

# INSIDE



SHAWNEE MISSION SCHOOL DISTRICT

WINTER 2018



> Personalized and  
Interest-Based Learning

> Medical Health  
Science Provides  
Career Advantages

> Our Volunteers are MVPs

# Preparing Students for Their Future

*A Message From the Superintendent*

Our school district has a proud and well-deserved reputation for excellence. The community has spent decades, working together, to build that reputation. Thank you for your contributions to making the Shawnee Mission School District a great place to live, learn, and work.

As our next step in excellence, SMSD will undertake a strategic planning process designed to cast an aspirational vision for our future. We will challenge ourselves to design learning in ways that prepare students for their future. Specifically, we'll design a plan that ensures today's first graders, the class of 2030, have the learning experiences they need to be success-ready graduates. The world in which they will live, work and prosper will be dramatically different than ours, in both predictable and unpredictable ways. They will need the academic foundation, critical thinking and social-emotional wellness to find personal confidence and success.

To create this plan, we need your help. Students, parents, staff and community members will have tangible touch points throughout the process. Every student, parent and staff member will be asked to respond to surveys that inform the process. Some will serve on district committees and building site councils, and help create and implement district or building plans. By June of 2019 we will have a district mission statement; a defined set of beliefs; a few specific, important, measurable outcomes that will focus our work; strategies on how to achieve those outcomes; and parameters to guide the work. With this plan serving as our North Star, schools will spend the 2019-2020 school year using research and data to build plans that meet the needs of the learners they serve.

While planning for the future, we will live in and take care of the present. You will be able to keep up with ongoing work by accessing reports on various topics presented to the Board of Education at <https://bit.ly/2SfUidi> or by watching Board meetings at <https://bit.ly/2QId7Jy>. The SMSD Board of Education is a hard-working team, focused on doing what is best for all our students. The Board agendas focus on student learning and transparent business practices designed to build trust.

Thank you for all you do to make SMSD a great place for all children to learn and grow. You make a difference and we appreciate all you do to support the children of our community. ♦



*Dr. Mike Fulton*

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ON THE COVER: Stuti Dalal, Shawnee Mission East senior, works in the lab. She has researched the affect iron has on the vision of Alzheimer's patients.

## #ourSMSDstory



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

### INSIDE

Shawnee Mission School District  
8200 W. 71st Street  
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A close-up photograph of a woman with dark hair smiling broadly, her eyes closed. A young child with dark hair is leaning in and kissing her on the cheek. The child is wearing a yellow long-sleeved shirt. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and blue.

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# Shawnee Mission Journeys to Destination Success at 2018 Fall Breakfast



All guests were invited to take a journey to destination success at the 2018 Shawnee Mission Education Foundation Fall Breakfast. The October event brought the community together to celebrate the achievements of students and staff in the district, and to look toward the future.

A choir made up of students from all five high schools opened the program for the more than 1,000 guests. Anthony Springfield, Shawnee Mission Education Foundation board president, welcomed donors and guests on behalf of the Foundation.

Kim Hinkle, executive director for the Foundation, served as the emcee for the event. She shared the stage with a variety of administrator, teacher, and student presenters, who spoke about curriculum, told stories about students and staff, and recognized district initiatives and accomplishments.

This event also marked the first Fall Breakfast address given by new Shawnee Mission superintendent Dr. Mike Fulton. Dr. Fulton spoke about aiming the district's work toward the year 2030, when this year's first-grade class will graduate. He talked about the need to prepare students for jobs that currently do not exist.

"This is the beginning of our journey to success. This is the moment we pull together to ensure every single student has the opportunity to succeed," Fulton said.

Dr. Fulton plans to involve all stakeholders in crafting a strategic plan that will help ensure all students graduate prepared for college and careers.

