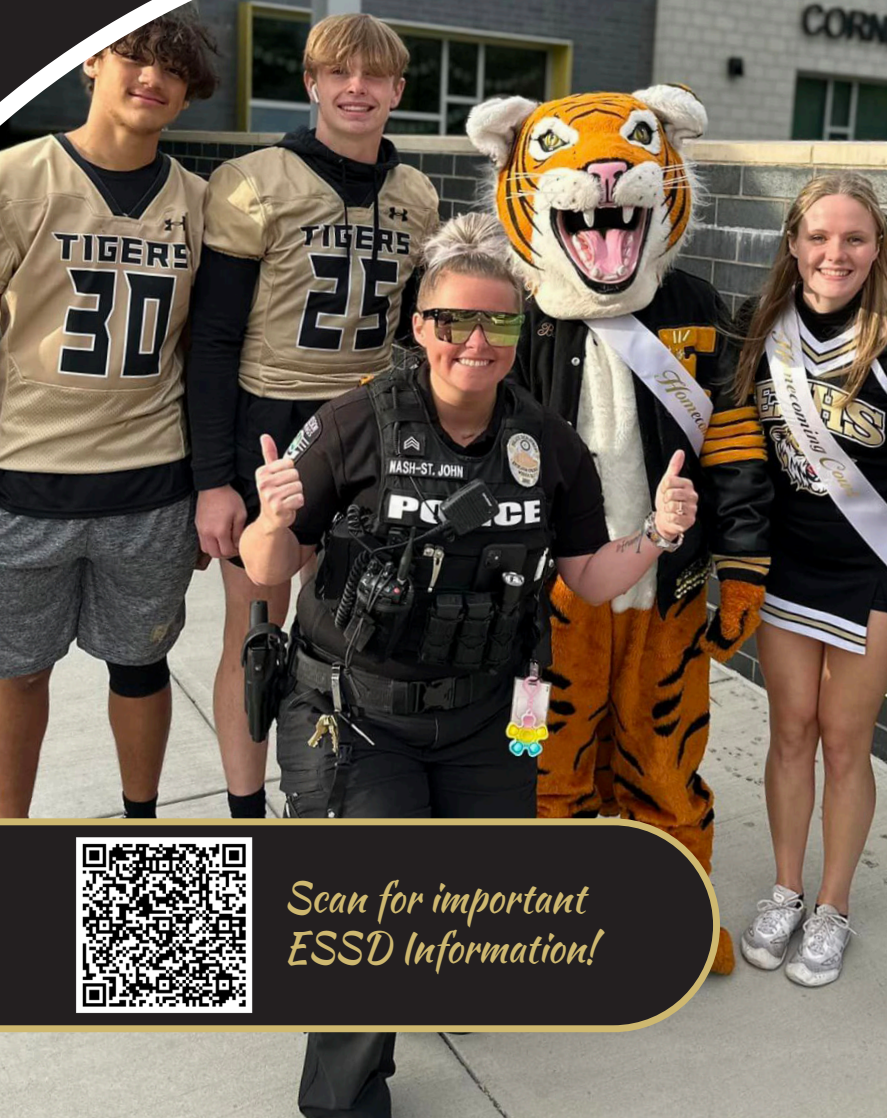




POUNCE

STRENGTHENING THE CONNECTION BETWEEN SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

Excelsior Springs School District Newsletter • November 2023



Scan for important
ESSD Information!



SCHOOL SAFETY IS A TOP PRIORITY FOR ESSD

At Excelsior Springs School District, the safety and well-being of our students and staff are our paramount priorities. We understand the importance of fostering an environment that is secure, supportive, and conducive to learning. To achieve this, we have implemented a comprehensive protocol for dealing with existing and potential student and school crises. Our approach is multi-faceted, encompassing prevention, mitigation, response, and recovery strategies.

Prevention and Mitigation:

A key aspect of our safety strategy is the encouragement of an open and vigilant community. We believe that every member—students, staff, and families—plays a vital role in maintaining a safe school environment. Prompt reporting of anything suspicious or out of the ordinary enables us to be proactive in preventing potential threats.

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Superintendent SPOTLIGHT

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you and your family in good health and high spirits. I wanted to take a moment to communicate with you about our shared commitment to providing the best educational experience for your children within Excelsior Springs School District.

The last few years have been marked by unprecedented challenges, from the global pandemic to the evolving landscape of education. Through these trials, your resilience and unwavering support for our students have been a source of inspiration for us. We are deeply grateful for your trust in our educational system, and we take our responsibilities seriously.

