



# Connection

Missouri School for the Blind

## Grunig wins Outstanding Wrestler NCASB Award

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MSB SUPPORTS



For the first time in thirteen years, an MSB wrestler returned home with the Outstanding Wrestler Award from the North Central Association of Schools for the Blind (NCASB) Conference wrestling and cheer meet. Neil Grunig, an 8th grader at MSB, won both the Outstanding wrestler award and 1st place in the 106-pound weight class on January 20, 2018, at Wisconsin School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. The last MSB wrestler to win the Outstanding Wrestler award was Darwin May in the 2003-04 season.



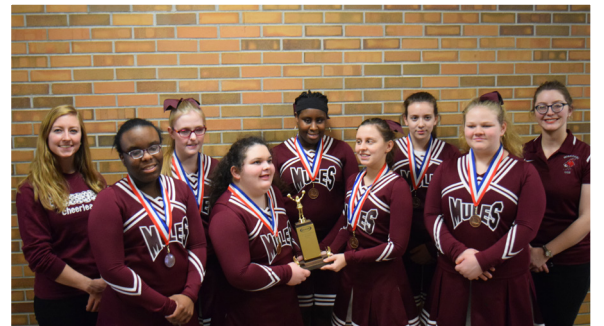
Above: Grunig with Outstanding Wrestler trophy

Not only is this Neil's first season on the MSB team, this NCASB conference meet is only his second time ever wrestling. He enrolled at MSB just this past December, midway through the wrestling season, and had only been to one meet, in Indiana, in which he lost his match. Following that experience, Neil worked hard in practice to develop the skills he would soon use to amaze the coaches, athletic directors and other wrestlers at the NCASB conference meet. Every year, the Outstanding Wrestler recipient is chosen through a vote by wrestling coaches from all the conference schools attending the meet. Each team can nominate up to three wrestlers from any NCASB school for the award, and the wrestler with the most votes wins. Neil's abrupt success at the NCASB meet impressed so many coaches that he won the majority of the votes this year.

Furthermore, Neil's success contributed to the MSB wrestling team winning 2nd place overall. In addition to Neil's win, his teammates all placed as well. Nicole Motley and Kiwan Sanders took 1st and 2nd respectively in their weight class, Malikye Baston, took 3rd in his weight class, and Chloe Deremiah took 6th in her weight class. The cheer team also competed at this meet and won 4th in the team competition, with Nautica Wheeler placing 5th in the Outstanding Cheerleader contest.



Above: Wrestling team with 2nd Place trophy



Above: Cheer team with 4th Place trophy

## 2nd Quarter/1st Semester Awards

On January 10th, MSB celebrated students' academic and athletic achievements in the 2nd Quarter/1st Semester Awards Ceremony, followed by Quizbowl Finals. The following students earned their respective awards:

### Honor Roll

Malikye Baston  
 Sirria Brooks  
 Shelby Burchett  
 Nicole Cox  
 Chloe Deremiah  
 Noelle Dobbs  
 Charles Grady  
 Anastasia Gray  
 Lexi Kaibel  
 Thomas Limbach  
 Khylie Longmire  
 Alison Miller  
 Nicole Motley  
 Robert Mull  
 Kiwan Sanders  
 Savanna Smith  
 Dionna Towns  
 Allie Wolk

### M.U.L.E.S.

Daegan Archie  
 Kenia Cazares  
 Nishaad Dean  
 Hunter Hall  
 Vivian Helmig  
 Jessica Johnson  
 Michael Johnson  
 Ali Lyon  
 Lucius Meyer  
 Kelton Ramsey  
 Kadence Scott  
 Heather Thaller  
 Damon Tyson  
 Wayne Watson  
 Nautica Wheeler  
 Tyrone White

### Scholar Athlete

Malikye Baston  
 Nicole Cox  
 Thomas Limbach  
 Khylie Longmire  
 Nicole Motley  
 Kiwan Sanders  
 Dionna Towns



