



MARE Focus

FEBRUARY 1, 2021

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

ENDORSEMENTS

- American Fidelity Assurance Co.
- Claim Care, Inc.
- CTS Group
- Forrest T. Jones & Co.
- IMS Technology
- L.J. Hart & Company
- MASA MTS
- MEUHP
- Mike Keith Insurance
- M.U.S.I.C.
- MO. Consultants for Ed.
- Pro Energy Solutions, LLC
- SOCS

MARE PARTNERSHIPS

- LEGAL HOTLINE: EdCOUNSEL, GUIN MUNDORF, MICKES O'TOOLE, TUETH KEENEY
- EDPLUS
- AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE
- GIRLS STATE
- MISSOURI ADMIN. JOB POSTING

MARE Superintendent Searches

– MARE has been retained to conduct the following Superintendent Searches:

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Superintendent of Schools - Oak Ridge R-VI - Mr. Darryl Pannier is the Search Consultant. Darryl can be reached by phone at (573) 803-9008 or by email at darrylpannier@yahoo.com. **Application deadline is Friday, February 26th!**

Superintendent of Schools - Purdy R-II - Dr. Paul Ricker is the Search Consultant. Paul can be reached by phone at (573) 365-4703 or by email at paulricker1@charter.net. **Application deadline is TBA!**

Closed Superintendent Searches - East Prairie R-II, Community R-VI, Strafford R-VI, Gasconade Co. R-II, Missouri City #56 & Schuyler Co. R-I

Social Emotional Learning Support - New Partnership Between DESE & the Department of Mental Health

January 29, 2021

Dr. Blaine Henningsen, Assistant Commissioner for the Office of College and Career Readiness, reached out to me to share information on a new partnership between DESE and the Department of Mental Health. Attached below is a link to a presentation that was shared earlier this week. I would encourage you to take a look at these materials and pass these along to your district staff. The effort focuses on Social Emotional Learning support through the Reach4MO programming.

[SEL Support](#)

MARE Board Training Opportunities

– MARE will offer the required Board Training for newly elected or appointed Board members at various locations (SE Missouri, SW Missouri, NE Missouri, NW Missouri, WC Missouri and Lake Ozark) from May through July. A firm schedule will be posted by mid-March on the MARE website and will be included in the MARE Focus at that time!

To register for these in-person training events, please access the form found on the MARE website or contact Kevin Sandlin at (660) 747-8050 or by email at ksandlin@moare.com.

SERVPRO - Commitment to Clean & Confidence

A commitment to clean is a commitment to confidence.

From elementary schools to High School campuses, clean and secure facilities are essential to education. And while the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the landscape of learning, SERVPRO® is here to help ensure a safe and comfortable environment for your students, faculty and staff.

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If you encounter a positive case, call the experts you can trust to help you reset and reduce the spread of COVID-19. Get *Certified: SERVPRO Cleaned* and make the commitment to a higher standard of clean.

Expert Restoration for your facilities

Whether you're a small school or a major university, SERVPRO professionals are specially trained to assess and remediate damage regardless of the cause, scale of loss, or size of your facility. And with an understanding of various spaces

from classrooms to laboratories, we'll work alongside your school decision-makers to ensure no part of your facility is overlooked.

Our Experience Includes:

- Biohazard Remediation
- Flooding and Water Damage Cleanup
- Air Ducts and HVAC Cleaning
- Smoke and Soot Cleanup
- Vandalism Cleanup
- Odor Removal
- Mold Removal
- Document and Records Recovery

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Missouri Department of Tobacco Prevention News

FDA continues to work with Scholastic to develop [youth e-cigarette prevention materials for middle and high school students](#). A student magazine and an accompanying teacher guide are now available to teach students about the risks of e-cigarette use and nicotine addiction.

Scholastic has also launched The [“Vaping’s Not My Thing” Student Challenge](#). Students are asked to create a poster that convinces teens not to vape because of the health risks. Entries will be accepted until March 22, 2021 and will be judged on, among other things, scientific content and persuasiveness. Prizes will be funded by Scholastic and awarded in spring 2021.

Kathy Crosby, Director of Communications at FDA’s Center for Tobacco Products, has also authored a [blog](#) which advises parents and teachers to be on the lookout for disposable and stealth e-cigarettes. Some stealth e-cigarette products can be disguised as backpacks, smartwatches, or gaming devices and youth use of disposable e-cigarettes has increased according to results of the [2020 National Youth Tobacco Survey](#).

Additional Scholastic materials include lesson plans, activity sheets, a guide for parents to talk to kids about e-cigarettes, and infographics. These materials are accessible online for free and are adaptable for remote instruction or independent student work.

[Read More](#)

Learning Blade Opportunities

We're featuring the [work and success of Missouri educators during Learning Blade's User Group!](#)

Thursday, February 4, 2021
4:30-6:30 pm ET / 3:30-5:30 pm CT

Please join us!