Our dedicated educators, staff, and administrators have been working tirelessly to ensure a safe and enriching learning environment. Furthermore, our curriculum is designed to meet the needs of each student, fostering their intellectual, emotional, and social growth. We strive to maintain high academic standards, engaging teaching methods, and individualized support, tailored to the unique needs and abilities of your child. Our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion remains unwavering, and we are dedicated to creating a supportive, inclusive environment where every student feels valued and respected.

Parent involvement is a cornerstone of our educational process, and we encourage you to stay connected with your child's teachers, attend school events, and participate in the Parent-Teacher Association. We believe that a strong partnership between home and school is essential for the success of our students.

In the coming months, we will continue to assess and adapt our approach as circumstances change. We will keep you informed of any updates and appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we navigate this dynamic situation together.

I want to assure you that we are always here to address any concerns or questions you may have. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our dedicated administrative team or your child's school if you need assistance or information.

Once again, I want to express my gratitude for entrusting your child's education to us. We are privileged to serve you and your children, and we remain committed to our shared goal of providing a high-quality education and a nurturing environment.

Let's continue to work together to ensure the best possible outcomes for our students.

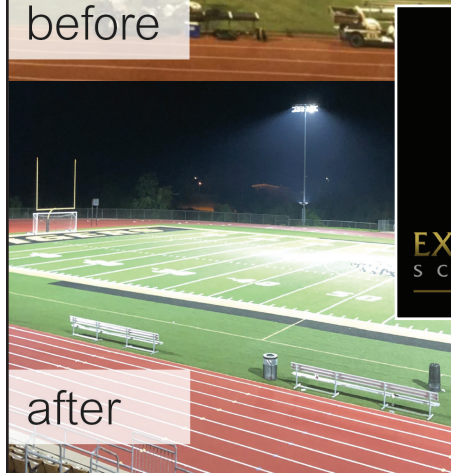
Sincerely,
Dr. Jaret Tomlinson
Superintendent of Schools



DR. JARET TOMLINSON



before



after

We appreciate your partnership, Excelsior Springs!

Excelsior Springs School District saves on energy costs and reinvests in schools district-wide over two-year partnership



EXCELSIOR SPRINGS
SCHOOL DISTRICT
Together, Achieving Excellence

- Football field lighting
- Interior & exterior LED lighting
- VoIP phones
- Mechanical upgrades
- Building automation system

se.com/us/enable

Life Is On

Schneider
Electric



ESSD is Committed to Maintaining a Safe and Secure Environment

continued from page 1

Response and Communication:

ESSD has a robust and well-coordinated response and recovery plan to ensure the safety of our students, staff, and the entire school community. Our commitment extends beyond prevention and mitigation, encompassing comprehensive strategies to respond effectively to a wide range of emergencies and to facilitate a swift recovery. An important component of our emergency plan is a set of interagency agreements with various county agencies to aid timely communication and help coordinate services between first responders and the District.

In line with this, we have implemented the following Safety & Security measures throughout the district:

Intruder Response Training:

All staff undergo annual training on intruder response facilitated by Navigate 360/ALICE, a third-party safety firm. This on-line training ensures that our staff is well-equipped to handle potential intruder situations effectively.

Safety Assessment:

In collaboration with first responders, ongoing safety assessments of our facilities are conducted. This partnership ensures that safety remains a primary focus in all aspects of our school infrastructure.

School Resource Officers:

Our trained Excelsior Springs School Police Officers serve as School Resource Officers stationed throughout the district. Their presence goes beyond emergency situations and extends to addressing day-to-day issues that might arise, fostering a sense of security among students and staff.

Camera System (over 300):

The district boasts an extensive camera

system covering both interior and exterior locations of all buildings. This surveillance system is a crucial tool in monitoring and responding to potential security threats. The Excelsior Springs Police Department has live access to our video surveillance, facilitating a seamless collaboration in the event of an emergency.

Digital Radios:

Staff members in every building are equipped with digital radios, enabling real-time communication for day-to-day operations as well as emergency situations.

Electronic Access Control:

Multiple doors at each location are equipped with Electronic Access Control, allowing for quick access into a building while maintaining closed, locked doors to ensure a single point of entry for non-employees.

Guided Entry & Safety/Security Vestibules:

All buildings feature a guided single point of entry and a safety/security vestibule, preventing unauthorized visitors from entering beyond the office area without permission.

RAPTOR Visitor Management System:

This system scans visitors against a database to identify individuals who should not be on school property, enhancing our ability to control access.

Police Training in Buildings:

Collaborative training sessions with the Excelsior Springs Police Department and Ray County Sheriff's department are conducted in various schools around the District, ensuring a coordinated response in case of emergencies.

Passive Surveillance Training:

Staff is trained to adopt a "See something,

Say something" approach, encouraging open communication about any concerns to ensure a swift response.

