



MARE Focus

APRIL 13, 2020

FROM THE DESK OF MR. KEVIN SANDLIN, MARE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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- EDPLUS
- AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE
- MISSOURI ADMIN. JOB POSTING

Governor Parson Orders Schools Closed - Governor Mike Parson announced that all Missouri public and charter school buildings will remain closed through the remainder of the academic year.

This recommendation was made to Governor Parson today by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and several school superintendents from rural and urban areas across the state.

“Continuing our efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19, I am ordering all public and charter schools to remain closed through the remainder of this academic year, with the exception of nutrition and child care outlined in our Stay Home Missouri Order,” **Governor Parson** said.

School services are expected to continue through the last day of school in each school district as pre-established by the academic calendar approved by their local board of education. These continued services include alternative educational opportunities as well as providing much-needed meals to students who count on them.

DESE will issue additional guidance to Missouri school leaders in the near future. In conjunction with the Governor’s Office, DESE is continuing efforts to help local school leaders by removing barriers and waiving the necessary state statutes and regulations.

While I was initially surprised by this announcement, I really don't know what other plausible options existed at this time. Governor Parson made a tough decision based on input that he had gathered from numerous stakeholders including educational leaders, health department leaders and others on the front lines of the COVID 19 pandemic. His action removes the difficult decision from the hands of individual school district leaders and Boards of Education and places the emphasis on providing continued creative learning opportunities for Missouri school students until the end of this academic year as determined by the local school district's approved calendar. I applaud your continued efforts to provide for those students entrusted to you. Best wishes to all of you as you continue to take care of your students, your staff and your communities!

I Cleaned My Hands Long Before It Became Fashionable

Kent Rader, kent@kentraderspeaks.com

I’m a high functioning Obsessive-Compulsive, not like those nuts who can’t get out of the house because they’re constantly checking the stove. I cleaned my hands long before it became fashionable.

I believe hand sanitizer is the greatest invention ever, but have you ever read the ingredients? It’s 60% alcohol and 40% water, which, according to Mom, were the same ingredients as Dad on New Year’s Eve.

I clean my hands more than the average person, but I have long suspected this says more about the average person than it does me. The Covid-19 pandemic has proven this to be true as so many Americans find hand washing to be a new activity.

For the past 22 years as a keynote speaker and CLEAN comedian, I have taken nearly 2,000

flights and I cleaned my tray table with a disinfectant wipe on every one of those. My last flight was in early March and, after cleaning my tray table, the woman sitting next to me asks if she can have a disinfectant wipe to clean hers. After I give her one, I pull out my hand sanitizer. She says, "Boy, you come prepared."

I go, "I know, nobody ever talks about the positive aspects of OCD."

When my wife, Twyla, and I were walking off the plane, I said, "I don't look so crazy now, do I? The coronavirus is an unprecedented situation for all of us. It has caused fear and uncertainty in our personal lives and businesses, but let's not forget to laugh. Laughter helps you reduce your stress, strengthens your immune system, helps organizations build collaboration and retain quality employees, and helps you prolong your career.

One of the best ways to bring more laughter into your life is to spend time with people who make you laugh. Thankfully humor travels more than six feet.

Americans are being asked to stay home, sit on the sofa, and watch television. This is what my dad has dreamed about his entire life. Every afternoon, when I call and ask what he's doing, he says, "Watching TV because I'm a patriot."

He reminds me of his mom. My Grandma Rader was very funny, but not particularly work brittle. She used to say hard work didn't bother her, she could sit and look at it all day.

One Sunday when I was 10 or 11, as Rev. Hargus began his sermon, he mentioned my name. Grandma Rader whispers to me, "This can't end well for you."

When Mom heard me laugh out loud in church, Grandma's premonition came true. "It's like you're Nostradamus."

Hang out with those people who make you laugh. It will help reduce the fear and stress we are all experiencing with our uncertain future.

Always remember to wash your hands and laughter matters.

Kent Rader is a keynote speaker and CLEAN comedian helping people learn and experience how laughter matters in reducing stress and building profitable organizations. You may view Kent's latest video at <https://www.youtube.com>, then search for comediankentradar and hear him daily on his flash briefing on Amazon Alexa titled Laughter Matters at www.alexaguy.com/laughter. It is also available on iTunes, Google Home, and Spotify. If you would like a free DVD-CD of Kent's CLEAN, stand-up comedy, send your postal mailing address to kent@kentraderspeaks.com.

