



Welcome to the 2023-24 school year

BY MRS. TERESA MESSERSMITH
MARIES R-1 SUPERINTENDENT

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year. I hope everyone had an opportunity to relax, recharge, and enjoy your summer. I hope that you took time for yourself to do the things you enjoy with the people that you love. I hope everyone will be returning to Maries R-1 on August 21, 2023 feeling rejuvenated and ready for a successful year of learning.

The start of each school year always brings much excitement, energy, and perhaps some trepidation. We all feel this excitement in different ways. Students look forward to seeing friends and are excited about all the new school year will bring. Parents are happy to see their children off for the start of another successful school year, yet are amazed at how fast their children are growing. Even teachers may be trying to tame those nervous butterflies as the first day of school approaches. For the past 26 years, I have always felt excited and anxious about the first day of school!

For those of our staff who worked throughout the summer, I want to thank you. It has been a productive summer and our school facilities are ready for an incredible school year. Our custodians performed a deep cleaning of each of our school buildings to ensure that they are looking their best when students walk in on the first day of school. The high school gym floor has been refinished and looks great! The cafeteria has a new look with a fresh coat of paint! We are excited about the new sink and cabinets in the art room. A major elementary electrical project took place and resulted in the complete rewiring of the PK-2nd grade wing. All of the exterior doors were painted gray this summer. The Middle School has a brand new roof!!! The greenhouse has brand new heaters and an all new exterior. It looks great!!! When you see our school custodians and maintenance crew, please take a moment to thank them for their efforts.

I am looking forward to students being back in the hallways and classrooms. The first day of school is Monday, August 21, beginning at 8:05 a.m. and ending at 3:20 p.m. Open House will

be Thursday, August 17. The 6th graders will need to be here for orientation from 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Everyone else is welcome to attend Open House from 6:00-7:30. I know the faculty and staff are excited to welcome everyone back!

The Maries R-1 faculty and staff are committed to building our community, deepening collaboration, strengthening relationships, and improving communication with our families and students. In our school walk scientists, researchers, doctors, artists, farmers and future teachers. What makes Maries R-1 special, is that we do not need to look to the future to see leadership. We see leadership and innovation in our classrooms, in our school, and across our community right now within our student body and staff.

I am honored, humbled, and excited to work with you and our incredible team of students, parents, community, educators, staff, and administrators as we work to continuously improve the Maries R-1 School District.

I look forward to welcoming you all on August 21, 2023

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MARIES COUNTY R-1 SCHOOLS WILL OPEN MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 2023

School Listings	Hours	Phone Numbers
Vienna Elementary	8:05 a.m. - 3:20 p.m.	573-422-3365 #3
Vienna High School	8:05 a.m. - 3:20 p.m.	573-422-3363 #4
High School Counselor	8:05 a.m. - 3:20 p.m.	573-422-3364 #6
Special Education Office	8:05 a.m. - 3:20 p.m.	573-422-3363 #5
Central Office	8:05 a.m. - 3:20 p.m.	573-422-3304 #1
VELC Preschool	8:05 a.m. - 3:20 p.m.	573-422-3365 #2

The Maries County R-1 Schools is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of color, race, national origin, sex, age or handicapping conditions.

Administrators for the School Year 2023-24

Teresa Messersmith, Superintendent
Tim Metcalf, High School Principal
Shanda Snodgrass, Elementary School Principal
Joe Edwards, Special Education Director

Board Of Education Members For The School Year 2023-24

Kacie James, President Of The School Board
Paula Schwartze, Secretary Of School Board
David Long, Vice-President Of The School Board
Denise Wilkinson, School Board Member
Kayla Wansing, School Board Member
David Garro, School Board Member
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Matt Novak, School Board Member

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Good Luck to All Students and Teachers in the 2023-2024 School Year!

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W E L C O M E

Back to School

First Day of Class: Aug. 22

Maries County R-2 School

How to help STEM students fulfill their potential

Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) classes are now integral components of students' educations. Increasingly students are drawn to STEM education, including pursuing STEM pathways in high school, because of the doors such an education can open in the future. According to the United States Department of Labor, there were nearly 10 million workers in STEM occupations in 2021, and this total is projected to grow by almost 11 percent by 2031 — roughly two times faster than the total for all occupations.

STEM subjects may not come so easily for some students, who at times may feel disengaged from the coursework. That doesn't mean students should give up. Even if STEM classes do not come easily, one still could have what it takes to be involved in science or engineering, and eventually land STEM jobs. Here are ways to mold great STEM students.

Recognize that STEM is more exacting

Unlike other classes in liberal arts education that are highly subjective, STEM involves answers that are exact. There is no wiggle room for subjectivity, so students must get in the habit of checking their work and ensuring their answers are correct. Students may need some assistance from tutors or parents to recognize common mistakes and learn how to proof their work. This fosters a greater attention to detail.

