



SHAWNEE MISSION SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUMMER 2018



> A Message from the Superintendent

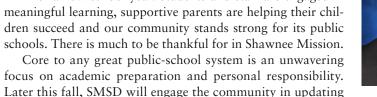
> New Elementary School Opens in Lenexa Infusion of Career into the Classroom

Creating a Better Future Together

A Message from the Superintendent

he proud tradition of excellence in the Shawnee Mission School District (SMSD) continues with the advent of a new school year. Students and staff are engaged in meaningful learning, supportive parents are helping their children succeed and our community stands strong for its public schools. There is much to be thankful for in Shawnee Mission.

its current strategic plan. That plan will focus on identifying





Dr. Mike Fulton

key academic outcomes that ensure every student is ready for success after graduation. Our commitment to every learner we serve becoming a success-ready graduate is at the heart of our mission. Watch for ways you can contribute to updating SMSD's strategic plan in future communications from the district.

SMSD's strategic plan update will provide a lasting vision for the future of our district and the communities we serve. As we live in the moment I encourage you to remember and help neighbors in need. The partnerships SMSD has formed with municipalities, places of worship, businesses, community groups and many, many caring individuals helps us better meet the needs of all our students. Some students come to school hungry, some are homeless and constantly on the move, others are experiencing trauma that impacts their ability to function in daily life. The kindness and generosity of our SMSD family to give of themselves to help those in need is deeply appreciated.

Thank you for caring so deeply about the children of Shawnee Mission. The SMSD Board of Education and staff are committed to doing our very best to build on the past and create an even better future. Stay connected with events at SMSD by visiting our website (smsd.org) and following us on Twitter (@thesmsd) and Facebook (@thesmsd). Together, we make Shawnee Mission a great place to live, learn and work.

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ON THE COVER: First-grade students arrive in their brand new classroom at Lenexa Hills Elementary School - ready to learn.

#ourSMSDstory f L ***

Help us share the good news from our district on social media.

INSIDE

8200 W. 71st Street Shawnee Mission, KS 66204

Inside Shawnee Mission School District is published by the Communication Department in the Shawnee Mission School District.

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TOMOR-ROW WANTS YOU TO HAVEA LITTLE TALK WITH US.



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New Elementary School Opens in Lenexa

n response to a growing population in Lenexa, the Shawnee Mission School District opened a brand new elementary school in August, Lenexa Hills Elementary School. The new school was paid for with money contained in the bond package local voters overwhelmingly passed in 2015. It brings the number of Shawnee Mission elementary schools to 34. Teachers from different schools across the district will come together to staff the new school. Students will come from Sunflower and Broken Arrow elementary schools.

Excitement for the first day of school built among both students and staff. During the summer, staff members collaborated in a planning meeting that took place in one of the finished classrooms.

"The teachers were excited to open a brand-new school, where everyone is open-minded about what education should look like," said Principal Mike Brewer. "We have a group of 'doers,' and we are excited to build not only new classrooms, but a new culture."

The school will host an open house event in September, after students get settled, which will offer members of the community a chance to see the new building. Brewer kept staff members and families informed with emails and social posts over the summer, providing them updates on construction and additional information about the new school.

As is the case in all Shawnee Mission schools, the students will have input into how the school's culture develops.

"We'll work to build relationships with students so they'll feel safe and included," Brewer said. "All decisions and ideas will be based on what's best for students. In addition, being in a new school provides a great opportunity for our older students to be role models and mentors for our youngest students. Our ongoing goal is to help students find their voice, and to let them know why they are special, so they can feel and be smart and confident."

With funds from the bond issue, the 2019. ◆



district has been able to build five new elementary schools, four of which involved tearing down and rebuilding existing elementary schools. Other bond proceeds were used to modernize some of the district's aging schools, and to expand early childhood programs. In addition, the district is building an aquatic center in Lenexa, which is scheduled to open in

You're Invited to MEET DR. MIKE FULTON

Shawnee Mission School District Superintendent

There will be several Open House events to welcome Dr. Fulton. Community members are invited to attend any of the events.