MARE Welcomes BetterLesson as a New Associate Member

BetterLesson is offering [free, small group virtual events](#) (with a complimentary 1:1 follow-up session for all leaders with one of our expert Solution Design team members) for district leaders who are reflecting on/refining their distance learning plans and the support their teachers and students need to implement effective and equitable remote learning. These offerings apply our years of experience providing virtual PD and are designed to equip teachers and leaders with the frameworks, tools, and dispositions needed to support students in a remote learning environment. We are currently offering two different session topics at **no-cost**:

- **Student-Centered Culture: Building the Concept of Community at Distance** - This small group virtual learning session is designed to help educators understand how to create a safe, inclusive learning environment when teaching from a distance. This session can accommodate up to 20 teachers.
- **Leading Through Change: Supporting Teachers' Continuous Improvement of their Distance Learning Plan** - This collaborative session will help leaders map out the next steps in the instructional shift to Distance Learning. Participants will unpack the four pillars of distance learning and leave with a clear plan for supporting educators to be successful, including tools and resources. This session can accommodate up to 20 leaders.

We are offering these at **no-cost** in two different formats:

1. Open-Enrollment - Teachers and leaders can register for these regularly scheduled events [here](#). Space is limited to 20 participants on a first come, first served basis. We will be adding more of these as we get further into April and May.

BetterLesson is excited to join MARE as the newest associate member! We look forward to serving this community as a resource and thought partner in your work to prepare

students for success in a rapidly changing world -- especially during these unprecedented times.

The spread of COVID-19 across the United States has dramatically changed the education landscape, and we understand the urgency educators are feeling to prepare for the weeks to come. In a matter of days, districts across the state of Missouri were forced to pivot from in-person to remote instruction with minimal guidance and few resources. With most initiatives focused on more populated urban centers, many rural leaders have had to go it alone.

It is now more important than ever to ensure your team has the right resources and skills to ensure students continue to receive a high-quality education, regardless of their location. We want to come alongside the work you're already doing and help you make the rapid shift to distance learning. We've created [a free resource guide](#) to help you get started and are providing collaborative, [virtual learning sessions for leaders and teachers beginning the week of April 6](#). If you're looking for a more personalized approach, our Solution Designers are available for a **complimentary consultation to help build and refine your distance learning plan**. We are prepared to help you take your professional learning online with [1:1 coaching](#) and [virtual learning series](#) specifically designed to address the new digital reality.

If you're looking for additional resources or have questions about how we can serve the unique needs of your community, please reach out to Mike Bauer, mike.bauer@betterlesson.com. If you're already thinking past the immediate need, look into our other [professional learning services](#) that can address your most [pressing instructional needs](#).

Please contact:

Mike Bauer - Director of Partnerships

mike.bauer@betterlesson.com

918.497.9864

Free PD and Remote Learning Resources for Educators

Administrators, if you're looking for professional development on how to incorporate remote learning with your teachers, [EVERFI](#) is hosting a webinar on Tuesday April 7th at 2:30 CT. It will be led by a Principal in Missouri who will talk about their remote learning strategies and discuss a number of **free** digital resources covering topics like early literacy, STEM, college and career readiness, and social-emotional learning that align with standards and have self-graded assessments built in. If you want to sign up click [here](#). You can also contact Ben Gwynne - bgwynne@everfi.com - 314.384.6931 if you want more information. EVERFI's resources are *always* free and so is their training and support.

MARE Welcomes SlateXP as New Associate Member

Greetings to you all! SlateXP is proud to be a new associate member of MARE and committed to becoming a valuable partner. Our expertise is in school computer monitoring for student safety and it's something we have been doing successfully for large and small school districts in several states. Most districts don't realize the Children's Internet Protection Act requires monitoring of student use of school computers nor that monitoring is different from blocking inappropriate websites. Blocking is a function of all content filters. Monitoring allows school leaders to seek and understand if computer users are behaving appropriately per your Acceptable Use Policy. Without the right technology monitoring is a difficult task. SlateXP, Inc. has designed [LearnSafe](#) to provide valuable

student computer supervision services that content filters weren't meant to perform. Administrators want to know if student's are by-passing your filter to access inappropriate content, planning to harm themselves or others, using online applications inappropriately, using off-line applications inappropriately and bringing unacceptable files in on USB drives.

