Pattonville partners for free COVID-19 testing in the community
- See page 2 for details

Hundreds of students recognized for honors
- See pages 3, 9 through 11

Pattonville is an award-winning public district in St. Louis County, Missouri. The district is fully accredited by the state and is recognized for academic success on the regional, state and national level.

JUNE 2021
School news for parents, residents and staff of the Pattonville School District

Congratulations to the CLASS OF 2021

Above, Pattonville High School senior Jadyn Powell, center, pauses for a photo with principal Dr. Joe Dobrinic, as fellow graduate Adriana Powell, left, steps on stage. Far left, Skylar Monnig shows off her newly acquired diploma. At left, senior Jacob Sunderman walks across the stage at graduation on May 27 at the Family Arena. See more photos on the back page of this newsletter or view photos and videos at bit.ly/PattonvilleGraduation2021.
isn’t anything they can’t overcome. It’s amazing to see, and I hope this will last year of high school and realize there seems to do that to all of us at some point. Life times when they get knocked down. Life they move through their lives, there will be year like no other and came out on top. As throws their way. They just experienced a bigger world. There is no doubt in my mind the last stop before students step out into a what high school is all about. High school is because of the pandemic, but that’s not overcome at some point along the way. It’s to reflect on their journey. Every student group of friends, wasn’t as simple as it was in the past. This year impacted all of our students in one way or another, but there was one group that felt the sting more than others, our seniors. The Class of 2021 missed out on so many of the rituals we all remember from our high school days. There was no homecoming, clubs and activities felt a little different this year, and some friends opted to learn virtually while others returned to in-person learning. Even the little things we take for granted, like eating lunch with a group of friends, wasn’t as simple as it was in the past. Although our seniors were faced with many challenges, they stayed focused on their schoolwork, sports and activities and made it to graduation on May 27. Graduating from high school is an important milestone. For the Class of 2021, it was a time to reflect on their journey. Every student has their own story. Obstacles they had to overcome at some point along the way. It’s easy to think back on this school year and point out the negatives or memories missed because of the pandemic, but that’s not what high school is all about. High school is the last stop before students step out into a bigger world. There is no doubt in my mind that our seniors are ready for anything life throws their way. They just experienced a year like no other and came out on top. As they move through their lives, there will be times when they get knocked down. Life seems to do that to all of us at some point. I’m confident the Class of 2021 will think back about their experiences during their last year of high school and realize there isn’t anything they can’t overcome.

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We made it. There were times during the school year when it seemed insurmountable that we would actually cross the finish line. I’m so proud of our staff and students for persevering through this incredibly difficult year. They were asked to learn and teach differently, attend school while wearing masks and physically distancing themselves from others, and deal with the emotional challenges this year brought us. I’m also very thankful for our parents. Through it all, our parents stuck by our side and believed in what we were doing. As a father, I know firsthand how this year impacted our children. Although no plan goes perfectly all the time, I’m proud of how we navigated these challenges together and ended the school year on a fantastic note.

This year impacted all of our students in one way or another. Dr. Tim Pecoraro
Superintendent
Follow @PattonvilleSupt

PHS Class of 2021: Prepared to step out into the bigger world

From the Superintendent

Pattonville partners with providers to offer free COVID tests

Pattonville is partnering with the CDC, Saint Louis University and Washington University to offer free COVID-19 testing for the Pattonville community. Tests are saliva-based and do not require nasal swabbing. Testing will be conducted from the patient’s car and is available Sundays through Fridays. Results are typically available in 24 to 48 hours. To request a test, call (314) 454-4269.

Expert provides COVID-19 update for community:
Pattonville hosted an online presentation with infectious disease expert Dr. Jason Newland on May 18. During the event, Newland provided an update on COVID-19 and the results of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) program that included the Pattonville school community in studying COVID-19 transmission and mitigation strategies in schools. View the presentation at bit.ly/PSD-Newland-2021.

Important information about re-enrollment

Parents/guardians of students returning to Pattonville in August will receive an email on July 2 notifying them that online registration is available. The email will provide step-by-step instructions for completing the registration process. Without this completed, a student will not receive a schedule or be added to a class list, depending on their grade level. Parents/guardians are asked to take a few moments to complete their online registration to ensure their child is ready for the first day of school. The deadline to complete online registration is Aug. 9 for middle and high schools and Aug. 13 for elementary schools and Remington Traditional School. The first day of school for the 2021-2022 school year is Monday, Aug. 23.
Boys varsity volleyball team scores trip to state semifinals

Pattonville’s boys volleyball team advanced to the state semifinals and completed its season with a 30-1 record. The team was named conference and district champions and also champions at the Francis Howell and Lutheran St. Charles tournaments. In addition to team honors, several students earned individual honors. The following students were named All-State first team: Quentin Bartlett, David Polster and Cole Schuler. Additionally, Justin Bowers, Chris DiSalvo, Polster, Matthew Reese and Schuler were named All-State academic. Players named All-District first team were Bartlett, Zach Noles, Polster, Reese and Schuler. Justin Bowers was selected All-District honorable mention. Players selected All-Conference first team were Bartlett, Polster and Schuler, who was also named All-Conference Player of the Year. Reese was named All-Conference second team and DiSalvo received the All-Conference Sportsmanship Award. Additionally, Bartlett was named a boys volleyball Player to Watch by the Conference second team and DiSalvo received the All-Conference Sportsmanship Award. Additionally, Bartlett was named a boys volleyball Player to Watch by the St. Louis-Post Dispatch. Schuler was named the MaxPreps Player/AVCA (American Volleyball Coaches Association) Player of the Week in Missouri for May 10 through 16. Other members of the championship team are Chris Barton, Joe Duncan and Zion Hampton. The team was coached by Jenell Franken with the assistance of Tom Fatliff and Alexa Kramer.

