



MULE EXPRESS

MISSOURI SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

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MSB Hosts MO Regional Braille Challenge

On Feb. 13, students from all over the St. Louis area came to MSB for the annual Missouri Regional Braille Challenge. Twenty-five students competed at this year's Missouri Regional Braille Challenge, and eight MSB students placed in their respective divisions. Top winners from regional competitions go on to compete at the National Braille Challenge in Los Angeles this June.

The Braille Challenge is unique academic competition in which any blind or visually impaired student in grades 1–12 who can read and write braille is eligible to participate. Contestants are divided into categories and tested on fundamental braille skills such as reading comprehension, spelling, speed and accuracy, proofreading, and charts and graphs. Contests are proctored by volunteer teachers of the visually impaired and scored locally by volunteer transcribers, based on national guidelines.

All students can compete in the preliminary Braille Challenge events, but only the top 50 students (10 in each category) with the highest scores are invited to Los Angeles for the final round in June for two days of competition and fun!



Above: Braille Challenge participants gather before the start of competition for a group photo

Missouri Regional Braille Challenge winners:

Apprentice Group 1
1st: Cheston Wilson

Apprentice Group 2
1st: Svetlana Ehlers
2nd: Nicole Motley
3rd: Alison Miller

Apprentice Group 3
1st: Kiwan Sanders
2nd: Charles Grady

Honorable Mention: Gage Hendricks

Freshman Group 1
1st: Luke McKeon
2nd: Shianne Ramsey
3rd: Addison Mara
HM: Carter Clay & Olivia Wright

Freshman Group 2
1st: Mary Hefty
2nd: Hannah Tracy
3rd: Malikye Baston
HM: Thomas Limbach

Sophomore
1st: Tyler grove
2nd: Allie Wolk

Junior Varsity
1st: Holly Connor
2nd: Kailey Couch
3rd: Richard Tienter
HM: Claire Wright

Varsity Level
1st: Sam Doman
2nd: Lydia Olmstead
3rd: Alexis Kaibel
HM: Chloe Deremiah & Seyoon Choi

3rd Quarter Awards Recipients

Honor Roll

Malikye Baston
Sirria Brooks
Nathan Brown
Mia Bussell
Chloe Deremiah
Noelle Dobbs

Trinae Edwards
Rylea Gammon
Charles Grady
Anastasia Gray
Neil Grunig
Alexis Kaibel

Jalan Leach
Thomas Limbach
Khylie Longmire
Daniel Matheny
Alison Miller
Nicole Motley

Robert Mull
Ravin Roper
Kiwana Sanders
Savanna Smith
Allie Wolk

M.U.L.E.S.

(Moving Up, Learning Experience & Skills)

Shelby Burchett
Nishaad Dean
Sveta Ehlers
Leigah Friend
Hunter Hall
Vivan Helmig

Lucius Meyer
Kelton Ramsey
Dionna Towns
Wayne Watson
Logan Wilson

Scholar Athlete

(Both played a sport and made Honor Roll)

Malikye Baston
Mia Bussell
Chloe
Deremiah
Noelle Dobbs
Rylea Gammon

Anastasia Gray
Neil Grunig
Lexi Kaibel
Thomas Limbach

Khylie Longmire
Nicole Motley
Ravin Roper
Kiwana Sanders

Mules Learn about Careers in Career Awareness Week & Fair

The MSB Mules have completed yet another exploration of career options in the 3rd Annual Career Awareness Week and Fair! This year, groups explored the career paths nature, creative, helping, business, and fixing, building and technology. During Career Awareness Week, each group was assigned a career path and chose an interesting career within that path and conducted research necessary to compile a poster display and oral presentation at the Career Awareness Fair. The poster displays and oral presentations were judged and scored by a panel of MSB teachers and administrators, and the top groups are awarded first, second and third place based on their respective scores. The first place group presented social media manager, the second place group presented personal and home care aid, and the third place group presented the career of teaching. Congratulations to all the groups on their excellent research and presentations!



Above: The social media manager group presents their first-place blue ribbons



Above: The personal and home care aid group presents their second-place red ribbons



Above: The teacher group presents their third-place white ribbons

OUTREACH

MSB Outreach hosted the annual Vision Inservice in America (VIISA) Conference in March 2019 in Chesterfield. The VIISA Project is from the SKI Hi Institute at Utah State University, and provides resources for family-centered interventions for infants, toddlers and preschoolers who are visually impaired. Through the training, participants obtain useful information for hands-on resources for working with children who are visually impaired and with additional disabilities, including deafblind. The VIISA participants from across the state learned from and collaborated, and truly enjoyed coming together while learning.

During VIISA, MSB Outreach added Missouri and MSB-themed pins to a colorful scarf from The National Center on Deaf-Blindness. The scarf has traveled all over North America and is decorated with pins from all of its stops, and it represents that we are all interwoven in the field of deafblindness. The scarf added nicely to the VIISA inservice and was a wonderful way for to celebrate inclusiveness and the successful completion of our training.



Above: VIISA participants pose for a group photo wearing their vision occluders

Below: VIISA participants hold up the scarf that represents that we are all interwoven in the field of deafblindness



Counselor's Corner

with **Melissa Lampe,**
School Counselor

Happy spring time! The days are getting longer, the weather is becoming warmer, flowers are beginning to bloom, and state testing takes over the first two weeks of May! Students can become nervous and

anxious and may need extra encouragement and support during testing time. Below are some ways to help your child.

1. Talk to your child about the testing and how they feel about it. If they're fine, move on. If your child is jittery, let them know that testing is a way for the school to understand what they know and how to help them.
 2. Encourage your child to get to bed on time as much as possible.
 3. Plan fun weekend activities to celebrate hard work during testing.
 4. Encourage relaxing as much as possibly in the evening.
 5. Encourage healthy eating; it is important or students to have good meals, especially during testing.
 6. If your child is feeling stressed or anxious at school, remind them that they can talk to a teacher or the school counselor.
- Good luck to everyone!

The above information taken from Scholastic Parents "How to Beat Test Stress"

Superintendent:
Geoffrey Barney

Assistant Superintendent:
Joyce Waddell

**Clinical, Ancillary & Residential
Services (CARS):**
Marsha Bryant

Outreach Services:
Jane Herder

Business Operations:
William Runzo

Human Resources:
Karen Burkhead

Community Relations:
Carlie Lee

MSB Calendar of Events

April	
11	Swim (only) @ Indiana
1	Maplewood Lions Club VIP Talent Show @ MSB
18	Earth Day Celebration
22-26	Spring Break - No School
May	
2	Prom, 6:00 PM @ Genesis Banquet Center
3-4	Swim & Forensics @ Indiana
5	NFB & USABA Blind Sports Day @ MSB
13	Truman Holiday Observed - NO SCHOOL
17-23	Capstone Program trip to Boston
27	Memorial Day - NO SCHOOL
30	11AM Awards Ceremony; 7PM Commencement @ MSB
31	Last Day of School, Early Dismissal @ 1PM



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