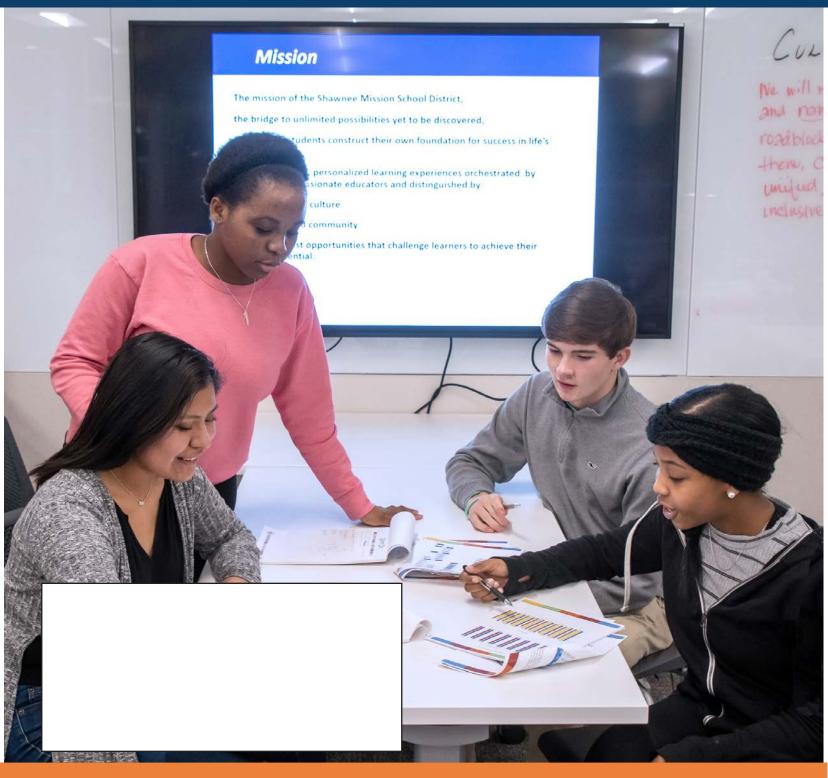
INSIDE



SHAWNEE MISSION SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPRING 2019



- Strategic Planning for the Future
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- Career and College ReadyStudents Explore CareerPossibilities at All Ages

Challenging Today's Learners, Inspiring Tomorrow's Leaders

A Message From the Superintendent

erhaps the greatest lesson I've learned these past nine months of living and working in the Shawnee Mission School District (SMSD) is that we are a wonderful community with much to celebrate. We are a community that works from our strengths to optimistically plan for an even better future. This is the spirit in which SMSD approached strategic planning this year. As we've worked through the strategic planning process, we have joined hands across our diversity to develop a road map for the future. That map, still under construction, is detailed in this edition of Inside SMSD, and on our web site at www.smsd.org.



Dr. Mike Fulton

Our SMSD strategic planning process places a clear and ever-present focus on students and their learning. It also speaks to the important roles and responsibilities we have as adults to support students in developing the academic and interpersonal skills foundational to their life success. Collaboration by the Steering Committee, which identified beliefs, mission, parameters, objectives and strategies for the Strategic Plan, clearly defines the big picture of our work ahead.

Central to the plan is the identification of three measurable objectives. The objectives focus our work on student learning and life-readiness outcomes. Action Teams will use the lens of their individual strategy to define and build the action plans that support achieving the objectives. The culmination of these efforts will be presented to the Steering Committee in June. The Steering Committee then makes its recommendations to the Superintendent. The superintendent presents the final plan to the Board of Education at their June 24th meeting for approval.

As we approach the final days of school, there is much to celebrate. In touring class-rooms across the district I've seen countless examples of engaged learners and talented, compassionate educators working together. Every day is full of opportunities for our students. By working hard and growing together, we have the opportunity to help every learner reach their full potential. It is this team approach that helps all our students, including members of the class of 2019, be success-ready graduates. •

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ON THE COVER: Shawnee Mission School District students Brenda Garcia (Shawnee Mission West) Glory Obi (Shawnee Mission North) Beau Barnes (Shawnee Mission South) and Harmony Bailey (Shawnee Mission Northwest) are members of the Steering Committee developing the district's Strategic Plan.

