

WARRIOR WIRE



A PUBLICATION OF
SMITHVILLE
School District
WINTER 2023

The Season of Giving



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**CHOIR IS THRIVING AT
HORIZON ELEMENTARY**
**APRIL 2023 No TAX
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SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTER

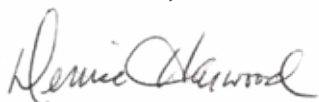
Happy New Year! I hope you and your loved ones had a holiday season and winter break full of fun, memory making and even a little rest. With the closing of one year and dawning of the next comes the opportunity to reflect, re-evaluate and set goals for the days ahead.

The District recently began the strategic planning process to create not only our next five-year Comprehensive Strategic Improvement Plan (CSIP) but also the Portrait of a Graduate. Over 300 staff members, parents and community members provided input through a survey, and 50 individuals gathered at the end of November to begin planning what the ideal future of Smithville School District will look like.

The new calendar year means the school district administration is focusing not only on finishing this school year strong but also beginning preparations for the next school year. At the time of this writing, the calendar for next school year has not yet been adopted by the Board of Education but a survey among parents and staff have provided direction for the committee. The budget process starts in January, and our reserve balances are healthy which helps as we work to provide competitive salaries and benefits for our staff and to maintain excellent learning opportunities for our students. The District will be running a no tax increase general obligation bond issue in April 2023 for safety enhancements, sidewalks, a transportation facility, HVAC improvements, High School gymnasium renovation, and potentially turfing the Middle School field so more students can use this outdoor space for physical education classes, practices and events. Did you know that our High School gymnasium cannot even fit the whole student body in it at one time? The renovation will add additional bleachers at the top levels where the old wrestling and weight rooms existed. The old stage will also be transformed into a multi-purpose space with high ceilings which offer a safe space for our Dazzlers and cheer teams to stunt. Also, a reminder, bond issues can only be used for capital projects or in other words "bricks and mortar" items. Bond funds cannot be used for salaries.

There are so many wonderful things I could write about, but I am out of space. Please stay tuned to our website, our monthly Warrior Quick News, and social media pages. My door is always open, and I welcome your feedback as we partner together to make our school the very best.

For Our Kids,

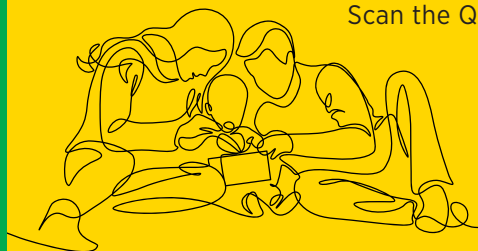


Denise Harwood, Interim Superintendent

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Smithville School District's **Warrior Wire** is a news magazine 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.

The Season of Giving

Smithville School District recognizes all that our community does to support our schools and students. We have many groups and organizations who work to show appreciation and give back to our community.

- **Feed Northland Kids -**
food kits are distributed to local families who face food insecurity

- **SSD Food Pantry -**
Maple Elementary School hosts a food pantry available to local families who face food insecurity

- **SSD Holiday Help -**
donated gifts are collected and distributed to SSD families who are in need of help during the holiday season

- **Maple Elementary kindergartners caroling at the Smithville Senior Center**

- **Veterans Day Celebration**

- **Toy Drives**

- **HOSA Hygiene Drive**

- **Middle School Community Service Day -**
students participate in a Community Service day in the spring, partnering with the lake or parks and rec department



Eagle Heights Elementary students collect non-perishable food items to be donated to local families



FCCLA provided snacks and drinks to teachers during Parent Teacher Conferences



Smithville FFA Chapter cleans up litter along their adopted street



Smithville Middle School is home to the “No Shave November” contest. This year’s participants include: Luke Temperelli, Jeff Haynes, Adam Krohn, Drew Newhart, Tod Winterboer, Jake Butterworth, Tom Brockman, and Daniel Beasley. Each participant has a donation bucket. Students can drop donations in the bucket of the staff member they want to win the contest. The “reward” for the winner is tiered. If the school raises \$500 the winner will kiss a pig. For \$1000 raised, the winner will kiss a pig and get a pie in the face. If \$1500 is raised, the winner will kiss a pig, get a pie in the face, and students will be able to shave them. All funds received are donated to the Special Olympics.

The Smithville Middle School has held this event for the past several years and has raised thousands of dollars for the Special Olympics. In 3 of those years, at the Northwest MO Middle School STUCO Convention, SMS has been recognized as the top donor to the Special Olympics.



Interact Club seeks to create opportunities for students to participate in a variety of outreach and service projects within the Smithville and Kansas City Metro Area. Through building relationships with our peers, our community, and those in our sphere of influence, the group strives to live out a “Service Before Self” attitude. Events that the club has served includes Warrior Closet, Harvesters, Highway Cleanup, Feed Northland Kids, Old Fashioned Street Faire, Community in Action 5k, Candle Making for Uplift, and more.



CHOIR IS BACK AND THRIVING AT HORIZON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Horizon Elementary School has a before-school choir club called the Sunset Singers. This year there are 73 students in the Sunset Singers. Each year during fall semester the group performs a Winter Concert at the Smithville Performing Arts Center. This is something the students work toward all semester as they build musicianship skills and learn about being a part of an ensemble.

