Werden’s Words...

Welcome to the first edition of The Regional Rambler! We have been hard at work gathering information to share with you in our educational newsletter. The staff here at the Madison County Regional Office of Education are constantly looking for ways to inform the county’s students, teachers, administrators, and citizens about all of the positive things going on in our local schools.

I’m new to the position of Regional Superintendent and have taken an approach of learning from those who have been successful in the operation of this office for many previous years. The people here at ROE 41 have been extremely helpful to me. They are true professionals.

We have several new faces in the office in addition to myself. They are quickly learning their jobs here at the ROE and are contributing nicely to our team effort. You can read about them on page 2 in this newsletter.

Speaking of professionals, I would also like to thank all of the administrators, teachers, staff and law enforcement officers who have been helping me navigate all of the school buildings I have been visiting.

One of my goals has been to learn as much as I can about each of our unique districts in Madison County by visiting their schools and communicating with their leaders. I’m learning quite a bit and will continue my visits into the new calendar year.

My educational background is in the area of Career and Technical Education. I have always been a “hands on” learner and I enjoyed teaching students who learned in the same way. Teaching CTE courses required a high level of energy and preparation. I’m bringing the same energy and common sense approach to problem solving that I used to help me navigate 18 years in the classroom. I will also bring my positive attitude with me every day. My hope is that this positivity will be contagious and will bring us all together in our mission to serve and improve our Madison County Schools.

Thank you for reading my column and for all you do, each and every day, to be a positive influence in the lives of our students.

Upcoming School Improvement Workshops & Academies

ROE 41 is responsible for providing foundational services to all public schools within Madison County via our School Improvement Division. The Foundational Services program is an initiative that is fully-funded by the U.S. Department of Education through a grant supporting Illinois State Board of Education Statewide System of Support (SSoS) services. The primary focus is to provide support for districts in key ISBE topic areas, which include Balanced Assessments, English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, Science, Family Engagement, Continuous Improvement, and Teacher Evaluation. Our services include high-quality professional development seminars that are designed and approved by ISBE for all school districts. Each training session is conducted by a specialized coach from (or hired by) the ROE at no cost to the district. Registration for all upcoming workshops and academies can be found on our web site (roe41.org) under the navigational links “School Improvement” or “Workshops/Events”. Here is an overview of our upcoming workshops and academies.

Workshops:

December 4: Incorporating Computer Science into the Classroom
Description: Come learn how to incorporate computer science concepts into any elementary classroom! In the morning, participants will get an opportunity to experience online resources such as Code.org, Code Combat, and Google CS First. In the afternoon, teachers will get hands on with different robots and physical products that reinforce computational thinking. Sarah will share her experiences of teaching kids programming in her own elementary computer science classroom as well as her after school program. This training is perfect for anyone looking to incorporate 21st century skills into their elementary classroom (K-5) or administrators interested in learning more about incorporating programming into the curriculum at the elementary level.

December 5: A Primer in Rigor & Critical Thinking
Description: In this workshop, participants will learn the difference between rigor and critical thinking. Participants will also learn practical strategies for incorporating critical thinking into lessons. We will discuss how to create rigorous formative and summative assessments that are easy to grade - such as multiple choice, True/False, and matching.

January 23: Jewish Refugees & the Holocaust - Connecting the Past to Today
Description: Through this program, educators will: Explore a sound pedagogy for the planning and implementation of Holocaust education in the classroom; Enhance personal knowledge about the Holocaust, and specifically the plight of Jewish refugees; Discover and utilize multimedia assets, including visual history testimonies and additional resources, such as IWitness, a companion website with interactive student-centered activities, and Identify opportunities to connect the lessons.

February 5: Standards-Based Grading is Really Not About Grading
Description: We will take a deep dive into not only the “WHAT” and “HOW” of standards-based grading, but the “WHY” as well. When you know “why,” “your “what” and “how” have more impact. After building purpose on a strong foundation, attendees will roll up their sleeves and dig into tasks in which they will discover “what” components must be in place to effectively develop and use standards-based reporting in both schools and classrooms. This session will empower attendees to make connections between standards, assessments and best practice instruction.

Academies: Please visit bit.ly/adminacademies for courses and registration.