*Above: Students stand to be recognized for their Honor Roll awards*



*Above: Students Dionna & Kiwan present Asst. Supt. Joy Waddell with 3rd place boys and 4th place girls goalball trophies*



*Above: Students stand to be recognized for their Scholar Athlete awards*



*Right and Left: Students in the Quizbowl Finals*



## Counselor's Corner

with Andrea Barnes, School Counselor



*Left: David Hertweck describes to students a device he designed for Bausch & Lomb*



*Right: Renee Dingman talks to students about what to expect in college*

This year, MSB middle and high school students are experiencing the brand-new MSB Speaker Series. In November, David Hertweck, Principal Engineer at Bausch & Lomb, spoke about the hard work and obstacles he tackled as a person with visual impairment throughout his journey to a full-time job he values and enjoys. In January, the students heard from Renee Dingman, a Specialist in the ACCESS Office from St. Louis Community College, Forest Park. Her message was informative and inspiring as she discussed the accommodations and support students with disabilities might receive in college. In April, we will conclude this year's speaker series with a talk on Independent Living. With each speaker it is our hope that our students at MSB can learn more about available resources and find a new sense of confidence in their goals for their future.

### MSB celebrates Christmas Extravaganza

On Thursday, December 21st, MSB celebrated our annual Christmas Extravaganza with staff, students, family, community members and special guests from the West St. Louis County Lions Club, First Capitol Lions Club, Maplewood Lions Club, and United Workers for the Blind. Lions Club and UWB members brought many gifts to donate to MSB students, and our students performed a wonderful Christmas program for our guests and families. Thank you to everyone who helped make the holidays the most wonderful time of the year!

Below: MSB students put on a skit for MSB's guests



Below: MSB students put on a musical performance for MSB's guests



Below: Vivian Helmig opens her gifts with friends and family



Right: Allie Wolk opens her gifts with friends and family



Left: Heather Thaller opens her gifts with friends and family



### MSB Sr. Beta Club wins 3rd at MO state convention

The MSB Sr. Beta Club placed 3rd in Club Trading Pin category and will represent Missouri at the National BETA Convention in Georgia this June! The club also competed in various arts and crafts, academic and oratory, and talent contests.

Below: Group talent participants, left to right: Khylie Longmire, Chloe Deremiah & Nicole Motley



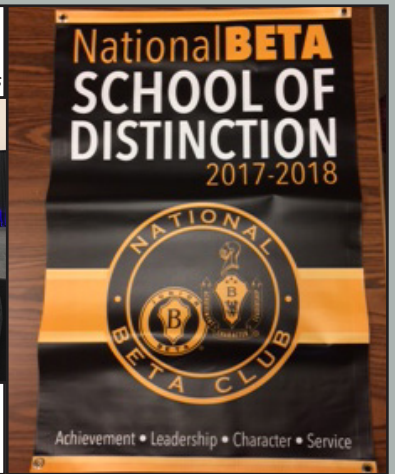
Right: The MSB Beta banner, designed and created by the Club members



Below: Pin designers holding 3rd place plaque. Left to right: Khylie Longmire, Nikki Cox, Nikki Motley & Dionna Towns



Right: MSB National Beta School of Distinction banner for 2017-2018, 4th year in a row



For the fourth year in a row, MSB has been named a National Beta School of Distinction by the National Beta Club. To earn this honor, the MSB Beta Club chapter grew its membership by at least 10% from the previous year. By increasing involvement in Beta, MSB provides a path for improved academic performance and character development in our school. MSB Beta is the only Beta Club chapter in the nation at a school for the blind and visually impaired.

## MSB Wrestling and Cheer bring home Trophies from Conference

On January 20, MSB attended the annual NCASB wrestling & cheer conference meet at the Wisconsin School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. The Mules gave an impressive performance in both cheer and wrestling and returned home 2nd place in wrestling and 4th place in cheer.



