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To: Board of Education  
From: Dr. Mark Maus, Superintendent  
Re: Superintendent Update  
Date: October 16, 2024

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Members of the Board of Education,

Each month, there will be an update to the Board highlighting our work within our district and the community. Strong communication and partnerships are part of our strategic plan and essential to our work moving forward. Topics for this month will include:

- Staff and Student Recognitions
- Cohort Enrollment Update
- Superintendent Advisory Council
- Upcoming Community Event - "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown"

### **Student and Staff Recognition**

#### **EAB Highlights our Middle School Team:**

In the past year, EAB collaborated with our middle school to evaluate their attendance improvement initiatives. Working alongside Mr. Winterboer and Mr. Haynes, EAB shared findings from national research and explored the middle school team's strategies to mitigate absenteeism. The implementation of these strategies yielded immediate and sustained positive outcomes. Previously, over 20% of students did not meet the state's 90% attendance threshold. The middle school team successfully reduced this percentage by half within a year through a focused, collaborative effort.

#### **Middle School students attend Northland Youth Leadership Summit:**

On October 2, 2024, 16 Smithville Middle School students, along with STUCO Sponsors Lacey Boydston and Jenni Vanwinkle-Holmberg, attended the Northland Youth Leadership Summit. The event, themed "Unite and Ignite," featured keynote speaker Dr. Yvonne Harvey Williams. Students participated in workshops covering topics such as leadership, coping skills, substance use prevention, and social media safety. Thanks to a sponsorship from Community In Action, the entry fees for the students were fully covered, allowing them to engage in this impactful leadership experience.

Students who participated include:

|                   |   |                  |   |                 |   |
|-------------------|---|------------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Ava Nickell       | 7 | Josie Siler      | 7 | Twyla Duncan    | 8 |
| Bailey Meyer      | 7 | Kinley Corkill   | 7 | Wren Doubenmier | 8 |
| Briann Dickson    | 7 | Scarlett Sanders | 7 |                 |   |
| Brooklyn Brunker  | 7 | Molly Dunn       | 8 |                 |   |
| Brynley Twillegar | 7 | Benji DonJuan    | 8 |                 |   |
| Eden Roske        | 7 | Brecken Mitchell | 8 |                 |   |
| Gabe Tingler      | 7 | Ryce Maygora     | 8 |                 |   |



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### **Cohort Enrollment Update:**

The state of Missouri has developed a system where school districts submit their enrollment information on the last day of September for funding. This year, our total enrollment decreased by 19 students, which was anticipated based on the size of our graduating class of 245 students. Our incoming Kindergarten class size remains consistent at around 170 students, with three students joining our kindergarten classes since the September count date. Our student count of 2,497 students aligns with what the demographic study shared during the January Board Meeting and our internal tracking system predicted for this year's enrollment.

High School: -39  
Middle School: -28  
Eagle Heights: 30  
Horizon: 9  
Maple: 9

One unique aspect of this year was that we saw all of our growth at the elementary level. As a district, we traditionally add students at the secondary level. This is encouraging as we look at future enrollment trends and continue to meet with the city of Smithville on future developments.

While we anticipate being able to handle growth over the next couple of years, we will need to consider the impacts of future households being built in our community.

### **Upcoming Community Event: "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown"**

We are excited to celebrate the students' performance next week on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 7:00 in the production of "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown." Our students have been working tirelessly over the last several weeks to prepare for this performance, and we have worked with a variety of community organizations to provide tickets to the event. This will be a great way to engage our community and highlight our tremendous students!