

TRADITION

COMPASSION

PRIDE

The Warrior Wire

Late Winter/Early Spring
2016

SMITHVILLE SCHOOLS INTRODUCE WARRIORS EXPLORE SUMMER PROGRAM

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Smithville Primary Elementary

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Smithville Early Childhood Center

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SmithvilleSchoolDistrict.Net

For many years, the Smithville School District has contracted with an outside company to provide the curriculum for summer school for grades K-8. This fall, the contract with this company expired and the staff decided it is time to develop our own summer school program.

Warriors Explore is the outcome of this decision. Although the core subjects will still be taught, the format for classes will be different than in the past. Students will experience inter-disciplinary, hands-on learning rather than attending a math class, science class and reading class. In addition, these new inter-disciplinary courses will connect students with resources in Smithville and Kansas City as well as include experts and guest speakers in the learning process.

For example, "Design Your Own Waterpark" is a course that will be offered to incoming third graders. In this course, students will interact with a representative from Oceans of Fun as they work collaboratively to design the best waterpark. Incoming fourth graders and seventh/eighth graders will make a visit to the Kansas City Zoo as part of their learning experiences. Other courses include a program designed specifically for incoming 6th graders to help them become acclimated to the middle school and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) related courses at all grade levels. Our hope is that Warriors Explore feels much more like a summer learning camp rather than school during the summer. There will be a lot of meaningful learning just in a very different way. Teachers throughout the district submitted proposals for summer courses and are currently writing the curriculum in preparation for the first day of summer school. Warriors Explore is a "home grown" product designed specifically for our students.

In addition to the program changes, there are some other differences about Warriors Explore. The length of summer school will be shortened by four days to ensure that students and staff get a short break between the last day of regular school and the first day of the summer program. Warriors Explore will run from June 6 through July 1. The day will also be shorter by one hour. Grade levels attending at the Middle School will meet from 8:30-3:30 each day while grade levels at the Primary Elementary will meet from 8:40-3:40. Students will also have 30 minutes of recess (or a break for the older kids) and plans are in place to have the building libraries open so students can check out books during Warriors Explore. Transportation will be provided and breakfast and lunch will be served.

Although incentives will be offered for attendance, they will be different than in the past. There will be drawings for gift cards for perfect attendance during each week plus a drawing for a mini iPad at the conclusion of summer school for those with perfect attendance for all four weeks. These incentives have been provided through the generosity of Kids ROCK, a local organization dedicated to supporting our community's kids.

In addition to redesigning the K-8 summer program, we are also expanding opportunities at the high school. Lifetime Sports will be offered on campus, and Personal Finance and Health will be offered online.

There is a lot to be excited about this summer in the Smithville School District! We hope that your kids join us for Warriors Explore!



SMITHVILLE
School District
Tradition of Excellence

Highlights from Our Schools

Smithville Early Childhood Center

As more early childhood programs use computers and other digital technologies, teachers often look for ways to adapt and integrate new technologies to enhance children's learning. The students at the Early Childhood use iPads, SMART Boards, laptops, and other technology during instruction. Technology provides students the opportunity to develop social skills, learn a communication tool, practice taking turns, and share thinking strategies.



Smithville Primary Elementary School

The wild learning rumpus continues at the Primary Elementary. Student artwork and writing was on display at 3 Link Coffee Shop during February. Teachers continue to teach and learn through innovative initiatives. The Primary recently hosted an EdCamp to promote collaboration and teacher expertise in the areas of literacy, math, and technology. We are offering Bricks4Kids and a STEM club at the Primary to engage young learners in 21st century learning. Please follow Smithville Primary Elementary on Facebook at Smithville PES and on Twitter @SPES_tweets.

Smithville Upper Elementary School

Today's students are tomorrow's leaders! Students at Smithville Upper Elementary School engineered a catapult in a recent Valentine STEM challenge while working with concepts of force and motion and simple machines. Other STEM projects that students have completed this year are Barbie Bungee and Spaghetti Towers. This style of learning is guided by the engineering design process and students are immersed in hands-on inquiry and open-ended exploration. SUES will host a STEM Family Night on April 7th to highlight this style of learning for students and their families.



Smithville Middle School

One of the goals for Smithville Middle School this school year was to promote servant leadership among our students. Our students have embraced this positive ideal. By leading a number of different community service opportunities our students have demonstrated a true compassion for serving.

