

INSIDE



SHAWNEE MISSION SCHOOL DISTRICT

WINTER 2022



> Fostering a Love of Reading

> Shawnee Mission North Turns 100

> Real World Learning for All Ages



Helping Students Through Food Service: 'The Perfect Choice'

Maria Torres, food service kitchen manager at Overland Park Elementary, loves her job. Torres shares that what fulfills her heart most is to see the students grow up and move to their next step. After all, for over 25 years, she has watched students grow from nervous kindergartners to confident 6th graders.

Torres began her career as a Food Service Assistant at Sunflower Elementary. Maria progressed and was promoted to the Kitchen Manager at Mill Creek Elementary, later transferring to Overland Park, where she has served for the past eight years. She enjoys making a difference in her student's lives and loves when they come back to visit her, once grown, or when they recognize her in public.

Maria describes the work environment and her coworkers at Shawnee Mission School District (SMSD) as always willing to help each other succeed and says that students' needs are always the priority.

"If I ask for help, everyone is more than willing to help," Torres shared. "I especially feel appreciated by the students and my coworkers. With this job, everything we do is centered around the kids. We want to make them feel cared for and give them a friendly smile each day."

She elaborates that they provide a lot of focus to kindergartners, teaching them lunchroom guidelines and nurturing to help them feel comfortable. "Our kids make the job!"

Maria tells her friends that may be seeking employment that if you enjoy interacting with children, making a difference in their lives, and want to feel appreciated, this is the perfect choice. The salary is competitive and a benefits package for those who work a minimum of 20 hours per week is offered. ◆



Features INSIDE



- 2 > Helping Students Through Food Service
- 4 > The Hub - Updates from Superintendent Dr. Michelle Hubbard
- 6 > Shawnee Mission North Turns 100
- 7 > Bond Update
- 8 > Fostering a Love of Reading
- 9 > Scholarship Shawnee Mission
- 10 > Real World Learning for All Ages
- 12 > Opening Doors Through SMSD Arts

ON THE COVER: Shawnee Mission North Principal David Ewers cuts the ribbon to commemorate the 100 Year Anniversary of SM North.



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INSIDE

Shawnee Mission School District
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The Hub

Updates from Superintendent Dr. Michelle Hubbard

The Shawnee Mission School District has had a wonderful start to the school year. Every week, I take the time to visit several of our schools and programs in person. Visiting classrooms and connecting with our students and teachers is one of my favorite activities. I've even been known to join a bus route on occasion! From meeting Project Search students working internships at AdventHealth, to observing projects at Trailwood Elementary in Shelby Johnson's 4th grade classroom, it has been inspiring to see the learning, creativity, and engagement happening across the district. It's also been a joy to see school spirit shining so brightly, especially at our high schools as they have celebrated homecomings with parades and spirit days.

In this season of gratitude, I want to express my appreciation for all of our extraordinary educators, students, families, and community members who make the Shawnee Mission School District one of the best districts in the nation. As you will see in this issue of Inside SMSD, there are many achievements and successes to highlight and celebrate. These successes do not happen in isolation. It takes everyone working together as One Shawnee Mission to ensure our students are ready to achieve their full potential.



Dr. Michelle Hubbard

Thank you to all of our staff and educators who relentlessly work to help our students reach their potential and their dreams. Thank you to our families and community members for your tireless support, and thank you to our incredible students for bringing your energy and enthusiasm each and every day. I can't wait to see what the next semester brings!

National Merit Semifinalists

We are incredibly proud of the 16 Shawnee Mission seniors named semifinalists in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program! The students took the 2021 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. Seniors who achieved this accomplishment represent less than one percent of all U.S. high school seniors. I was thrilled to join our Board of Education members in congratulating these incredible students at a reception this fall.