Show the work

Teachers often require students to show the computation involved



in reaching a mathematical conclusion, or the reasoning behind how an answer is derived. While the answer may be correct, points may be deducted for not showing the work. Students should make it a habit to be transparent with their calculations so educators can point out where they were right and where they went wrong.

Recognize your own scientific tendencies

Those who are science-minded tend to make good observations, base claims on evidence, express curiosity, and make connections between complex ideas. Some students may not think they are intellectual enough to be involved with STEM, but after recognizing these traits in themselves, they may find they have more in common

with great scientists than they first imagined.

Maintain good notes

Get the most out of courses by taking excellent notes, as the best instruction often comes from lectures and class time. Review notes regularly and practice work frequently.

Have a study buddy

Studying with someone else can be helpful with STEM coursework. A study buddy can be a fellow classmate, a parent, a friend, or anyone else to bounce ideas off of. Others view problems differently and may see something a student is missing, or be able to explain it

more readily.

See failure as a motivating force

Only by failing can STEM students dissect missteps and improve work to get to more concrete conclusions. While it initially may not seem enjoyable to fail, it does present opportunity to do things differently the next time. Failure usually lights a fire to get students to work harder and fulfill their potential.

STEM classes can be quite challenging and not every student takes to them immediately. But with a little work and support, students can improve their performance in STEM subjects.

Join us for a
Back to School
Open House

Come meet the teachers and check out our school!
Everyone is Welcome!
Stop by and sign up for attendance prizes!

THURSDAY
August 17th, 2023

5:30-7pm

Small Wonders
Montessori School
Preschool Ages 2 - 6
102 W Colorado Ave
Bland Mo, 65014

Welcome back to school

Educating our kids for a brighter tomorrow is a wonderful thing. We support the great work accomplished each day at Maries R-2 School!

Tonya Jacquin - Agent
36063 Hwy 28 W • Belle, Mo.
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2023-24 Maries R-2 School Calendar

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Aug. 17	Open House
Aug. 22	1st Day of School
Oct. 18	End of First Quarter
Oct. 23	Parent/Teacher Conference
Nov. 20	School In Session
Nov. 22, 23 & 24	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 21	End of First Semester
Dec. 22 – Jan 3	Winter Break (Students)
Jan. 3	Teacher Work Day
Jan. 4	1st Day of 2nd Semester
March 15	End of Third Quarter
March 18	No School - Parent/Teacher Conference
March 25	School In Session
March 29	No School - Good Friday
April 30 – May 5	Senior Trip
May 12	Scholarship Ceremony
May 16	Middle School Awards Ceremony
May 16	Preschool Graduation
May 17	Last Day of School
May 19	High School Graduation
May 23 – June 7	Summer School

CLIP AND SAVE

USDA Non-discrimination statement for both Maries R-1 and Maries R-2 school districts

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil

rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing

or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: <http://www.ascr.usda.gov/>

complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:
(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture

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(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.
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How parents, educators can work together

Parents and educators alike aspire to help students perform their best in the classroom. An effective parent-teacher partnership can go a long way toward helping children reach their academic potential. With that goal in mind, parents and educators can employ the following strategies as they seek to develop a strong working relationship.

- Keep lines of communication open. Communication between families and educators is of paramount importance. The Early Learning Network, an organization devoted to improving the academic success of children that is funded by the Institute for Education Services, emphasizes the importance of routine communication between parents and educators throughout the school year. The ELN notes that open, clear, constructive, and timely communication can help parents know what's going on at school and ensures teachers know important things about their students.

- Make use of parent-teacher conference sessions. Both parents and teachers can utilize parent-teacher conferences to communicate directly with one another. Parents can prepare a list of questions regarding their child's academics, while teachers can provide a clear assessment of each student with feedback that celebrates the positive developments a student is making and offers constructive advice on areas where students can improve. Ample pre-conference preparation on the part of both parents and educators can help ensure sessions are productive and beneficial to students' development.

- Develop a plan together. Western Governors University recommends parents and educators develop a plan to collaborate together. Establish routine intervals to communicate to discuss a student's progress. Discuss what seems to be working and any areas where the approach by both parties may need to be tweaked. For example, parents should be open to suggestions regarding homework if the work students are submitting is not reflective of their abilities. Similarly, if students indicate to their parents that a certain in-class approach is not resonating, educators can remain open to suggestion or offer extra assistance if possible. Working on a plan together decreases the risk that any issues a student experiences will fall through the cracks.

A collective effort on the part of parents and educators can increase the likelihood that each student fulfills their academic potential. Parents and educators can work together to keep lines of communication open and make the most of opportunities to speak directly with one another.

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573-437-2323



Strategies to encourage kids to read more

Many adults feel there's no better way to relax than curling up with a good book. Though a relaxing afternoon of reading may appeal to adults, kids could prove a little more reluctant to crack a book.