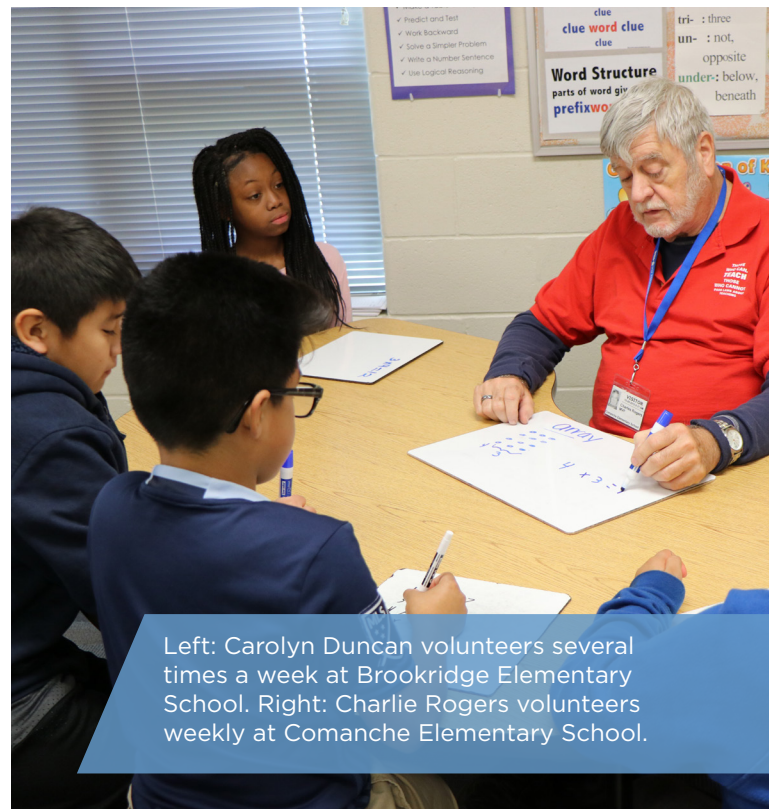
The Foundation breakfast helps raise funds to support sci-

ence, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), arts, and early childhood initiatives across the district. The Shawnee Mission Cares Fund, which was featured at this year's event, provides emergency assistance to students and their families during times of crisis.

"This truly is a community event where our students, staff, administrators, parents and community and business leaders all come together to celebrate our exceptional school district and the important work of the foundation. I am proud to help host this signature event for our community," Springfield said. ♦

## Save-the-Date: Sept. 5, 2019

The Shawnee Mission Education Foundation  
will celebrate  
Shawnee Mission School District's 50<sup>th</sup> year  
Overland Park Convention Center



Left: Carolyn Duncan volunteers several times a week at Brookridge Elementary School. Right: Charlie Rogers volunteers weekly at Comanche Elementary School.



# Volunteers are MVPs in the Shawnee Mission School District

## Essential to Success in the Classroom

Students have been known to stand up and cheer when Carolyn Duncan arrives in their classroom. Several times a week, she works at Brookridge Elementary School as a My Volunteer Pal (MVP) volunteer.

She works with students who are practicing skills in Aleen Edge's second-grade classroom. Whether students are working with Duncan on math problems or talking to her about personal challenges, students know she is an adult they can count on, according to Eli Youngdale, a second-grade student.

"I know she is helpful because if you get hurt she will go and get a Band-Aid with you, instead of making you walk all

the way there by yourself," Youngdale, said. "And she helps us with our goals and grades."

Duncan is among the thousands of individuals who dedicate time as volunteers in Shawnee Mission School District classrooms. Like Duncan, many help a specific teacher. Some spend time as mentors, assist on school field trips, tutor, or meet with students at lunch. No matter how they contribute, volunteers like Duncan are essential to success in the classroom, Edge said.

"The students love and respect her, and are more than willing to give up part of their recess to stay and work with her," Edge said. "She is kind, patient, reliable and dedicated.

I don't really think of her as a volunteer, rather as a friend and right-hand necessity."

## Updated Screening Process for Volunteers

This fall, the Shawnee Mission School District made changes to ensure the volunteer screening process is more efficient. Now, those interested in giving time in schools can attend a training session offered by the school district. Once training is complete, applicants need to complete an online screening to become a volunteer. The process can take as little as 48 hours.

Moving to this new screening procedure was an important step to take to help volunteers and educators connect, said Dr. John McKinney, director of student and family services.

"We appreciate everyone's patience as we moved to the new process, and the willingness of so many to be a part of our schools and community," McKinney said.

Once the training and screening are complete, volunteers are able to be considered for school volunteering opportunities.

"A strong community is built around a strong school and we truly value and appreciate when adults want to be a part of the school," McKinney said. "Volunteers play an important role in the lives of our students and schools. It's a win-win for everyone."

## A Win-Win for Everyone

Carolyn Duncan agrees that the benefits of volunteering are many. One of her favorite moments is when she can see the light in a student's eyes when they understand something, she said.

