

Bobcat Bulletin

Volume VI, Issue 8

May 2026

Farewell Dent-Phelps R-III

Mrs. Victoria Brooker, Superintendent

When I was asked to provide a farewell article for the final newsletter this year, my first thought was all of the hardships I have endured through the years. My mind turned there because it is currently what I call MAPRYL – March, April, May which is one big blur in education. I thought of all of the state and federal requirements and their unfunded mandates, such as, minimum wage and teacher salary. I thought of the years where there was a shortfall in funding and the fact that while we are receiving the lottery money, public education is not getting a dime more than we were originally allocated, no matter how many lottery tickets you buy. My mind went to all of the heart-wrenching stories that you hear as an administrator – stories of abuse, severe neglect, and health issues of students that make you cry and are forever embedded in your soul. Then there was the lovely pandemic thrown in there, just to make things interesting. The buzz word from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education during the Covid years was “pivot”, meaning be flexible because things were changing on a daily basis. Honestly, it was more like a Sit-n-Spin. These thoughts took about ten minutes, and my reply for my farewell address was, “I had all I can stand. I can’t stand no more,” quoting Popeye.

Then I really started to reflect about my career at Dent-Phelps.

In the 24 years that I have been a part of this school, making my way from substitute teaching, to teacher, to principal, and finally, to superintendent for the last 15 years. I have done every job in this school, except drive a bus. Well, technically, I did drive a bus to move it out of the way, so I have done it all here. I firmly believe in leading by example and have never asked someone to do something that I haven’t done. I have poured heart and soul into our school, and the good has always outweighed the bad.

I have had the pleasure of watching students learn and grow from year to year—from preschool to adulthood. There are currently six members of the staff that were here as students, and three of them I have watched grow since preschool. Of the 52 staff members, I have had a hand in hiring 50 of them. The stories of the fun, the unbelievable moments, and the miracle of learning I could tell! There isn’t enough time or space in this article to recount them all. So instead, I will leave you with what I have learned over the years spent here.

* Preschool and Kindergarten teachers deserve the utmost respect by all. You also never know what they are going to say and you haven’t heard anything until you hear one (Mrs. Heithold) say, “No, we don’t lick the walls in the bathroom!”

* It is never too late to crawl. Crawling builds the connections between the left and right brain,

especially when it comes to reading.

* Reading is the most important thing you can do with a child. Without reading, nothing else can be mastered.

* Hold high expectations. Children will meet you where you expect them to be. If you hold your expectations high, they will strive to achieve where you know they can be.

* Everyone makes mistakes, not everyone can learn from their mistakes the first time.

* Children want to be heard, but they also need boundaries.

* The staff at Dent-Phelps is the best. They truly care about our students and want them to grow into the greatest people they can be.

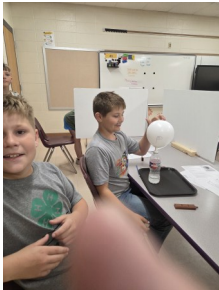
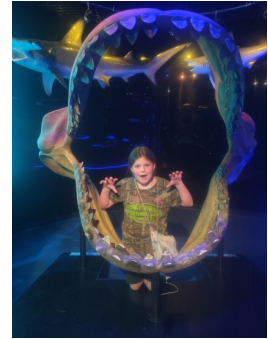
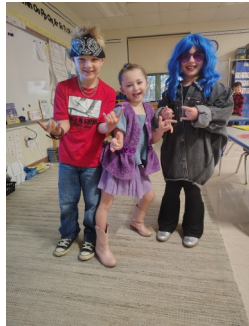
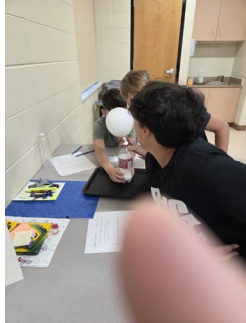
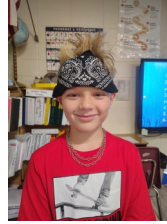
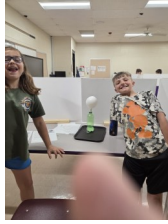
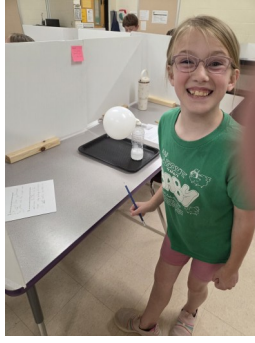
I have loved coming to work every, very long day. All 8,760 of them! I am going to miss each and every one of the students and staff! It is always a great day to be a Bobcat!!!!