Please join us and meet Dr. Mike Fulton, the district's new superintendent, who began his tenure in the district on July 2. Feel free to stop by at any point.

ALL WILL BE HELD FROM 5 TO 7 P.M. AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

> SEPTEMBER 5 <

SM South High School - Library 5800 W. 107th Street

>SEPTEMBER 6

SM East - Cafeteria 7500 Mission Road

>SEPTEMBER 11 <

SM West - Cafeteria 8800 W. 85th Street

> SEPTEMBER 17 <

SM Northwest - Cafeteria 12701 W. 67th Street

>SEPTEMBER 25 <

SM North - Cafeteria 7401 Johnson Drive

>>> #WelcomeDrFulton <<<



he may have only been in third grade, but last spring, Sunflower Elementary school student Maya Lance spent an entire school day working in an architecture firm, learning how designs move from plan to development.

Lance and a group of fellow Sunflower Elementary students were invited to Hollis + Miller Architects to work side by side with professionals, beginning the process of creating designs for an outdoor classroom at their school. Lance was thrilled to get a chance to participate in the project.

"I was so excited, I could barely sleep last night," Lance said. "I am so happy I get to be a part of this."

Over the last few years, educators in the Shawnee Mission School District have worked to generate new, innovative opportunities for students to connect with business and industry. While career days still exist in schools, many creative twists on that concept help students strengthen job skills throughout the school year. Increasingly, both students and teachers are participating in internships, externships, job shadows, mentoring relationships, and career-related field and virtual trips.

Ultimately, educators offer these opportunities to students to help deepen understanding and help them to be successful in their futures, according to Dr. Christy Ziegler, assistant superintendent of personalized learning/interim director of special education.

"Helping every learner find a meaningful connection between what is taught and what is learned is strengthened when students can see and experi-





ence concepts in a real-world context," Ziegler said. "Watching learners connect with their future path is like watching a child's life change before your eyes."

The Value of Experience

As a result of one of these career-related connections, senior Priscilla Aguilar will soon help introduce a training program for school nurses that she helped create.

The Shawnee Mission North high school and Center for Academic Achievement Medical Health Science student was one of 12 students selected to take part in the pilot "Leadership Shawnee Mission: The Jewell Summer Leadership Academy" program this past summer.

The program, offered through the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation through a partnership with William Jewell College, gave students the opportunity to work with the college's Tucker Leadership Lab, and take part in a 42-hour internship at a local nonprofit or business.

Aguilar interned at the Shawnee Mission School District and the REACH Healthcare Foundation. They were opportunities she enjoyed so much, she found herself working on her internship projects in her free time.

"It's actually a really cool project," she said. "I've never really done anything like this before. I've met a lot of different people and I've learned a lot about how communication is key in results. anything you do."

The Foundation also worked in partnership with Shawnee Mission over the summer to provide The Denny Family Externship in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Through this opportunity, Shawnee Mission educators participated in paid internships to strengthen their knowledge of the ongoing evolution of STEM careers.

"We thank the business community for opening arms to our teachers and students," said Kimberly Hinkle, Shawnee Mission Education Foundation executive director. "We know these opportunities are giving them incredible lessons and skills to bring back to the classroom."

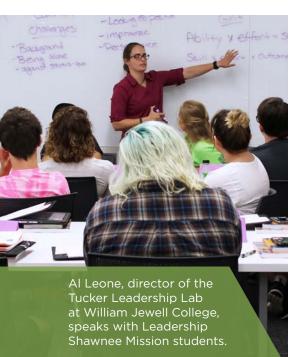
Beyond the Walls of the Classroom

When students and teachers aren't able to take a field trip, they often turn to technology to make a business-related connection. Visitors in Shawnee Mission classrooms will frequently find students conducting interviews with professionals, or consulting mentors via video chat. One group of Shawnee Mission high school students used technology to participate in a research project for the European Organization for Nuclear Research [known by its French name, Conseil européen pour la recherche nucléaire (CERN)].