NIGHTLOCK System:

Intruder defense devices, NIGHTLOCK, are strategically placed in every school, serving as a redundancy for barricading doors during lockdown situations.

Classroom Emergency Kits: Soon to be implemented, emergency kits in classrooms will provide essential supplies for rendering aid during emergency situations.

Threat Assessment Matrix:

Administration staff conduct threat assessments on individuals to determine their propensity for harm. The matrix ensures a consistent and appropriate response.

Terrorism Threat Matrix:

Threats made to the District are assessed by Administration staff using a matrix to determine the level of threat, ensuring a consistent and appropriate response.

Communication Protocols:

Ensuring that students, staff, families, and patrons have accurate and timely information during an emergency is an important part of crisis prevention and response. The District issues emergency information via local media, social media, and the District's website.

Emergency Evacuation Plans:

Detailed evacuation plans are in place for each school building, considering various emergency scenarios. These plans are regularly reviewed and updated to address changing circumstances.

Raptor Alert / Drill Manager:

Raptor Drill Manager lets us schedule and track all of our drills throughout the District.



This Raptor Alert system allows for a silent, mobile panic alert technology that works on the devices your schools use every day and connects with hard-wired, wireless, and cellular networks. Raptor Alert expedites and streamlines emergency response by allowing users to initiate an alert directly through 911 and provide critical information to first responders, law enforcement, and campus personnel.

Collaboration with External Agencies:

We collaborate with external agencies, such as local hospitals and emergency services, to ensure a seamless transition from the initial response to the recovery phase.

Continuous Improvement:

We conduct thorough debriefings after each emergency to evaluate our response and identify areas for improvement. This commitment to continuous improvement ensures that our response strategies evolve to meet the dynamic nature of potential threats.

In summary, the Excelsior Springs School District is committed to maintaining a safe and secure environment for all. Our comprehensive approach to safety incorporates preventive measures, ongoing training, and collaborative partnerships with law enforcement. By working together, we can ensure that our schools remain places of learning, growth, and above all, safety.

Unlocking Success: The Vital Role of School Attendance

In the realm of education, attendance stands as a cornerstone, shaping the foundation for both students and teachers to progress hand in hand. Simply put, if students aren't in school, they can't learn, and when a significant number miss out, it creates a domino effect that hinders the progress of the entire class. Excelsior Springs School District recognizes this, aiming for an attendance rate above 90% to meet the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE) guidelines. As we delve into the importance of attendance, it's crucial to understand the real impact chronic absenteeism can have on a student's journey, affecting not just grades but the trajectory of their entire academic future. Let's explore the numbers that underscore the critical nature of showing up and actively participating in the educational experience.

WHY ATTENDANCE IS IMPORTANT:



Learning Happens At School!

If you're not at school, you can't learn. Simple as that.

Keeps Everyone On Track

When lots of students miss class, it slows everyone down. Teachers have to spend time catching up, and it affects how much everyone learns.



Connectedness

When students are at school, they feel connected to their classmates and teachers

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM - WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?



Definition

Missing a lot of school, more than 10% of the year, is called chronic absenteeism.

Impact On Reading

Just missing 2 days each month makes it tough to learn to read.



Signs Of Trouble

By 6th grade, missing a lot of school is a sign that someone might drop out of high school.

Behavior Takes A Hit

Poor attendance often goes hand-in-hand with behavioral issues.



ATTENDANCE PREDICTS SUCCESS!



9th Grade Matters

By 9th grade, attending school is a better clue about finishing high school than how well you did in 8th grade.

Life Skills

Regular attendance is an important life skill that will help your teen keep a job and graduate from college or technical school(s).



Soft Skills

Regular attendance is the precursor to the "soft skills" that you will continue to expect and require. Students who don't develop the habits associated with good attendance in the early years will find it difficult to develop them as adults.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF CHRONIC ABSENCE:



Reading Trouble

Only 17% of students who missed a lot in early grades read well by 3rd grade.

Graduation Odds

Every week missed in 9th grade makes it 25% less likely to graduate.



Graduation Link

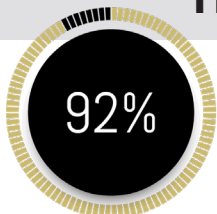
If you can't read well by 3rd grade, you're 4 times less likely to finish high school by age 19.

Long-Term Impact

Chronic absenteeism is correlated to increased rates of high school dropout, adverse health outcomes and poverty in adulthood, and an increased likelihood of interacting with the criminal justice system.



THE HARD NUMBERS FOR EXCELSIOR SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT (2022-23)



Overall Daily Attendance

It was good, at 92%. Nice!

18%

Chronic Absence Problem

Unfortunately, 18% of students (almost 500 kids!) missed over 10%, which is more than 16 days. That's a lot.

