



## BOARD MEETING RECAP

**Reopening Update** Superintendent Dr. Mike Fulton began a reopening update by providing a reminder of the district's [mission to serve as a bridge to unlimited possibilities yet to be discovered.](#) The district's objective remains that every student will have a personalized learning plan that will prepare them for college and careers with the interpersonal skills they need for life success.

**Discussion about Guidelines** As the update continued, Dr. Fulton shared Johnson County Department of Health and Environment (JCDHE) guidelines, specifically the recommended learning modes, based on COVID-19 community transmission. ([Included in this presentation.](#))

He reiterated that the district is currently in the red gating zone and stated that he has reached out to JCDHE to determine if any protocols could be identified that would enable SMSD to have in-person learning or a hybrid approach at the secondary level while the county is in the red gating zone.

"I'm sure our conversations will continue as we dig deeper into the possibility of on-site learning for secondary students," Fulton said.

**Update on Elementary Transition** Dr. Fulton shared the schedule for the upcoming elementary transition to hybrid and in-person learning, and spoke about the steps that are taking place to get some students and teachers arranged in new settings.

## Elementary Update

Sept. 14, 2020	Parents select learning model for the remainder of the year that is their preferred mode, with a defined process for requesting a change at semester (see FAQ)
Sept. 15-25, 2020	Place students into sections with teachers both in-person and remote only
Sept. 28, 2020	Work with staff who are transitioning
Oct. 5, 2020	New student schedules begin - Hybrid PreK-2 and Remote 3-6
Oct. 12, 2020	Hybrid grades preK-6
Oct. 19, 2020	All students grades PreK-2 and Hybrid 3-6
Oct. 26, 2020	All students grades PreK-6

Since Sept. 15, work across the district has been underway to work with staff and families who are transitioning to new placements. For Pre-Kindergarten through sixth grade, the following changes are taking place:

- 735 students have moved from remote to in-person learning
- 213 students moved from in-person to remote learning

Some students who did not select a change had to be reassigned to different teachers because of staffing.

As adjustments were made, 20 staff members were moved from remote teaching to in-person teaching, two staff moved to a different learning mode and completed a physical move, and one staff member changed their learning mode, completed a physical move and changed grade levels.

“We thank the staff for what they did to make this work,” Fulton expressed. “They did a great job, they’ve been receptive and it’s not always easy. We also thank the parents and students who went through this change process.”

**Board Policy Approvals** The Board of Education held a second reading and approved the following Board Policy:

[Board Policy GAAD: Child Abuse](#)

**Approval of Medical Insurance Program** The Board of Education approved the renewal of the medical insurance program with Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Kansas City, effective Jan. 1, 2021, with an 8.2 percent increase in premium costs. [Click here for more information.](#)

### **From the Superintendent Report:**



**First Days of School** Superintendent Mike Fulton began the evening with a thank you. The first weeks of school have been unlike any other in our district's history. Even so, he expressed gratitude for everyone who is making learning possible.

Students and teachers are working together and are making daily connections. Dr. Fulton shared a few examples of the kinds of learning experiences going on right now in the SMSD, from at-home science experiments to the creation of virtual art galleries and virtual field trips.

“Shawnee Mission is a few weeks into this school year, and certainly the community is adapting and adjusting to many different circumstances, but we must thank our educators, our students, our families, and our community for everything they are doing to ensure robust learning experiences continue for Shawnee Mission School District students,” Fulton stated. “Thank you everyone for all you are doing.”



Free Meals for SMSD Students

**Meals Continue for Students** Free meals are available to all Shawnee Mission students, regardless of the learning model. These meals are funded entirely by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as part of the Summer Meals Program extension. Those needing information about the meal opportunities [can find it on the district website](#). Students and families are able to pick up meals on Fridays from 7 to 9 a.m. at their school. Our food service department provided nearly 46,000 meals for students on the first day of pickup and have provided tens of thousands since then. Shawnee Mission thanks them for all of the work they are doing to provide students the nutrition they need.



**JEA Rising Star Award** The Journalism Education Association will honor Tucker Love, journalism and advising publications teacher at Shawnee Mission South, this November with a 2020 Rising Star Award.

They are honoring him for his commitment to scholastic journalism and media advising. During his time at SM South, students have won multiple state and national honors for their outstanding publications. In their announcement, JEA noted that Love was a Shawnee Mission Journalism student who was taught by Becky Tate, Shawnee Mission North journalism instructor. Congratulations to Tucker Love as he celebrates this achievement.



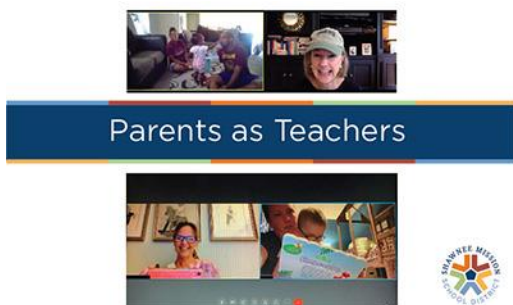
**National Merit Honorees** The Shawnee Mission School District congratulates the 13 Shawnee Mission students who were named semifinalists in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program. They have qualified to continue in

competition for scholarship offers worth more than \$30 million, which will be offered next spring. Students are considered for the honor based on taking the 2019 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). [Click here to see a list of the honorees.](#)



**International Honors for Trumpet Player** Christopher Petrella, a Shawnee Mission South High School sophomore, was named one of only 10 finalists from around the world in the ICTUS International Trumpet

Competition. As a freshman, he was the first SM South student ever to make the Kansas All-State band. Since then, he was selected as a semi-finalist for the National Trumpet Competition and then earned the position of First Trumpet in the National Honor Band sponsored by the National Federation of Music Educators, where he was also the first Shawnee Mission South band member to be invited into that prestigious ensemble. He participates in band at SM South under the direction of Steve Adams.



**Parents as Teachers** Families who have young children, from pregnancy to age five, and live in the Shawnee Mission School District, are invited to enroll in Shawnee Mission Parents as Teachers. For those unfamiliar, this is a national program that connects

families with trained educators who promote early development, learning, and health of children by supporting and engaging parents and caregivers. Enrollment for parents is free of cost.

The program provides Evidence-Based Home Visits, now being conducted virtually, and numerous resources and connections to support families. [Click here to learn more.](#)

**All-Star** Board of Education members recognized three Shawnee Mission employees as Shawnee Mission All-Stars. These individuals were selected to be honored in the spring, but due to the pandemic, their Board recognitions were postponed. Shawnee Mission's newest all Stars are:

**Brett Daane, Shawnee Mission North building manager.**  
[Click here to see a video about Brett](#) (video features archive footage from Spring 2020).

**Bridgette Fullington, Rosehill Elementary School Pre-Kindergarten teacher**  
[Click here to see a video about Bridgette Fullington.](#) (video features archive footage from Spring 2020).

**Amy Nine, social worker at Westridge Middle School**  
[Click here to see a video about Amy Nine.](#) (video features archive footage from Spring 2020).

Anyone wanting to nominate a Shawnee Mission School District employee, certified and/or classified, to be considered for the Shawnee Mission All-Star award can do so by [clicking here](#).

This publication, provided after each Shawnee Mission Board of Education meeting, provides a recap of some actions taken by the Shawnee Mission Board of Education and information about

activities happening in the school district. An archive video of the workshop and regular meeting [can be found here](#). Links to board policies, agendas, and meeting minutes [can be found here](#).