

Bobcat Bulletin

Mark Your Calendar!



**Registration for students
new to our district will be**

**August 5th, 6th & 7th
10:00 am to 2:00 pm**

Open House

2025-2026 School Year

Monday, August 18th

5:00 to 7:00 pm

First Day of School

2025-2026 School Year

Wednesday, August 20th

School opens at 7:30 am

**Students must be in class
by 8:00 am**



What do you call a person who is happy on Monday? Retired! Congrats!

I am filled with a mix of joy and disbelief. After 23 years in this school district and 27 years of teaching, I am finally ready to take off my teacher hat and embrace the world of retirement. I've spent over two decades teaching, mentoring, and, let's be honest, trying to keep up with the latest TikTok trends and silly teenage vocabulary. No Cap.

When I first started, I was fresh-faced and full of optimism. I thought I could change the world one student at a time. Little did I know that my biggest challenge would be figuring out how to try and inspire every kid to learn a little about our history as a nation, a little

bit about our government, and prepare them for what comes next in life.

Through all the chaos, I have had the privilege of working alongside some truly incredible educators. You kept me sane when I thought I would lose my mind over misplaced emails or a forgotten meeting. I will miss making you laugh with my stupid jokes or unintended



ed meeting "accidents". I will forever look back fondly on the memories of our time together. Just remember, if you ever find yourself in trouble, don't worry. I will be out on the golf course sipping my brown water, but I will still be rooting for you from afar.

So as I say goodbye, I leave you with this. "Retired teachers don't die; they just grade away into the sunset." Embrace the moments, continue to learn, never forget to find the humor in the chaos, and students, you may now take out your mechanical pencils.

Thank you Dent Phelps for an unforgettable journey. **John Stratton**

This is my last year as a speech-language pathologist for Dent Phelps School! I will be completely retiring after working here for eight wonderful years. I have been an SLP for 42 years; working mostly in schools. My first job was in a rural school and I am so happy that my last working years have been in a rural school.

Everyone here at Dent Phelps has been so kind and supportive. I have always felt included and part of this community. I have worked with exceptional teachers, staff and administration here – all trying to do their best for students. I will miss my students very much and have enjoyed watching their progress. Thanks especially to Mrs. Dani

Baldwin for all of her support. She is an excellent SPED director.

I am looking forward to traveling and spending time being a new grandma.



Susan Sells

Staff Appreciation Week

Last week, May 5th through 9th, we celebrated Staff Appreciation Week at Dent-Phelps R-III—and what a week it was! The week included a delicious taco bar at lunch, as well as breakfast, snacks and refreshing car freshies generously provided by Victor Baptist Church. A daily raffle kept the excitement going, and the many notes, treats, and heartfelt gestures from families truly made our staff feel seen and valued.

At Dent-Phelps R-III, we believe that the heart of a great school is its people. Our teachers, support staff, custodians, kitchen crew, office team, and paraprofessionals all play a vital role in

helping our students grow not only academically, but socially and emotionally as well. Staff Appreciation Week gives us a special moment to pause and recognize the tireless dedication and genuine care these individuals pour into each day.

Schools are more than buildings—they are communities built on relationships. Our staff fosters these connections every day, creating a safe, nurturing, and inspiring place for students to learn and thrive. Whether they're leading a lesson, offering a listening ear, supporting diverse learning needs, caring for student health, keeping families informed, safely

transporting students, providing nutritious meals, or ensuring our facilities are ready for the day, each team member contributes to the success of our students in meaningful ways.

On behalf of the administration, we want to express our deepest gratitude to our staff. Their professionalism, creativity, compassion, and resilience do not go unnoticed. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated group of educators and support staff here at Dent-Phelps R-III. Here's to continuing the great work we do—together- The Bobcat Way!

Mrs. Brooker and Dr. Tiefenthaler

PBIS in May

By Mrs. Rana Hudson, Interventions

As the school year winds down, the Dent-Phelps PBIS team is already thinking about activities, themes, and incentives for next year. The team has decided that the 2025-2026 school year's theme will be "Route 66." The teachers and administrators have to connect the theme to positive reinforcement, class decor, and school wide decorating.

Changing themes each year makes it more exciting for the students. The team will also assess our PBIS program to see what we feel has been effective and what we need to improve or change before we begin school the next year. We get this information from surveys we have sent to parents, students, and faculty. We want to know how all

facets of our learning community are thriving with our program and what we need to improve. With this said, we want to thank everyone for their survey answers. Dent-Phelps R-III appreciates your involvement. For students to thrive in our learning community, we need to work together.

Happy Spring from the PTO

By Mrs. Julia Fishbauger, PTO Member

This time of year is so very busy wrapping up the school year and gearing up for summer break.

For our family, every summer goes by way too fast, so it's time to plan some memory-making activities as

a family before kids file back into classrooms all too soon. Whether it's enjoying the Current River camping and floating, fishing at Montauk, hiking the trails around Shawnee Mac Lakes or making a day trip to Johnson Shut-Ins or Ele-

phant Rocks, this part of Missouri has so many beautiful places to experience as a family. Summer is a time for fun trips, but there is so much beauty to see right here in our back yard too!

Maintaining Math Levels Over the Summer

By Mrs. Rana Hudson, Interventions

According to some research, students can lose up to half a year or more over the summer, because they are not practicing math. I know we try to make summer relaxing and fun. Students do not have to have a book or worksheets to practice math. Think about the grade level your child is and what they have been learning throughout this year. For example, third and fourth grade work with fractions. Have your child help you cook. Making cookies has whole numbers and fractions in teaspoons and cups. Two and one-fourth cups of flour is two whole cups and a fourth of

a cup. This is great practice for them to understand what a fraction is and if you halve or double your recipe, they will be adding or subtracting fractions.

Making crafts that include measuring is a great activity for any grade level. Not only can they practice fractions or the metric system, but they are learning how to measure something. For younger grades like Kindergarten through second grade can practice on number sense by sharing toys, sorting clothes or toys while they are cleaning their room, or sorting candy like M&M's. Ask

questions like, "how many more or less socks did you pick up compared to shirts? How many blue skittles compared to red skittles?" If they were to share toys or candy, "How would you fairly share half with a friend?" You could also play games with your children. Choose games that have money or dice, like The Game of Life, Monopoly, or Yahtzee.

Practicing math does not have to be boring, so you can enjoy your summer and practice math. If you want ideas, ask the school for help.

DP Class of 2025 - Making Memories



Special Memories



DENT-PHELPS R-III SCHOOL

27870 Highway C
Salem, MO 65560

Newsletter Editors:

Phone: 573-729-4680
Fax: 573-729-8644
Email: admin@dentphelps.k12.mo.us



*"Value, Empower, and Educate
Everyone, Everyday"*

*We're on the web!
www.dentphelps.k12.mo.us*

We Want Your Input...

We'd like to hear from you regarding our programs, schedules, yearly calendar, activities, etc. We value your opinion and want to make the best decisions possible in meeting the needs of our staff, students, and community.

Please email your comments and/or suggestions to:

admin@dentphelps.k12.mo.us

If you don't have access to a computer, feel free to drop us a note or give us a call.

If you would like to be placed on our newsletter mailing list, please call the office at 729-4680.

The Administration

Dent-Phelps R-3 School
27870 Highway C
Salem, MO 65560

