PHS students earn Microsoft Office Specialist Excel certification

BY BRIAN MCCAULEY

bmccauley@cherryroad.com

PAOLA - Several Paola High School students recently passed an exam that earned them Microsoft Office Specialist Excel certification.

In May, students in Mary Beth Rayne's Business and Technology Concepts classes took the Certiport exam for the Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) Excel certification.

The exam is worth 1,000 points, and students needed a score of 700 or better to pass. Rayne said 49 students took the test, and 24 passed.

Rayne said it is a special group of students because she retired at the end of the school year, and this is the last group of PHS students to earn the certificates.

Rayne said the class schedule is being reorganized without the inclusion of the Word and Excel exams next year.

"This makes me very sad because I think this is a skill many will need in the future," Rayne said.

The certification program



Submitted photo

Paola High School students who earned Microsoft Office Specialist Excel certification are: (front row, from left) Ayden McArthur, Lucy Hay, Brailee Wicker, Caylee Crawford, Jack Schwatken; (second row) Bailey Kaiser, Eleni Oritz-Vazquez, Silas Hagerman, Annalyn Wood, Zachary Westwater (third row) Alyse Westendorff, Maryn Johnson, Allie Czepcinski, Lola Canales, Toby Walker; (fourth row) Charley Stanchfield, Emersyn Browning, Maggie Hart, Lauren Vohs; (back row) Serenity Leigh, Emmit Blackmore, Malina Paxton and Alayna Davis. Not pictured is Parker Kornis-Wright.

gives students practical, performance-based scenarios to gauge their real-world capabilities with project and standards-based outcome testing, according to a description of the program provided by Rayne.

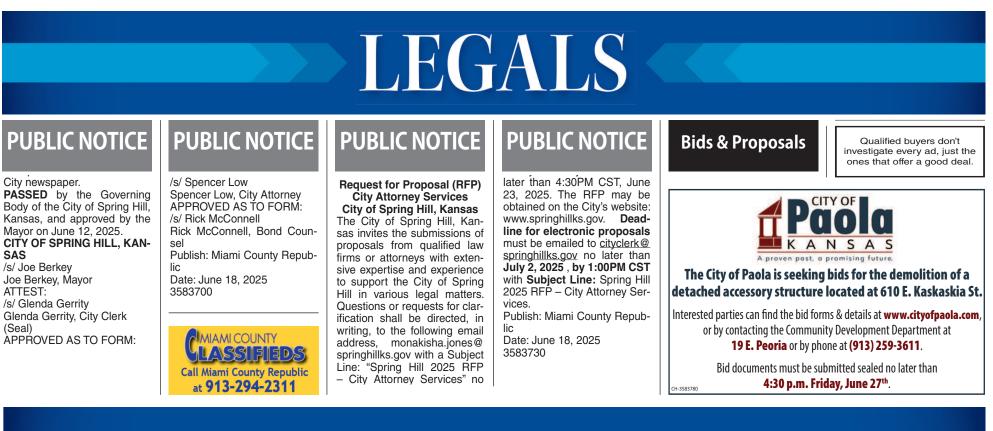
The Microsoft Office Specialist Program provides industry-leading assessments of skills and knowledge through project-based testing, giving students and professionals real-world exercises to appraise their understanding of Microsoft Office, according to the description.

The Microsoft Excel certification exam, specifically the MOS Excel Associate and Expert certifications, test a wide range of skills and knowledge related to using Excel for data analysis, manipulation, and presentation. These exams cover areas like managing worksheets, working with data, creating and managing tables, using formulas and functions, and creating and managing charts, according to the description.

The exams assess practical skills through project-based testing, requiring students to demonstrate their ability to perform tasks within Excel.

The students who earned Microsoft Office Specialist Excel certification are: Ayden McArthur, Lucy Hay, Brailee Wicker, Caylee Crawford, Jack Schwatken, Bailey Kaiser, Eleni Oritz-Vazquez, Silas Hagerman, Annalyn Wood, Zachary Westwater, Alyse Westendorff, Maryn Johnson, Allie Czepcinski, Lola Canales, Toby Walker, Charley Stanchfield, Emersyn Browning, Maggie Hart, Lauren Vohs, Serenity Leigh, Emmit Blackmore, Malina Paxton, Alayna Davis and Parker Kornis-Wright.

Rayne later learned that her students placed in the top 10 in Kansas during the Spring Qualifier of the 2025 Microsoft Office Specialist U.S. National Championship, and Lucy Hay placed sixth in the Microsoft Excel exam track during the Fall Qualifier.



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