



POUNCE

STRENGTHENING THE CONNECTION BETWEEN SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

Excelsior Springs School District Newsletter • March 2024



*We've made it
past 100 days
of school!*

EXCELSIOR SPRINGS WELCOMES ACCESSIBLE, QUALITY, COMPREHENSIVE HEALTHCARE TO OUR COMMUNITY



Swope Health KidsCARE Excelsior Springs, a clinic that was developed through partnership between the Excelsior Springs School District, Swope Health and Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) Head Start, is open for our children and families.

Conveniently located inside the Excelsior Springs Early Childhood Center (500 N. Jesse James Rd.), the clinic offers comprehensive medi-

cal and dental services for any student enrolled in the district, as well as for their siblings. Appointments are available Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Swope Health is staffed by board-certified pediatrician Dr. Kenneth Thomas; registered dental

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*Scan for important
ESSD Information!*

Superintendent Spotlight

CELEBRATING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT: *The Power of Reading at Home*



Dr. Jaret Tomlinson

In the journey of education, few things are as transformative as fostering a love for reading. As we celebrate the achievements of our students, it's essential to recognize the significant role that reading at home plays in their success. In recent months, we've witnessed remarkable strides in student achievement, and behind every milestone lies a story of dedication,

curiosity, and the joy of reading nurtured at home.

Research consistently shows that students who read at home not only perform better academically but also develop stronger cognitive skills, critical thinking abilities, and enhanced empathy. This invaluable habit is not solely nurtured within the walls of our schools but is profoundly influenced by the environments our students inhabit outside of them. Whether it's bedtime stories shared with parents, exploring new worlds through a favorite series, or engaging in independent reading adventures, the moments spent with books at home are invaluable.

In our community, we've seen firsthand the impact of prioritizing reading at home. Students who once struggled with literacy have blossomed into confident readers,

eagerly devouring new books and exploring diverse genres. The support and encouragement provided by families have been instrumental in this journey. From setting aside dedicated reading time to engaging in discussions about characters and plotlines, parents and guardians have become partners in fostering a lifelong love for reading.

As educators, it's crucial for us to continue championing the importance of reading at home. By providing families with resources, recommendations, and ongoing support, we can cultivate a culture where reading is not seen as a chore but as a source of joy and enrichment. Together, let's celebrate the achievements of our students and recommit ourselves to nurturing a love for reading that will illuminate their paths toward success, both in and out of the classroom.

READING RESOURCES



Mid-Continent Public Library
1460 Kearney Road, Excelsior Springs
<https://www.mymcpl.org/>



Libby by Overdrive

Use your public library card to check out ebooks & audio books for free from the library



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SWOPE HEALTH KIDSCARE BRINGS EASIER ACCESS TO HEALTH AND DENTAL CARE FOR OUR COMMUNITY'S YOUTH

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hygienist Shawn Oprisiu; and dentist Dr. Shea Durlington. The clinic accepts private insurance, as well as Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP). For those who are uninsured or underinsured, Swope Health offers a discount fee program for all services, based on household income and size. They also provide enrollment assistance for Medicaid and marketplace insurance.

Swope Health is not new to the Excelsior Springs community. The health center has long provided medical and dental services for the Early Childhood Center through their mobile programs, in partnership with MARC Head Start. Thanks to support from MARC, North American Savings Bank, Delta Dental, T-Mobile, the Missouri Telehealth Network, and the Association of Clinicians for the Underserved, the onsite clinic became a reality in September 2023.

Deputy Superintendent Dr. Mark Bullimore is thrilled about what the partnership provides.

"We are excited to deliver quality care and support services directly to our families. Swope Health KidsCARE Excelsior Springs provides our students and families with a convenient option to receive the healthcare they need, within our own facilities, that they might not otherwise be able to access," he said. "This partnership reflects our collective ambition to uplift the community through integrated support systems, ensuring every child has the foundation for success in school and in life."