Miles Martin, a Shawnee Mission East physics instructor and Justin Stigge, a Shawnee Mission Northwest physics instructor, joined a grant that allowed students to participate in a Masterclass at Kansas State University. There, students analyzed data sets and video-conferenced with CERN scientists about the

Several students told Martin they learned about particles they didn't even know existed, and it gave them a better idea about what a job might be like in





"This was very unique," Martin said. "The most exciting aspect was connecting students to an authentic scientific inquiry and scientific opportunities beyond high school."

Helping Students Chart Their Course

Knowing high school students are making decisions about college and careers for the near future, many secondary-level instructors use a variety of methods to help students explore possibilities. The district has always provided focused courses in a range of career and technical fields. In addition to professional symposiums at schools, the district continues to strengthen professional advisory councils that support the district in curriculum and resource development.

"Business and industry professionals who have worked with high school learners in experiential learning opportunities understand the great reward that comes with witnessing students grow into their future," Ziegler said. "We are pleased to increase the opportunities available to our students, and to continue to build upon partnerships in order to serve more learners."

Often, teachers share advice and resources informed by their own career experiences.

Brieanne Miller, emergency medical services instructor in the Project Blue Eagle Signature Program, also works as a paramedic, and often brings her colleagues to the classroom. They help students in carrying out emergency response simulations.

"I've seen how bad things can be and how good things can be, and it is important we are as authentic as we can be teaching in these programs," she said. "I encourage my students to get as much information as they can."

Animation and Game Design instructor Bryan Johnson says he works to bring guest animators into the classroom. He also talks to students about positions he has held and his career path prior to teaching. Helping students understand the professional experience is one of the most valuable things he does as a teacher, he said.

"If you want to get where you are going, you have to see where you are going," Johnson said. "We want to provide students insight and a road map to get there."



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Food Service Expands Offerings to Meet Growing Demand





he Food Service department in the Shawnee Mission School District is the unsung hero of the district. Last year it served nearly 2.4 million lunches to students and more than 475,000 breakfasts. The department does it with a phenomenal and dedicated team of 265 staff members, led by Nancy Coughenour, director of Food Service.

For years, the district has served breakfast at all schools for students who arrive early. Knowing how important breakfast is for student nutrition, the department is piloting new programs that include creative ways to provide breakfast options.

Grab and Go Breakfast

During the 2017-18 school year, Food Service partnered with Nieman Elementary to launch a new program called Grab and Go Breakfast. A portable breakfast station is set up at the front door, where students can select from two breakfast choices. The program started as a pilot last spring through a grant from Amazon and "No Kid Hungry," a national campaign run by Share Our Strength, a nonprofit working to solve problems of hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world.

While all Shawnee Mission schools serve breakfast before school, this program makes sure students have easy access to food by making it available as they enter the building at the beginning of the day. Since starting the program, the number of breakfasts served has increased at Nieman.

"Being set up in the entryway helps students remember to have breakfast," said Mary Harrington, food service manager at Nieman. "Even if they're late, they can grab a breakfast bag and take it to class." Each breakfast includes grain, fruit, milk, juice, and either a warm breakfast grain item or yogurt. The grant purchased the mobile equipment, giving food service employees access to a solar warming station, a portable serving station and a tablet that links to the food service software.

op Right: Mike Shepherd, SM Northwest Food

Service Manager. Lower Right: SM Northwest students select breakfast options.

"The biggest benefit is that more of our students are eating breakfast and are ready to learn," said Roni Schwartz, area food supervisor.

The Food Service team plans to continue the Grab and Go Breakfast program at Nieman and could expand the program to include additional elementary schools.

Second-Chance Breakfast

At Shawnee Mission Northwest High School, when Mike Shepherd, food service manager, noticed his breakfast counts were down, he was concerned students were missing breakfast.

"As the saying goes, 'breakfast is the most important meal of the day,' and many of our students were going without," Shepherd said. After hearing of success at other high schools, he approached the administrators to discuss the idea of offering an additional breakfast later in the morning. His idea was supported, and the passing period after first hour was extended by five minutes, so that students could go to the cafeteria and get breakfast to take to their second-hour class. Two to three hundred students take advantage of the "Second-Chance Breakfast." Second-Chance Breakfast is offered at all high schools.