"I know each time I come in I've accomplished something for somebody else and that makes me feel good," Duncan said. "I have a lot of options for how I could spend my time, but this is truly valuable."

Several times a week, Pat Daniels volunteers at Rhein Benninghoven Elementary, a role he started when his grandchildren were students and continued after they graduated. He focuses on helping third-graders understand math, and serves as a mentor for students who might benefit from a male role model.

"I enjoy sharing the basic sense of

caring and being able to communicate and reinforce life lessons and qualities that help children experience success," Daniels said.

Retired science teacher Charlie Rogers has volunteered at Comanche Elementary since 1998, working with students in several grade levels.

The opportunity to work with students is what he enjoys most and is what has kept him returning to help for two decades.

"I feel like I am making a difference helping kids and the community," Rogers said.

Amy Niemann, a parent who volunteers at Mill Creek Elementary, said she began volunteering when her son entered kindergarten. She was inspired to give back knowing how important volunteers were to her dad, who was a principal, and her mom, who was a teacher.

"I think it is important for my own children to see me giving back in their school," Niemann said. "My parents set the example and taught me the importance of giving back and I hope I am setting that example for children now."

She participates in a wide range of volunteer opportunities, from reading with students in Chat-N-Chew meetings and playing key roles in planning events for the school to shelving books in the school library.

"I've found there are a multitude of ways to be involved," she said. "No matter the time commitment, you are needed, wanted and you have skills that can be helpful in our schools." ♦

## To Become an MVP volunteer in the Shawnee Mission School District

- » Attend a volunteer training session. Sessions are offered throughout the school year at the Center for Academic Achievement and at schools across the district. Reservations are required for trainings at the CAA.
- » Complete the online screening process found on the district's MVP volunteer page.

For more information visit [www.smsd.org/families/volunteer-mvp](http://www.smsd.org/families/volunteer-mvp) or email [volunteer@smsd.org](mailto:volunteer@smsd.org).



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Top: Shawnee Mission South students learn about the You Be You campaign. Bottom: Students with Talk Listen ACT pledge banner.

# #ZeroReasonsWhy: Students, Educators Work in Community to Prevent Suicide

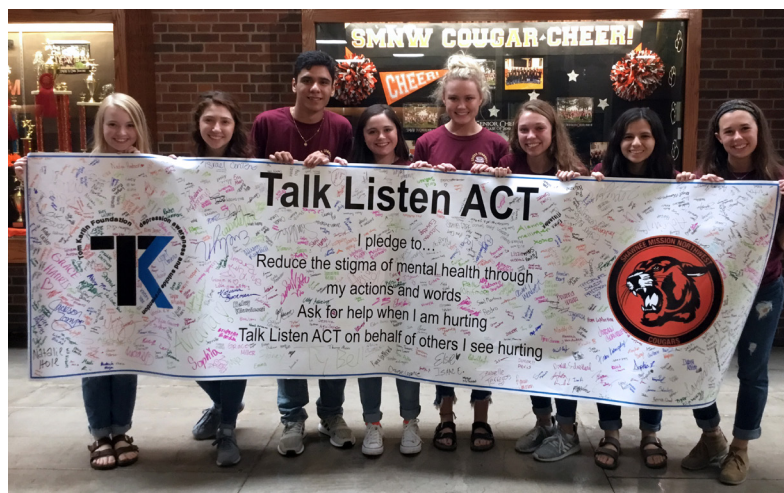
In recent years, the issue of teen suicide has had devastating consequences across the metro area, and across the country. Here in Johnson County, efforts are underway to bring change and hope to young people, and to decrease teen suicide.

At an all-school assembly this fall, Emma Mathieson performed an original song, “Don’t Go Away.” It was originally written for her sister-in-law, who was grieving following the suicide of a loved one. But that day, as Mathieson performed the song for her peers, she wanted her music to help her classmates.

“I really tried to put myself in the place of someone who has lost a loved one and what they might want to say to that person,” Mathieson said. “I really hope people can connect to the message in the song.”

Mathieson later made her song available to raise funds for the Tom Karlin Foundation, joining thousands in our community taking actions to provide support for students and directly address the issue of suicide prevention. Educators, students, and leaders from the Shawnee Mission School District and all districts in Johnson County are working to form new efforts and strengthen existing resources to prevent suicide.

“Teen suicide is a difficult and challenging issue, that has devastating impact across the country,” Dr. Mike Fulton, superintendent, said. “We must find ways to combat it, and to give our young people the support they need to grow up healthy and well-adjusted.”