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4. EAWR “Hat Not Hate” Program. Chef Bara's Recipe for Success, LCCC Dental Hygiene Program
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7. ROE 41 Honors the Fall Athletic Successes

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New Faces at Your ROE

Mr. Anthony Smith

Mr. Anthony Smith was recently hired to be the Principal at the Center for Educational Opportunities (CEO) Academy in Troy, Illinois by Madison County Regional Superintendent Robert W. Werden. Mr. Smith started on August 1, 2019. His responsibilities include student discipline, staff development, and curriculum selection and instruction.

“We are making some positive changes at the CEO School in Troy. We have a quality staff in place that makes student achievement their number one priority. Mr. Smith is a perfect fit for leading the CEO School,” said Werden.

The CEO Academy is an alternative school environment which houses the Regional Safe School Program, the Educational Therapy Center, and the Short Term Options Program.

The Academy can serve up to 80 students at the Troy campus. The goal of CEO is to meet the educational needs of students referred by their local school districts. These needs include academic instruction, counseling services, social/emotional growth, physical development and citizenship preparedness.

These needs are provided in a safe, orderly environment with the goal of returning the student to their home district prepared to meet the academic and social requirements necessary for advancement in grade or graduation. Mr. Smith will oversee all aspects of the school. Smith stated, “I am in the business of promoting higher expectations for all students.”

Before joining the Madison County Regional Office of Education, Mr. Smith previously worked in the J.T C. Academy, East St. Louis School District, and Normandy School District. He is also the Head Basketball Coach at Metro East Lutheran High School in Edwardsville. He is married to Yvonne and is the father of Mark, Maria and A.J.

The educational leadership team of the Regional Office of Education is looking forward to a great 2019-2020 school year under his leadership.

Kaleb Smith - Director of CTE

Kaleb Smith is the new Director of the Madison County Career and Technical Education System. Originally from Mt. Vernon, IL, Kaleb started his education career in Quincy, Il as a High School Drafting/Project Lead the Way Instructor after graduating from SIU Carbondale. After receiving his Master’s in Education Leadership from Western Illinois University, Kaleb served as the director of the Quincy Area Vocational Center and the West Central Education for Employment Systems, before moving into his current position in Madison County.

As Director, Kaleb oversees the administration and coordination of CTE programs in 11 different High Schools in Madison and Macoupin Counties.

“I believe strongly in the power of CTE and how it can transform students lives and grow our community. I am very excited to be back in Southern Illinois and look forward to collaborating with all of the great businesses and organizations to develop Career Pathways for our students.”

Denise Threlkeld

In September, the ROE welcomed Denise to the office staff! Denise’s main focus is the Give 30 Mentoring Program for “at-risk” youth. A graduate of Edwardsville High School and SIUE, Denise’s past work experience includes a decade in publishing and six years of community outreach and youth programming. Denise and her husband Chris are the proud parents of two sons away at college, and will welcome their new daughter-in-law into the family soon.

Kristen Hale

An alumni of East Alton - Wood River High School and SIUE, Kristen Hale has been a volunteer and leader in her community for a variety of organizations for the past 15 years. She is most proud of her involvement with the East Alton Women’s Club. Kristen’s work responsibilities include: Social Media, Institute Day and Career Day. Welcome to ROE 41, Kristen!

EMERSON EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

Congratulations to the 2019 Emerson Excellence in Teaching award recipient, Dawn Jones. Mrs. Jones has made a significant impact in the lives of students, faculty, and community for over 20 years in the Hazelwood, Roxana, and Highland School Districts. Dawn serves as the CTE Department Chair at Highland High School leading a team of teachers in collaborative efforts to improve teaching, learning, and professional practices. She does what is best for students offering hands on, real world classes that include certifications for Food Handlers Licenses, Early Childhood Education, and COOP work opportunities. These offerings provide skills needed in our community and the unique certifications bridge the school experience into the world of work for regular and special education students.

Dawn Jones
Bethalto Parkside’s Keri Lugge Awarded Grant Money

The Illinois Retired Teachers Association Foundation has awarded $215 to Keri Lugge, a teacher at Parkside Primary Center in Bethalto, as part of $36,500 in grants to public school educators throughout Illinois.

Lugge was awarded her grant check September 30th.

