



## MALVERN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Home of Leopards

“Where PASSION, PRIDE, & EXCELLENCE are expected.”

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### September 2020

The district had a positive start to the 2020-2021 school year! Considering our current health situation, directives, and precautions that we have to conduct, things across the district are running smoothly and our students are performing/conforming well. I know all districts constantly have to review, adjust, and make things better for their students, but I am proud of the work our staff and students are doing as we continue to move through this pandemic and school year. I ask that we all continue to be patient and flexible as we work through these uncharted waters. The district is remaining focused on our PASSION for our students learning, our PRIDE of being a LEOPARD, and continuing to provide opportunities of EXCELLENCE for our students as we work through all the modifications we will be experiencing!

The district will be conducting “Students of the Month” next month. We normally recognize our “Students of the Month” at our monthly board meetings, but we are going to have to make some adjustments with how we recognize these students on a monthly basis until the pandemic directives are lifted. Additional details will be shared and announced soon with students, parents, and the community.

Last month, we had several staff members who were recognized by the Malvern Daily Record as “Best in the County” in their educational positions. Below is a list of our staff members who were awarded by the MDR. Congratulations to all these recipients!

Best High School Administrator – Jennifer Shnaekel  
Best Middle School Teacher – Claudine James  
Best Middle School Administrator (Runner Up) – Velda Keeney  
Best Middle School Teacher (Runner Up) – Brittany Jobe  
Best Elementary Administrator (Runner Up) – Meredith McCormack  
Best Elementary Teacher (Runner Up) – Holly Killackey  
Best Elementary School Employee – Brandi Smith

Another celebration for the district is the newly renovated high school campus! It has turned out to be even more beautiful than expected! We still have a few more details to finish, but within the next month or so, we should have the entire building completed. I want to thank Mrs. Shnaekel and her staff for their patience and assistance during the construction. Their hard work and effort is greatly appreciated! We will look to do a virtual format or formal grand opening depending on the directives when all construction and furniture installation is completed. I know many people have expressed excitement and interest in seeing the new facility.

Congratulations to Malvern Elementary for being selected to participate in the STEM+C2 Project! The STEM+C2 Project is a five-year, \$2.5 million project funded by the US Department of Education’s Jacob Javits Gifted and Talented program. The project is based in the Jodie Mahony Center at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and partners with Duke University Talent Identification Program. The selection process considered factors including support from administration, classroom teachers, and Gifted and Talented specialists. Malvern

Elementary was one of 20 schools across the state of Arkansas to be selected. Congratulations to MES!

September is Hispanic Heritage Month across the nation! Our staff will be working with Ms. Claudine James, MSD district cultural liaison, on several ideas to integrate historical and celebratory ideas into our staff's lesson plans for this month. I am sure parents and community members will see some of these assignments via social media over the month of September.

This week will mark our first home football of the 2020 season. The district is excited for our students on the football team, cheer, JROTC, and band to be able to participate, but we are required to make special accommodations due to ADH directives for activity events. The number of tickets sold cannot exceed 66% of our total capacity at Claude Mann Stadium. Faculty passes, student-athlete passes, Legacy seat passes, box seat passes, and AAA passes (until we reach capacity) will be honored. All other ticket availability will be pre-sold through the athletic department. A portion of those remaining tickets will be pre-sold to our visitors. Anyone not having a district pass will need to contact Sarah Robinson by email ([srobinson@malvernleopards.org](mailto:srobinson@malvernleopards.org)) or by phone at 501-267-6053 or 501-332-7500 to obtain a ticket. We will also keep the public informed by social media of the number of tickets remaining for each game. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Robinson for further details. Please know the stadium seating will be marked off for social distancing requirements, only family units will be allowed to sit together, and everyone in attendance will be required to wear a facial covering. Any student 4<sup>th</sup> grade or younger will be required to enter the game with an adult. The Leopard Center plaza area will be for traffic only to the restrooms or the concession stand. The plaza area has been utilized for eating and standing in the past, but due to our current restrictions, we will not be able to allow a standing crowd in the plaza area.

The athletic department will not be pre-selling tickets for the volleyball games this season due to the large capacity of the Leopard Center. All tickets can be purchased at the gate, and all district/AAA passes will be accepted. If any directives or restrictions were to develop, we will communicate those through our social media outlets as soon as we receive notification. Please help us keep our season going for our students by adhering to the listed requirements. We look forward to seeing you at the events!

As always, thank you for your continued support of our district!  
Brian Golden, Superintendent  
Malvern School District