## #ZeroReasonsWhy

The Shawnee Mission School District is one of six school districts in Johnson County that have joined together to launch #ZeroReasonsWhy, a community mobilization campaign to prevent teen suicide.

The campaign will work closely with individuals representing all Johnson County school districts, mental health providers, parents, the faith community, and the local business community to multiply and amplify the impact of their work.

Led by student ambassadors, parent volunteers, teacher advocates, health experts and non-profit leaders, the #ZeroReasonsWhy campaign activities include student-led initiatives, rallies, and meet-ups; cross-district programs; social media efforts; response and street teams; parent-to-parent support; mental health expert collaboration; as well as billboards, posters, banners, yard-signs, and more.

## High School Students Form Clubs and Support Groups

At high schools across the county, students like Mathieson are joining the campaign, with support from school staff. Shawnee Mission South social workers Erin Burvee and Johanna Fredenberg are supporting students who are leading efforts at their school.

“We are trying to let students know that they don’t have to solve the problem; what’s important is what they do with the information. We are trying to give students the courage and tools to speak up,” Fredenberg said.

Across the district, school communities are finding their own unique ways to speak up.

At Shawnee Mission East High School, Will Thomas, senior, is leading a Minding Your Mind student group. The group has a goal of improving mental health throughout the school community. Working with social workers, these students are developing a survey that will allow their peers to anonymously share information about mental health needs. Through this survey, students and school leaders will determine, both directly and indirectly, how to provide support to students. Each participant will have the chance to request an opportunity to talk with a counselor.

“Communication and education is so vital for mental health awareness,” Thomas said. “Without proper communication, and proper support groups people feel they can be in, they are at a much higher risk for devastating consequences.”

The Hope and Care Team at Shawnee Mission South concentrates on sharing positive messages and raising awareness in their school. Some are also working to launch a You Be You Campaign, which works to spread a message of self-acceptance through various materials such as posters, installations, social media, and student-led awareness campaigns.

Many students are glad to join these kinds of efforts and take a proactive role, because it gives them resources to respond and help their classmates when they are in need or seek help, said Audrey Hartwell, a senior at South. “We are usually the first ones to hear about issues among our friends.”

## Training Continues

Following state law, all Shawnee Mission School District employees take suicide awareness and prevention training. Multiple schools are also working to provide additional trainings, programs, and resources in their school communities to address the issue.

SM Northwest and SM West were awarded a grant to start the Sources of Strength program. This is an evidence-based suicide prevention program. It follows a peer-led, adult advisor support model. The mission of Sources of Strength is to



The Hope and Care club at Shawnee Mission South tied yellow ribbons around trees to raise suicide prevention awareness.

prevent suicide by increasing help-seeking behaviors and promoting connections between peers and caring adults. Students and staff will be trained on these intervention techniques and will start the intervention in January.

Tracie Chauvin, social worker at East Antioch and Brookwood elementary schools, helped lead a variety of activities in September, National Suicide Awareness Month, and will continue activities throughout the school year. The goal is to help students, parents, and staff feel like they have resources to handle issues that might arise.

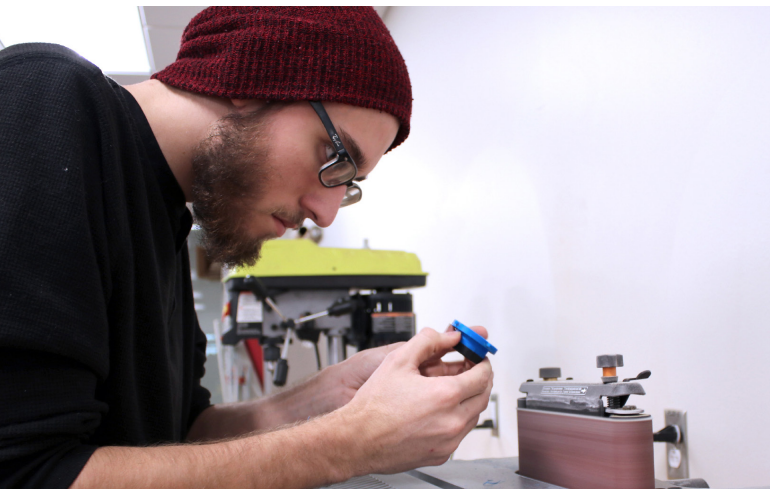
“We are working toward creating a more resilient community by bringing information and awareness throughout the year to all of our parents and students on a variety of topics,” Chauvin said. ♦

- » If you, your child, or someone you know is in immediate danger, call 911.
- » Learn more about suicide prevention at the district website at [www.smsd.org/families/suicide-prevention](http://www.smsd.org/families/suicide-prevention)
- » National Suicide Hotline - 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
- » Johnson County Emergency Line: 913-268-0156



Emma Mathieson sings an original song at a Shawnee Mission West assembly.