Art installation finalized at Willow Brook school garden

Willow Brook Elementary School students and staff recently completed a unique outdoor art installation. Inspired by street artist Kelsey Montague, art teacher Dawn Lynn spearheaded the project to create a permanent butterfly wings mural consisting of ceramic tiles in the school’s garden. Funding was provided by the Maritz Fund for Teachers, administered by the Arts and Education Council.

“Here in our corner at Willow Brook, we want to invite the school community to enjoy our school garden year-round and interact with our school-wide collaborative art project,” Lynn said. “Where will our wings take you?”

Students and staff created radial patterned flowers at school and Villemade virtual learners were able to pick up supplies to complete their part of the art project at home.

This is the first art installation that is part of the exterior of the building.

“We hope people come to be a part of it and that it uplifts others,” Lynn said. “The goal is to have people interact with it and have fun.”

Titled “#willowbrookwings,” the project can be seen from Schuetz Road and is open to the public to take pictures in front of during non-school hours.

Willow Brook received $1,200 through the Maritz grant during the 2019-2020 academic year. Due to COVID, that project extended to this year.

“(I’m) super grateful to the Arts and Education Council for all their work in supporting the arts,” Lynn said. “Willow Brook was one of 14 schools in the bi-state region awarded funds to support creativity in the classroom and engage children in the creative process.”

Students created the tiles and glazed them. Pattonville’s maintenance department installed six cement boards on the exterior school wall, painted, framed and sealed them.

Earlier this year, members of Girl Scout Troop 1280 working toward their Bronze Awards refurbished the outdoor classroom, putting in over $4,000 worth of materials and furniture and adding a free Little Library.

“It’s such a great space for our students,” Lynn said. “I hope they enjoy going out there to be together and to learn.”
Pattonville High School announced and recognized the school’s Top 10 seniors based on grade point averages after seven semesters of high school during a live streamed ceremony. English teacher and Renaissance sponsor Beth Moritz presented the Top 10 seniors with T-shirts from the universities they will attend after graduation. These students have grade point averages (GPAs) that fall between a 4.5 and a 4.75 on a weighted scale. The Top 10 seniors in the Pattonville Class of 2021, their declared majors and the universities they will attend are:

1. Bell Tucci, political science, Rhodes College;
2. Lily Holland, math education, Truman State University;
3. Mya Harris, biomedical engineering and minor in Spanish, Duke University;
4. Tajh Martin, computer science, Columbia University in New York City;
5. Grace Ohlsen, computer science, University of Colorado-Boulder;
6. Jordyn Lodes, mechanical engineering, Mizzou;
7. Maya Blumenthal, English, neuroscience and piano performance, Wellesley College;
8. Brianna Voss, pre-med, University of Missouri-Kansas City;
9. Eliana Johnson, bachelor of arts degree, Southeast Missouri State University; and
10. Abby Hachmeister, math education, University of Minnesota-Morris.

Pattonville recognizes Top 10 in Class of 2021

Pattonville High School senior Mya Harris was named the Outstanding Senior for the Class of 2021. The Outstanding Senior is chosen each year from teacher nominations. The high school also honored several seniors with Outstanding Senior Departmental Awards and other special recognitions.

Each department recognizes one student who has shown outstanding academic achievement, leadership and citizenship. This year’s Outstanding Senior Departmental Award winners are:

- Maya Blumenthal, English language arts; Jade Boyd, orchestra; Camille Brown, community service; Aaron Caldwell, Pirate Sports Network; Nolan Cobbs, Thomas Frick Award; Anna Marie de Garcia, science; Julia Drake, vocal music; Daniel Enberg, band; Chandler Fajardo, skilled technical sciences; Yony Flores Avilez, English learner; Lily Holland, French; Jordyn Lodes, German and mathematics; Adrianna Marshall, art; Tajh Martin, technology and engineering; Rachel McCormick, theater; Elizabeth Mulat, Spanish; Wes Spitzmiller, physical education; Bell Tucci, speech and debate; Zora Umans, business; Jake Vitale, social studies; Britney Wallace, health sciences; Aleigha Wells, ECHO yearbook; and Sydney Wilms, family and consumer sciences.

The following students were also recognized with special awards: Kaeli Benedict, St. Louis Post-Dispatch Scholar Athlete; Benedict and Jonathan Cosby, Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) Sportsmanship Award; and Blumenthal and Lodes, National Merit Scholarship Finalist.

PHS recognizes 2021 Outstanding Senior, department honorees

PHS senior a finalist for National Student of Year

Pattonville High School senior Mya Harris (pictured at left) was chosen as one of seven 2021 William Woods Jr. National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA) Student of the Year finalists. After being named the Eastern Missouri District Student of the Year in March, Harris went through a rigorous process that included a video presentation and a panel interview. The national winner will be announced on Friday, June 18, as part of the live streamed NSDA Tournament awards ceremony. Harris, along with seniors Jailah Broadway and Bell Tucci and junior Bryant Ewing, qualified to compete in the national tournament. The Pattonville High School speech and debate team is coached by English teacher Jennifer Raymond and assistant Lance Allen.
PATTONVILLE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Water play days make learning fun

Pouring, scrubbing, squeezing, squirting and stirring aren’t just words that the students in Pattonville’s Early Childhood Center are learning; they are what students get to do during the school’s annual Water Days. The fun end-of-the-year event allows students to play outside in a variety of water-filled activities. Classrooms rotate through four play stations: sprinklers, a pool, sensory tables and activities like squishy balls and paint with water, sponges, spray bottles and chalk.

Teachers Amy Bopp and Janna Zaitz and paraprofessionals Cindy Brooks and Brittany Stevens helped organize this year’s event. Bopp said young children usually have one of two reactions to water activities - invigoration or calming. No matter which they experience, research has shown that water play increases children's ability to concentrate on one activity when it’s presented as a tranquil and repetitive activity like scooping, pouring and running their hands through the water. Gentle water play allows people of all ages to unwind, order their thoughts and relax. During water play at early childhood, the students learn to work with one or several other children through things like taking turns and sharing the space and accessories with friends.