Whether you're looking for a quick, convenient appointment or hoping to establish a long term, ongoing relationship (often referenced as a medical home), signing up for Swope Health KidsCARE



is easy. Call (816) 321-3241 or visit swopehealth.org/kidscare-registration/ to complete the pre-registration form. A member of Swope Health's KidsCARE team will contact you to schedule an appointment, complete registration and help you prepare for the visit.



REMINDER

Attention all families and staff: Please note that school will be in session on April 15, 2024, a change from the previously scheduled day off. This adjustment ensures we meet our required instructional hours and supports our students' learning needs during this crucial time of the year. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding and flexibility. For any concerns, please contact the school administration.

WORK FOR THE EXCELSIOR SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Excelsior Springs School District is hiring! Explore a variety of openings that promise more than just a job – but a chance to make a real difference. Whether you're an educator, administrator, or support staff, your role will be pivotal in creating a brighter tomorrow for our students.

Scan here for more information and to apply!



Scan here for more information and to apply!

NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP AIMS TO END THE CYCLE OF BULLYING



The Middle School recently launched its partnership with the organization called POAC Succeed. POAC stands for People of All Colors, and this is a group that helps to ensure that all students feel welcome at the middle school each and every day. The goal of this new program is to increase student emotional regulation, grit and resilience as measured on the Panorama survey into the top quintile na-

tionally. Additionally, this work will help to decrease bullying at the middle school.

The POAC organization works with schools to empower students to break the cycle of bullying and help students to stand up for themselves and others. Their goal is for the next generation of students to learn acceptance of others and encourage courageous conversations for change. Through understanding, open di-

alogue, and inclusion, students can build healthier communities and a brighter future for all students.

The first round of students went through training this semester, and those students have taken the pledge to become ambassadors within the school. Dr. Coffman, Principal at the Middle School, said his hope is that the school continues to train other groups of students by part-

nering with POAC and allow as many students as possible to participate and learn valuable skills that will assist them with their school experience and beyond. The long term benefits for students include an increased probability of high school graduation, career success, increased mental health wellness, decreased criminal behavior and better connection with the community.

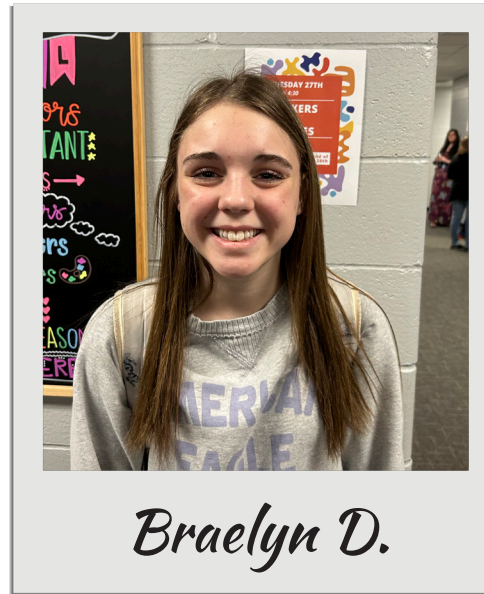
Students weigh in on POAC Collaboration

Here are some things local Middle School Students had to say regarding their experience in POAC



Emery S.

"I think it was good. I've seen less bullying now. It's made big impacts on lots of kids, and they've been nicer to each other"



Braelyn D.

"It was inspiring because a lot of people have trouble with getting bullied, and it was a good thing for people to go through because they could be getting bullied or be the bully. It helped them realize that people were going through a lot in life, and they don't even know."



Emiliano M.

"I thought it was really good to learn about 90% of other people's stories that you don't see on the surface. To be honest, it has made school a better place. POAC has really helped this school."