# Giving Students Choice and Voice: Personalized Learning Helps Students Reach New Heights



Left: Ron Smith, Project Lead the Way Engineering (PLTW) and Shawnee Mission South senior, creates a pill bottle safety mechanism prototype. Right: Miles Martin, Shawnee Mission East science teacher, mentors Stuti Dalal on her Alzheimer's research.

**S**tuti Dalal, a senior at Shawnee Mission East, contributed research to a professional scientific journal that was published this fall.

But, long before this unique achievement, her research was inspired by a personal story she heard from her great uncle, who has Alzheimer's Disease.

"Every time he would go to the doctor they would try and give him medicines for memory loss and neuronal loss, but they didn't seem to focus on the problems he faced with his eyes as a result," she said. "His eye problems were the worst part for him and that's why I wanted to focus on the vision symptoms of Alzheimer's patients."

Dalal took her inspiration to the laboratory. There, she studied the affect iron has on the vision of people who have Alzheimer's Disease.

In her educational career, Dalal has been recognized at the local, state, national, and international levels for her research, including recent authorship

in the "Experimental Eye Research" journal. While there have been many factors contributing to her success, she said the opportunity to pursue research based on her interests and inspiration has been the "key to success." This is an example of personalized learning at work.

"It has motivated me tremendously because it has allowed me to dive into concepts that are close to me and interest me at a deeper level," Dalal said.

Personalized learning opportunities like these are where "the future sits" in the Shawnee Mission School District, superintendent Dr. Mike Fulton said.

"Personalized learning can manifest itself in a lot of ways," Fulton said. "Through personalized learning, you recognize the strength of every child, listen to what those interests are, and to the best of our ability, we work to customize the learning experience to help them become who they want to be."

To make this vision a reality, teach-

ers across the district are implementing a variety of methods to help ensure that learning for the more than 27,500 students in Shawnee Mission is not treated like a one-size-fits-all experience. Ultimately, personalized learning ensures each student is allowed to engage in learning that is meaningful to them, and it can help build stronger relationships between students and teachers, said Dr. Christy Ziegler, assistant superintendent of personalized learning and interim director of special education.

"When learners have the opportunity to strengthen their knowledge and skills in a specific interest area as well as a college and career-identified pathway, motivation follows through a high level of meaning and engagement," she said. "Educators learn more about their students through the process of personalized learning. The process is energizing, particularly when you see a learner complete a project that they put their heart into and they recognize the importance.

## Targeting Instruction

An important part of personalizing the learning experience is the work teachers do to customize instruction so that each student is learning at his or her best academic level.

At schools across the district, including Trailwood Elementary, teachers are using 1:1 technology to help quickly learn the best way to teach each student.

That access to technology allows teachers to obtain data through regular assessments. What may have been previously done through a worksheet that took several days to grade can now sometimes be accomplished through an app that provides a same-day turnaround.

“We can now look deeper into how students are learning faster,” Trailwood instructional coach Carrie Buchta said.

Once she knows how her students are learning, Elizabeth Theis, kindergarten teacher at Broken Arrow Elementary, uses apps to provide students specialized reading instruction. She can have one student reading at a third-grade level work on an advanced project, while at the same time she reads with students needing additional help in learning letter sounds.

Working this way helps her meet each student’s needs and provides more ways to know how students are progressing, she said. Finding out how students are learning and customizing instruction to meet them where they are, is helpful for both the teachers and students, Buchta said.

“If you meet students where they are in their learning, they are always ready for it,” Buchta said.

## Personalized Learning Environments

Many students in the Shawnee Mission School District have never walked into a classroom where the desks are placed in rows facing a board. Today’s classrooms offer students many more choices.

That’s because their desks and tables are arranged in pods, allowing for work in collaborative groups. In some learning spaces, furniture may be moved aside to provide room for creative individual and group projects like making movies, composing songs, or creating presentations.