Children have much to gain from reading and being read to. According to the Children's Bureau of Southern California, a non-profit organization devoted to strengthening vulnerable children, their families and the communities where they live, reading aloud to children supports their cognitive development; improves their language skills; prepares them for academic success; increases their discipline and ability to concentrate; and improves their imagination and creativity. Many of those same benefits apply to kids who read on their own, which may be more appealing as kids advance through elementary school and aspire to become more independent.

Since children have so much to gain from cuddling up with a good book, parents can try these strategies to encourage kids to read more.

- Allow kids to read the same book. Parents of young readers or children learning to read undoubtedly know how much children like to read the same book over and over again. Though that might not engage moms and dads, experts note that allowing kids to read the same books again and again is an effective way to foster a love of reading in children. Researchers have linked reading the same books again and again to greater vocabulary acquisition and improved reading comprehension, among other benefits. Kids are more likely to enjoy reading if they recognize more words and can better understand the stories, so parents can encourage kids to read the same books again and again.

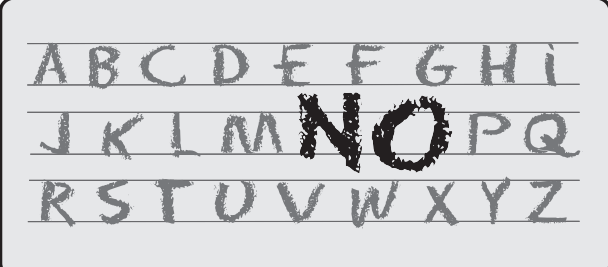
- Take a book along when running errands or traveling. The Children's Book Review notes that books can be just as handy in cars as tablets and other devices kids use to watch movies while on the go. Though some children may get car sick when reading while a car is in motion, those who don't have plenty of time to read while in the backseat. On long road trips, promise a movie after kids have read for an hour. When running errands with the kids in tow, encourage them to read by keeping a couple of books or magazines in the backseat at all times.

- Practice positive reinforcement with emerging readers. Another way to encourage young readers to pick up a book more often is to praise their efforts even if they struggle with words. Patience can go a long way toward instilling a love of reading in children. If kids are struggling with a word or words, read the sentence aloud with them. Reading also has a tendency to pique readers' curiosity, so parents can encourage kids to ask questions about the books they read and help them find answers to those questions if necessary.

- Enroll kids in library reading programs. Summer reading programs sponsored by local libraries have been found to be conducive to promoting reading in young children. In its report titled "The Role of Public Libraries in Children's Literacy Development," the Pennsylvania Library Association indicated that preschool and summer reading programs encourage children to spend significant amounts of time with books and also encourage parents to play a greater role in their children's literacy development. Participation in such programs is typically free of charge, so there's no reason why families cannot take advantage of these highly effective programs.

Reading benefits children in myriad ways. Parents can look to various strategies to foster a love of reading in their children.

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Maries County R-II School District Public Notice

All responsible public agencies are required to locate, evaluate, and identify children with disabilities who are under the jurisdiction of the agency, regardless of the severity of the disability, including children attending private schools, children who live outside the district but are attending a private school within the district, highly mobile children, such as migrant and homeless children who are wards of the state, and children who are suspected of having a disability and in need of special education even though they are advancing from grade to grade. The Maries County R-II School District assures that it will provide a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) to all eligible children with disabilities between the ages of three and twenty-one under its jurisdiction. Disabilities include autism, deaf/blindness, emotional disorders, hearing impairment and deafness, mental retardation/intellectual disability, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairments, specific learning disabilities, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury, visual impairment/blindness and young child with developmental delay.

The Maries County R-II School District assures that it will provide information and referral services necessary to assist the State in the implementation of early intervention services for infants and toddlers eligible for the Missouri First Steps program.

The Maries County R-II School District assures that personally identifiable information collected, used, or maintained by the agency for the purposes of identification, evaluation, placement or provision of FAPE of children with disabilities may be inspected and/or reviewed by their parents/guardians. Parent/guardians may request amendment to the educational records if the parent/guardian believes the record is inaccurate,

misleading, or violates the privacy or other rights of their child. Parents have the right to file complaints with the U.S. Department of Education or the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education concerning alleged failures by the district to meet the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

The Maries County R-II School District has developed a Local Compliance Plan for the implementation of State Regulations for the individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This plan contains the agency's policies and procedures regarding storage, disclosure to third parties, retention and destruction of personally identifiable information and the agency's assurances that services are provided in compliance with the General Education Provision Act (GEPA). This plan may be reviewed at the Maries County R-II School District administration office, 503 West Third Street, Tuesday through Friday during the hours of 8:00AM to 4:00PM.

