRAINS COMPETITION**
**STUDENTS FOR
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SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTER

Dear Smithville Families,

As fall gives way to winter and the first semester of school comes to a close, it is a great time to reflect and be grateful. COVID continues to challenge us like nothing any of us can remember, yet the Warrior spirit is alive and well in our community. Not only are we battling a global pandemic that has disrupted our schools but we lack the necessary substitutes, bus drivers, food service workers, and custodians to adequately staff our operations. Our staff and students are tired from the stress and extra responsibility this disrupted environment brings.

Despite all of this, we push forward. Not only is our staff quick to fill in and go the extra mile in support of their students and colleagues, but students are stepping forward and asking if they can help in the cafeteria and with custodial duties. It is a true demonstration of the Warrior spirit when you recognize the community around you needs help and volunteer to fill that void.

It seems appropriate to recognize that Warrior spirit this holiday season and to thank the patrons of this community for all of the support you provide your schools and for sending us such great kids to nurture!

Sincerely,



Todd Schuetz, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools



Smithville School District's **Warrior Wire** is a newsmagazine published quarterly. Editorial, photography and artwork is created by Smithville School District's Communications Department, staff and students.

To receive a copy of the **Warrior Wire**, call (816) 532-0406.

Thank you Lisa Knorr for the use of your photographs!

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MAPLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN BATTLE OF THE BRAINS COMPETITION



Burns & McDonnell is an engineering firm in the Kansas City area who hosts the annual Battle of the Brains STEM Competition. Schools in the Kansas City area compete to dream up a new exhibit to be built in Science City. Maple Elementary School's Sara Freeman, Innovation and Technology Teacher, and Sarah Cline, Librarian, sponsored a team of eighteen 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students to participate in this competition.

The team had 8 weeks, 2 meetings per week, to develop an idea for the next exhibit to be built in Science City. Sixth grade competitor Chloey Simpson said, "As a kid I loved learning about new things but also

having fun, so Science City was like my new obsession when I was younger." The team of students went on a scouting field trip to Science City. Sara Freeman stated, "We started with a lot of brainstorming and used the acronym DREAM to talk about our ideas and research against what's already out there in Science Centers around the country.

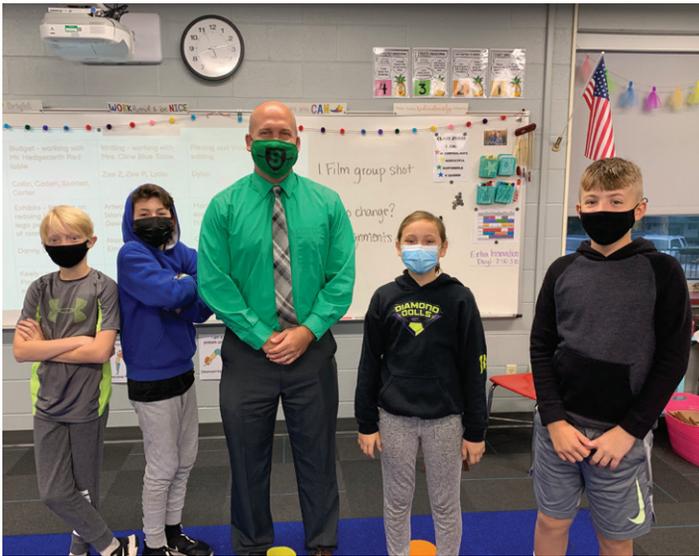
D - different

R - relevant

E - explorative

A - awareness

M - memorable



After voting for our winning topic idea, students brainstormed exhibit ideas and had to team up to present their best ideas to the rest of the group. We then voted for our top seven exhibit ideas.” Students broke into smaller teams to focus on a specific area of the project - Marketing, Budget, Exhibits, Research, and Writing. Guest speakers Robert Hedgecorth, Executive Director of Support Services for Smithville School District, and Jay Marshall, an engineer, came to work with the students and speak to them about construction and costs. The team had to create a plan so that the exhibit would fit within the space constraints and a \$250,000 “budget”. Hedgecorth stated, “I was amazed to see the insight and creativity that these students displayed in the construction of their exhibit”.

The team developed an exhibit called “Our Extraordinary Earth” which is all about landforms. The students came up with hands-on activities that they feel will engage visitors at Science City and inform them about landforms. The exhibit included seven hands-on, interactive displays. “The students had to develop a four-page proposal. The proposal included a description of how the displays



would work, how they are teaching the visitor about the topic, the budget to build their idea, and the space plan and safety features. Sixth grade student Collin Knight said, “My favorite exhibit that we thought of was the canyon area. It was basically half rock wall and half what we called a spider wall. We also made sure to have padding on the floor so nobody gets hurt.” The team also had to film a two minute commercial for the exhibit idea. Sixth grade competitor Dylan Manche stated, “My favorite part of the competition was the teamwork and ability to communicate and work with others you haven’t met yet.”

After a public voting period, the final winning team of Battle of the Brains is revealed on January 19, 2022.

SMITHVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT PARTNERS WITH PEOPLE OF ALL COLORS SUCCEED (POAC) ORGANIZATION

Smithville School District has partnered with an organization called *POAC: People of All Colors Succeed*. This organization works with schools to empower students to break the cycle of bullying and help students to stand up for themselves and others. Their goal is for the next generation to learn acceptance of others and encourage courageous conversations for change. Through acceptance, open dialogue, and inclusion, we can build healthier communities and a brighter future for all students. Below are the Pillars of POAC which include six strategies to engage students in productive dialogue. Through real-world learning applications, POAC representatives guide students through these six steps, checking in along the way and challenging students with a call to action at the end of each session.

