



Calhoun R-VIII Newsletter



Special Recognition

Instead of a Senior Spotlight for the end of the school year (No worries, we'll pick it back up in September), I want to send my gratitude to everyone who has helped make this newsletter a success this year. I may be the one compiling and editing the final product, but you all are the ones responsible for all the information we send to the public. Every month I have a plethora of emails sent to me with upcoming events, write-ups for past events, and more pictures than I can count (and I love seeing every one of them). I have had so many photographers and journalists this year that I couldn't even begin to name them all. Every event has had someone present and active, so that they could send me reports. From parents and community members, to students, to faculty, staff, and administration—this newsletter belongs to more than just the few people who have been responsible for the final version every month; it belongs to all of us, and we have created a fantastic documentation this year of all the life radiating from this school. We are blessed to have so many people who are willing and excited to contribute every month, and I cannot possibly say thank you enough. Have a wonderfully refreshing summer, and I look forward to working with this amazing community again next year.

Santa Fe Invitational



Calhoun had two athletes compete at the Santa Fe Invitational on April 30 held at the Higginville High School track. Senior high jumper Anthony Hilbert



finished 4th in the high jump, and junior runner Tylar White won the 400 again, and finished 3rd in the 100.



Sectionals Bound

Calhoun had two individuals advance to sectionals to be held Saturday at Carl Junction.

Senior Anthony Hilbert finished 2nd in the high jump and junior runner Tylar White finished 4th in the 400 to advance.

Tylar also finished 5th in the 100 yard dash. Senior Kendra Phillips also earned team points by finishing 7th in 3200 and 8th in the 1600. Sophomore Mikaila Carranza also competed in the 1600 yard run.

WE are going to STATE!

Junior Tylar White and Senior Anthony Hilbert qualified at sectionals on Saturday at Carl Junction and will be going to the state track meet at Jefferson City this May 12 and 13. Tylar ran a 1:06.32 and placed 4th to qualify in the 400 meter dash. Anthony Hilbert jumped 5'6" to place 4th in the high jump.

Junior Tylar White placed 15th in the 400, and senior Anthony Hilbert placed 15th in the high jump. Although our Eagles didn't place the way they wanted, they did their best and were in the top 16 in all MO Class 1A schools.



2018 Athletic Banquet Awards

Cross Country MVP	Cross Country State Qualifiers
Andy Redding Kendra Phillips Trenton Richey (JH)	Andy Redding (3rd year) Kendra Phillips (2nd year)

Volleyball MVP	Volleyball All-Conference	
Rachel Kelso	2nd Team	Honor Mention
	Taylor Trull	Rachel Kelso Tylar White Lisa Hicks Elana Hollinger

Girls' Basketball All-Conference		Girls' Basketball MVP
1st Team	Honor Mention	Tylar White
Tylar White	Taylor Trull	

Most Spirited Cheerleader
Kendra Phillips

JH Basketball MVP
Trenton Richey

Boys' Basketball MVP
Andy Redding

All-District Basketball
Andy Redding

Boys' Basketball All-Conference		
<i>1st Team</i>	<i>2nd Team</i>	<i>Honor Mention</i>
Andy Redding	Anthony Hilbert David Boonstra	Nichols Rusche

TRACK and FIELD Boys' MVP	TRACK and FIELD Girls' MVP	State Semi-Finalist (2017)
Anthony Hilbert	Tylar White	Tylar White – 400 Anthony Hilbert – High Jump

MSHSAA Awards	Principal Awards	All-Around Athlete Award
Andy Redding Elana Hollinger	Andy Redding Kendra Phillips	Kendra Phillips

Honors Banquet



The Honors Banquet was held at Dietz Family Buffet on May 6. Current members Andy Redding, Elana Hollinger, Kendra Phillips, Lindsay Rusche, and Taylor Trull

led the National Honors Society induction ceremony. The newest members of NHS are Tyler White, Rachel Kelso, Nick Rusche, Brennan Hartgrave, Derrick House, Jessica Price, and Destinique Bailey.