The water activities are also a learning and development experience, enabling students to develop motor skills and hand-eye coordination. For example, students develop fine motor skills by pouring, scrubbing, squeezing, squirting and stirring.

“Pouring, stirring aren’t just words that the students in Pattonville’s Early Childhood Center are learning; they are what students get to do during the school’s annual Water Days. The fun end-of-the-year event allows students to play outside in a variety of water-filled activities. Classrooms rotate through four play stations: sprinklers, a pool, sensory tables and activities like squishy balls and paint with water, sponges, spray bottles and chalk.”

“The best part of water play is seeing the joy in the kids’ faces and hearing them laugh,” Zaitz said. “Water play is a great way to incorporate learning into play.”

PATTONVILLE HEIGHTS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Crushed strawberries provide insight into DNA during hands-on science lab

Giggles and expressions of yuckiness echoed in Hunter Drew’s science classroom at Pattonville Heights Middle School. That’s because eighth graders were discovering that strawberry DNA closely resembles a slimy substance most often associated with noses and the common cold.

The revelation came as students were completing a lab where they learned to extract DNA from strawberries. The lab was part of a unit on DNA and genetics for Drew’s classes and those of fellow science teachers Mike Burgio and Kate Weber.

“The strawberry DNA lab is an awesome way to get students up close and hands-on with their learning,” Drew said. “Seeing the DNA allows students to connect their learning with a real world experience.”

Drew provided instructions for the students to follow. Students crushed strawberries in a plastic zipper bag along with a combination of liquid dishwashing detergent, salt and water that served as an extraction buffer. The first step broke open the strawberry cells to release the nuclei where the DNA was located.

The soap mixture broke down and opened the cell and nuclear membranes to release the DNA into the solution. The students then filtered the mixture through gauze, depositing the DNA into a test tube and removing the strawberry debris.

The gross-out magic happened after the students added ice-cold ethanol to the test tube and twirled a long wooden skewer in the tube. Students watched as the DNA collected between the layer of alcohol and strawberry extract. Then they used wooden skewers inserted into the tube to collect DNA strands which appeared whitish, gooey and stringy.

Drew’s instructions explained that what students were seeing in the slimy substance was “the code for all of the proteins required by the strawberry throughout its life.”

The strawberry lab wasn’t the only fun DNA-related activities Drew planned. Students also solved a DNA murder mystery and used Twizzlers to build a DNA model.
Fifth grader Cameron Quick did not expect his teachers at Drummond Elementary School to be this hard on him. Close to the last day of school, graduating fifth graders faced off against staff members in a friendly - but spirited - kickball game. Younger students cheered on the competitors from the sidelines.

“I was excited about it because I saw it in third grade and I was happy they were able to bring it back this year,” Quick said.

When PE teachers Windy Cushman and Kevin Hughes got approval to play the game, they were excited, and said the students were even more excited.

“There were so many things we still didn’t get to do this year,” Cushman said. “They didn’t get to play kickball at school this year, not even during recess, so I feel like just getting the chance to play was nice and brings back that routine and normalcy.”

That excitement for the students dimmed when the first kicker for the staff team scored a home run.

“They were really intense,” Quick said. “The score was really lopsided, but they win every year.”

Cushman said the game has been a tradition since Drummond opened except for 2020 due to the pandemic. The staff team has never lost. Fifth grade teacher Samantha Shyken taught her students everything they needed to know this year except how to play kickball.

“It’s so much fun to see the kids in a different light because we only see them in the classroom and we see them as learners but we don’t get to see them outside playing with each other as a team,” she said. “It’s also fun for them to see that we are athletic, too.”

The crowd was vocal from the start. Some classes brought out signs while others chanted cheers for the players. Younger students now know what’s in store for them.

“They get excited toward this time of year because they know it’s about to happen,” Hughes said. “The fourth graders are already talking about it.”

Younger students cheered as they faced off against staff members in a friendly - but spirited - kickball game. Drummond Elementary School fifth grader Tristan Howard throws the ball as he and his classmates square off against their teachers in the school’s annual kickball game.

Qualifying students at Holman Middle School were able to celebrate the end of the year with a fun-filled day of music, games and food on May 25 thanks to Renaissance.

“It was extremely important to offer something in-person because the kids have worked really hard all year long and we just wanted to do something where we could get all the kids together,” said assistant principal Dr. Greg Schnatmeier who planned the event along with Renaissance committee members Holly Be- rands, Trina Cornell, Matt Loyet and Marcie Spawr. To be invited to attend, students needed to have good grades, behavior and attendance all year. They also needed to have very few tardies and no suspensions.

“It was definitely a lot harder to accomplish all of those things this year,” Schnatmeier said. “It took a lot more devotion and a lot more attention to detail on their work.”

Eighth graders Jordane Hale and Kierra McClure chose to sing karaoke and paint rocks. “I really enjoyed singing,” McClure said. “I basically just screamed into the microphone but it was fun to do it with friends.”

For lunch, every student received a hot dog, chips and a drink. The ice cream truck also showed up for students that wanted to buy a dessert. Eighth grader Tyler Egbert ordered a SpongeBob SquarePants frozen treat. He said he was excited to attend the event and earned it by going to school, doing all his work and not getting into trouble.

“It was awesome, and I mean this was not a normal year, but to end it on something like this that feels kinda normal is really cool,” he said. “It means the world’s getting back to normal and so hopefully things will change and it’ll go back to what it was like before COVID, but I’m glad we got this chance today.”

Before her class entered the art studio, teacher Janel Maclean gave each student a special pair of glasses to wear. “These glasses are magic glasses,” she told them. “When you put them on, it will change the way you see the art room.” When she opened the door to the classroom, the students all gasped, then cheered. Today was Glow Day, an annual tradition at Parkwood Elementary School where students get to work with glow-in-the-dark materials to create art.