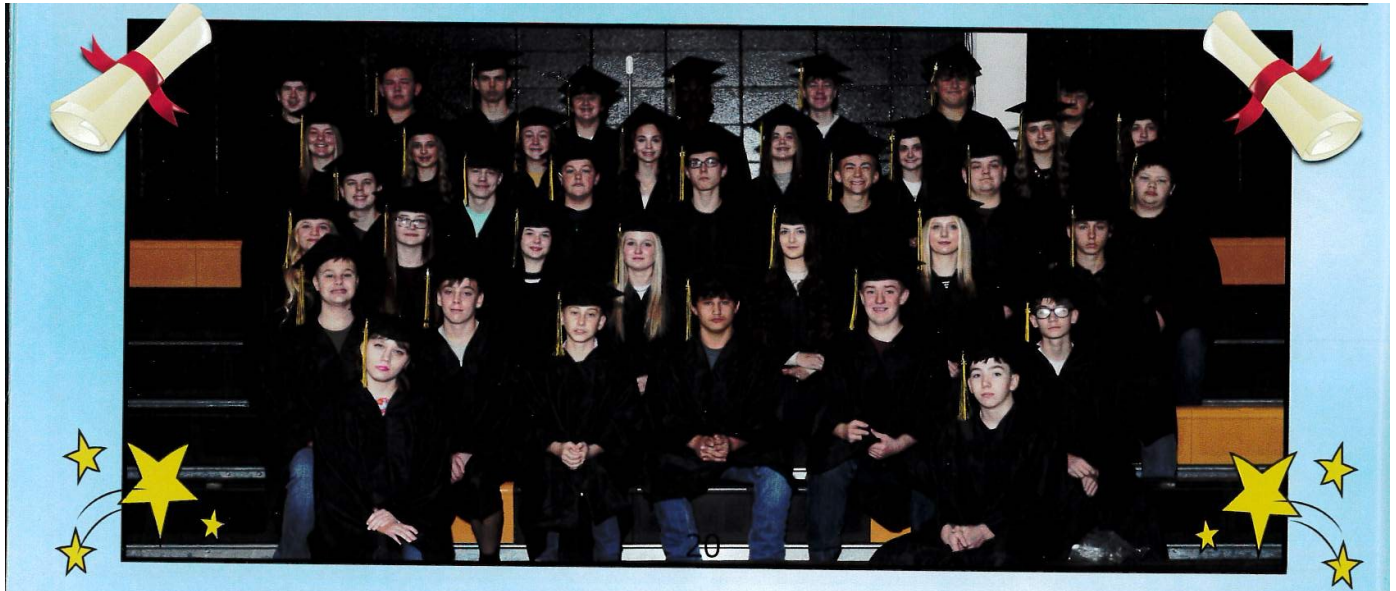
ABOVE
2011 - Mrs. Brooker's first year as Superintendent.



RIGHT
2026 - Mrs. Brooker's final year as Superintendent.



Congratulations DPR3 Class of 2026



Twenty-Eight Years of Dedication

By Mrs. Denise Polk

As retirement gets closer and closer, I find myself thinking, as I walk down the halls, when I pop in the conference room, about all the memories here. Twenty-eight years of memories that are coming to an end. Retirement is an exciting time in life, for sure, but I can't help but be a little sad, too. I think of all of the students who have made my

day by just a smile or a word in passing. All of the parents, friendly staff and supportive board members and superintendents who have made all the years something I can truly say have been a blessing and enjoyment.