We'll hear from national, state and local leaders, and real teachers who have used this tool in their classroom to improve interest in and access to STEM and CS careers for students. And, you will have the chance to hear from [Learning Blade champions from your own state](#), such as:

Amy Polanowski
Learning Blade & Project Lead the Way Teacher
Sullivan Middle School



[Register Now](#)

Breakout Sessions led by educators will include:

- Career and Technical Education (CTE)
- Project-Based Learning (PBL)
- Computer Science (CS) and Cybersecurity
- Digital Equity for Rural and Diverse Populations
- Learning Blade 2.0 (for advanced users)

Special Pre-Meeting: Learning Blade 1.0 (intro session Wed, February 3 4:30-5:30 ET)

Please forward this opportunity to anyone you think might be interested.



Share what you are doing and tag us @LearningBlade !

Learning Blade | (423) 521-2309 | Info@LearningBlade.com

You're Invited! Learning Blade's First-Ever User Group

As many states have adopted Learning Blade statewide, we have seen excellent usage of this resource throughout the country and have, thus, increased implementation support.

That's why we're excited to announce our first-ever, national Learning Blade User Group event!

Thursday, February 4, 2021

4:30-6:30 pm ET / 3:30-5:30 pm CT

Please join us as we hear from national, state and local leaders, and real teachers who have used this tool in their classroom to improve interest in and access to STEM and computer science careers for students.



Zach Wamp



Sheila Boyington



Anthony Owen



Nick Moore

Keynote Session includes relevant commentary from:

- Former US Congressman Zach Wamp, Board Chair, Learning Blade,
- President / CEO Sheila Boyington, Thinking Media / Learning Blade,
- State Director of CS Anthony Owen, Arkansas Department of Education,
- Education Policy Advisor Nick Moore, Alabama Governor's Office of Education and Workforce Transformation,
- and many others!

Breakout Sessions led by educators will include:

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Missouri Educator's Trust Information

Missouri Educators' Trust (MET)

- MET is a self-insured Employee Benefits' Trust providing quality employee benefits at affordable prices to Missouri School Districts.
- MET serves eighty-seven (87) Missouri School Districts representing nearly 14,800 members.
- MET partners with Gallagher Benefit Services, a division of Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. as a consulting firm.
- MET currently has fourteen (14) plan offerings. Preferred Provider Organization (PPO), Exclusive Provider Organization (EPO) and high deductible/HAS qualified plans. The pricing for the fourteen (14) plans is the same for all participating MET Members.
- MET has contracts with Anthem BCBS an Aetna as its Administrative Services (ASO) network providers to server the membership statewide. MET members may choose dual or narrow network options.
- ALL MET costs are built into the plan premium:
 - NO MET membership fees.
 - ALL ACA fees are included.
 - ASO fees are included.
 - All legal, accounting, consulting, COBRA administration, on-line enrollment administration and audit fees are included.
 - All reinsurance fees are included (\$400K stop-loss).

- MET has a “paid” contract (similar in risk to a fully-insured contract).
- MET offers employee benefit products and individual work-site products.
- Any Missouri School District may apply to join MET, however, every applicant is not guaranteed acceptance.

For more information or to schedule an in-person visit contact Lance Massey – MET Executive Director - Phone: (417) 540-1583 or email: metexecutivedirector@gmail.com

MARE Scholarship Information – MARE awarded a total of 43 scholarships last year including 15 - \$1,000.00 scholarships to college juniors/seniors and 28 - \$500.00 scholarships to graduating seniors from MARE member school districts. Proceeds from the annual golf tournament are our primary source of funding for scholarships. Due to the generous support of many of our Associate Members and other donors, we hope to award even more scholarships in 2021. Information has been sent out to the Missouri School Counselors Association (HS Senior Program) and to all Missouri colleges and universities that have a teacher education program. Links to both programs are found below:

[2020-2021 MARE/EdCounsel HS Senior Scholarship Program](#) - **Deadline 3/10/21**

[2020-2021 MARE College Scholarship Program](#) - **Deadline 3/31/21**

11th Annual MARE Scholarship Golf Tournament - The 11th Annual MARE Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, July 19th at the beautiful Osage National Golf Course in Lake Ozark, Missouri. Last year's event raised over \$20,000.00 for scholarships for Missouri students seeking teaching certification with plans to return to Missouri public schools and teach. We will accept the first 36 teams that enter to play!

NREA News - For all of the latest news from our national affiliate, please click on these links: [NREA Weekly Update - January 29, 2021](#), [NREA Weekly Update - January 22, 2021](#)

MARE/MO K-8 Fall Conference - Make plans now to join us for the 2021 MARE/MO K-8 Conference which will be held Wednesday, October 20th through Friday, October 22nd at the Lodge of Four Seasons. Help us reach our goal of 200 attendees!

Missouri Boys State & Missouri Girls State - MARE is a proud supporter of both of these organizations. Due to the cancellations of these events from last year, MARE will be supporting four (4) candidates for each gathering in 2021. MARE supports (pays sponsorship fees) for candidates from MARE member school districts across the state!

Quote of the Week

To lead people, walk beside them. As for the best leaders, the people do not notice their existence ... When the best leader's work is done, the people say, 'We did it ourselves!' – Lao Tsu, Chinese philosopher

MARE Organization Staff

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