Maclean’s art class is set up in different choice-based studios which allow students to choose different art projects to work on based on their specific interests and skills. But on Glow Day, all of the choice activities featured materials that glow in the black lights to create art. In the drawing studio, the students used highlighters and neon oil pastels and crayons to draw their art. The painting studio featured neon paint, water color palettes and paint sticks. In the collage studio, students used neon paper to cut and glue their paper art. Glow blocks and Magna-Tiles were the featured activity in the architecture studio and in the sculpture studio the students used glow sticks and neon pipe cleaners to create 3D sculptures. Finally, in the ceramics studio, the students used neon oil pastels and India Ink to add glow to a clay project they created earlier in the year.

“My goal in creating Glow Day was to have a fun activity for the students to celebrate their art in a new and creative way,” Maclean said. “I think it’s important to show the students that art doesn’t have to be the same thing all of the time. It is also important to me to challenge myself as an educator. I asked myself ‘How do we capture students’ attention?’ Do something different! Find a way to deliver your ordinary content in an extraordinary way.”

Each year, the arrival of Glow Day is a surprise for the students. Maclean stays after school to set up the whole room with neon decorations, block out light from the windows and add black lights.

“My favorite part of the day is hearing the squeals and excitement as they open the door and walk into the Glow Day celebration,” Maclean said. “So many of the kiddos say this is the best day of the year.”

Parkwood Elementary School kindergartner Helen Besserman shows off her glow-in-the-dark artwork.
ROSE ACRES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Fifth grade camp experience carries on

During a recent sunny day, fifth graders sat in the outside classroom at Rose Acres Elementary School singing traditional camp songs like the serene “Over My Head” and the interactive “Baby Shark.” The singalong was part of this year’s fifth grade camp experience. Like many things this year, “camp” was not a traditional experience, but it was a positive experience for students and staff. Instead of an overnight, multi-day camp like previous years, camp took place outside at school as part of a one-day event.

Fifth grade teacher Nicole Youngquist was a member of the camp committee that reviews Pattonville’s outdoor education program. Committee members wanted to create an experience that would be memorable, educational and fun.

“We met as a district and reviewed our vision for the outdoor education program which is ‘outdoor learning involves the transformation of knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviors through direct engagement with the outdoor environment for personal and social benefits,’” she said. “From that vision, our guiding question was what activities would be important to recreate into a day experience even if we couldn’t do the overnight or out-of-town experience. Our goal was to create a fun-filled day that is as close to ‘a day at camp’ as possible.”

The group decided all elementary schools in Pattonville would have the same activities. The committee reviewed the purpose and goals of each traditional camp activity and, using their discussions and recommendations, the camp directors re-worked many of the activities to fit a one-day camp experience. The activities included Campfire 101 for learning how to safely build a campfire and making s’mores; arts and crafts where students made braided chains; learning about erosion with sand; an engineering activity that included launching rockets; a STEM challenge where students learned about simple machines; and, of course, the singalong. They even found a way to hold the Action Auction - a popular evening activity at camp that allows students to show their talents. The two in-person classes at Rose Acres rotated through the stations during the day. Each student also received a camp T-shirt and a picnic lunch.

Earlier in the spring, during a supplement activity to the camp experience, the students also took a virtual field trip to the St. Louis Aquarium. They were able to explore the relationship and interconnection of all animals, how energy is transferred from the sun through the food chain and to think critically about how environmental changes and population changes of one species affect others. Students got to see animals up close and ask questions to the staff live on camera.

Camp activities were also developed for the virtual Villemade students. Villemade families were able to pick up supplies and a camp T-shirt beforehand. Some schools even partnered with other classes or schools during virtual camp, creating a more collaborative, traditional camp-like environment. They were also able to participate in the virtual field trip to the Aquarium.

“As a district we are doing whatever it takes to make adjustments to activities that we normally do so that students can still have similar experiences even during a strange COVID year,” Youngquist said. “It is important to us that the students are able to have similar experiences in a new way.”

WILLOW BROOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Virtual students take part in camp

As with many school traditions, the COVID-19 pandemic upended a long-standing milestone Pattonville elementary students look forward to every year: fifth grade camp. This year, staff were determined to provide a fun educational camp experience for students despite the overnight event being canceled. At Willow Brook Elementary School, that meant providing an experience for both in-person students and those attending the Villemade Virtual Academy.

Willow Brook Villemade teachers Maria Farmer and Katie Lambdin worked with virtual teachers Allison O’very at Bridgeway and Elle Irons at Parkwood elementary schools to create a two-day camp experience for virtual students, replicating activities the in-person students experienced at school.

“(The three schools) normally go to camp together so students can meet and interact with kids they will go to middle school with,” Lambdin said. “We wanted to replicate that.”

Teachers from the three schools combined their students into four groups with fun names, like the Brilliant Bears or Mighty Moose, and planned sessions for the groups to rotate through. They also planned activities for just their own students. Each student received a bag with a print-out unique to their school, T-shirt, popsicle and materials for different activities.

While in their groups, students completed a catapult challenge and a lanyard arts and crafts project, played Science Jeopardy based on previously learned science units and studied animal adaptations. Activities teachers provided for their own classes included making s’mores, shelter building, a food web activity, scary story writing and watching a creepy critters video. The students also participated in an Action Auction, during which classmates split into groups to compete in silly categories, such as who could tell the best joke or who could do the best teacher impression.

The virtual students easily identified their favorite parts.

“I have three camp activities that I’m torn between,” said Willow Brook fifth grader Jack Scott. “My first one was the catapult station. It’s fun because I got to create something and test it. It was fun launching the ball. My second was the s’mores activity. It was really fun getting to taste a s’more. My last one was the fort activity. I spent a lot of time over the weekend in my fort that I built.”