About [LearnSafe](#):

[LearnSafe](#) is a screen monitoring solution trained to detect when students exhibit inappropriate or harmful behavior on school computers. Unlike a content filter, LearnSafe supervises and reports when inappropriate activity occurs from any online or offline application whether on-campus or off-campus. School leaders are furnished with easy, non-technical behavior reports to more accurately intercede and address critical behavioral issues in a timely manner. LearnSafe's reporting accuracy and detail gives you the ability to help vulnerable students and promote a climate that encourages student achievement.

LearnSafe for MARE Member Districts Only:

1. **THIS IS BIG.** Well it is for us! Our pricing is traditionally based on the quantity of computers of an individual district; however MARE members that implement LearnSafe will be able to take advantage of pricing based on a MARE aggregate computer quantity. *Look for more information to come.*

2. **PILOT OPPORTUNITY** –Between now and the end of the school year, MARE members can pilot the full solution of LearnSafe at **no cost** to the district for 2 weeks.

- **It' Easy:** Launching the pilot only requires 1 hour from a network administrator to deploy on Windows, Mac and/or Chromebooks. Further, there is no interruption to the normal school day or computer itself as LearnSafe runs quietly in the background.

- **The Right Time:** There's no bad time for a LearnSafe pilot, but perhaps the decision your school district makes in preparation for **COVID-19** involves school computers going home. If so, LearnSafe can provide a CIPA compliant monitoring solution for owned computers that helps you during this time. If that's not your scenario, LearnSafe was designed to work wherever ever a school computer is in use and complies with web-based testing rules.

Have your technology coordinator contact with any questions to get your Pilot activated.

For more information:



Kevin Hendrix
EVP & Co-founder
SlateXP, Inc
Office: [\(205\) 259-2689](tel:2052592689) | Mobile: [\(205\) 223-7370](tel:2052237370)
Email: khendrix@slatexp.com

Visit: www.LearnSafe.com

REMINDER OF YOUR LEARNING BLADE ACCOUNT

Learning Blade can be a resource for your students to keep learning STEM content remotely from home during school closures. There are over 400 online STEM lessons in Learning Blade aligned to

standards in mathematics, science, English and social studies all that focus on STEM careers and technologies.

Students can log in from home on a tablet, notebook, Chromebook or computer. (Sorry, not phones.) To get your school's account the Learning Blade - email info@learningblade.com or fill out the form at www.learningblade.com/MO

DID YOU KNOW?

Learning Blade can be used for students both with and without internet access.

Our online lessons are already being used in many states to review STEM and academics and we are providing some FREE lesson plans that can be printed for at home use at www.LearningBlade.com/remote

Teachers: For more information contact us at info@learningblade.com

7th grade teacher in Tennessee stated:

“It is a lifesaver! The Learning Blade lessons support all the content areas while promoting STEM thinking. Plus, the kids seem to like them... the lessons and the working from home aspects of this are working perfectly.”

Four Areas of Focus for Successful Virtual Learning

It goes without saying, COVID-19 has thrown a new challenge at schools, parents, and students. The big question on everyone's mind is, *Can we virtually educate in an effective, efficient, and secure manner?*

The answer is YES! However, there are four essential areas your district will need to consider:

- **Remote IT Support** –With all users going remote, the district must be able to handle an influx of remote IT issues. This new dynamic can overload the IT staff as they struggle to adapt quickly to trouble shooting, diagnosing, and repairing issues remotely. Managed Technology Services companies, such as [K12itc](http://K12itc.com), can help. K12itc provides remote IT support to more than 80,000 users across the United States.
- **Connections at Home** – Secure connectivity at home is crucial for remote teaching and learning. K12itc offers several solutions to assist including, [teleworker devices](#), VPN connectivity, and remote application hosting to ensure users are connected to the files and applications they need.
- **Cybersecurity** – With students and staff remote, there are now thousands of uncontrolled environments. School districts need to make sure that the proper web filtering, email security, and anti-virus are in place. It is important for your district to enlist a trusted partner, such as [K12itc](http://K12itc.com), to ensure a secure network at school and at home.
- **Deploying Video Conferencing** – Districts will need to tap into video conferencing to help staff and even students connect remotely. [Cisco Webex](#), the leading enterprise solution for video conferencing, online meetings, and screen sharing, is offering free accounts during the COVID-19 pandemic. Contact [K12itc](http://K12itc.com) to set up your district account.