Spring Concert

Our Spring Concert was May 1st. The concert opened with our choir of middle schoolers singing *Grandfather's Clock*, a traditional song and the acapella song *Yonder Come Day*, a spiritual from the Georgia Sea Islands. Next were the 3rd through 6th grade singing *The Future is Calling Us* followed by their recorder song *Cowaboinga*. The Kindergarten through 2nd Grade sang *Tingalayo* about an exceptional donkey that can talk, sing, dance, and eat with a knife and fork. Then they danced to the *Bunny Rabbit Boogie* and closed their portion with the *Chicken Rap* about a chicken who wanted to become a rap star.

Then it was on to the band portion of the concert. The Elementary Bands played *Monster Medley* together with the help of Autumn Rusche and Andrew Knecht. They were followed by the Eagle Pride Band who opened with *One Sunday Morning*. This piece has several solos representing the pastor and the group

representing the congregation at a church service. Our soloists were Elli Bailey, Arionna Watson, Reese Hartgrave, and Autumn Rusche. The next song was *Modal Overture*, a piece with lots of stacked chords and a flute feature. Following was *Highlights from Moana* with the Advanced Elementary Band joining our Eagle Pride Band. This was our most challenging piece of the night. I wanted to challenge the students, and they learned a lot during the process. We had a few hiccups, but the students seemed proud of themselves and overall satisfied by how it turned out. The final selection of the night was *Intensity* played by all of the band students.

I received multiple compliments on the concert especially about our Eagle Pride Band (which is mostly JH!). I wanted to share a note with you I received from a grandparent after she watched a cellphone recording.

Dear Miss Hopkins,

I listened to some of the music played by the Calhoun Band for the Spring Concert, which my daughter recorded on her phone. I don't know much about music but I was really touched by that music! I am so proud of that little band and proud of our little Calhoun School! Thank you for helping my grandson in increasing his musical ability on his horn. I was a registered nurse for 39 year, which was a very hard profession but not on the same level as teaching. You may post this note for the other teachers to read if you wish! Grandma Eva

I am very proud of the students who came to the concert! Like I said that night, we have some very talented students both musically and artistically. Great Job to Mrs. Young and the art students, I love seeing it displayed for the art show!

Have a great end of the year!

Musically Yours,

Michal

To Bee, or Not To Bee?

The Midwest-Conference Spelling Bee was held in Strasburg on May 4.

Calhoun was represented by 15 Elementary students:

1st Grade Zanden Shearer & Kyrstin Zabriskie

2nd Grade Kimber Marriott & Trevor Fields

3rd Grade Andrew Morgan & Travet Bailey

4th Grade Ally Ross, Wyatt Moore, and Belinda Olejniczak

5th Grade Nyvaeh Watson, Derik Hartgrave, and Aaron Knecht

6th Grade AJ Micke, Abby Dittmer, and Hunter Marriott



Please commend all these students for participating. It is an uneasy situation for many and the absolute very first time for the 1st grade students. Our students were well behaved and respectful. The most exciting is that Zanden Shearer won 2nd place in the 1st grade competition, Aaron Knecht took 4th place for 5th grade, and AJ Micke also took 4th place for 6th grade!

Oh, the Places They've Gone

With April testing completed, May was full of opportunities to take students on various field trips. 5th and 6th Grade went to Fort Osage for a national and cultural history lesson. 1st and 2nd Grade went to the Aquarium for a look at aquatic life. Special Education students were treated to a day at the Springfield Zoo, and Perfect Attendance Students were treated to a Day at the K for some Royals baseball. All of the students who were able to participate in these trips had a great time.

TOP Worlds of Fun

Junior High students who completed the TOP Program this year were treated to a day at Worlds of Fun. The kids loved spending the day at the park, riding all kinds of rollercoasters, and even eating some "fair" food. They had been looking forward to the trip all year, and it did not disappoint.



Escape Rooms

While the Junior High TOP students enjoyed their day out, the rest of the school got to experience a few Escape Rooms. Teachers and students traveled to Katy Rock Escape in Windsor and had a competition between the classes. Freshmen and Juniors took turns in an Egyptian themed room, while the



Sophomores took on a Pirate theme room. The Sophomores escaped with the best time overall. The rooms and storylines were well thought-out, and everyone is eager to try another Escape Room soon.