#ourSMSDstory f L

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

INSIDE

Shawnee Mission School District 8200 W. 71st Street Shawnee Mission, KS 66204

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Foundation Hosts Fall Breakfast Celebrating the District's 50th Milestone



he community will celebrate the school district's legacy of excellence at this year's Shawnee Mission Education Foundation Fall Breakfast at 7 a.m. on Thursday, September 5, 2019.

Shawnee Mission schools have a rich history, with some approaching their centennial or bicentennial year. This fall commemorates the year all schools in the Shawnee Mission School District unified. July 1, 2019, is the 50th anniversary of the formation of Unified School District #512.

Breakfast attendees will celebrate the district and Foundation as they continue to challenge today's learners and inspire tomorrow's leaders.

"We are very excited to honor this milestone at the breakfast," said Kimberly Hinkle, Shawnee Mission Education Foundation executive director said. "We look forward to welcoming community members, corporate partners, and alumni to kick-off this significant celebration."

Shawnee Mission Education Foundation Fall Breakfast

Thursday, September 5, 2019 at 7 a.m., Overland Park Convention Center, 6000 College Boulevard, Overland Park, KS 66211 For table and ticket reservations, please contact the Foundation at www.smef.org



Strategic Planning for the Future



responsibility to ensure they have the foundation they need for their life's journey. We care about our students and their success. That deep sense of caring is core to our mission of ensuring every child graduates from the Shawnee Mission School District ready for personal life success."

The excellence the district is striving to achieve for all students is represented by the image of the North Star, a symbol of what we are all aspiring to develop – a school system which meets the needs of all students and supports their individual success.

The Shawnee Mission School Board voted unanimously in December to fund a strategic planning process for the remainder of the 2018-19 school year. The Shawnee Mission Education Foundation is partnering with the district to provide fundraising support for the Strategic Planning process. Since the Board's approval, thousands of individuals in the Shawnee Mission School District community have engaged in the process of creating a school system that meets the needs of each and every student.

Building the Future Together

Our community is taking steps toward creating what the future of learning will look like in the Shawnee Mission School District (SMSD), through the development of a new Strategic Plan.

The district has a remarkable history of achievement and success. This legacy gives the district the opportunity to plan strategically to design a system of schools that prepares students for their futures.

"We are looking to create a Shawnee Mission School District that builds on the past to create an even better future for each one of our students," Superintendent Dr. Mike Fulton said.

As community members engage in this process, one common question they are asked is, "What are the skills the current first-graders, members of the class of 2030, will need to be a success-ready graduate?"

"In our fast-changing world, it is difficult to fully envision what the world will look like when our students graduate from high school," Fulton said. "Yet, it is our community's

Community Input is Essential

In February, district patrons began to participate in some of the first conversations to develop the Strategic Plan. Community members, administrators, staff, students, and parents took part in an Awareness Kickoff. Community members were also invited to join the conversation online by providing input through the online platform, Thoughtexchange.

"The most important thing I would like for people to know is how powerful each individual's voice is, how important the future for our students is, and that we are making sure we design a Strategic Plan that is going to get us to the North Star, and not just keeping the status quo," said Dr. Michelle Hubbard, associate superintendent of leadership and learning.

Input from the Kickoff meeting and the Thoughtexchange conversation was compiled and presented to a 30-member Steering Committee, made up of a broad range of individuals from across the Shawnee Mission School District community. They bring a diverse background to their work, including experience inside and outside education, and reflect the district's demographic profile.

In late February, the Steering Committee met for two-and-a-half days to create a draft strategic planning document which includes a mission statement, beliefs, strategies, objectives, and parameters for the district strategic planning process. (See page 8.)

Harmony Bailey, a Shawnee Mission Northwest freshman and Steering Committee member, was pleased with the process. After it ended, she said: "I think we really have some good ideas to build a great future for the SMSD and I'm excited for what the future holds in the district."

The Process Continues

The draft Strategic Planning document will guide the rest of the Strategic Planning process and, once finally formed and adopted by the Board of Education, will guide the entire district moving forward.

"The Steering Committee did a phenomenal job of creating a draft of a document that will guide us as we continue this planning work and into the future," Fulton said. "Strong strategic plans don't sit on a shelf. They live in our heart every day that we go about the work of not only engaging in school and learning with students, but also in the way we choose to interact with each other as a community."

The Steering Committee will reconvene this spring to continue their work and hear the progress of the Strategic Planning Action Teams.

