

Board Items



Foundation Recognition Kim Hinkle, executive director of the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation, introduced recipients of this year's Excellence in Education (E2) Grants.

These grants are awarded by the Foundation "for projects that foster innovative and challenging teaching and learning." Prior to the Board meeting, the Foundation recognized recipients with a reception. The recipients also joined Hinkle at the podium to be recognized by the Board and Superintendent. Hinkle commended the teachers for their innovative vision during a challenging time.

[Click here to view a list of all recipients.](#)

English Language Arts Presentation

Dr. Darren Dennis, chief academic officer, introduced Krista Carson, elementary coordinator of curriculum and instruction, who led a presentation on a proposed K-6 English Language Arts resource adoption.

Carson was joined by members of the English Language Arts cadre: Hayley Wallace, Apache IS fifth grade teacher; Emilie Taggart, Comanche Kindergarten teacher; Shari Easley, Brookridge Kindergarten teacher; Michelle Tapko, Roesland sixth grade teacher; Emily Alvarado, Tomahawk sixth grade teacher; and Kindel Baxter, Ray Marsh sixth grade teacher. These teachers shared details about the process of researching, piloting, and evaluating the resource. The team recommended Open Court Reading for students in Kindergarten through fifth grade and StudySync for students in sixth grade.

[Click here to view the presentation slides.](#)

Later in the meeting the Board of Education approved the adoption and purchase of McGraw-Hill's Open Court Reading Resource for K-5 English Language Arts and StudySync for sixth grade English Language Arts courses.

Legislative Update Dr. Stuart Little, district lobbyist, provided a legislative update to the Board. The update [can be viewed here](#), starting at 57:20.

Board Policy Board of Education members held a first reading of the following policies:

[Revised Board Policy DL](#): Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Review

[Revised Board Policy IF](#): Public Concerns/Complaints About Instructional and Library Resources

[Revised Board Policy IIA](#): Performance-Based Credit

[Revised Board Policy JBCB](#): In-District Transfers

[Revised Board Policy JCDB](#): Dress Code

[Revised Board Policy KGA](#): Personal Use of District Personal Property and Equipment

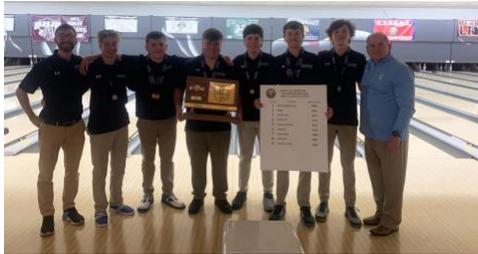
From the Superintendent Report



Celebrating SMSD Arts The month of March is celebrated nationally as Youth Art Month, Music in Our Schools Month, and Theater Educators Month. Superintendent Dr. Michelle Hubbard took a moment to celebrate everyone in the district who inspires the arts and creativity in our schools.

There are numerous ways our community can see the creativity of our students and staff throughout the year, whether it's through the [district's digital art shows](#) or attending any event on our [performing arts calendar](#). As part of this month's celebration, students from across the district are

featured in a statewide art display in Topeka. [Click here to see students who are representing the SMSD in this statewide exhibit.](#)



Sports Highlights It's been an eventful few weeks with numerous honors being brought back to SMSD trophy cases. Jahir Contreras, Shawnee Mission East senior, was named a state champion in wrestling at 145 pounds. Shawnee Mission East also

claimed the Kansas State High School Athletic Association 6A Boys Bowling championship title.

Dr. Hubbard also noted the district-wide pride for the Shawnee Mission West girls basketball team and the Shawnee Mission Northwest boys basketball team for amazing seasons that led them all the way to state tournaments. "Congratulations to all of our athletes and coaches on these fantastic accomplishments," Dr. Hubbard shared. "It was a great winter season and we're looking forward to spring!"



Polar Plunge Earlier this month, Dr. Hubbard took the Polar Plunge at Lake Olathe in support of Special Olympics Kansas. "I can report now it was a very cold, but very fun event!" she said. The SMSD had teams from Shawnee Mission South and Shawnee Mission West high schools. In addition, Special Education Director Sherry

Dumolien took the plunge. Special Olympics Kansas raised nearly \$85,000 that day. The Shawnee Mission School District has worked in partnership with KSHSAA and Special Olympics to provide Unified Sports opportunities, which allow students of all abilities to compete together.

"We're so thankful for this partnership and were glad to join in some fun to provide these kinds of opportunities to SMSD students," Dr. Hubbard added.

[Click here to see a video of the Polar Plunge.](#)



Biotech Success Shawnee Mission Biotechnology students excelled at a recent regional Junior Science and Humanities symposium. They claimed four of the top five prizes for research they presented.

Daniel James Schipfer, a Shawnee Mission East senior, earned second place and a \$1,500 scholarship for research related to aging on the liver.

Caleb Gilmore, a Shawnee Mission East junior, earned third place and a \$1,000 scholarship for research related to mitochondria.

Henry Blair, a Shawnee Mission East senior, earned fourth place for research related to diabetes.

Olivia Fritz, a Shawnee Mission West senior, earned fifth place for research related to fly larvae.

They all are now headed to national competition in New Mexico.

Dr. Hubbard congratulated the Signature Program students and their teachers, Dr. Kenneth Lee and Zulma Perez-Estrella.



R&D Open Houses Here is a reminder for teachers, family members, and students: The deadline for submitting projects to the R&D Forum Student Showcase is Monday, March 28. [Click here for more information and links to submit student work.](#)

Everyone is encouraged to join us at this year's Research and Development Forum student showcase which takes place from April 18, 2022 to April 28, 2022. This is the 60th year of the forum and the entire community is invited to view student projects in the

R&D Forum in this open-house style event. A series of Open Houses will be held in April at the Center for Academic Achievement. [Click here for the full schedule and details.](#)

Attendees will get to see student artwork, science projects, and career and technical education projects. On April 30, everyone is encouraged to watch The Next Great Idea pitch competition, featuring Shawnee Mission students. A link to the livestream will be posted on www.smsd.org and viewers will be able to cast their vote for the event's People's Choice Award.

Dr. Hubbard thanked the Regnier Family, who has supported the forum since it began for Shawnee Mission students 60 years ago.

An archive video of the meeting [can be found here.](#) Links to board policies, agendas, and meeting minutes [can be found here.](#)