Some educators, like Gary Strout, librarian at Broken Arrow Elementary, have also incorporated comfortable,

mobile furniture to allow for a variety of personalized learning experiences. One space with multi-colored, cushioned furniture is called the “living room.” It is a space often dedicated for students to practice reading original works aloud, and to facilitate discussion. In the center of the room, students have the choice to work at mobile desks and chairs, some that even allow for rocking and motion while working. Strout calls the room “a giant stage for learning” and a space where students are taught how to explore and feed their own intellectual curiosity.

“The space is bright, colorful, and inviting and students like to have choices in their seating,” Strout said. “They tell me they love coming to the library.”

## Interest-Based Learning

Gavin Gough, a third-grader at Overland Park Elementary School, is coding an app to help younger students learn to read. It’s a long-range project, one he expects could be used by children who aren’t even born yet.

It’s also an interest-based learning project – one where he was given the opportunity to decide what he wanted to learn more about. He chose a coding project that could help children.

“I feel like I’m getting to do such a good thing that is going to pay off later in life,” Gough said. “It feels good to help people and I’m really excited and glad I get to do my own project.”

Interest-based learning opportunities have increased in prevalence in Shawnee Mission over the last four years, Ziegler said. One of the most common examples of these opportunities in classrooms across the district is “Genius Hour.” As part of Genius Hour, students have dedicated time to research a topic of interest.

In other cases, students are given the opportunity to select how they want to

present what they’ve learned, whether it be through creating a structure, making a movie, or illustrating and writing a graphic novel. They still need to meet a set of guidelines set by the teacher, but their choices are expanded, and many times as a result their voices are better heard.

Ronald Smith, a Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Engineering student is on a team working on a prototype for an improved child-proofed pill bottle. He hopes his invention will one day help people.

“I look forward to this class every day,” Smith said. “It’s self-construction. While we’re building our project we can build our own personal attributes and skills.”

Interest-based learning provides an



enriched way for students to explore possibilities for their future, Superintendent Mike Fulton said.

“It helps them make sure they have the academic background they need to pursue any and all options,” he said.

As students complete middle school, they can begin to complete career interest inventories to identify appropriate steps for the future they choose, Ziegler said.

“All of this can lead to support for a learner making decisions for their success beyond high school,” she said. ◆

# A Decade of Medical Health Science Signature Programs Providing Significant Career Advantages



Medical Science students work in the Simulation Lab at the CAA.

goal of pursuing Pre-Medicine.

Lee is currently working as unit secretary at Lawrence Memorial Hospital and being cross-trained as a tech as she pursues her degree. She attributes these career opportunities to her three years in high school in the Medical Health Science program, which prepared her for much more than healthcare. The program helped her gain skills needed for the next steps on her journey.

In an Exploring Healthcare class, Lee said she learned the basics of many different professions in the healthcare field. Lee also received her Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certifications in high school. For two summers, Lee

worked as an intern and volunteer at Research Medical Center. She was one of 15 candidates selected for the program, which she attributes to her recommendation from Gandy.

“As an intern and volunteer, you do a variety of tasks like restocking and helping the techs,” Lee said. “But any trauma that came into the ER, I was allowed to watch, and I was able to shadow different doctors and ask questions.”

It was a great opportunity to have direct contact with doctors and nurses, she said. Allowed to select the shifts she preferred, Lee worked a 12-hour night shift, in order to gain authentic experience.

On one memorable shift, she was part of a team who did CPR compressions on a patient.

“The best advice I received in those high-stress situations was to always remember you did the best you could do,” Lee said.

Olivia Knaff, a 2017 Shawnee Mission North High School and Medical Health Science Signature Program graduate, calls the portfolio she developed in high school her “magic book.” It opened opportunities for her to now be a patient care tech at Olathe Medical Center, while she attends Johnson County Community College.

Originally, she wanted to be a labor and delivery nurse, but after her experiences in the field, offered through the Signature Program, she said fell in love with the fast-paced nature of trauma

**F**uture health professionals are jump-starting their careers in the Shawnee Mission School District. In hospital simulation labs set up at the Center for Academic Achievement (CAA) and in care centers throughout our community, future nurses, dentists, physical therapists, pharmacists, and veterinarians are preparing for college and careers.

