

The last few years have been exciting at Cabool Schools. Before I write about facility changes, I want to brag about the students and teachers. Four of the last five years the district has been recognized as "Distinction in Performance" by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. This involves student performance on state tests, attendance, the district's course offerings, ACT scores, and various other accountability measures. This is truly something that all should be proud of. In fact last year, our Biology scores were the eleventh in the state of Missouri.

Two years ago thanks to the 21st Century After School Grant, the school district was able to bring in the "Wall That Heals". This is a traveling museum and monument that honors soldiers from the Vietnam. Along with thousands of volunteers and many several community organizations; we welcomed approximately 17,000 visitors to Mitch Carmack Stadium. This was a very memorable and motivational time for all of us.

Thanks to grants, federal stimulus dollars, and the local tax levy the district has been able to continue to make improvements. Through an afterschool grant, the district was able to add stage curtains at the Middle School. We have been able to have "Dinner Theater" performances in the last few years. Last year, a remodel of parts of "B" Building was completed. The restrooms were completely modernized. Ceramic tile was laid in the hallways and a new entrance was installed. This is perhaps one of my favorite renovations the school board has made.

The school district continues to try to make upgrades to both the facilities and educational equipment. We have placed technology in every classroom. This includes SmartBoards, traveling laptops, iPads, and wireless high speed internet. We also received a zero interest loan from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources for approximately \$170,000. This allowed the district to replace all the lighting inside the buildings. Last year alone the district saved over \$25,000 in electrical expense.

We also continue to improve our athletic facilities as we can. If you recall at the last reunion, we were upgrading Mitch Carmack Stadium. This included lights, bleachers, parking, and shifting the field south for safety purposes. The community and building trades students were building a new press box and concession stand. This year we have shifted focus to Jack Cook Baseball Field. The building trades students are building a new concession stand with restrooms, storage, press box, and a locker room. Last year, the community even built new dugouts for the teams. Also, we were able to purchase new score boards for the football and baseball fields.

I encourage you to drive by and see what is happening at Cabool Schools. If you have time, stop by the Cabool Middle School and I will give you a tour. Go Bulldogs!!!!

Wesley Davis
Cabool R-IV Superintendent of Schools
Class of 1992