



PRESS ADVISORY

For immediate release – Aug. 3, 2016

Summerfest 2016 means a great start for families

KANSAS CITY, MO. – Kansas City Public Schools and dozens of its Partners in Education are ready to help thousands of families have fun while preparing for the new school year at its 2016 Summerfest, sponsored by Aetna Better Health of Missouri, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 6 at the new KCPS Central Office, 2901 Troost Ave. in Kansas City, Mo.

Summerfest is an opportunity for parents and students who live within KCPS to get ready for the start of the 2016-2017 academic year (Monday, Aug. 15), meet Superintendent Mark Bedell, welcome the KCPS Central Office to its new neighborhood and enjoy fun, games and refreshments. More than 5,000 people have already pre-registered for the event.

Summerfest will be organized into three main areas: the Red Zone where families can prepare for school, the Dream Zone with activities and games geared for younger students, and the Athletic Zone with sports-oriented activities designed for middle- and high-school age children. Bedell's Pavilion is a tent and stage area with student performances, giveaways, important messages and an 11:45 a.m. address by Dr. Bedell. In addition, KCPS School Board members, Dr. Bedell and members of his leadership team will be unveiling a dedication plaque for the new Board of Education Central Office.

In the Red Zone, among many other things, families will be able to check the enrollment status for their children and make sure their children's immunizations are up to date; the Kansas City Department of Public Health will be on-site to provide free immunizations. KCPS is prepared to give out about 7,000 new backpacks thanks to generous donations by McDonald's, Aetna and the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office; a limited number of school uniforms will also be available at no charge for students who are enrolled in KCPS. Lunches will be provided at no cost to attendees thanks to donations by Smithfield Foods and Q's Carts. Every KCPS school and several important programs will have representatives on hand to answer questions and provide guidance.

The Red Zone will also include representatives and helpful information from many KCPS partners and Summerfest sponsors who serve the Kansas City community, including Aetna Better Health of Missouri, reStart, Cherry Sports, Truman Medical Center, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City, Hot Jamz 103, Metro PCS Kansas City Parks & Rec, Samuel Rogers Healthcare, the Catalyst Fund for KCPS Students, LINC, the Mattie Rhodes Center, the Consulate of Mexico, the Boy Scouts of America, Literacy KC, KC NoVa, the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, Operation Breakthrough and the League of Women Voters.

There will be plenty of fun for families at Summerfest. Children will be able to enjoy face-painting, a book nook, a bounce castle, interaction with renowned dinosaur sculptor artist Gary Staab, basketball and soccer clinics, and amazing performances by talented KCPS students.

Summerfest attendees are encouraged to park in the event lot across the street from Manual Career Tech at 1215 E. Truman Rd. They can then take a shuttle to the event. The shuttle will run continuously to and from Summerfest from 9:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

All Kansas City media outlets are invited and encouraged to cover Summerfest in order to help spread the word to our families. Dr. Bedell will be made available for media interviews following his address around noon.

Kansas City Public Schools is dedicated to graduating students that are college, career, and workforce ready. This mission is supported by innovative classroom instruction, engaging programs, highly qualified employees, and an engaged and well-informed community. To learn more about the ways our community of schools supports students and the community-at-large, please visit www.kcpublicschools.org, [KCMOSchools on Facebook](#), or [KCMOSchools on Twitter](#).

For more information, please contact the Department of Communications and Community Engagement at (816) 418-7420.

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