



BOARD MEETING RECAP

From the Board Workshop

Update to Second Semester COVID Mitigation Measures

The Shawnee Mission Board of Education approved an update to second semester COVID mitigation measures. These mitigation measures go into effect on Wednesday, February 16, 2022.

- Masks inside middle school and high school buildings will become optional for students and staff, as long as the building remains below the district threshold for masking (see District Threshold for Masking outlined below).
- **Masks will continue to be required** for all elementary students and staff while the county mandate is in effect. At such time as the county removes the mandate, elementary schools will revert to the district threshold for masking (see District Threshold for Masking outlined below) set for all other SMSD facilities.

District Threshold for Masking

If a school building reaches $> 3\%$ positive COVID cases or the overall absentee rate related to illness is $> 5\%$, the building will return to full mask requirements. The building will remain masked for at least 14 days and until the percentage of positive cases is $< 3\%$ and overall absentee rate related to illness is $< 5\%$.

If school building rates of positive cases or illness rates are unknown due to one of the extended district breaks (such as Thanksgiving, Winter, Spring or Summer breaks) AND the percent positive rate is 8% or higher according to the JCDHE dashboard, all buildings will return to school with full mask requirements until data can be collected to determine the actual building rate. This time period will be no longer than one week unless > 3%.

[Click here to view the approved measures.](#)

The measures go into effect on Wednesday, February 16, 2022.

Elizabeth Holzschuh, Johnson County Department of Health and Environment director of epidemiology, answered questions from the Board of Education before they made their decision. The Board approved the update 6-0.

Winter MAP Update Dr. Dan Gruman, director of assessment and research, presented an update to the Board on student progress on mid-year interim assessments. The presentation was designed to provide a “big picture view of status and progress this school year,” Gruman noted. He also noted that this data includes much to be optimistic about, including signs of recovery. [Click here to view the full presentation.](#)

Superintendent Dr. Michelle Hubbard said she is proud of the growth that has taken place and that the data is reflective of the quality of engagement and instruction she is seeing as she visits

classrooms. “I’m excited for the future and seeing where our spring scores are as well,” Dr. Hubbard expressed.

From the Superintendent Report



SMAC PTA Citizenship Prior to the Board workshop, the Shawnee Mission School District formally recognized honorees in this year’s Shawnee Mission Area Council (SMAC) PTA Citizenship Writing contest.

This program encourages students in 5th through 12th grades to write and submit a poem or essay.

This year, students were prompted by the theme “I Will Make the World a Better Place By...” The theme was developed by Westridge eighth grader Elizabeth Barnes. Superintendent Hubbard congratulated all of the honorees for their writing talent and for the example they have set as citizens.



Quarterly Digital Art Show The Shawnee Mission School District is proud to share artwork from students across the district in the latest Quarterly Digital Art show. This art

show features work created by students in Pre-K through 12th grades in schools across the district during the second quarter of this school year. A special thanks is extended to all students, SMSD art educators, and visual arts coordinator Megan Ellis for sharing this artwork with all of us. [Click here for a link](#) to the art show featuring the creativity and talent of SMSD student artists.



Student Store Ribbon Cutting This month, community members were delighted to officially celebrate the opening of a student-owned business at Oak Park Mall. Digital marketing and entrepreneurship students at Shawnee Mission West High School have developed real products and brands. Their products are on display at a virtual storefront at Oak Park Mall. Shoppers can purchase the student-made products through a QR code that directs to an online store. [Click here to visit the online store.](#)

These students have been hard at work with their teacher Tiffany Dixon. They all gathered for an official ribbon cutting for their business, hosted in partnership with the Overland Park Chamber and the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation. “I cannot think of a better example of Real World Learning than what this store provides,” Superintendent Dr. Michelle Hubbard expressed. “I’m so proud of our students and educators who have taken this opportunity and run with it.”



EPA Honors for SM East The United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 7 awarded Shawnee Mission East a 2020 Food Recovery Challenge Award. The school is recognized for its notable

achievements in sustainable food management practices for 2019-2020. They were honored for their innovative cafeteria composting program. The Lancer's work to reinvigorate their program led to 12.4 tons of composted food waste in 2019, which was a 538 percent increase for the school within one year.

This all ties to district-wide efforts that began in 2008 and spread across the district as a grassroots effort led by students, parents, teachers, district leaders, and community partners. All SMSD schools and the CAA participate in recycling and cafeteria composting.



KDG/Pre-K Enrollment Open Now

Enrollment is now open for [Pre-Kindergarten](#) and [Kindergarten](#) for the 2022-2023 school year. [Click here for enrollment links](#) where families can complete

applications and reserve a spot. Please note that the application must be completed on a desktop or laptop computer or a tablet. It will not work on a mobile phone. If applicants do not have access to one of these devices, they are encouraged to make an appointment to enroll in person. For K-12 enrollment, [please contact your area school](#). For Pre-K enrollment, please contact the Early Childhood department at 913-993-6441.



GUEST CHEF MENTOR SERIES #2
CHEF PAM LIBERDA
WALDO THAI
5 COURSE DINNER
+ PASSED ANKUS
FEBRUARY 23, 2022
PASSED 4PM
DINNER 6:00PM **\$45**
TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE
BETHCOOPERSBISTRO.COM
Bistro **BROADMOOR BISTRO**
1000 CENTER FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT, SUITE 100, KANSAS CITY, MO 64101

Guest Chef Series Pam Liberda of Waldo Thai - Kansas City will soon serve as a guest chef in the Guest Chef series at the Broadmoor Bistro. Liberda and culinary arts

students will prepare and host dinner at 6 p.m. on Feb. 23, 2022 at the Broadmoor Bistro here at the Center for Academic Achievement. [Click here for tickets and more information.](#)



Polar Plunge A point of pride for the Shawnee Mission School District this year is the fact that Unified Sports athletes now compete in every Shawnee Mission high school. This has been accomplished in partnership with the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) and Special Olympics Kansas. Dr. Hubbard

shared that in just a few weeks she will join the SM West Vikings Team in taking a Polar Plunge to support Special Olympics and United Sports. Click here to [view Dr. Hubbard's page](#) and the [team page](#). [Click here for more information](#) about the Polar Plunge. "I appreciate the invitation from the Shawnee Mission West team to support a cause that is going to help students across our district," Hubbard expressed. "This very cold event is held to support Special Olympics Kansas and their work to support individuals with intellectual disabilities through competition."



R&D Forum One of the SMSD's biggest celebrations of the year is the Research and Development Forum. This year will be the 60th annual R&D Forum in the SMSD! The event this spring will include a student

showcase and The Next Great Idea Pitch competition. This contest invites student entrepreneurs to share ideas for solving a problem- and they all have a chance to win prizes to advance their ideas. [Click here to see a video featuring two winners from 2021](#). The deadline for students to enter the contest is February 25. [Here is a link](#) for anyone who wants to learn more and apply. The Shawnee Mission School District extends thanks to the Regnier family for their long-standing support of this opportunity for students.

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 [can be found here](#). Links to board policies, agendas, and meeting minutes [can be found here](#).