Action Teams were formed in March, to begin the next step in the strategic planning process. These teams are responsible for the creation of action plans for each of the strategies developed by the Steering Committee. The Action Teams will continue to meet in April and May to develop their action plans. The Steering Committee will review the work of the Action Teams and finalize the Strategic Plan, which will be presented



to the Board of Education in June 2019 for adoption.

"I am so excited for the future of this district and for our students," said Linda Sieck, NEA-Shawnee Mission President, educator, and Steering Committee member. "I believe we have laid the foundation for transformational systemic change that will ensure our students will be prepared for whatever they choose to do beyond high school. It was affirming to see that when you give students, parents, educators, and community members a voice, we can make this great district even better."

Individual schools will begin work in fall 2019 to develop school plans aligned with the district strategic plan.

"We start from a strong place: We are an excellent school district," Fulton said. "We need to help each of our schools understand the learners that they serve and then organically, collectively, and collaboratively, as a school community, begin to design our schools in a way that is customized to our learners. Now our work focuses on the future."

Additional information about the Strategic Plan can be found on the district website at www.smsd.org/about/strategic-plan-2019-overview.



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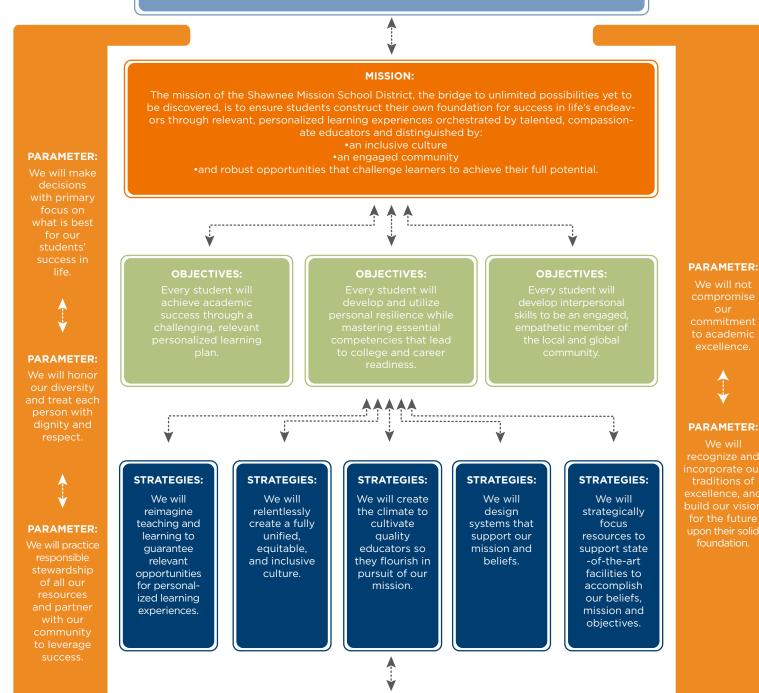
STRATEGIC PLAN OVERVIEW (Draft)



BELIEFS:

- Every individual has inherent worth and deserves to be valued and celebrated
 A community's strength is derived from its diversity
 Respecting a community's diversity and each individual's dignity demands equitable access
- A thriving community meets the basic physical, social, and emotional needs of its members
 Safe and caring relationships are essential for learning and growth
 Acknowledged and appreciated individuals confidently engage and collaborate
 Individuals of all abilities and experiences can achieve personal excellence

 - Ownership empowers each person to ignite their future Effective communication is truthful, genuine, reciprocal, and respectful



ACTION TEAMS MEETING THIS SPRING

DRAFT



Shawnee Mission Takes Lead in Sustainability Efforts

group of second-grade students at Briarwood Elementary School refuses to wait for others to save the planet and are taking matters into their own hands. Wanting to encourage more students to help the planet, they launched a schoolwide awareness campaign: The Zero Food Waste Challenge.

They researched food waste and how to prevent it and created a plan to track how much food waste was collected at school in one week. Then, they started an awareness campaign, giving presentations in every classroom at school, and sharing tips with their peers for how they can reduce food waste through composting and recycling.

By the end of their all-school, oneweek challenge, all Briarwood students had prevented 62.8 additional pounds of food waste and 89 additional pounds of other types of waste from going to the landfill.

"We learned that we can help solve this problem at school every day," proclaimed second-grader Larren Boomer. "And so can you!"