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CAREER CENTER STUDENTS VISIT LEWIS CONSTRUCTION SITE



EXCELSIOR SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT
LEWIS ELEMENTARY

Projected Timeline

ROOF TOP UNIT SET
Beginning of April
BUILDING DRY IN
End of April
FINISHES

May 2024 - October 2024

CHILLICOTHE ST. RIGHT
OF WAY WORK

Start Mid-May
Complete *End of May*
ELEVATOR INSTALL

End of May 2024
PLAYGROUND SURFACES
June 2024

CONCRETE SIDEWALKS
Late June - July

EXTERIOR SIGNAGE
July 2024

SITE FURNISHES AND FENCE
July - September 2024

LANDSCAPING &
IRRIGATION

September - November 2024

OPENING OF THE NEW
LEWIS ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

Winter Break 2024



In what proved to be an extraordinary day for our HVAC and Carpentry & Construction classes from the Career Center, students were afforded the unique opportunity to visit the jobsite of the new Lewis Elementary. Here, they bore witness firsthand to the marvels of construction and engineering springing to life.

Our dedicated instructors, Bronson Smith and Justin McBee, played a pivotal role in orchestrating an insightful experience for our students. Their guidance paved the way for a successful visit, where students were accompanied throughout the site by Newkirk Novak's esteemed team, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Mark Bullimore, and Career Center Director Ben Rubey.

However, the experience did not end with mere observation. Our students actively engaged in

meaningful conversations with current on-the-job contractors from various fields, delving deep into the intricacies of potential careers. Through asking questions and absorbing knowledge, they departed the site with a broader understanding of the opportunities awaiting them in the realms of HVAC, carpentry, and construction.

This trip transcended a mere visit; it acted as a bridge to future possibilities, offering a glimpse into the professional world these young minds might one day inhabit. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to making this day not only possible but also incredibly inspiring.



ES Family Dentistry

Dr. Craven & Dr. Whitehead

ESFamilyDent.com

196 S. McCleary Rd., Excelsior Springs

816-630-5713

FUTURE PLANNING: 2024-2025 ESSD CALENDAR

July 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

March 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Legend:

Begin Qtr	31	End Qtr	31
No School	2	In-Service	31
Half-Day	21	Parent / Teach. Con.	21

Grading Periods	
1st Qtr 10/18	3rd Qtr 3/14
2nd Qtr 12/20	4th Qtr 5/20

Mid-Term Dates	
1st Qtr 9/17	3rd Qtr 2/3
2nd Qtr 11/15	4th Qtr 4/17

Professional Development Dates
11 Days

162 School Days
174 Teacher Days

<http://www.essd.40.com>
Board Approved _____

8/12-8/14 New Teacher In-Service
8/15-8/20 Teacher In-Service
8/21 First Day of School
9/2 No School / Labor Day
9/27 No School/ In-Service
10/4 Homecoming- Early Release
10/24 Half Day/Parent Teacher Conf. 1-7
10/25 No School
11/1 No School/ In-Service
11/25-11/26 No School / In-Service
11/27-11/29 No School / Thanksgiving
12/23-1/08 No School / Winter Break
1/9-1/10 No School / In-Service
1/20 No School / Martin Luther King Day
2/13 Half-Day/Parent Tchr Conf 1-7 pm
2/14 No School/ In-Service
2/17 No School / Presidents' Day
3/24-3/28 No School / Spring Break
4/18 No School
5/16 Graduation
5/20 Planned Last Day
5/21-5/30 Make-Up Days*
5/26 Holiday - Memorial Day
6/3 Summer School - First Day
5/21-5/30 Make-Up Days*
5/26 Holiday - Memorial Day
6/3 Summer School - First Day
*In the event of inclement weather and school is cancelled, May 21st will be used first as make up days.
School Times
Elementary 8:45 - 3:45
Secondary 7:30 - 2:30
Early Dismissal Times
Elementary 12:45 pm
Secondary 11:30 am



**Inspire.
Empower.
Challenge.**

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School District at
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