“Each year, my class does a program, What I Love About America,” she said. “Students research an American holiday and an important American symbol, person or monument. They create a speech, make visual aids, and learn patriotic songs. I would love for them to be able to present their program to the residents of a local nursing home.”

The foundation designed this program based on the idea that educators often do not have additional revenue sources available for student projects or classroom materials.

Alton High School Hosts Annual St. Baldrick’s “Brave the Shave”

On October 31, 2019, twenty Alton High Students and teachers became heroes for kids with cancer. The 18 students and two teachers graciously participated in St. Baldrick’s Annual “Brave the Shave” event. This is Alton High’s 11th year, raising a total of about $105,000. 2019’s “Brave the Shave” raised $8000. The St. Baldrick’s Foundation is a volunteer-powered charity that funds more in childhood cancer research grants than any other organization except the U.S. government. Learn more about becoming a hero for kids with cancer here: www.stbaldricks.org

Congratulations, Alton High Students!
Remember to #bravetheshave!

EHS 2019 Christmas Show: Written And Produced Entirely By EHS Students

Oh no! Jack Frost is sick and the North pole can’t function without its wintery conditions! Can two of Santa’s most loyal Elves get him to Nurse Evergreen in time for Christmas? “Jack Defrosts! The Great Christmas Meltdown” is coming to Edwardsville High School’s stage December 5th and 6th for the in-school performances, and December 7th at 10 am for the public. Admission is free, but we will be collecting dry goods for the GlenEd Pantry. Last year we collected 186 pounds of goods for the pantry!

*This year over 1500 students in and out of district 7 have RSVP’d to attend.

*The show is entirely student run and produced, including the original script.

From the director, Ashley Melton: “As a director of such a tremendous theatre program at EHS I love that our students get the opportunity to direct and run a production of their own. The educational value of leading their peers is incredible! This year our playwright is Ashley Pizzini, the show is directed and produced by Caleb Kelahan, with production assistant Alex Schaefer and choreography by Alex McCall and Sophie Jobe. Thirty one students will be performing and twenty or so will be running the show from back stage.”

For more information call: 618.656.1182 or visit their web site: ecusd7.org.
Collinsville CUSD 10 Library/Media Specialist Michael Hayman Has Innovative Method to Engage Students

Getting middle school students to engage with the school library is an ongoing challenge. Collinsville Middle School Library/Media Specialist Michael Hayman has found a creative way to get students interested in exploring library resources.

“Hay-man! I need help!” - an innovative video series - was born last year as a fun, yet informative, way to showcase library resources and demonstrate how students can find answers to questions that interest them.

The first installment, “Is Water Wet?” began by Mr. Hayman stopping kids as they exited the bus at school in the rain. He pulled them into the conversation, then showed how library and digital resources can assist in researching a non-fiction topic.

Mr. Hayman’s quirky style and innovative video techniques mimic what kids see online so they are immediately pulled into watching. Students are often included in the videos.

During the 2018-19 school year, he based his topics on requests from students and teachers. He partnered with CMS Science Teacher Jennifer Kirk to explore genetics - using his own family to illustrate recessive and dominant genes.

Although he still takes special requests, this year, Mr. Hayman is identifying topics based on the Dewey Decimal system. He looks at Dewey Decimal Classification numbers and comes up with subject matter of interest to his students, then makes a video to bring the discussion to life. Along the way, he slips in lessons about how to find and use library resources.

Hayman says his goals are to indirectly make kids familiar with the Dewey Decimal library system and get them interested in exploring non-fiction.

“Libraries have a wide variety of collections no one knows about. I tap into their curiosity and get them to explore something new,” he says, “I want them to discover new things without making it obvious.”

Since classroom instruction time is limited, the videos also draw students into learning research skills as they watch the video on their own. Mr. Hayman uses his storytelling skills and includes tools that interest middle schoolers - like TikTok-style messages.

Views on Hayman’s YouTube channel have risen from 50 to 500+. Students are checking out more non-fiction books and there are waitlists for books he mentions in videos. The numbers indicate the “Hay-man! I Need Help!” video series is working.

