



# Connection

Missouri School for the Blind

## Mules on the Move: Class of 2017

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On Thursday, June 1st, the students, staff, and families of Missouri School for the Blind gathered to celebrate the graduating class of 2017. Retired MSB teacher and sports coach Mr. John Schrock gave the commencement address and the six graduates' diplomas were presented by MSB Board of Advisors President Mr. Phillip Hamilton. While one graduate, Mark Tasset, is leaving MSB, the other five have elected to return to campus next year for the LIFE (Learning Independence From Experience) program.

Valedictorian Jessica Johnson plans to attend the LIFE program and St. Louis Community College part-time. She is undecided on her career, but wants to attend a four-year college.

Salutatorian Damon Tyson wants to create, write and produce music for a living. He will attend the LIFE program and the Extreme Institute by Nelly part-time.

Lee Smith is undecided on his career but is interested in learning a trade, and will attend the LIFE program and St. Louis Community College part-time.

Heather Thaller wants to be a professional singer and hopes to audition at America's Got Talent. She would like to start a new job this summer, but will likely return in the fall for the LIFE program.

Ali Lyon will attend the LIFE program next year and may also attend some sort of training program.

MSB is so proud of her graduates and their accomplishments, and wishes them all luck on their future endeavors. As always, #MulesRule!



Above: Mr. John Schrock gives the commencement address



Above: Jessica Johnson gives the valedictorian address



Above: Damon Tyson gives the salutatorian address



## Capstone 2017: Mountain View & Hot Springs, Arkansas

Missouri School for the Blind is pleased to offer the MSB Capstone Project: A Core Curriculum Performance Event. MSB's Capstone Project is a year-long experiential project designed to help students develop the skills to manage and complete a multi-step, long-term project designed to transfer complex, abstract concepts taught in the classroom to the world beyond school.

From May 19th-25th, the Capstone group was in Arkansas to explore geology: the study of the earth, the materials that comprise the earth, the structure of those materials, and Earth processes. In short, geology is the study of how Earth's materials, structures, processes, and organisms have changed over time.

Each teacher-led team of students selected and researched a topic relevant to geology and worked to develop an understanding of the ways geologists study Earth's history, materials, structures, and processes and use that information to influence public policy, make predictions based on historic and/or scientific evidence, protect and preserve our environment and natural resources as well as impact future events. Students also looked into careers in geology and the employment outlook in that field or work.

Every day during the Capstone trip, the entire group would visit a location relevant to the day's topic. While there, the team assigned to the day's topic would give a presentation and then lead a discussion, experiments, and activities to help the rest of the Capstone group learn more about the subject. Following the presentation and discussion, the group would then explore the variety of unique geological formations at that day's location.



Research Topic: Structural Geology - the geology of caves and caverns  
Location: Blanchard Springs Caverns in Mountain View, Arkansas  
Team: Mr. Haley, Michael Johnson, Nautica Wheeler, Heather Thaller, Noelle Dobbs  
On-site Activity: guided Dripstone Tour of Blanchard Cave

# Destination Geology - Exploring our Environment

Research Topic: Orogeny - the study of the formation of mountains

Location: Pinnacle Mountain in Hot Springs, Arkansas

Team: Mrs. Popp, Kenia Cazares, Damon Tyson, Collin Clausner

On-site Activity: Hiking up Pinnacle Mountain or along Kingfisher Trail



Research Topic: Petrology - the geology of rocks and minerals

Location: Wegner's Quartz Crystal Mines in Mt. Ida, Arkansas

Team: Ms. Scherer, Jessica Johnson, Ali Lyon, Lee Smith, Nikki Cox

On-site Activity: Collect rocks and minerals in Wegner Mine tailings area

Research Topic: Hydrogeology - the study of the Earth's core and how it affects water

Location: Hot Springs National Park in Hot Springs, Arkansas

Team: Mrs. Arnold, James Rodgers, Khyllie Longmire, Dionna Townes, Lexi Kaibel

On-site Activity: Follow the Water tour of the Natural Systems within Hot Springs National Park



Research Topic: Geomorphology - the study of landforms and the processes that create them

Location: Lake Ouachita, Arkansas

Team: Ms. Oestricker, Chloe Deremiah, Zyshaun Cross-Williams, Jalan Leach

On-site Activity: Geofloat boat tour of Lake Ouachita geological features

# 4th Quarter Awards Recipients

## **Elementary (Ele)**

Nishaad Dean: Most Improved - Elementary Ele  
 Anastasia Gray: Outstanding Student - O&M and Ele  
 Vivian Helmig: Outstanding Student - Ele  
 Lucius Meyer: Most Improved - Ele  
 Robert Mull: Outstanding Student - Ele  
 Kadence Scott: Most Improved - Ele  
 Savanna Smith: Outstanding Student - Ele  
 Alli Wolk: Outstanding Student - Ele