1. *Collaborative Learning*. The POAC program is centered around mutual respect, open group discussion, and thought-provoking questions meant to highlight both differences and common ground.

2. *Problem Solving*. Groups engage in guided, thoughtful discussion about the trends impacting youth, including depression, anxiety, and even suicide. Students discuss various social issues facing their communities and share during problem-solving exercises to identify solutions to those issues.

3. *Self Discovery*. Students learn to embrace the opinions of others and are encouraged to ask questions. Through exercises and guided discussion, students are challenged to step outside of their comfort zones, opening the door for introspection and self-growth.

4. *Prevention*. Participants learn to foster a new mindset, build stronger relationships, and a better understanding of the impact of bullying. These skills provide students with a competitive advantage in their post-secondary education and professional careers, and the chance to stop bullying and discrimination before it starts.

5. *Empowerment & Accountability*. At the close of each program, participants present their ideas and try to gain buy-in from the group. Through this shared experience, mutual trust and respect are formed, and group members learn to hold each other to higher standards.

6. *Gold Standard Pledge*. As students complete the program, they will have the opportunity to reflect on what they learned and be asked to take a pledge to become an ambassador for change.

Congratulations Warriors!



STATE CHAMPIONS

MASONIC LODGE DONATION

The Masonic Home of Missouri made a generous donation of \$1,500 to the Smithville School District. The funds from this donation will be used in the Smithville Middle School Industrial Technology classroom and the Smithville High School Agricultural classroom.

The High School purchased a high torque impact wrench, a new gauge for a mobile torch rig, expandable arbors for a wood lathe, and rechargeable batteries for a variety of power tools in the Agricultural classroom. The Middle School was able to purchase two miter saws, a table saw, six jig-saws, router bits, two tool carts, and clamps with the funds from the donation. Mr. Adam Roske, Industrial Technology Teacher, stated, "The donation allows us to teach new skills with the table saw and jig saws we were not able to do before. The router bits allow us to add decorative edges to projects to make them look more professional, and the upgraded miter saws allow us to work more precisely and stay safe in the shop."



Students in the Agriculture Construction class make duck calls. The new expandable arbors allow students to have more precision in their work.



A Middle School Industrial Technology student uses a jigsaw to cut a curved edge on his project.



"We were able to purchase some new rechargeable batteries to use with some Ridgid brand tools that were donated to our Ag Shop. We had the tools but didn't have any working batteries. The new batteries allowed us to start using those donated tools." said Mr. Johnny Viebrock.



The new miter saw allows students to make more precise cuts.

students *for* sustainability

Students for Sustainability is a student-led initiation aiming to educate the school and community about sustainability and environmentalism. The group strives to help the environment through volunteering and implementing sustainable practices into the community. Currently, the group has 25 members. To date, the group has created lesson plans for the elementary technology and innovation teachers to use, teaching students about recycling and thinking green. Additionally, they've met with a business official through Bridging The Gap, a non-profit organization working to make the Kansas City region sustainable, to talk about ways they can implement a recycling program at



Smithville High School. Bridging The Gap will be coming to Smithville High School to do a waste audit, and the group will receive valuable data on what SHS's waste looks like and the best products to begin recycling. In the future, they plan to hold frequent trash clean-ups, host a sustainability week, talk with local businesses about their environmental impact, start a school garden, and have several fun club meetings.

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CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



Computer Generated Rendering



Current Status of Activity Center Building

The implementation of Phase I of the District's new master building plan continues to move forward on schedule. Thank you to voters for passing the bond in April of 2020, allowing funding of the Phase I projects. Construction at the Activity Center is rapidly coming along. The metal shell of the building is erected and the building has been enclosed, which will allow work on the interior of the building to continue through the winter months. Anticipated completion of the Activity Center project is scheduled for the end of May 2022.

CADET TEACHING INTERNSHIP PROGRAM OFFERED BY SMITHVILLE HIGH SCHOOL



Cadet Teaching is a professional experience in which students participate in real-world learning opportunities that include classroom learning and a placement within the district in a desired grade and/or content level. Students dive into all aspects of education and being an effective teacher. Their placement serves as an internship to gain hands-on experience with students and a means to apply what they're learning about teaching. The program is a year-long program that also offers dual-credit opportunities and a chance to earn A+ program hours.

Senior Adison Lowman (pictured) is teaching a lesson to the Nutrition and Wellness class at Smithville High School. Adison is in her second year of the Cadet Teaching Program. Lowman stated, "My whole life I had always thought of being a teacher. I can remember playing school with my friends and I had always wanted to play the teacher role!". As a junior, Adison was placed in Ms. McLaughlin's Pre-K classroom. She said, "As the year progressed and I had spent more and more time with the students I realized that what matters is what

you're passionate about, and for me, that is teaching. Although, with this new mindset and new want to pursue a degree in teaching, I felt like something was missing. I had always had the thought of teaching secondary FACS in the back of my mind." As a senior, Adison has been placed in the FACS classrooms at Smithville Middle School and Smithville High School. After participating in this program, Lowman said, "I am so blessed to have these opportunities that I have been given to teach these classes, observe them, get a feel for what teaching is like, and get a head start in my journey to becoming an educator."

Students who are interested in becoming an educator can experience the Cadet Teaching Program by speaking to their High School Counselor or Cadet Teaching Instructor, Mrs. Rochelle Sinclair.

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