In 2018, the program celebrated 10 years since its first graduating class completed the Signature Program. Connie Gandy was the program’s first teacher when the program began at Shawnee Mission North High School. A decade later, the program has expanded, and she has numerous examples of how the program has helped and continues to help students prepare for a multitude of opportunities, whether they pursue healthcare or not.

“I want all students to pursue a career in a field that’s best for them,” Gandy said. “If it’s not healthcare, that’s okay; I know they will leave this program with professional, 21<sup>st</sup>-century skills including problem-solving, critical thinking and teamwork that will serve them well in any field.”

## Medical Health Science Graduates – Saving Lives and Taking Their Next Steps

Shalom Lee a Shawnee Mission Northwest and Medical Health Science graduate is now majoring in Behavioral Science at the University of Kansas Medical Center, with the



care. Knaff's goal is to become a trauma nurse in the emergency room, with an emphasis on helping sexual assault victims.

"My healthcare learning began when I was 16. The experiences I gained from the Medical Health Science courses, along with the health-related volunteer opportunities, put me ahead in knowledge and college credits," Knaff said

## In the Lab and In the Field

In Exploring Medical Science Careers, students learn the basics including ethics, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA), communication, and foundational information about the profession. A variety of healthcare providers – from physical therapists to veterinarians – visit the classroom to give students an overview of their profession.

After taking the Exploring Medical Science Careers class, juniors are eligible to take Medical Health Science I. This is a one-semester course with a focus on medical terminology.

"I learned early on that giving the student a list of words and definitions and asking them to memorize them was not going to work," said Connie Gandy, their instructor.

What does work is incorporating hands-on and interactive experiences into lessons, so students see what they are learning in context. Students work in a Simulation Lab and on the Anatomage Table at the CAA, where they practice caretaking and responding. They practice recognizing signs and symptoms, and work on techniques needed to appropriately move patients from place to place.

For many students, the Simulation Lab is the first place they get to try out a potential career they've been envisioning for a long time.

Amanda Colburn, SM North senior, shared that she injured her knee as a freshman and had to go to physical therapy.

"I was amazed that just by watching a person walk they could make a diagnosis," Colburn said. "I enrolled in Exploring Healthcare and it confirmed that I wanted to pursue a career in physical therapy. Now I am shadowing in a variety of settings from hospitals to clinics. I really feel like I have an extra advantage when I start college."

Leksi Macan, SM North senior said she knew she wanted to be a nurse as a 9-year-old.

That's when her twin sister and brother were born. Her brother had several health issues. He started his life in the neonatal intensive care unit and has diabetes. Macan plans on getting a job next semester as a CNA, for the extra experience and to help her build her college resume.

"I feel like I'm being well-trained for this career," Macan said.

## Certified Nursing Assistant Program

Roxy Richard, a registered nurse, leads the CNA program at the Center for Academic Achievement, which gives students an opportunity to pursue CNA certification while still in high school. To do this, students must complete 90 hours of classroom and clinical work. The students complete their clinical hours at Claridge Court or Aberdeen Village.

Richard says the course teaches more than the information included in the certification. She wants to train future healthcare providers how to be a good employee and how to get along with others. She encourages her students to be on time, be kind and work hard. Along with the clinical skills, she wants her students to be empathetic (rather than sympathetic), compassionate, and patient.

With their CNA certification, her students are able to apply to a variety of healthcare-related employers, including clinics, labs, Home Health organizations, and companies like Hospice House, and Cerner. Her hope is that CNA certification will be the first step for her students' futures.

"For some students, their CNA certification may be their career, and for others this may be the introduction they need to pursue additional certifications or nursing. My hope is they see the possibilities and stretch their potential," Richard said.

## Community Partners

The Medical Health Science staff members express gratitude to the hospitals who partner with the program. They also thank a plethora of partners including SERC Physical Therapy, Keith & Wilson Dentistry, Decker Orthotics and Prosthetics, and Deanna Rose Farmstead.

"The extensive variety of community healthcare partners we have for this program is a differentiator for our students," Gandy said. "They can experience the real-world in high school through these exceptional opportunities." 🍀

The Center for Academic Achievement will host an open house for all students and parents. Prospective students will learn more about Medical Health Science and the other Signature Programs, which include:

- » Animation and Game Design
- » Biotechnology
- » Culinary Arts and Baking
- » Engineering (Project Lead the Way)
- » Health Science
- » Law, Public Safety, & Security (Project Blue Eagle)
- » International Baccalaureate

January 15, 2019

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