We began our service activities this past fall when students volunteered their time to decorate the school to welcome all students and patrons to SMS. In October, our student's coordinated a costume drive to give costumes to a local organization for Halloween. Throughout the month of November, our students collected food for Thanksgiving Holiday boxes for the Smithville Housing Authority. Overall our students donated enough food to fill 35 holiday boxes.

Our service continued into the winter months. In December, our students led a toy drive and contributed approximately 120 gifts to a local church to help afford a little more joy for Christmas. As the new year rolled in, our students participated in Spread A Little Joy, contributing \$719.00 for cancer research and awareness. In addition, our 8th grade Leadership class made quilts for the tenants at Smithville's Golden Living Center. Recently our student council students raised over \$1200.00 for the local Special Olympics. Ten of the student council students participated in the Polar Plunge which is a function designed to raise money to promote Special Olympics.



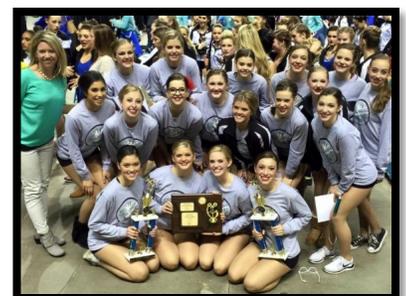
This spring our STUCO students will be organizing a community wide clothes drive from April 18th to April 22nd. The event will conclude on April 23rd with a community wide clothing drop off in front of the middle school. Also this spring, our 8th graders will spend a day working at Harvesters. Lastly this spring, our SMS students will work together to clean our local public parks in our annual Community Clean-up Day.

Overall, the best part of the service opportunities is the real-life learning that accompanies it. Students reflect on the impact they have on helping the community and receive the appreciation that comes with serving others. One student summed up the positive personal discovery with the following: "I never realized how moving it could be to deliver quilts to the residents at the Golden Living Center. I was truly touched by the experience. It will be a moment that will last with me for long time. I was amazed by their appreciation, but left wanting to thank them for simply giving me the time to spend with them."

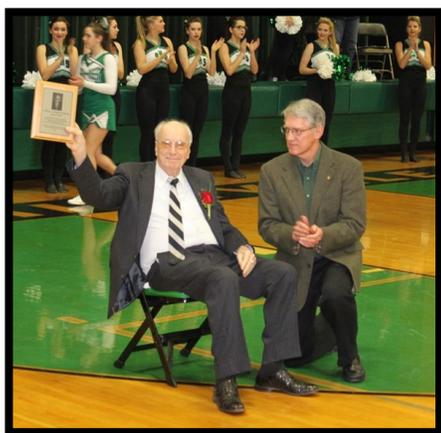
Smithville High School

The Smithville Warrior Broadcasting Network started as a club of budding journalists telling the stories happening on campus and creating a little video mayhem with the Odd Squad. Kicking off in 2012, a group of students got together with the help of some donated cameras, tripods, editing software, and a Macbook Pro. The popularity of the Odd Squad, Smithville Warrior news, and the tenacity of a few students resulted in a new class starting in 2015. This new class creates a new Weekly Warrior that is published every Friday and supports live streaming for many Warrior home games. Each week the class tries to develop brand new ideas and goals in order to reach a higher standard. Check out our latest videos and future broadcasts at <http://www.youtube.com/BroadcastingSHS2>.

In addition, SHS recently celebrated the success of the State Champion wrestlers! In the same weekend, the Dazzlers earned 2nd place at the Missouri Dance Team Association's State Championship.



KINDRED INDUCTED INTO WALL OF FAME



Mr. Collins (Colonel) Kindred, Class of 1939, was inducted as a member of the second class of the Smithville R-II Educational Foundation Alumni Wall of Fame on February 5, 2016. A reception was held at the Smithville Performing Arts Center to honor the inductee along with his family and friends. The induction took place prior to the varsity men's basketball game in the High School Gymnasium. Mr. Kindred joined the first class including Mack Porter (Class of 1945), Dr. Robert Williams (Class of 1951), and John Dillingham (Class of 1956).