Fifth grader Sophia Goldsmith said her favorite activity was the catapult project “because it really got my creativity flowing and it gave me the freedom to make and design an awesome catapult. I also liked it because everyone shared their ideas and I felt a lot of inspiration from others’ designs. Another activity I liked was the Science Jeopardy because I had to remember the facts that I learned a long time ago, and I had to reason and think about the questions.”

“It was a great two days,” Farmer said. “I had my kids write reflections of camp and so many enjoyed spending time with other teachers and future classmates. (It was) so much fun collaborating and ‘camping’ together.”
** REMINGTON TRADITIONAL SCHOOL  
Physical education program seeks to invigorate student fitness levels post-pandemic 

Physical education and student fitness tests offer students an opportunity to assess, track and improve their fitness level. Physical educators at Remington Traditional School have been using the data reported to the state of Missouri as a guide in their quest to improve fitness test scores.

“We’ve collected the data and we’re using that to move forward with future endeavors so we can focus on getting all of their fitness scores up,” physical education teacher Mike McKeon said. They have fitness data collected by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in fifth, seventh and ninth grades from every school for the past five years. As a K-8 school, Remington is a unique situation because the teachers are able to track their students’ fitness through middle school.

“We’ve been looking at trends and really diving into this fitness testing data and really saying, ‘How are we affecting the kids?’ and ‘What can we do better to utilize the small amount of time that we have with them?’”

The shift in focus started about three years ago, and COVID-19 really exacerbated the numbers and gave a reminder of the importance of physical fitness and health.

“Our fitness scores indicated at the very beginning of this year that (students) were not active during the lockdowns,” he said. “We were scoring all the way down into the 40 and 50 percentile of kids reaching the successful health and fitness zones.”

Typically, McKeon and Denise Grimshaw, who typically teach double P.E. classes side-by-side, see about 70% of students reaching those goals.

“Remington students saw an increase in physical fitness test scores and the number of students achieving the ‘Healthy Fitness Zone’ this year,” McKeon said. By working on instructional strategies of fitness education, they found ways to recognize students’ fitness and physical activity achievements, and to promote awareness and understanding of the fitness education and assessment process.

“We talk about it being the pacer test and not the racer test,” McKeon said. “With pace, you’re trying to stay active for as long as you can and not burn out before the end.”

With Villemade virtual learners, teachers constantly said “Hard work pays off” and had to develop a way for students to self-assess at home.

“We came up with the Sweat Trophy and we’ve been trying to teach the kids how to rate how hard they were working,” he said. “We’ve got the green zone where they had a good time, the yellow zone is where they might be breathing a little heavy, but if they’re in the red zone and sweating, they’re earning that Sweat Trophy.”

Over the summer months, McKeon is pushing his students to stay active and reminding them not to miss an opportunity to get stronger. The CDC recommends 60 minutes of vigorous physical activity per day which mirrors the Sweat Trophy’s red zone.

“We’re telling all the students to go outside and play,” he said. “Make sure you’re staying active, whether that’s with sports or just playing with friends.

** BRIDGEWAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
Students celebrate Earth Day with educational activities 

It was all honeybees and sunflowers at Bridgeway Elementary School as the students and staff celebrated Earth Day on April 22.

“We need honeybees to keep the Earth going and sunflowers have so many earth-healthy benefits,” the Bridgeway garden committee wrote in an email explaining the theme of the week.

The Bridgeway garden committee helped prepare goodie bags that every student in the school received. The featured item was sunflower seeds that were picked from the sunflowers that grow in front of the building. They were packed inside a small bag with student designs on the labels. They also received SunButter, stickers, a YumEarth lollipop and a bee bracelet.

The SunButter Company donated enough samples of SunButter, a sunflower seed butter, for every student and staff member plus some extra that was donated to the school’s backpack program.

In Nisa Peters’ kindergarten class, students rotated to different Earth-themed stations to learn more about the planet.

“We had students using watercolors to paint a picture of the Earth and we listed things that are good and bad for the planet,” Peters said. “Each station was a way for students to celebrate the Earth and learn more about it.”

Every teacher also received a copy of “The Little Sunflower” to read aloud in class.

Several classes completed activities throughout the week that the garden committee included on a virtual choice board for students. It included additional read alouds, virtual field trips, a video teaching students about the sunflowers in front of the school and more.

** ALPHA ELEMENTARY GIFTED PROGRAM  
Students design meal plans 

Students in the ALPHA elementary gifted education program at Holman Middle School spent the second half of the school year participating in a class called “How Do You See It?” As part of the class, students tackled one of adults’ biggest problems: What’s for dinner tonight? As part of this project, students analyzed the pros and cons of cooking and dining out; listed considerations that make home-cooking challenging; and identified meals that address specific dietary needs for different families.

As part of a culminating project, students selected meals to meet the homecooking needs of “client” families. Older students compiled a shopping list of everything families would need to prepare those meals. They focused on healthy foods that were quick-cooking, budget-friendly or easy enough for kids to make themselves.

“For the students in my classes, I put together a website where I have posted their meal plans to make them available for the community, who might also have some of the same needs as the families in our scenarios,” said ALPHA teacher Allison Bennett. The website can be found at bit.ly/ALPHAcooks21. The website includes meal plans in the following categories: budget friendly, dietary restrictions, quick cook and kids can cook. Other students created a promotional video to help advertise the online resource.

Bennett was excited for students to “see that their hard work has the potential to help families throughout the Pattonville community.”
Carter Zerbe. The following students earned a red ribbon at the science fair: Scott Chrostowski, Gabriel Ising, Orlaith Keane, Amelia Maclean, Alex Nichols, Wesley Paulson, Cole Sims and Akayla Williams.