If you have a child with a disability or know of a child with a disability who is not attending public school, please contact:

Dr. Lenice Basham, Superintendent—Maries Co. R-II 573-859-3800
Mrs. Garrett Haslag, Principal—Belle High School 573-859-3800
Mrs. Amanda Seaver, Principal—Bland Middle School 573-859-3800
Mrs. Vanessa Feeler, Principal—Belle Elementary 573-859-3800
Ms. Kesha Fredendall, Special Education Director 573-859-3800

This notice will be provided in native languages as appropriate.

Welcome Back To School
If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God.
~ James 1:5a
Wednesday Night Bible Studies for Students & adults Starts Sept. 6 ~ Free meal at 5:30, classes from 6:30-7:30
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In addition to routine immunizations, The Academy of Pediatricians recommends that ALL school-age children have:

- ✓ 2 MMR's (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
- ✓ 2 Varicella (Chickenpox)
- ✓ 2 Hepatitis "A"
- ✓ HPV (Human Papillomavirus)

Children entering 8th Grade:

- ✓ Tdap booster (Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis)
- ✓ Meningococcal

Those entering Senior Year:

- ✓ Meningococcal
- ✓ Meningococcal B

Contact your child's health care provider or the Phelps - Maries County Health Dept. to make sure your child is ready for school.



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What parents can do to be more involved at school

Parents can make every effort to encourage children to make the most of the school experience, including academics and extracurricular activities. Though students' level of engagement is ultimately up to them, parental involvement at school can be crucial for students' success.

According to the National Education Council, when parents get involved in their children's education, those children are more likely to do better in school and be more positive about the school experience. They also may be well-behaved. Parents wondering what they can do to assist at the school level can consider these possibilities.

Attend school board meetings

Many community school boards are comprised entirely of volunteers who work with superintendents and other personnel to advocate for policies and procedures for students. Decisions typically are up for vote, and parents can run for school board positions or simply attend meetings each month and let their voices be heard about various issues.

Attend open houses and conferences

Parents can make every effort to get to know teachers and other staff. Putting faces to names can help parents develop a connection to teachers and vice versa. Most schools have back to school nights, meet the coaches

opportunities, open houses, and parent-teacher conferences. Parents can take part in these events.

Open lines of communication

Parents can ask teachers and other staff how they prefer to communicate. Some teachers want students to take the lead and reach out first, with parents providing support if need be. Adults can be responsive when teachers reach out.

Attend school events

Families can make it a point to support students in all endeavors. Whenever the opportunity to visit the school comes up — whether for a concert, sports game, trivia night, or fundraiser — parents can make an effort to attend.

Volunteer

When parents want to be involved even further, they can head committees at school or volunteer with the PTA or PTO. They also can help out in the cafeteria, library or in the main office. Parents who have particular skills may volunteer to provide tutoring or mentoring as needed. Furthermore, parents can volunteer in school-sanctioned extracurriculars, such as Scouts BSA or as sports coaches.

Involvement in school is part of being an informed and supportive parent.



Tips for choosing high school electives

The curricula at many secondary schools is designed to provide students with the education they need to go on to higher learning and/or enter the workforce. While certain subjects are on the educational menu in every school, students also have opportunities to pick unique subjects that cater to their interests and potential career goals. Classes that the school requires are often listed as core classes. Those that students are free to choose are called electives.

Electives exist outside of the required curriculum. Many education experts say that electives provide a great chance for students to experiment and determine if any niche subjects or topics appeal to them. According to psychologist Regine Muradian, who works with students on learning and study skills, electives also can increase a student's desire to learn by offering a respite from the pressures of required courses.

Schools vary regarding how many elective classes high schoolers may take each year. Electives typically are a more prominent component of upperclassmen's schedules because they may have already completed most of the core curriculum requirements. Here are some tips for selecting electives.

- Go with what you know. Pick courses that tie into already established interests. If you love to write and get to the bottom of a story, then a journalism class may be ideal.
- Step outside your comfort zone. Another way to pick electives is to try new things and explore classes in that way. Maybe you never thought about computer programming before, but think it could be interesting



to dabble?

- Choose with future major in mind. If you have an idea of which subject to study in college, you can select electives that align with that major. Someone who plans to major in finance may select an elective in marketing or business management, for example.
- Think about what colleges want. Colleges accept applicants based on academic performance, but they're also looking for students who check an assortment of boxes. Think about which electives may

help you look more attractive to admissions departments. Classes in STEM, public speaking, debate, and international affairs might help you stand out.

- Diversify your skills. Richard Detweiler, researcher and president emeritus of the Great Lakes Colleges, says a top preparatory factor to earning a six-figure salary is not one's college major, but having taken a large share of classes outside of one's major. Diverse courses throughout high school and college can put students on a successful path.

Choosing electives need not be complicated. Students can opt for different strategies to select classes that will complement core learning.

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