In order to implement a successful virtual learning environment, districts must utilize secure and reliable technology. For more information, please visit: k12itc.com

2020 Health Office Orientation - MARE is partnering with DHSS and MASN to offer an orientation for health office staff. See details below!!!

The 2020 annual Health Office Orientation is scheduled for August 5-6 in Jefferson City, and registration is now open. This two-day workshop offers an orientation for nurses without prior work experience in schools and an overview of information regarding school nursing practice. Both in utilizing a number of distance learning tools as well as in consideration of the historic events this spring, our format and schedule have been modified from previous programs. This year, to best utilize our time together, there are distance learning modules that are required to be completed prior to attending. These materials and links will be included with your registration confirmation. (see the flyer on the School Health website for more information)

There is no cost for registration or materials, and with working lunches, there is a charge of \$20 payable to MASN for meals.

Registration: https://missouriwic.iad1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_57OLv1Nk8ejjd7D

For additional workshop information call Heather at the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services at (573) 526-5872 or email: Heather.McClure@health.mo.gov

NREA News - For all of the latest news from our national affiliate, please click on this link: [NREA News](#)

MARE Board Training Program Update - Please note the scheduled training opportunities below:

West Central Missouri - Warrensburg, MO - Comfort Inn - (660) 429-4848

- Friday, June 5, 2020 - (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 6, 2020 - (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Northeast Missouri - Sturgeon R-V School District - (573) 687-3515

- Friday, June 5, 2020 - (3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 6, 2020 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Northeast Missouri - Clark Co. R-I School District - (660) 727-2377

- Friday, June 12, 2020 - (3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 13, 2020 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Southwest Missouri - Bolivar, MO - Comfort Inn - (417) 326-6169

- Friday, June 12, 2020 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 13, 2020 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Southeast Missouri - Poplar Bluff, MO - Holiday Inn - (573) 712-9021

- Friday, June 19, 2020 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 20, 2020 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Northwest Missouri - Maryville, MO - Holiday Inn Express (660) 562-9949

- Friday, June 26, 2020 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 27, 2020 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Lake Ozark, MO – The Lodge of the Four Seasons (Conference)

- Wednesday, October 21, 2020 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Thursday, October 22, 2020 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

*****PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH ANY NEW BOARD MEMBER(S) NEEDING**

THE EIGHTEEN AND ONE-HALF (18.5) HOURS OF REQUIRED TRAINING.

To register, please complete the form found on our website and fax to (660) 747-8160, scan and email to ksandlin@moare.com, or go online (www.moare.com) and complete the electronic form found under Board Training.

Dates and locations may change due to unforeseen circumstances!

Board Refresher Training - New Videos Coming - We are in the early phases of planning to produce a new Board Refresher Training video for the 2020-2021 school year. Along with information on the prevention of sexual abuse of children, the video will contain other useful information for current Board members. If you have suggestions for topics to be covered in the new video, please share that information with me by calling (660) 747-8050 or emailing me at ksandlin@moare.com.

Scholarship Program Information - The deadlines for both of our Scholarship Programs have passed. A list of those selected to receive a MARE/EdCounsel \$500.00 HS Senior Scholarship Award is posted below. Information on those selected for a MARE \$1,000.00 College Scholarship Award will be shared in the next few weeks!

**2020 MARE/EdCounsel HS
Scholarship Recipients**

Student

District

<i>Kayleigh Bates</i>	<i>Crawford County R-I</i>
<i>Ariana Carmichael</i>	<i>Wellsville Middletown R-I</i>
<i>Kelsy Carrington</i>	<i>Bismarck R-V</i>
<i>Avery "Eva" Clubbs</i>	<i>Jackson R-II</i>
<i>Chelsie Collins</i>	<i>Sherwood Cass R-VIII</i>
<i>LaKota Collins-Honeycutt</i>	<i>Marion County R-II</i>
<i>Hanah Corpening</i>	<i>Morgan County R-I</i>
<i>Reagan Hill</i>	<i>Fulton 58</i>
<i>Lauren Hoerstkamp</i>	<i>New Haven</i>
<i>Alexander Jackson</i>	<i>Sherwood Cass R-VIII</i>
<i>Ashlyn Lewis</i>	<i>Crawford County R-I</i>
<i>Bailey Lynn</i>	<i>Willard R-II</i>
<i>Clinton McGill</i>	<i>Dadeville R-II</i>
<i>Brendan Myers</i>	<i>Lesterville R-IV</i>
<i>Kortney Nelson</i>	<i>Hale R-I</i>
<i>Conner Orgill</i>	<i>Marion County R-II</i>
<i>Lydia Otten</i>	<i>New Haven</i>
<i>Grace Parrott</i>	<i>Sherwood Cass R-VIII</i>
<i>Travis Patrick</i>	<i>Sherwood Cass R-VIII</i>
<i>Kennedy Ponder</i>	<i>Jackson R-II</i>
<i>Canton Post</i>	<i>Willard R-II</i>