**DISTRICT-WIDE**

**State gymnastics**
At the Missouri Developmental State Championships, Bridgeway Elementary School fourth grader Sharon Judge placed second on floor; Parkwood Elementary School fifth grader Susana Lopez placed third on floor; and Willow Brook Elementary School third grader Nora Briggs placed second on bars and third on beam. They competed as part of the Olympia/Team Central Gymnastics team.

**BRIDGEWAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Greater St. Louis Science Fair**
At the Greater St. Louis Science Fair, Mariyah Abdelbaset earned a blue ribbon and Bayer Top Young Scientist Award, Brandon Jewett earned a blue ribbon and MOST 529 Award, and Kevin Kelley earned a blue ribbon and Waste Management Association Award. Also earning blue ribbons were Kennedy Fowler and Sadie Harpole. Fares Abdelbaset earned a red ribbon.

**PARKWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Greater St. Louis Science Fair**
At the St. Louis Science Fair, Abby Edmonds, Aubrey Holdren, Sophia Lewis and Emma Newby earned a blue ribbon and the Bayer Outstanding Fifth Grade Scientist Award. Liam Wilson earned a blue ribbon and the MOST 529 Award. Nya Young received a blue ribbon and the Bayer Outstanding Fifth Grade Scientist Award. Levi Daller earned a blue ribbon and Grace Wilkerson earned a red ribbon. Students in the PEGS program also earned blue ribbons. Devin Garner, Hannah Hope and Harry Vandernoot also earned the Bayer Outstanding Fifth Grade Scientist Award. Pearl Krieger earned the MOST 529 Award and Donald McCullough earned the Bayer Top Young Scientist Award. Other PEGS students who earned blue ribbons also earned the Bayer Outstanding Fifth Grade Scientist Award. Other PEGS students who earned blue ribbons also earned the Bayer Outstanding Fifth Grade Scientist Award.

**ROSE ACRES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Greater St. Louis Science Fair**
At the St. Louis Science Fair, Abby Edmonds, Aubrey Holdren, Sophia Lewis and Emma Newby earned a blue ribbon and the Bayer Outstanding Fifth Grade Scientist Award. Liam Wilson earned a blue ribbon and the MOST 529 Award. Nya Young received a blue ribbon and the Bayer Outstanding Fifth Grade Scientist Award. Levi Daller earned a blue ribbon and Grace Wilkerson earned a red ribbon. Students in the PEGS program also earned blue ribbons. Devin Garner, Hannah Hope and Harry Vandernoot also earned the Bayer Outstanding Fifth Grade Scientist Award. Pearl Krieger earned the MOST 529 Award and Donald McCullough earned the Bayer Top Young Scientist Award. Other PEGS students who earned blue ribbons also earned the Bayer Outstanding Fifth Grade Scientist Award. Other PEGS students who earned blue ribbons also earned the Bayer Outstanding Fifth Grade Scientist Award.

**REMITTONG TRADITIONAL SCHOOL**

**Band honors**
After participating in the virtual St. Louis All-Suburban Solo and Ensemble Festival, Tyler Manker earned a 1-Superior rating for trumpet solo. Students who earned a 2-Excellent rating were Colin Darrah for tenor saxophone solo; Dylan Jamison for snare solo; and Leena Niederhauser and Ella Tinnon for trumpet duet. The students were directed by band teacher Andrew Smith.

**HOLMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Orchestra honors**
The following Holman orchestra students earned 1-Superior ratings after competing in the virtual St. Louis Suburban Middle School Solo and Ensemble Festival: sixth grader Alexis Burroughs; seventh graders Mia Baczyński, Maxwell Fetter and William Truong; and eighth graders Prina Limbachia and Wendy Mwaniki. Earning 2-Excellent ratings were sixth graders Dylan Blassingame and Alexis Schmied; seventh grader El-Ghazal and eighth graders Olivia Grace, Addison Gutschenritter and Matthew Schiermeyer.

Two groups of students earned 1-Superior ratings during the virtual All-Suburban Large Group Contest. The sixth grade group included: Kendyl Blair, Blassingame, Chloe Clay, Caleb Correa, Noah Cox, Ethan Fajardo, Jaydn Harvick, Sebastian Hill, Lauren Jacobs, Madelyn Kirton, Zayden Patel, Lillie Quigg, Lakshita Raja, Madison Roberts, Schmied, Naomi Trinh, Alexis Volz, Nathaniel Wilfong, Nicholas Zarosa and Emmet Zealelem. The second group included seventh graders Ethan Arana, Alejandra Ayala Recorder, Baczyński, Alexis Burroughs, Genevieve Caffey, Mya Cruz, Ariana Doss, El-Ghazal, Fetter, Leah Gantz, Elaine Lu, Joe McCarron, Ari Moore, Jackson Powell, Summer Stuart, Truong and Sydney Woodrome; and eighth graders Matthew Cuttrell, Eliot Daller, Demi Duron, Lance Fajardo, Hannah Fisbeck, Grace, Carter Gray, Gutschenritter, Limbachia, Bryan Manjarrez, Kaylee Mansker, Logan Monroe, Mwaniki, Gabriel Naviengkham, Aubrie Pena, Hannah Richardson, Schiermeyer, Isabella Sherman, Morgan Walker and Gracie Wilfong. They were directed by teacher Irena Goren-Scheer.

**Band honors**
The following Holman band students earned 1-Superior ratings after competing in the virtual St. Louis Suburban Middle School Solo and Ensemble Festival: seventh graders Addison Gerdes, Esme Hurlbut, Connor Morris and Noah Suvansri; and eighth graders Kayla Berndt, Kaitlyn Bohne and Cameron vasek.