Fourth grade student, Silas Doubenmier stated, "At first I was scared to join choir because I was never really into singing, and now I am really happy that I joined choir. Mrs. Ketterman is a really fun person and is very energetic."

In the spring semester the group has a few different events. The first is the Smithville Elementary Choir Festival. This is a new tradition that began last year, where students in all 3 elementary choirs come together to perform in a festival setting. The students spend the semester preparing the music in their different choirs and then come together for an afternoon in May to work all of the pieces. After spending the day working, the students put on a performance for their families and the community at the Performing Arts Center. This is an event that students look forward to all year long! Finally, students go on a choir tour every May where

they perform at a few nursing homes in the area and get to perform for the Smithville Choir Program. This gives students the chance to perform for our Smithville community and learn about the Smithville Middle School Music Program.

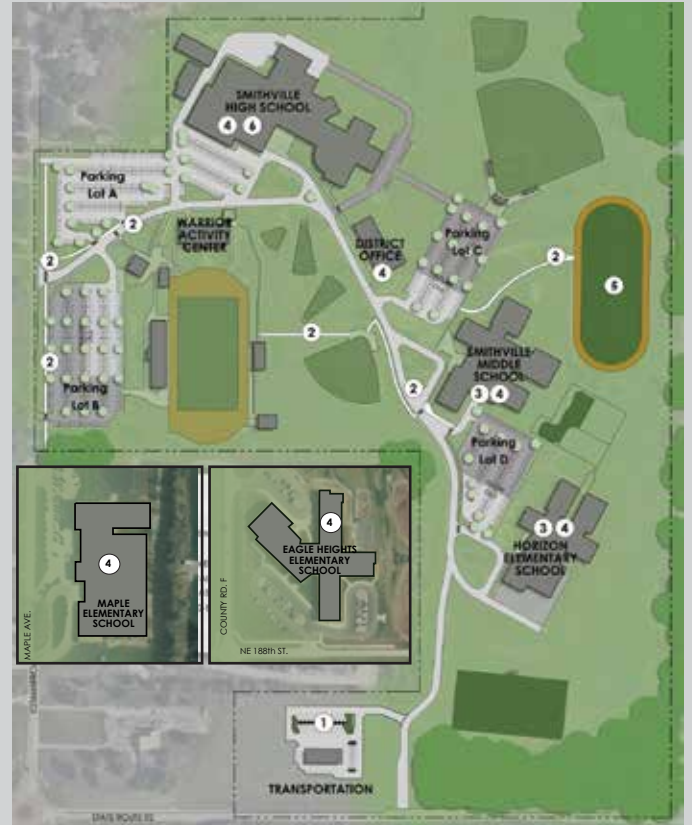
Brooklyn Hofmann is a 6th grade Sunset Singer. "The most important thing that I have learned from being in the choir is that teamwork is everything. You really need to have teamwork to have good voices that correlate together."

Mrs. Ketterman, Horizon Elementary music teacher and Sunset Singers sponsor, stated "I started teaching at Horizon in 2021, a year where changes were common for students daily and weekly when it came to their health and safety. The Sunset Singers hadn't existed for a few years due to the pandemic and most students didn't even know what choir was. It became a culture that I had to build since students hadn't even been able to sing in music class for over a year. The Sunset Singers have made just as much of an impact on me as I hope I have made on them through their commitment to music. Choir and musical ensembles in general provide this amazing experience for students that not only help them build musicianship skills, but become better human beings. As the Sunset Singers grew, I got to see students experience choir for the first time in their lives. While I have aimed to teach students notes and rhythms to music, I have also aimed to teach them how one song can change the entire feeling in a room and how the words they sing can change the people they are singing to."

“ I am really happy that I joined choir.”

-SILAS DOUBENMIER,
Horizon Elementary School
Fourth Grader

APRIL 2023 NO TAX INCREASE GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND



In April of 2023, Smithville School District will ask the Smithville Community to approve a No Tax Increase General Obligation Bond. The improvements that would be made with these funds would include:

1. Bus Transportation, Maintenance Facility & Site Improvements
2. Sidewalk Improvements
3. Horizon Elementary & Middle School HVAC Project
4. Security Enhancements at All Buildings
5. Improve Middle School Athletic Field with Turf Improvements/Synthetic Turf - the Board of Education will vote on the specific improvements to be made at the December board meeting
6. High School Gym Expansion Remodel

CELEBRATIONS



Girls' Varsity and Junior Varsity Golf won the Suburban Blue Conference Tournament



At the Cameron Marchfest Competition and the Lee's Summit North Competition, SHS Color Guard received 1st Place

ALL STATE CHOIR



**Sierra Quinn
Soprano**



**Elise Cahill
Alternate Soprano**



**Jonas Beckham
Bass Honorable Mention**



**Mason West
Bass Honorable Mention**



The Boys' Cross Country team finished in 8th place as a team and the Girls' Cross Country team finished in 13th in the State Competition



Smithville Drumline placed 1st at the Cameron Marchfest Competition

VARSITY FOOTBALL IS DISTRICT CHAMPIONS



CELEBRATIONS

Smithville High School Theater
presented the play, *Our Town*,
on October 15-17



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