### **Course Name Abbreviations**

Activities of Daily Living (ADL)  
 Assistive Technology (AT)  
 English Language Arts (ELA)  
 Family and Consumer Science (FACS)  
 Orientation and Mobility (O&M)  
 Physical Education (PE)



*Above: Asst. Superintendent Joy Waddell & Outstanding Student of the Year Nikki Cox*

## **Middle School (MS)**

Daegan Archie: Most Improved - O&M  
 Noelle Dobbs: Most Improved - MS; Outstanding Student - O&M  
 Charles Grady: Most Improved - MS  
 Jalan Leach: Most Improved - MS  
 Khylie Longmire: Outstanding Student - MS  
 Nicole Motley: Outstanding Student - O&M  
 Wayne Watson: Most Improved - MS

## **High School (HS)**

Sirria Brooks: Most Improved - Science  
 Shelby Burchett: Most Improved - PE and ADL; Outstanding Student - Math  
 Collin Clausner: Outstanding Student - AT and ADL; Most Improved - Art and Braille  
 Zyshaun Cross-Williams: Outstanding Student - Braille and PE  
 Nikki Cox: Outstanding Student of the Year; Outstanding Student - Math; Most Improved - ADL  
 Chloe Deremiah: Most Improved - Social Studies, Science, PE and O&M  
 Jessica Johnson: Outstanding Student - Science; Most Improved - Careers and Music  
 Lexi Kaibel: Outstanding Student - Spanish and Social Studies  
 Ali Lyon: Most Improved - Computers; Outstanding Student - Art  
 Alison Miller: Outstanding Student - ELA; Most Improved - Social Studies  
 James Rodgers: Most Improved - FACS  
 Kiwan Sanders: Outstanding Student - PE, Music, Social Studies, and Science  
 Lee Smith: Most Improved - Math and ELA; Outstanding Student - O&M  
 Mark Tasset: Most Improved - Math  
 Heather Thaller: Outstanding Student - Computers; Most Improved - O&M  
 Dionna Towns: Most Improved - AT; Outstanding Student - FACS  
 Damon Tyson: Outstanding Student - ELA and Careers  
 Tyrone White: Most Improved - ELA

## **Learning Independence From Experience (LIFE)**

Kenia Cazares: Most Improved - Work Experience  
 Michael Johnson: Outstanding Student - Work Experience  
 Nautica Wheeler: Outstanding Student - O&M; Most Improved - LIFE

# Prom 2017

The Junior and Senior classes of MSB held their annual prom at Genesis Banquet Center in St. Louis on Thursday, May 11th. Students were treated with a ride to the dance on a “partybus” limo, which first took them to the Grand Basin at Forest Park for a beautiful photo opportunity. Once at Genesis Banquet Center, Prom attendees enjoyed a delicious dinner, heard Junior class representatives give humorous Prophecy speeches for the Senior class members, and danced the night away. Everyone had a great time!



Above: Prom attendees on the partybus limo to Prom



Above: Prom attendees stopped for photos at Forest Park



Above: Juniors Collin Clausner & Nikki Cox were crowned Prom King & Queen

# Earth Day Celebration

The MSB Mule celebrated Earth Day on Thursday, April 13th with a trip to St. Louis Zoo, Fenton City Park, and World Bird Sanctuary. At the Zoo, ungraded and elementary students took a guided tour, visited the petting zoo and rode the train around the zoo grounds.

At Fenton City Park, students enjoyed a cookout, beepball, frisbee golf and bike riding. This was the first time MSB’s custom-made seven passenger bike was used off campus, and the Mules loved being able to have so many people ride with just one sighted driver. The bike was a big hit at the park, and MSB staff and students even took a Fenton City police officer for a ride!

The World Bird Sanctuary in St. Louis County was the last stop of the day; the Mules strolled the sanctuary grounds, learned about different kinds of birds and even spoke with an expert in wild bird conservation, rescue and rehabilitation. The day was full of fun and different ways to learn about nature and celebrate Earth Day!



Above: MSB students observing birds at World Bird Sanctuary



Above: MSB students petting goats at St. Louis Zoo petting zoo



Above: MSB students ride the seven passenger bike in Fenton City Park

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## MSB CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July	
10	Summer Exploratory Session I & IA begins
17	Summer Exploratory Session IB begins
21	Summer Exploratory Session I ends
24	Summer Exploratory Session 2 begins
August	
3	Summer Exploratory Session 2 ends
21	First Day of School
September	
4	Labor Day - No School
15	Track & Field @ Tenn.
21	Eberhardt Track Meet @ Ill.
29	Track & Field @ Ill.

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