After School Snacks and Meals

Students who participate in after-school tutoring and homework sessions are provided a snack from the food service team. This program is available at specific schools that provide afterschool educational services. There is no charge to the families for the snacks.

Summer Lunch Bunch

Summer Lunch Bunch provides a free lunch for any child from age one to 18 during the summer break. Children do not have to be students in the district to come to Summer Lunch Bunch; all children are welcome. This summer, more than 20,000 lunches were served from June 4 through July 27 at 10 elementary schools.

This is the seventh year for this summer lunch program, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Catering

The talented Food Service staff also offers full-service catering for school events such as PTA dinners, carnivals, faculty meetings or special ceremonies such as the retirement celebration which takes place every spring.

"Our goal is to provide our customers with the finest service, a wide variety of menu selections and gorgeous displays. We can serve large or small groups and any special needs are accommodated," said Nancy Coughenour, director of Food Service.

School menus are carefully analyzed for nutritional content and meet the USDA guidelines:

- » No more than 10 percent of calories can come from saturated fat.
- » Items must be trans-fat free.
- » Numerous fruits and vegetables are served each day.
- » Fruit and juice are served at breakfast.
- » Serving sizes are age-appropriate.
- » A variety of dark green, red/orange vegetables, beans and starchy vegetables are served throughout the week

Sustainability

Food Service began focusing on sustainable practices more than a dozen years ago. It began by eliminating all styrofoam trays and bowls, and instead began using compostable items.

In addition, any food waste is composted, and then returned to the school gardens to enrich the soil. "We're proud of what Food Service does to protect the environment," said Coughenour.

Nutrition is the Top Goal

The district also works hard to ensure that students are served nutritious meals. Jill Funk is the school district's nutritionist. She enjoys helping build a healthy foundation for students, so they can learn good choices that last a lifetime, and make a real difference for their long-term health.

Parents are always welcome to join their child for lunch. "Many times, they're surprised to see the variety of fresh fruits and vegetables offered," said Funk.

Every day, Funk's job is different. "I conduct training, build recipes and menus, and I work with compliance, documentation and safety. I also collaborate with school nurses, families and students who have special diets or food allergies," Funk said. She also serves on the district's Wellness Committee. One of its initiatives is helping schools incorporate non-food rewards and celebrations in the classrooms.

It's a little-known fact that one of the cafeteria's signature items is a made-from-scratch cake. Funk revised the recipe several years ago to reduce the sodium, remove the red dye, eliminate the trans-fat and add whole grain flour, but she managed to maintain the terrific taste! This highly-requested item is popular with students and staff.

Great Career for Parents

Patricia Juarez is a foodservice assistant at Roesland Elementary School, and as the mother of three, it is the perfect job for her. She arrives to work after she gets her children to school, and her shift ends in time for her to be home for her children after school.

Juarez said she loves the staff, students and her team. She especially likes helping new students who speak Spanish. She likes to show them around and help them find everything they will need for their lunch. "Then they know they have a friend in the lunchroom," Juarez said. Students will give her a hug or a high five.

Sharon Foster is the food service manager at Horizons High School. A mother of four sons, she wanted to go back to work when her youngest started school 17 years ago. At Horizons, Foster is responsible for preparing and serving breakfast and lunch.

"The time goes by quickly. It seems like you finish serving breakfast and it's time to get ready for lunch," Foster said. She enjoys working with the staff and students, who are very polite and respectful.

Mike Shepherd has been a part of the Food Service team for 10 years in a variety of positions and schools. He said, "We have the best team; we get the job done and have fun at the same time."

Food Service has open positions and is currently seeking qualified applicants. "We have an amazing team," said Coughenour. "We truly enjoy nurturing the students not only by preparing delicious food, but also by giving them a friendly smile as they go through the lines. Our staff wants them to feel cared for – because they are!"