In Excelsior Springs School District, attendance was good overall at 92%, but almost 500 students missed a lot of school. This isn't just about numbers; it's about making sure every student gets a fair shot.

School attendance is not merely a bureaucratic

record-keeping exercise; it is a linchpin for individual and collective success in the educational journey. As a community, we need to keep pushing for better attendance, not just for the grades but for a better future for everyone.

Why Is Attendance Important To You?



"When I don't come to school, I feel behind because my classmates have moved on in math and reading and that makes learning feel more difficult." - Reagan A.

"We all need to be at school to learn each day and become successful."
- Reuben E.



"Being in class means you can get your voice out there and be heard" -Riley V.

"If you miss a day, your grades can go down, you can end up having to make up a lot of work. If you miss a test or even a unit, that's going to be really hard."-Noah D.,



"Attendance is especially important to me because I get to learn exquisite material and spend time with my loving, caring friends." -Carter B.

"Attendance is important to me because we kind of want to know who is here and not so we can learn as a whole class." -T Wagner



"Because I get an excellent education at Lewis."
-D Simpson

Student Spotlight

Why Do You Feel Safe At School?



"I feel safe at our school because we have a lot of security measures here. Our doors are always locked at all times and we are prepared because we do a lot of drills to practice safety." - Kinley E.

"Our teachers and staff." - Riley V.



"Our SRO Officer is always here to make us feel safe at school." - Lucas H.



"Mostly being surrounded by teachers who care about me and my friends. Everyone gives a lot of support." -Noah D,



"I feel safe at school because of the connection I have with my friends and teachers, who always have my back." - Elizabeth M.



"I feel safe at school because I have an adult that is always with me." -J Dickel



LEWIS ELEMENTARY EMBARKS ON A NEW CHAPTER



Exciting times are upon us as we embark on a transformative journey in education! Thanks to the unwavering support of our voters last spring, we are thrilled to announce the commencement of demolition and construction for the new Lewis Elementary school. This milestone marks a significant stride in our carefully planned Long Range Facilities Plan, underscoring our commitment to creating a thriving environment for our community, dedicated staff, and, most importantly, our beloved students.

Building a Better Future Together

The new Lewis Elementary is not merely a construction project; it is the next strategic move in our comprehensive plan to build a better future together as a united school district and community. This endeavor is a tes-

tament to our shared dedication to providing the best possible educational experience for the generations to come.

Enhancing the Learning Environment

At the heart of this project is the profound impact it will have on the learning environment for our Lewis Elementary students and staff. The new facility is meticulously designed to foster a dynamic, innovative, and supportive space, where every student can thrive academically and personally.

Revitalizing Our Downtown Community

The benefits of this construction extend far beyond the walls of our school. As we usher in a new era for Lewis Elementary, we also contribute to the revitalization of our

downtown community. A robust, modern school becomes a cornerstone for community development, enhancing the appeal and vitality of our shared spaces.

A Collective Vision Realized

This construction is not just about erecting a new building; it's about realizing a collective vision for a brighter, more inclusive educational landscape. We extend our deepest gratitude to our community for their steadfast support, making it possible for us to turn this vision into a reality.

As we witness the foundations being laid for the new Lewis Elementary, let us look forward to the day when our students and staff walk through the doors of a state-of-the-art facility, ready to embark on a journey of dis-



covery and growth. Together, we are shaping a future where excellence in education is at the forefront, and the benefits ripple through every corner of our community.

Thank you for being a crucial part of this exciting chapter in our school district's history.



ES Family Dentistry

Dr. Craven & Dr. Whitehead

ESFamilyDent.com

196 S. McCleary Rd., Excelsior Springs

816-630-5713



EXCELSIOR SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT
LEWIS ELEMENTARY

Tentative Timeline

- Steel Construction Assembly
October 2023
- Asphalt Parking Lots
November 2023
- Precast Wall(s) Set
December 2023
- Roofing
January 2024
- Finishes
April 2024
- Gym Equipment
June 2024
- Painting
October 2024
- Landscaping
Sept/October 2024



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SKYVUER IMAGERY • SEE MORE AT FACEBOOK.COM/SKYVUER



CURRENT STATUS AS OF OCTOBER 2024

GRIFFEY

INSURANCE AGENCY
100 YEARS SERVING YOU

The Griffey Family wishes you a great school year in your new and improved buildings!
We are happy to be your hometown agents!



210 South Street, Excelsior Springs | griffeyinsurance.com | 816-630-2671



**Inspire.
Empower.
Challenge.**

Keep up with the
School District at
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and ESSD40.com

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Always a Tiger!
Goooooo Tigers!

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