“Mr. Hayman’s value has no end,” says Collinsville Middle School Principal Dr. Kimberly Jackson, “He continuously searches for the best and most cutting edge options for our students within the media center and as a cross country and track coach, he has drawn more kids out in participation than any other sport. His ability to relate to all types of students is remarkable. He is truly one of a kind!”

To view Mr. Hayman’s “Hay-man! I Need Help!” videos, visit www.kahoksread.org. While the videos feature Collinsville Middle School, the lessons are universal and are available for use by other teachers in other schools.

Busey Bank and EverFi Days at Roxana High School

Associates from Busey Bank and its financial literacy partner, EverFi, met at Roxana High School to launch Busey Bank’s Financial Literacy Program for the 2019-2020 school year. Roxana High School and its students have adopted the program to its full potential. So much so, that Roxana High’s Brian Kasting was presented a $1,000 check from Busey Bank for the school’s high ratio of students completing the program successfully.

Roxana was one of two schools who earned a monetary award for their student participation, joining Althoff High School. Each year, the top local high schools with the highest ratio of students successfully completing the program receive the award. This was Roxana’s fifth straight year winning the monetary award.

Bank associates Rob Schwartz, Pat Devening and Linda Funk, along with the bank’s financial literacy partner EverFi, met at Alton High School to launch Busey Bank’s Financial Literacy Program for the 2019-2020 school year. Rob began the morning session introducing the program with EverFi’s Ben Gwynne, giving students an in-depth view of its engaging digital financial literacy curriculum.
EAWR English Teacher Kelly Gardner Knits 100 Blue Hats for Bullying Campaign: “Hat Not Hate”

On October 7, students and staff at East Alton-Wood River High School wore blue to stomp out bullying. As part of National Bullying Prevention Month, English teacher Kelly Gardner knitted and distributed one hundred blue hats for students to wear that day. The blue hats represent awareness, peace, and solidarity and are a symbol to eradicate bullying and promote kindness.

Each year, Gardner participates in a different “craftivist” project. This June, she sent a few hats to Lion Brand Yarn for their “Hat Not Hate” movement, an anti-bullying campaign the company started in 2018. (Incidentally, they collected 23,117 hats this year to distribute to schools around the country.)

Gardner wanted to make more hats for her own students at EAWR and started a GoFundMe account to raise money for materials. After just one week, the donations totalled over $500.00.

Gardner decided that she could make at least twenty hats per month until October, but then a friend donated one hundred wooden “#HatNotHate” tags to label the hats. By October 1, she had met her goal of one hundred unique hats. Interested students could stop by her classroom that week to pick out the hat they wanted.

The anti-bullying campaign then snowballed. Two senior students, Kathleen Tierney and Julia Kovar, decided to make over sixty blue friendship bracelets, which they handed out to peers on October 7th. Junior Morgan Creekpaum had an idea for her classmates to post positivity; they wrote encouraging messages on sticky notes to hang in the cafeteria. Teacher Neely Kinkel put blue boxes in the office for students to nominate people they caught being kind, with winners chosen each month to receive gift certificates to the school’s Oiler Express Cafe, a coffee shop that Kinkle runs with her classes.

Move Over Bunsen Burner, Mr. Berardi is Just Heating Up or... Chef Berardi’s Recipe For Seeing & Celebrating Success!

Roxana High School Chemistry teacher, Mike Berardi, is amalgamating the most reliable meta-analyses of educational research to formulate a polished and practical pedagogy. Mr. Berardi’s chemistry curriculum provides pupils with a guaranteed and viable curriculum designed to cultivate core concepts and skills at the heart of the most essential NGSS and ELA standards carefully selected for each course. Students know what they will be learning and why the specific learning is essential and relevant. Each new unit of study clearly communicates big ideas and essential questions, piquing pupils’ interest and enticing learners to consider the concepts and skill sets vital to proficiency in Chemistry. Standard-aligned unit rubrics reveal a planned progression of basic knowledge, deeper understanding, and ability to apply and create in context of chemistry’s complexity.

Students daily benefit from Mr. Berardi’s commitment to cultivating clarity for learning. Because Mr. Berardi frequently revisits and reviews particular essential concepts and skills being developed during each unit’s lessons, stu-

LCC is Looking for Patients for its Dental Hygiene Clinicals

GODFREY – Lewis and Clark Community College Dental Hygiene students are currently searching for patients for their clinical board exams.