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Transforming the Future

Shawnee Mission Education Foundation Kicks Off New Initiatives

n early August, the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation launched its Distinguished Leaders Speaker Series. The inaugural event featured an impressive keynote speaker, Milton Chen, Ph.D., who presented philosophical ideas about the future of education. Dr. Chen is senior fellow and executive director, emeritus at the George Lucas Educational Foundation, a nonprofit foundation that presents a new vision for 21st-century schools. He is the author of the book, Education Nation.

"People are craving intelligent conversations," explained Kim Hinkle, executive director of the Foundation. "The Speaker Series is designed bring smart people together to talk about big ideas."

This kind of conversation is crucial to this community's future. It also connects the community with the Foundation, which secures funding for transformative, world-class curriculum, state-of-the-art technology and life-changing programs for Shawnee Mission students.

Community Engagement

"By engaging the community in the education of our children, we can achieve so much more in the Shawnee Mission School District," explained Hinkle. "We can fund the district's most important and innovative educational priorities. That is the model that will reduce the district's reliance on state funding, and allow us to focus on truly transformational learning."





As the speaker series continues, the Foundation will bring experts, including successful alumni in a variety of fields, to speak with the community. During the school day, they'll interact with students. Evening events will be planned for patrons and the community.



Leadership Opportunities for Students.

While here, Dr. Chen made a presentation to teachers at the district's annual Instructional Fair. He also received a student-led tour of the Center for Academic Achievement (CAA), the district's headquarters. Along with housing administrative offices, the CAA is home for the district's Signature Programs, which provide advanced courses of study to students from all five high schools. The students who provided the tour had recently participated in a new pilot program of the Foundation, Leadership Shawnee Mission.

In this summer program, a partnership with William Jewell College, students spent two weeks in intensive leadership training at the CAA and William Jewell, and one week interning at a local company. Signature Program instructors nominated students to apply for the program. "Many had never had professional work experience before," said Hinkle. "We look for a group of students with diverse backgrounds to provide innovative leadership training and high-level internships that align with their future plans."

Foundation Annual Breakfast.

October 11 is the Foundation's annual Fall Breakfast, held at the Overland Park Convention Center.

"We're really looking forward to showcasing the wonderful things that Shawnee Mission students are doing," said Hinkle. "And, of course, it's a chance for us to introduce our new Superintendent, Dr. Mike Fulton, when he presents his State of the District address."

This is the Foundation's cornerstone fundraising event. It includes student performances and presentations. The theme this year is "Destination: Success".

"With Dr. Fulton at the helm and an increasingly devoted community of Foundation supporters, we feel confident the theme of the breakfast will be proven true," Hinkle said. "This is a district destined for success – for all students."

For tickets, please call (913) 993-9360 or visit www.smef.org.

Leadership Shawnee Mission: The Jewell Summit Leadership Academy

The Foundation had a tremendous group of corporate partners who hosted the interns this summer:

- » Shawnee Mission Health
- » DEMDACO
- » Smith and Loveless
- » Youth Volunteer Corps
- » ACI Boland
- » Just Like You Films
- » TED Systems Inc.
- » REACH Healthcare Foundation
- » SOFTWarfare

>>> smef.org <



Donors to the Foundation have allowed us to provide terrific opportunities to our students, and we are truly grateful to them for their support.

Please, join us at the

Shawnee Mission Education Foundation's Annual Fall Breakfast

Thursday, October 11, 2018

Overland Park Convention Center 6000 College Blvd.

Please, reserve a table or make reservations by calling 913-993-9360 or visiting www.smef.org.



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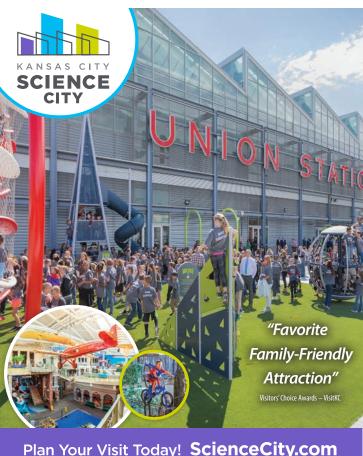
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