It is efforts like these, led by students and staff across the district empowered to make positive changes, that prompted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 to recognize the Shawnee Mission School District (SMSD) this past winter for their exemplary efforts in roots effort in one elementary school composting and recycling.

"The Shawnee Mission School District is serving as a leader and demonstrating to other school districts what is possible when schools embrace sustainability," according to EPA Region 7 Administrator Jim Gulliford.

Even as the list of sustainability accolades grows, students and staff continue to find new ways to build upon their success, enhance sustainability efforts, and use their knowledge and skills to help the environment.

Food Recovery Challenge Awards

The EPA presented the district with an award and Christa McAuliffe Ele-

mentary won a national Food Recovery Challenge award for 2018.

The recognition honors work across the district, which included thousands of students and staff members working together to accomplish a goal. Composting and recycling started as a grassin 2008. Now, all SMSD schools and the Center for Academic Achievement (CAA) participate. The Food Recovery Challenge award highlighted that in 2017, the district diverted more than 600,000 pounds of food and paper to compost.

Christa McAuliffe was the only school in the country to receive the national, data-driven EPA recognition in 2018. The school composted 11,875 pounds of food waste in 2017, an increase from 5,625 pounds of food waste from the prior year. Student and staff members were specifically recognized for their leadership in making this positive change.

Fifth-grader Madison Boyle, former

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We will

custodian Chuck Weismiller, and food service staff helped more students take ownership and contribute to improving efforts at Christa McAuliffe, according to principal Michael Orr.

Collaborative efforts like these are what have made so many schools in the district successful as they have adopted composting and recycling programs, notes Joan Leavens, coordinator of sustainability and community engagement.

"We are proud of the work of so many teachers, students, administrators, custodial staff, food service staff, and district leadership; everyone had a hand in this success," Leavens said. "From the beginning, students have set the sustainability priorities for the district, and that work continues. They are learning and developing skills that will benefit their futures."

Project-Based Learning

Briarwood and Prairie Elementary students and staff are taking those successful efforts to the next level by challenging members of their community to adopt sustainability practices.

Briarwood's schoolwide Zero Food Waste Challenge lasted one week. But the results of their campaign continue to inspire students to compost and recycle. The school is serving as a pilot school for Schools as a Teaching Tool Program offered by U.S. Green Building Council Center for Green Schools. This led to students filming a Public Service Announcement (PSA), sharing tips for composting and recycling to encourage more students to participate.



"Sixth-graders continue to promote zero food waste each morning during school announcements," second-grade teacher Susan Cunningham said. "In addition, students throughout the school are more diligent about not wasting food and about recycling. The challenge brought us all together to achieve a goal."

Briarwood students hope their PSA. which was shared on social media, will encourage students in other schools to compost and recycle, too.

At the invitation of local city officials, Prairie Elementary students researched, wrote, and filmed PSAs to be shared with

community members, in order to help improve curbside recycling practices. Students not only learned about the environment, but also received valuable experience through the process of creating their PSAs. They also learned how they can play a role in improving their community, according to their teacher, Laura Moore.

"It's been a fun project, and it makes you feel like part of your community to work on a project like this," noted sixth-grader Marie Ptacek.

Through project-based learning and hands-on experiences, students gain a chance to see how they can improve the world around them.

Second-grade teacher Susan Cunningham is a big supporter of this type of learning. "Sometimes teachers make up problems to solve," she said, "but already, we have so many we can work on solving together."

As efforts to solve the problems of mitigating waste and cleaning up the environment have expanded across the district, so has the creation of spaces that allow students to see fruitful harvest of their environmentally friendly work.

Educational Gardens Grow

Across the district, the number of outdoor gardens and learning spaces continues to grow thanks to students and staff who have been building and planting. Currently, 80 percent of schools have outdoor gardens and learning spaces, giving students an opportunity to learn as they help grow and harvest

vegetables from their school gardens.

"Gardens give students valuable experiential learning opportunities," said Joan Leavens. "They provide hands-on learning that help students understand food and how they can play a role in improving the world around them."

One of the biggest educational gardens in the district is the 1.3 acre Broadmoor Urban Farm and Orchard at the CAA. The "living classroom" is maintained by and produces food used by student chefs in the district's Culinary Arts and Hospitality Signature Program. In future phases, the garden will



feature a greenhouse and an outdoor demonstration kitchen.