Above: Nicole Motley and Kiwan Sanders show off their 1st & 2nd place awards



Above: The cheer team shows off their 4th place team awards



Above: The wrestling team shows off their 2nd place team and individual awards



Above: Neil Grunig shows off his 1st place award

## MSB hosts Goalball conference, Mules take 3rd and 4th Place

The MSB Mules played host to the 2017 NCASB Goalball conference meet November 3-5. The girls team took 4th place and the boys took 3rd. Boys' tournament results: Wisconsin, 1st place; Illinois, 2nd place; Missouri, 3rd place; Tennessee, 4th place. Girls' tournament results: Illinois, 1st place; Indiana, 2nd place; Iowa, 3rd place, Missouri, 4th place.



Above: Illinois girls show off their 1st place awards



Above: MSB's 3rd & 4th place goalball trophies



Above: Wisconsin boys show off their 1st place awards



Above: Iowa girls show off their 3rd place awards



Above: Indiana girls show off their 2nd place awards



Above: Missouri boys show off their 3rd place awards



Above: Indiana boys show off their 5th place awards

## Special Olympics Bowling Tournament

The MSB Mules traveled to Show Me Lanes in St. Louis to compete in the Special Olympics Bowling Tournament on Tuesday, January 9. Ali Lyon, Charles Grady and Alison Miller all won gold medals, while Kiwan Sanders won bronze.



Above: Alison Miller bowling



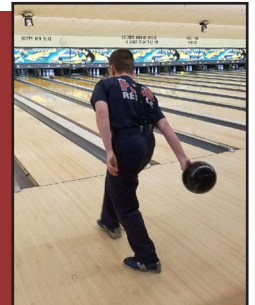
Above: Kiwan Sanders bowling



Above: The MSB Mules showing off their individual bowling awards



Above: Ali Lyon bowling



Above: Charles Grady bowling

# Residence Life



*Above and below: MSB students and staff enjoy an exciting evening of dinner, a musical production and other Christmas fun with the Meramec Arnold Elks Lodge 2372.*



## Outreach

### **Interaction: Communication and Emerging Language for Students with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss and Multiple Impairments Workshop**

The Missouri Deafblind Technical Assistance Project is sponsoring this one-day workshop (at no charge for participants) on the effective teaching strategies for connecting with others throughout the day. Topics include human connectedness, significant emotional states, tactile learner's perspective, language versus communication, and informal functional hearing evaluation process. Presenter: Chris Montgomery, Education Consultant Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and co-author of *Informal Functional Hearing Evaluation*, published by Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Intended audience: Teachers, administrators, speech language therapists, paraprofessionals, and parents of students with combined vision and hearing loss.

Date: March 6, 2018

Time: 8:30 am – 3:30 pm

Location: Stoney Creek Inn, 2601 South Providence Road, Columbia, MO 65203

Contact: Susan Bonner, (314) 633-1553 or [susan.bonner@msb.deese.mo.gov](mailto:susan.bonner@msb.deese.mo.gov)

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Missouri School for the Blind

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Visit <https://msb.deese.mo.gov/outreach-services/pro-development.html> for more information.

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**Calendar of Events****February**

14	Braille Challenge & Academic Challenge
16	No School in observance of Lincoln Day
19	No School - Presidents' Day
20	Senior & Team Pictures

**March**

7	Picture Retake Day
8-11	Jr. Beta in Poplar Bluff, MO
16-17	Swim & Forensics in Tennessee
18	MSB Open House, 4:00-8:00 p.m.
20	3rd Quarter Ends
21	4th Quarter Begins
22	Swim & Forensics in Illinois
23	3rd Quarter Awards & QuizBowl Finals

**April**

2-6	Spring Break - No School
12	Swim & Forensics in Indiana
19	Earth Day Celebration
25	MSB Speaker Series: Planning to Live on Your Own
27	Swim & Forensics conference meet in Ohio

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