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Miranda Borgelt, Keegan Elliott, Gisel Estrada Lopez, Jack Finley, Ethan Gietl, Drew Heine, Gabrielle McCain, Mariah Moore, Sheridan Phillips, Aundrea Rosales and Semaj West. Earning 2-Excellent ratings were seventh graders Neal Davey, Skylar Deason, Natalie Epps, Bernard Fitzsimmons, Keegen Garland, Jaden Jenner, Peyton McElroy, Samantha Mokwa, Mackenzie Newell, Jace Prabhu, Miranda Santillan Ortega, Taniya Taylor, Riley Wallace, Kimora Watson, Nathan Weiss, Aaron Wickham and Anyla Williams; and eighth graders Estrada Lopez, Alyssa Lee, Chuanjie Li, Sam Mokwa, Ellis North, Dominic Olsen, Kylie Powell, Ana Richardson, Addison Swanson, Austin Traxel, Ben Usry and Shawn Ward. Earning 3-Good ratings were seventh graders Kailee Rickmon and eighth graders Lee, Mariah Moore and T’Chan Moore. Students submitted recorded audio performances of themselves playing a solo, duet or trio. They were then adjudicated by a professional judge/musician from the St. Louis area and received feedback based on their performance. They were directed by teachers Adam Hall and Steven White.

**PATTONVILLE HEIGHTS MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Honor Model UN**

Students in Lori Kappler’s SIGMA gifted program were selected to participate in the Honor Model UN program. The students are Jessica Bae, Solymana Damte, Lydia Greenwald Hamil, Lola Hennrich, Claire Herter, Gabrielle Hurd, Jaiden Johnson, Ellie Lamy Bearskin, Omolara Ogunnmola, Riley Orach and Nicole Wingerter.

**Band honors**

The following Heights students earned 1-Superior ratings after competing in the virtual St. Louis Suburban Middle School Solo and Ensemble Festival: for baritone saxophone solo, Jude Badoy and Adam Reddy; for bassoon solo, Zoe Clark; for clarinet solo, Taylor Gray and Janani Kamalakkannan; for flute duet, Dylan Cochran and Caitlyn Jordan; for flute solo, Kaydence Harris, Feben Mesfin, Ulisses Perez-Sanchez and Dani Warren; for mallet solo, Elliott Bland, Savannah Bramson, Taylor Hill, Zach Kilion and Gabe Palermo; for percussion ensemble: Bland, Alistair Card, Ellie Cowin, Brandon Caellar Guzman, Hill, Mitchell McVicar and Palermo; for trombone solo, Emily Derhake and Gabby Hurd; and for saxophone solo, Kaylee Dyer, Jeremiah Skarin and Tori Stewart. Earning 2-Excellent ratings were, for clarinet solo, David Adekanle and Shiloh Gadson; for flute duet, Kayleigh Shirley and Ashley Vega Camacho; for saxophone solo, Seth Wilson; and for saxophone trio, Skyler McCua, Pat Mercurio and Christopher Martir Hernandez. Earning 3-Good ratings were Clark and Dante Willey for clarinet solo. They were directed by Abby Hall and Liz Pace.

**PATTONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL**

**SNO Distinguished Site**

The student news website PattonvilleTODAY.com was recognized as a Distinguished Site by School Newspapers Online (SNO). SNO judges websites on six standards: multimedia, audience engagement, continuous coverage, story page excellence, site excellence and Best of SNO. If a site earns badges in all six areas, it is awarded the honor of being a SNO Distinguished Site. PattonvilleTODAY had three stories selected for the Best of SNO, which recognizes excellence in journalistic writing: one by Elise Banks and two by Matthew Jacobi. The students’ adviser is Dr. Anne Boyd.

**BEST Healthcare Institute**

Freshman Isaiah White was selected to participate in the BEST Healthcare Institute. The summer program exposes and prepares multicultural high school students for future careers in healthcare with a focus on mathematics, science and ACT/SAT skills. Students get exposure to the pharmacy profession through pharmacy lectures and site visits. Professional development emphasizes personal brand, character and leadership development.

**STEM Signing Day**

Seniors Galen Gilmore and Jaxon Luraschi were recognized during the Missouri STEM Signing Day and Scholarship Recognition Event. Both received a $1,000 scholarship. Only 13 students statewide were selected for recognition and Pattonville was the only school to have two representatives. Gilmore will attend Missouri University of Science and Technology to study aerospace engineering. Luraschi will attend Lindenwood University to study paramedicine.

**PATTONVILLE TODAY Distinguished Site**

PattonvilleTODAY.com was recognized as a Distinguished Site by School Newspapers Online (SNO). SNO judges websites on six standards: multimedia, audience engagement, continuous coverage, story page excellence, site excellence and Best of SNO. If a site earns badges in all six areas, it is awarded the honor of being a SNO Distinguished Site. PattonvilleTODAY had three stories selected for the Best of SNO, which recognizes excellence in journalistic writing: one by Elise Banks and two by Matthew Jacobi. The students’ adviser is Dr. Anne Boyd.
Bragging Writes
Honors, Awards and Achievements by Pattonville Students and Staff

Orchestra honors
Students in the orchestra program at Pattonville High School earned All-Suburban and Solo Suburban honors this spring. Students selected to the All-Suburban Orchestra were Sydney Hoynacki and Anna Kasprzyk for bass; Kenedi Jenkins for cello; Chandler Fajardo and Aaron Wolz for viola; and Maya Blumenthal, Elly Lu and Norina Shao for violin. Additionally, many students earned rankings at the District Solo and Ensemble Festival. Hoynacki and Kasprzyk earned a 1 rating for bass solo. Jahlil Johnson and Talisa Prabhu earned a 1 rating for cello solo. Brianna Coddington, Nya Coleman and Wolz earned a 1 rating for viola solo. Charley Bennight, Jade Boyd, Caleb Fetter, Lu, Emma Schonhoff, Shao and Jacob Zarosa earned a 1 rating for violin solo. The following students earned a 1 rating for string duet: Justin Bowers, Boyd, Camille Brown, Tara Chandler, Coleman, Aiden Farkas, Hoynacki, Tyler Hunt, Drake Ives, Lu, Rachel McCormick, Jessie Stark, Meredith Stroud and Simon Wacker. Students who earned a 1 rating for string trio are Blumenthal, Lashae Brown, Harry Heitmeier, Jenkins, McCormick, Schonhoff, Raphael Seymour, Tara Wang and Wolz. Those who earned a 1 rating for string quartet are Isaac Blassingame, Coleman, Abigail Evers, Tyler Hirschbeck, Sarah Pieper, Schonhoff, Shao and Wang. In addition, many students earned a 2 outstanding rating, including Blumenthal, Olivia Hernandez, Meg Holder and Millen Patel for viola solo. Miles Vance, Seymour and Orney Walker earned a 2 rating for viola solo. The following students earned a 2 rating for string duet: Samantha Beasley, Holder, Quinn Long, Cassie Medley O’Brien, Pieper, Rana Qasem, Alex Rugiero Romero, Shao, Marcus Swingler, Bell Tucci, Ben Wallace and Derek Wiser. They were directed by orchestra teacher Michael Dunsmoor.