Thank you to each and every one of you for your part! Dent-Phelps R3

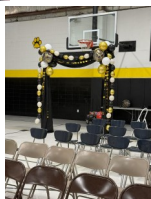
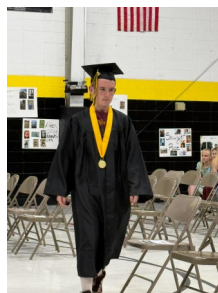
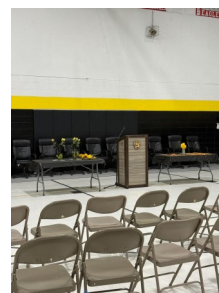
is truly the best and I'm proud to have been a Bobcat.



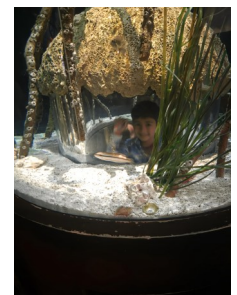
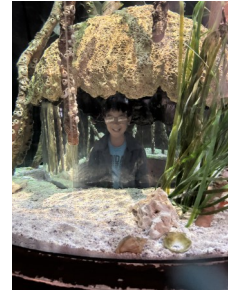
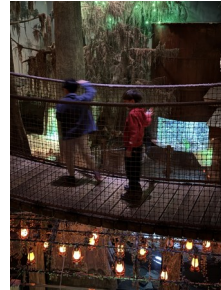
DPR3 Class of 2026 Making Memories



Congratulations!



2026 Field Trip Fun



Understanding Missouri's Dyslexia Law



Helpful information for families



1



What is dyslexia?

Dyslexia is a language-based learning difference that can affect reading, spelling, and writing. It is not a measure of intelligence.

2



What does Missouri law require?

- Missouri schools screen students in grades K-3 for characteristics of dyslexia.
- Students in grade 4 and above may also be screened if concerns are raised by a teacher or parent/guardian.
- Screening helps identify students who may need additional reading support as early as possible.
- Missouri also provides guidance for classroom support and dyslexia awareness.

3



Important to know

- A dyslexia screening is not a diagnosis.
- A formal diagnosis can only be made by a qualified professional.
- If a student is identified as at risk, the school provides targeted support and monitors progress.
- Parents are informed of screening results and next steps.

4



How families can help

- Read with your child regularly.
- Talk with your child's teacher if you have concerns about reading, spelling, or writing.
- Ask how the school is supporting your child and how you can help at home.



For more information, contact your child's teacher or school office.

Dent-Phelps R-III | 2026-2027 CALENDAR

AUGUST '26						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					4

12-13 CPR/CPI
17-21 -Teacher Workdays
26- First Day of School

FEBRUARY '27						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						
						18

12 - No School/Teacher PD Day
15 - No School/President's Day

SEPTEMBER '26						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			
						21

7 - No School/Labor Day

MARCH '27						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
						20

5 - 3rd Quarter Ends (46 Days)
29-2 - Spring Break

OCTOBER '26						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
						20

5 - No School-Teacher PD Day
16 - 1st Quarter Ends (34 Days)
19-22 - Parent/Teacher Conf.
23 - No School

APRIL '27						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	
						19

19- No School -Teacher PD Day

NOVEMBER '26						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
						15

20 -No School Teacher PD Day
23-27 - No School/Thanksgiving

MAY '27						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					15

21- Last Day of School
Early Dismissal/12:30
21 - 4th Quarter Ends (44 Days)
24-28-Teacher Workdays

DECEMBER '26						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
						14

18 - 2nd Quarter Ends (38 Days)
18 - Early Dismissal/12:30
21- Jan 4. - No School/Christmas Break

162 Days @ 6.95 = 1,125.9
2 Days @ 4.08 = 8.16
Total = 1134.06 Hrs.

180 contract days

Board Approved: February 19, 2026

JANUARY '27						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						18

4 -No School-Teacher PD Day
5 -School Resumes
18 -No School/MLK Day

INCLEMENT WEATHER DAYS- are built into the calendar, as the Dent-Phelps RIII district far exceeds the state minimum number of required hours. No days are expected to be added to the end of the calendar due to inclement weather

DENT-PHELPS R-III SCHOOL

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*"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

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