*Colbe Radford
Saedee Sherwood
Hailey Stewart
Mariah Taylor
Carlos Valdez
Abigail Verts
Dawson Wheeler
Madelyn Wilford*

*Crawford County R-I
Dadeville R-II
Neelyville R-IV
King City R-I
Marceline R-V
Morgan County R-I
Chillicothe R-II
Chillicothe R-II*

10th Annual MARE Scholarship Golf Tournament

The Missouri Association of Rural Education will be hosting our 10th Annual MARE Scholarship Golf Tournament on Monday, July 20th at the beautiful Osage National Golf Course in Lake Ozark, Missouri. Over the past three years, with the assistance of our generous sponsors, we have been able to award \$76,000.00 in scholarship awards to both graduating HS Seniors and College Juniors/Seniors who have goals of becoming teachers in Missouri rural schools. Our annual golf tournament is our primary fundraiser to support these awards. Linked below this message are the various documents associated with this event including the Golf Tournament Flyer, Registration Form, Sponsorship Form, Letter to Superintendents and a Letter to Business Partners. Since our event is not directly tied to the annual DESE Summer Conference this year, we will be offering a Legal Seminar the morning of the event prior to registration and tournament play. More information will be released soon regarding that opportunity. If you have questions regarding this event, please reach out directly to me at (660) 747-8050 or by email at ksandlin@moare.com.

[Golf Sponsorship Information](#) **[Golf Tournament Registration](#)**

2020 Missouri Boys State - Missouri Boys State will be held June 13-20, 2020 at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg. For more information, go to MissouriBoysState.org. **MARE sponsors Missouri Boys State!**

2020 Missouri Girls State - Missouri Girls State will be held June 21-27, 2020 at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg. For more information on this opportunity, please access MissouriGirlsState.org. **MARE sponsors Missouri Girls State!**

Save the Date

2020 MARE/MO K-8 Conference - Scheduled on October 21-23, 2020 at the Lodge of Four Seasons. **Please make plans now to attend this growing event!** We will have five legal sessions, a Legal Panel, presentations from Dr. Margie Vandeven, Dr. Kari Monsees, Dr. Chris Neale, DESE Special Education, Federal Programs, "Outstanding Rural Awards" Luncheon, two receptions, great food, vendor hall, and many other opportunities to grow, learn and collaborate.

Please access the links for [Conference Registration](#), [Exhibitor Registration](#), [Call for Presentations and Outstanding Rural Education Awards](#) found on the cover of this [MARE Focus](#) article!

Grants Training in St. Louis, MO - June 8-9, 2020

St. Louis Community College - Florissant Valley Campus and Grant Writing USA will present a two-day grants workshop in St. Louis, June 8-9, 2020. This training is for grant seekers across all disciplines. Attend this class and you'll learn how to find grants and write winning grant proposals.

[Click here for full event details.](#)

Beginning and experienced grant writers from city, county and state agencies as well as nonprofits, K-12, colleges and universities are encouraged to attend.

We are excited to MOARE members and their staff a special tuition rate of \$425 which includes everything: two days of terrific instruction, workbook, and access to our Alumni Forum that's packed full of tools, helpful discussions and more than 200 sample grant proposals. Please use discount code "ASSN" to receive this \$30 discount off full price at registration.

Multi-enrollment discounts and discounts for Grant Writing USA returning alumni are also available. Tuition payment is not required at the time of enrollment.

Complete event details including learning objectives, class location, graduate testimonials and online registration are [available here](#).

Contacts:

Janet Darling
at Grant Writing USA
888.290.6237 toll free
janet@grantwritingusa.com

Quote of the Week

"Yes, kids love technology, but they also love legos, scented markers, handstands, books and mud puddles. It's all about balance." (Unknown)

MARE Organization Staff

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