“Our dental hygiene students are dedicated, passionate and thankful for the community service-learning opportunities at Lewis and Clark,” said Dental Hygiene Program Coordinator Meghan Beckett. “Individuals selected for the clinical board exam will play a vital role in our students’ success, not only for the exam, but also for licensed and employment.”

Qualified patients must meet one or more of the following criteria:

• Have not been to the dentist for 10 years or more
• Are between meal “snackers”
• Are/have been tobacco users in the form of cigarettes or chew/dip

Participants who are chosen to work with a student for the clinical exam may be compensated up to $150.00. Interested patients should contact dental hygiene student Christa Brookshire at cbrookshire@lc.edu.
Unique Lessons In History And Patriotism

The traveling Vietnam Memorial, which was displayed during Labor Day weekend, provided Parkside students with a unique opportunity. Every class was able to visit and learn about the wall, as well as other static displays.

In September, Principal Aaron Kilpatrick visited classrooms to talk to students about his experience during the events of 9/11/01, as a sailor aboard the USS Carl Vinson. The aircraft carrier was on a routine deployment when called upon to respond to the attacks.

Trimpe Middle Schoolers Head To Parkside For Monthly Mentoring

Once a month, a group of 8th graders from Trimpe Middle School, visit Parkside Elementary to mentor the 2nd and 3rd grade students. Each month, they do a craft together. On this day, they made “hand turkeys” together, and talked about what they are thankful for.

History Of “The Bell” At Wood River - Hartford Elementary

The bell was moved to its current location from “Wood River School” which was built in 1910. It was utilized by the city for many different things throughout the years. It was truly the public location for many major events in Wood River throughout the time it was utilized. The bell was saved when the 1910 building was demolished in 1963. The Wood River - Hartford Elementary district kept the same plaque and even salvaged the bricks from the old school which were used in the first monument. The district wanted to keep the bell, plaque, and bricks so that the new marker maintained the historical aspects. It was moved to make the bell more of a focal point at the entrance of the current school. The district is very proud that they were able to maintain the integrity and historical aspects of the monument. The district is planning a formal unveiling in the spring.

Manufacturing Days At SWIC

SWIC opened its doors for the Manufacturing Day Open House October 4, 2019 to showcase new technology, educational programs, career opportunities, products and services. Students from all over the area were able to attend and learn about the career programs at SWIC and tour local manufacturing companies.

Some articles in this newsletter were submitted by Madison County School Districts.

Does your district have content you would like to have featured in the next ROE 41 Newsletter? Please email the article with any photos to: kahale@co.madison.il.us. Please be sure to either add descriptions or names to the included photos. That’s it! We’ll take it from there. Thanks for all you do!
The Madison County Transition Planning Committee (TPC) held its 6th annual Transition Fair on November 7, 2019 at the Edwardsville Moose Lodge. Individuals with disabilities, their parents, and educators attended in order to learn about services they will need as they transition from high school to post-secondary life.

This event is a great opportunity for families to meet service providers face to face and ask questions that pertain to them and to ease their fears about the question “What am I going to do when the bus stops coming?”

Educators are encouraged to attend these free events to learn about the services provided in and around Madison County. It is now required, by law, that educators talk to parents during IEP meetings about signing up for the PUNS (Prioritization for Urgency of Need for Services) if it is appropriate for that student. The service provider, in our area, who manages the PUNS caseloads has changed, therefore information provided to families need to change as well.

Mark your calendars as there will be another Transition Fair on March 5th, 2020 at the Blake Snyder Center at the River Of Life Family Church, 3401 Fosterburg Road in Alton. The event will be from 3:00 - 7:30 pm. Area service providers will be available for individuals with a variety of disabilities including autism, intellectual disabilities, emotional disabilities, specific learning disabilities, and more. There will be break out sessions covering the topics of funding, employment and training, housing, and legal issues. Educators can earn up to 4 hours of earned credit for attending this event.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Micki Watkins, Chairperson of the Madison County TPC. Call Micki at 618.296.4530, or contact her via email: mwatkins@roe41.org.