The Wall of Fame program is designed to recognize and honor Smithville School District graduates who have distinguished themselves and contributed to society in an exemplary fashion. Their successes will serve as motivation and inspiration to all associated with the Smithville School District. To learn more about the Smithville R-II Educational Foundation and the Alumni Wall of Fame, visit the Foundation section of the district website (www.smithvilleschooldistrict.net > Community > Foundation).

ANNUAL BOARD RECOGNITION DINNER

On Wednesday, December 16, 2015, the Board of Education hosted a dinner to recognize community and staff members for extraordinary support to the school district, staff and students. Dinner was provided by Opaa! Food Management, Inc. The Board Members and their honorees are listed below.

Stephanie Dominguez—High School Spanish Teacher
Recognized by Ken Rumney

Clyde Breeden—Director of Facilities
Recognized by Greg Chastain

Duana Swindall—Bus Driver & Volunteer at Smithville Primary Elementary School
Recognized by Michelle Kruse

Kim Krueger—Gifted Teacher, Curriculum Facilitator and Summer School Coordinator
Recognized by Sandy VanWagner

Sarah Cline—Middle School English Language Arts Teacher
Recognized by Russell Fries

Cory Wohlford—Assistant Football Coach
Recognized by Denney Fales



PLATT NAMED ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL/ DIRECTOR OF SILC



Tracy Platt, current principal of Smithville Primary Elementary School, has been named Smithville High School Assistant Principal/ Director of Smithville Individual Learning Center (SILC), starting with the 2016-2017 school year.

"We are excited for Dr. Platt to join our team at Smithville High School, her passion, innovative thinking, and high expectations of students and staff will provide many new, exciting opportunities for SHS," said Dr. Bartig, Smithville High School Principal.

Platt has served as the principal of Smithville Primary Elementary School since July, 2013. Prior to her service as the principal, Platt was the assistant principal for Smithville Primary Elementary School/ Smithville Upper Elementary School and taught second grade for six years at Smithville Primary Elementary School.

KINDERGARTEN SCREENING

APRIL 11-15

Kindergarten screening, for children entering kindergarten at the start of the 2016-17 school year, will be held April 11-15 from 8:30 a.m. - 2:20 p.m. at Grace Community Church.

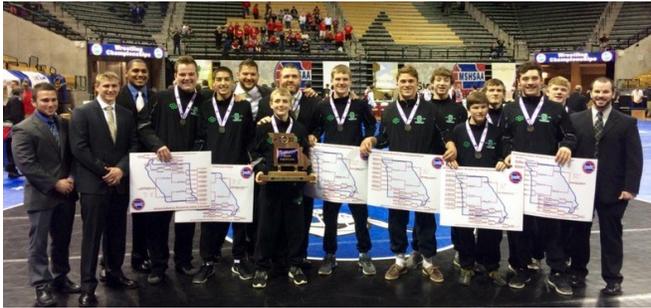
Please schedule an appointment by calling Smithville Primary Elementary School at (816) 532-0589.

Smithville School District
655 S. Commercial Ave.
Smithville, MO 64089

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2016 State Champions

Congratulations to the wrestling team for earning Smithville's first ever State Title in wrestling.

The team set a school record with 9 medalists!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 21-25	Spring Break <i>No School</i>
April 13	Board of Education Meeting
May 18	Board of Education Meeting
May 20	Last Day of School <i>Early Dismissal</i>

MISSION STATEMENT

To educate all students in a premier learning environment and to develop students to serve as proactive, compassionate leaders in an interconnected world by providing rigorous and meaningful opportunities for each student to reach his/her unique and full potential while being good stewards of our resources and investing in quality staff.

OUR UNCOMPROMISING COMMITMENT TO OUR STUDENTS

- STRATEGY 1** Expand the variety of programs to meet the diverse needs of each child.
- STRATEGY 2** Invest in and develop quality staff who will be held to high expectations and who will be provided with opportunities to partner in meeting district goals.
- STRATEGY 3** Embrace the development and implementation of engaging, innovative and rigorous curriculum and the use of technology to improve instruction and empower students and staff to excel in an ever-changing world.
- STRATEGY 4** Create PK-12 leadership and service opportunities that spiral throughout each student's educational experience.
- STRATEGY 5** Establish a premier learning environment through fiscal responsiveness and responsibility that supports a capital improvement plan which accommodates the ever-changing needs of our student population.
- STRATEGY 6** Develop and implement policies and action plans effectively promoting communication between students, school personnel, families and the community.