Lacrosse honors
Helen Bae was named All-State honorable mention in girls lacrosse. She and Chloe Kerwin were named All-Conference first team midfielders and Charlotte Taylor and Sophia Zegar were named All-Conference first team attackers. Students named All-Conference second team were Stephanie Bartram and Hallie Friedrich for defense, Taylor Knight as attacker and Genesis Pegues for midfielder. Esther Gbiolresse was named All-Conference honorable mention for defense. The team was coached by David DiPassuale with the assistance of Hannah Cooper and Rachel Kerwin.

Football honors
The Pattonville football team competed in this year’s alternative season this spring. The following students received All-Conference first team honors: Julia Blankenship, Nolan Cobs, Jack Gietl, August Heiligenstein, Charles Johnson, Logan Lindsay, Wes Spitzmiller, Delvin Whittaker and Logan Williams, who was also named a St. Louis Post-Dispatch Player of the Week in March. The following students received All-Conference second team honors: Chris Barton, Gietl, Brayden Hatley, LaJuan Morgan, Tony Porter and Deandre Rush. Those receiving All-Conference honorable mention were Cobb, Jayden Essex, Heiligenstein, Morgan, Valent Orta, Derek Raymond and Whittaker. Additionally, Barton and Kevin Miller earned All-Conference academic honors and Cobb received the All-Conference Sportsmanship Award. The team was coached by Steve Smith with the assistance of Kent Booth, Christian Briner, Antonio Bryant, Scott Hauser, Corey Lewis and Jesse Robinson.

Girls soccer honors
The soccer team advanced to the district final game. Students named All-State and All-Conference academic were Kaeli Benedict, Jordyn Lodes and Grace Ohlsen. Two students were named All-Conference first team: Benedict and Kate Germano. The players named All-Conference second team were Lodes, Ohlsen and Allison Schrumpf. Ohlsen also received the All-Conference Sportsmanship Award. Julia Blankenship, Macy Hanford and Kyleigh Maryas were named All-Conference honorable mention. In addition, Benedict and Ohlsen were selected to play in the M.A.C. (Missouri Athletic Club) High School Soccer All-Star Game in June, an annual event that recognizes players for their performance on and off the soccer field with $1,000 scholarships. The team was coached by Tom Benney with the assistance of Marcus Christian.

Baseball honors
Members of the baseball team named All-Conference first team were Jackson Podmore as catcher, Bryce Viehmann as designated hitter, Nicolas Neal as outfielder and Zach Williams as pitcher. Brayden Hatley and Wes Spitzmiller were named All-Conference second team infielders. Charlie Burns was named All-Conference honorable mention and Jonah Kendrick received the Sportsmanship Award. The team was coached by Rob Simpson with the assistance of Victor Fink.

Maryville Dean’s Award
Assistant principal Dr. Rosalyn Manahan was honored with Maryville University’s School of Education Dean’s Award which recognizes graduates and others who bring distinction to their profession and community in the field of education.
IN THEIR WORDS...
Excerpts from students’ graduation remarks

“...there is any one thing that a person needs to know about Pattonville High School’s graduating Class of 2021, it is that we are a class of transition, persistence and hope. We are a class that is so integrated and diverse that we can only be truly defined by our shared experiences... rather than by what our parents may have in their bank accounts or the faces that we see staring back at us in the mirror.”

-From a speech by Jaelynne Cauldwell

“In 2017 we stepped into Pattonville High School full of nerves, hopes and dreams. We had no idea that during our high school years that a pandemic would occur and our four years would be cut short, and many of those same hopes and dreams never would happen... wait, do not get all sad on me... you bet we missed out on lots, and I mean lots... but you know what? We made it... we came through... we persevered... we did not give up.”

-From a speech by Wes Spitzmiller

About Our Graduates

- 386 students graduated in the Class of 2021
- 276 plan on continuing their education at four-year universities, two-year colleges or career/technical/apprenticeship programs
- 19 students plan to enter the military
- 45 plan to enter the workforce immediately
- 122 earned the honors of summa, magna or cum laude (3.5 weighted GPA or greater)
- 81 earned A+ status, which makes them eligible for paid tuition to any Missouri community college or career education school
- 54 earned industry-recognized credentials or certifications such as certified nurse assistant, automotive service excellence, cosmetology, welding and construction and emergency medical technician
- Seniors earned $10 million in scholarships
- 20 qualified to receive Missouri’s Bright Flight Scholarship based on a qualifying score on the ACT (13 accepted the scholarship and will attend a Missouri post-secondary institution)
- Seniors completed more than 19,700 hours of community service during high school
- 7 earned community service honor cords for volunteering 150 hours or more
- Top three seniors for hours of community service: Camille Brown (549.5 hours), Skylar Monnig (345.5 hours) and Rachel McCormick (329 hours)

View more photos
To see photos and videos from graduation, visit bit.ly/PattonvilleGraduation2021.