Aviation Career and Community Resource Day at West Star Aviation

West Star Aviation partnered with Madison County CTE and Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC) for an Aviation Career and Community Resource Day at their East Alton, IL (ALN) facility on November 15, 2019. This special event allowed students to inquire about aviation maintenance careers and explore the local opportunities available with the new AMT Apprenticeship Program in conjunction with the 2-year Aviation Maintenance Technology program at SWIC.

Students from Alton, Civic Memorial, Triad, Madison and Roxana were able to tour West Star’s facilities and learn about the amazing career opportunities available to them.
ROE 41 Honors the Fall Athletic Achievements of Madison County Schools

Boys’ Football
State Qualifiers:
3A - Alton Marquette
   Coach Darrell Angleton

4A - Bethalto Civic Memorial
   Coach Mike Parminter

4A - Roxana
   Coach Wade DeVries

5A - Triad
   Coach Paul Bassler

5A - Highland HS
   Coach Jimmy Warnecke

8A - Edwardsville HS
   Coach Matt Martin

8 Man Football - ME Lutheran HS
   Coach Bob Keplar

Boys’ Soccer
1A - Alton Marquette
   2nd Place State
   Coach Tim Gould

2A - Triad HS
   3rd Place State
   Coach Jim Jackson

3A - Edwardsville HS
   3rd Place State
   Coach Mark Heiderscheid

Boys’ Cross Country
1A - Father McGivney - Coach James Helton
   Regional Championship - Team
   Individual Regional Champion - Tyler Guthrie
   State Team Qualifier
   State Individual Finishes (Top 100)
     15th - Tyler Guthrie - All State Honors
     73rd - Brandon Ahring
     78th - Zachary Brasel

1A - Roxana HS - Coach Scott Edwards
   State Individual Qualifier/Finishes
   68th - Carlos Ruvalcabe

2A - Triad HS - Coach Andy Brendel
   State Team Qualifier
   State Individual Finishes
     19th Drake Bleier - All State Honors
     96th - Luke Perry

2A - Highland HS - Coach Doug Bradley
   State Qualifier
   Nick Harratty

3A - Edwardsville HS - Coach George Patrylak
   State Team Qualifier
   State Individual Finishes (Top 100)
   66th - Jack Pifer

Boys’ Golf
2A - Highland HS - Coach Brent James
   Regional Championship - Team
   State Individual Qualifier/Finishes
   28th - Evan Sutton

2A - Triad HS - Coach Bruce Lewis
   Regional Individual Medalist - Garrett Wood
   State Individual Qualifier/Finishes
   40th - Garrett Wood

3A - Edwardsville - Coach Adam Tyler
   Regional Championship - Team
   State Individual Qualifier/Finishes
   44th - Trevor Laub

Girls’ Cross Country continued
2A - Highland HS - Coach Devan Falukenberg
   Sectional Champion - Team
   State Singles Qualifiers
   Bailey Grigg & Evelyn Wells
   State Doubles Qualifier
   Billie Rockwell & Joycelynn Carmody

1A - Bethalto Civic Memorial - Coach Matt Carmody
   State Doubles Qualifier
   Kennedy Loewen & Hannah Trimpe

2A - Edwardsville HS - Coach Dave Lipe
   State Singles Qualifier
   Chlo Koons
   State Doubles Qualifier
   Hannah Colbert & Chloe Trimpe

Girls’ Golf
1A - Alton Marquette - Coach Deb Walsh
   Regional Champion - Team
   Regional Individual Medalist
   Gracie Piar
   State Team Qualifier
   State Individual Finishes
   17th - Gracie Piar
   37th - Audrey Cain

2A - Edwardsville HS - Coach Elizabeth Koonce
   Sectional Champion - Team
   State Team Qualifier
   State Individual Finishes
   19th - Riley Lewis
   54th - Nicole Johnson
   64th - Grace Daehn

2A - Alton HS - Coach Carey Cappel
   Regional Individual Medalist
   Natalie Messinger

2A - Collinsville HS - Coach Stephanie Schneider
   State Individual Qualifier/Finishes
   50th Destiny Johnson

Girls’ Swimming
Edwardsville - Coach Christian Photen
   State Finals Meet - Team
   100 Yard Freestyle
   12th - Josie Bushell

Girls’ Volleyball
Edwardsville HS - Coach Lisa Orlet
   Regional Championship