Awards Assembly

The awards assembly this year became a nostalgic event that the students weren't expecting. Mr. Duensing was able to compile old school records and awards students with their academic letters, freshmen through seniors. Some of them were even more surprised when they learned they had done better academically than they had previously realized. We loved watching those students beam with pride as they were handed their letter and/or bars.

Mrs. O'Dell also added a little extra to her presentation this year, presenting all of her FCCLA/FBLA students with a rose (or two, if the student was in both clubs) along with their awards. All of the members and even Mrs. O'Dell teared up at the end, as she told them all how proud she is of them and how much she will miss them.

5th/6th Grade Promotion and Preschool Graduation

To kick off graduation season, 5th and 6th grade students attended a promotion ceremony on May 7. This year, the promotion was a double celebration because the Junior High will become 6th-8th in the 2018-2019 school year.



Administration and faculty gave speeches and the students were able to pass out a few flowers to loved ones. Then, they walked across the stage, ready to take on Junior High. They ended the evening with a cake and punch reception. Preschool wrapped up the graduation season with their ceremony on May 14. They all looked so grown up, and their loved ones beamed with pride.

Baccalaureate

On May 6, seniors were invited to a baccalaureate, held at the Calhoun United Methodist Church. The pastors spoke of God's love and guidance, led them in singing *Onward Christian Soldiers*, played an acoustic version of *I Will Serve Thee*, and presented them with Bibles. They ended the afternoon with a cake and punch reception.

The seniors were left with three words of advice:

- ❖ Jesus helps you make responsible decisions; you can't make responsible decisions on your own.
- ❖ Seek God to know God, and you will be blessed.
- ❖ Pick your battles. Have pure motives. Use what you know. Give God the glory.



Graduation

On May 11, we bid farewell to the class of 2018. The graduates were emotional when it came to saying goodbye to the life and friends they have come to know so well, but the excitement and anticipation of what the future would hold gave them the strength to walk across that stage and commence the newest era of their lives. The ceremony included addresses from Co- Valedictorians Taylor Trull and Elana Hollinger. Some of the graduates customized their caps, giving a shout-out to their loved ones, showing future plans, and simply showing of their unique styles. Between the slide show the graduates created--highlighting past pictures and favorite quotes—and the flower distribution, many tears of joy, love, pride, and nostalgia were shed. We are all so proud of each one of you, graduates, and we hope for nothing but the best in all your future endeavors.



Duensing

Mr. Duensing received two awards at the end of the school year. First, he was selected Secondary Educator of the Year by the MSTA Central Region Teachers Association. Mr. Russell Smithson presented the award on April 9, with the following comments:

“In a letter of recommendation for this award...stated that...this teacher is a natural problem solver, an innovator, and a dynamic member of our middle and high school teaching staff. His enthusiasm and passion for teaching is recognized by his colleagues and his students.”

“A fellow staff member describes him by saying, ‘He prepares lessons that are interesting, hands-on, and relevant to the class and students.’”

“In his own words, he says, ‘I enjoy teaching and explaining how things work to young people. I grew up moving around the US, living in five different states and ten schools before starting eighth grade. I finished high school in a small rural town with a graduating class of 22 students. I chose to work in small rural towns where I could relate to the struggles and hardships these students face.’”



O'Dell

Today, we say goodbye to a teacher who wears many hats in many departments. Kathy O'Dell was a teacher, mentor, and work-mom to students and staff alike, and her students wanted to give her a proper farewell:

“We will miss you a lot. You’ve been here for years and helped the school out a lot. We will miss having you as a FACS, computer, health, career development, and business teacher. We all hope the students treat you right at your new job, or we’ll be over there immediately. Wishing you all the best of luck.” —Andrew Knecht

“I’m going to miss you a lot. You were the coolest of all...in this school.” —Ian Cooper

“You are my favorite teacher. We have bonded over the last year, so when I say goodbye, it brings tears to my eyes. I will never forget you, and I wish you the best of luck.” —Jenna Smith

“Thank you for always being that one teacher I could always count on. No matter what the issue was, you would always help me through. So, thank you, Mrs. O’Dell.” —Tylar White



Calhoun R-VIII School District
409 S. College St.
Calhoun, MO 65323

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