"We hope the farm will be educational for every part of our community and for our students to have an understanding of our food, and for our chefs to understand what it is they are cooking," notes Robert Brassard, chef instructor. Last year, students helped grow about 3,000 pounds of food. Much of it was used in the Broadmoor Bistro student-run restaurant.

Baylie Harwick, a senior and Culinary Arts student from Shawnee Mission North, said she is glad to gain the farm-to-table experience as a student chef, and also play a role in building a garden in her community.

"It's a good feeling to know that a lot of what you've planted is going to grow and expand into something more incredible even beyond what we're picturing now," Harwick said.

Thanks to the hands-on learning and work of students and staff, our portion of the planet will surely be in even better shape this spring.



Career and College Ready - Students Explore Career Possibilities at All Ages

the future is being provided to students of all ages throughout the school year.

Sharing a variety of careers and professions with elementary students is part of the curriculum for Laura Lavallee, an instructional coach at Tomahawk Elementary School.

"Not only are educators teaching skills and strategies for a child's successful future in the work force from day one of their educational career, we are committed to helpheard of or thought about," Lavallee said

Through research and exploration, interactive field trips and experiential learning opportunities, educators are helping students dream of their unlimited possibilities, which many have yet to discover.

Elementary Students Explore Colleges and Signature Programs

At Rosehill Elementary School, educators wanted stu-

t is never too early for students to start looking toward dents to explore their future options early, and so they hosted the future in the Shawnee Mission School District. No a College and Career Week. Students researched colleges and longer limited to Career Day, the opportunity to explore universities across the country, from the University of South Carolina to Stanford University. Their exploration also included field trips to local higher education institutions, including Johnson County Community College (JCCC) and the University of Kansas.

"It is important for elementary students to get exposed to careers and opportunities at an early age," said Brandi Leggett, Rosehill instructional coach. "As students walked through junior college and four-year campuses, they became more excited. Their exploration is not locking them into a certain path, but ing them learn about career options they may have never instead showing them the purpose behind the things they are doing at school, which allows them to see there are countless opportunities out there."

> As part of their explorations Rosehill students identified their personal interest, and conducted research prior to taking a field trip to visit the Signature Programs at the Center for Academic Achievement (CAA). The students toured programs in Animation and Design, Biotechnology, Culinary Arts and Hospitality, Engineering, and Medical Health Science, based on their individual interests.

"When I was reading in class, I learned that when blood

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It is critical for elementary students to explore areas of interest, which can then be turned into potential career opportunities, according to Dr. Ryan Flurry, CAA principal. "Many of our students, even in high school, do not have a full grasp on the college- and career-ready programs available to students. Connecting students early to the possibilities is the first step on the road to a successful high school experience."

Exploration for Secondary Students

Whether students are certain about their path early on, or still exploring in middle and high school, they are encouraged to continue to look at possibilities for their future.

"I encourage students who have a passion to explore their career interest with us while they are in high school. College is expensive, and instead of spending \$25,000 to explore a similar career in college, it's helpful for them to take one of our many career courses now," Flurry said.

High school exploratory classes are available at each home high school, the Center for Academic Achievement and the Career and Technical Campus.

Many classes in Shawnee Mission offer professional certifications for students who successfully complete the program. In Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Engineering, students can earn their Computer-Aided Design (CAD) certification. In

tion. "These certifica-

Chef Dallen works with visiting elementary students in the kitchen at the Broadmoor Bistro at

Culinary and Hospitality Arts, students may earn ServSafe certification or the American Culinary Federation certifica-

tions can jump-start careers and are valued by employers," Flurry said. "Or colleges and universities give students advanced standing credit towards their degree. Students can begin their college career with educational credits already earned or can be exempt from having to take certain basic college courses."

This spring, high school students currently enrolled in the "Introduction to Public Safety" course were invited to an Open House at the Career and Technical Campus to explore opportunities in the Project Blue Eagle Fire Science Pathway. This program helps students explore their options in firefighting, law enforcement, and service as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT).

At the Open House, stations were offered to help students better understand the content in these courses. Current Project Blue Eagle students partnered with Lenexa firefighters to host the stations.

Megan Alexander, a Shawnee Mission Northwest junior and Project Blue Eagle student, helped with a demonstration of the unrolling and rolling of fire hoses.

"I come from a family of firefighters, and at Project Blue Eagle we learn everything you need to know to enroll in Fire Science in college," she said. "We are tested at the same standards, but here, there is no cost for these classes."

The other stations included rescue drills, fire apparatus, and emergency medical services.

Students enrolled in Project Blue Eagle have the opportunity to enroll in Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) certifications, where they take classes at Johnson County Community College (ICCC) in the afternoons during the spring semester. EMR certification is the pre-requisite for EMT training.

Pilot Program Features Internships

Another career exploration opportunity launched this spring for high school students is the Jobs for America's Graduates - Kansas (JAG-K) program at Shawnee Mission North. Juniors and seniors attend this class, where the curriculum includes topics like employability, leadership and community service. Shawnee Mission North is the first high school in Johnson County to offer this pilot program.

After completing an interview process, seven students were given an opportunity to explore different careers by serving as interns at Nieman Elementary School. They also had the chance to mentor students at the school each week.

Josie Herrera, Nieman principal, offered a variety of job opportunities for the high school students throughout the school, including working with the school nurse, tutoring and teaching lessons, and learning library science by assisting in the library.

Students are assigned a teacher or staff member at Nieman, to whom they report each week. Amya McIntosh, a junior at Shawnee Mission North, applied to work in the school office to learn more about the field of business.

"Amya is really willing to help out," said Jonelle Carter, the office aide at Nieman. "She has the opportunity to see how busy you can be providing office support and how you multitask several different jobs. I wish I could have had this experience when I was her age; it would have really helped me have a better understanding of this job and all that goes into it."

Michael Giarla, the JAG-K instructor, oversees the internship program and observes the students in their specific jobs. Students receive "employee reviews" at several times throughout the semester.

"An important aspect of the internship is the mentoring the high school students do with the elementary students in

the cafeteria where they have lunch with the students," Giarla said. "Lunch is a time the students can interact more informally and talk about topics unrelated to school with an older role model. The Nieman students look forward to seeing the North students each week."

Students enrolled in the JAG-K program have an opportunity to explore a career and find or confirm their passion, according to Giarla.

"Exploring these options in high school provides an advantage to their future planning following graduation," Giarla said. "Having gained vital work experience, students now have the tools to bolster their resumes, applications and more."

While figuring out what you want to be "when you grow up" may seem daunting and somewhat premature in elementary school, the benefits for a student finding their passion, or figuring out what they don't enjoy, can be especially helpful. Students are selecting career-related courses as early as middle school. Completing introductory courses allows them to more deeply explore career fields in high school, resulting in students being more thoroughly prepared for career or post-secondary education.



Summer Opportunities

Summer Enrichment

Summer Enrichment gives students new learning and exploration opportunities. Classes feature art, music, technology, science, sports, theater and more, and are not based on the regular school curriculum.

Who can attend? Students in pre-kindergarten through seventh grade.

Dates: Weekly, June 10 to July 26. There are no classes the week of July 1. Visit smsd.org/academics/summer-programs/summer-enrichment and click on the "Summer Enrichment Catalog" button on the page.

New Satellite Summer Enrichment at the Center for **Academic Achievement**

Students explore Shawnee Mission Signature Programs like Animation, Biotechnology, Medical Health Science, Engineering, and Game Design.

Who Can Attend? Students currently in sixth, seventh and eighth grades.

Dates and Times: Various dates and times in June

Visit smsd.org/academics/summer-programs/summer-enrichment and click on the "Summer Enrichment Catalog" button on the page.

Summer Band Blast

Who Can Attend? Current band students in grades five through eight are invited to stay in playing shape over the summer.

Times and Dates:

Elementary Band: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on June 10-14 Middle School Band: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on June 17-21 Visit www.smsd.org/academics/summer-programs/summer-music.

Students interact with live animals in the Summer Nature enrichment session

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Join Us at Summer Lunch Bunch!

Free meals for children, ages 1-18, will be offered at Summer Lunch Bunch at the locations below. Adults will be able to purchase a lunch for \$4.25 (cash only).

Dates: June 3 – July 26, 2019 (closed July 4 & 5, 2019)

Times: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Locations: Comanche Elementary School, 8200 Grant Avenue Crestview Elementary School, 6101 Craig Street Merriam Park Elementary School, 6100 Mastin Street Nieman Elementary School, 10917 W. 67th Street Rosehill Elementary School, 9801 Rosehill Road Shawanoe Elementary School, 11230 W. 75th Street

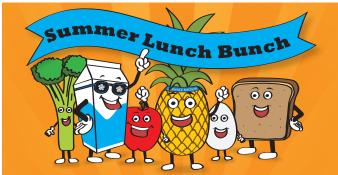
Summer Enrichment and Summer Academy

Dates: June 10-28 and July 8-26, 2019

Times: 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Locations: Indian Woods Middle School, 9700 Woodson Drive Shawnee Mission Northwest High School 12701 W. 67th Street

Menus and more information about Summer Lunch Bunch will be posted at www.smsd.org/about/departments/food-service/ Summer-lunch-bunch.





Research and Development Forum

he Research and Development (R&D) Forum is a districtwide showcase of student innovation and achievement. Throughout the event, students share projects and performances highlighting their work in science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM). The R&D Forum is free and open to the public. The event has been hosted for 57 years, with generous support from the Regnier family. •

Save the Date:

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 4, 2019 Shawnee Mission West High School 8800 W. 85th Street, Overland Park KS 66212

For more information, including a schedule of events and performances, visit the R&D Forum website: smsd.org/academics/rd-forum.





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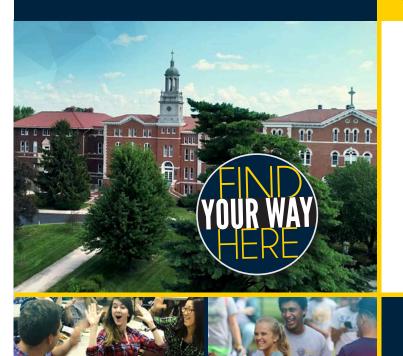
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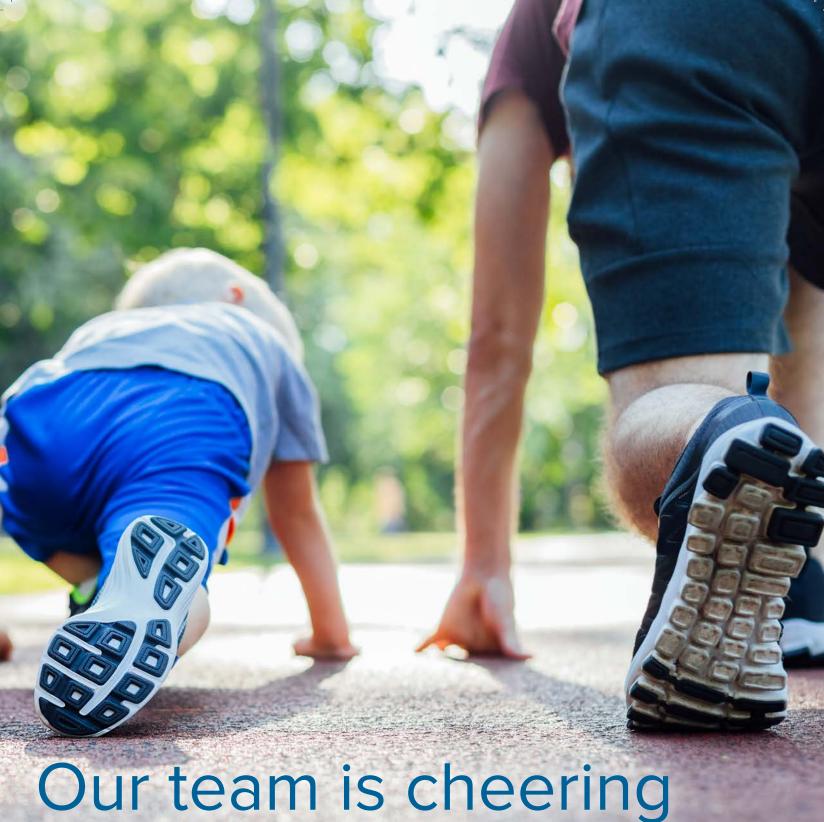
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- One-on-one attention from expert faculty
- Generous financial aid—scholarships of up to \$60,000 over four years for qualified students
 - The college sports experience, with 21 varsity sports, including eSports

*The Princeton Review's Best Regional Colleges, 2019. (c) 2018 TPR Education IP Holdings, LLC. The Princeton Review is not affiliated with Princeton University.

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