Semifinalists from Shawnee Mission are:

Shawnee Mission East: Segan Bettenhausen, Nicholas Karr, Andrew Keller, Luke Kounkel, and Ella Rogers

Shawnee Mission Northwest: Mehania Asir, Mikenna Heller, Oscar Ohly, Allison Tran

Shawnee Mission South: Greta Albrecht, John Lavergne, Alexander Maret, Abigail Rasmussen, Julia Schnitter, and Duncan Tennant

Shawnee Mission West: Samantha Wallenburg

These students now have the opportunity to advance in competition for nearly \$28 million dollars in scholarship offers next spring. We congratulate them on this amazing achievement and wish them good luck in the next phase!



High school principals and Superintendent Dr. Michelle Hubbard host a reception for National Merit semifinalists.

Outstanding Educators

We are thrilled to recognize Jordyn Burke, kindergarten teacher at Corinth Elementary School, and Emma Weil, English language arts teacher at Trailridge Middle School as the Horizon Award nominees.

Burke and Weil are now in the running for the Horizon Award, a recognition sponsored by the Kansas State Department of Education that honors 32 exemplary first-year teachers across the state.

Another point of pride is this year's Shawnee Mission nominees for Kansas Teacher of the Year (KTOY). Michelle Tapko, sixth grade teacher at Roesland, and Sarah Starforth, special education teacher at Arrowhead, will be honored by the Kansas State Department of Education in the KTOY program.

Both of these amazing teachers will join a network of Kansas teachers who collaborate to share ideas and best practices. The individual selected as Kansas Teacher of the Year will advance in the National Teacher of the Year competition.

We think that Shawnee Mission teachers are the best of the best, and we are so proud to have these talented professionals working with Shawnee Mission students!



Left to right: Jordyn Burke, Emma Weil, Michelle Tapko, and Sarah Starforth are being honored as excellent educators.

Welcome Middle School Basketball Athletes!

It was an exciting fall sports season and our winter athletes and coaches are hard at work. This year the middle school girls and boys basketball programs have expanded to include seventh grade. We are so excited that all middle schoolers will now have the opportunity to play basketball competitively or in an instructional league at school. This opportunity will give students another extracurricular option, help them build skills, and learn all about basketball. I'm looking forward to watching some middle school hoops in action!

Read Across SMSD

In Shawnee Mission we know that reading plays a fundamental role in academic success and lifelong learning. For this reason, we're thrilled to work in partnership with NEA Shawnee Mission to present a second year of Read Across SMSD.

Read Across SMSD is a celebration of books that encourages reading for all ages and supports the district strategic plan belief that the community's strength is derived from its diversity.

Modeled after the national Read Across America program, every month features three books- one each for elementary, middle grade, and young adult readers- that explore a topic or theme.

This year the program is generously supported by the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation. Through the Foundation, titles related to the monthly theme are being provided to each Shawnee Mission school.

Our theme in December is "Activate Inner Strengths." The books featured this month help readers consider their strengths and unique gifts. Scan the QR code to watch as



Trailridge Middle school students and Dr. John McKinney, director of family and student services, introduce the December Read Across SMSD Theme.



director of family and student services, Dr. John McKinney, and a group of Trailridge Middle School students introduce the December elementary book "Sometimes All I Need is Me" by Juliana Perdomo.

We hope families, neighbors, and friends across our community will join us as we Read Across SMSD. Visit www.smsd.org/about/read-across-smsd to watch the monthly video and connect to more resources. And don't forget to post your participation on social media using #ReadAcrossSMSD! 📌

Shawnee Mission North Turns 100



SMSD STRONG

Strong Schools, Strong Community



Left: Shawnee Mission North Principal David Ewers cuts the ribbon to commemorate the 100 Year Anniversary of SM North. Right: SM North alumni walked in the 100th anniversary parade.



This fall, Shawnee Mission North became the first Shawnee Mission High School to turn 100 years old. The school reached the century mark on September 12, 2022, the anniversary of the day students attended their first day of learning in the building in 1922.

To celebrate, Shawnee Mission North hosted several days of celebration for students, staff, graduates, and members of the community. At the heart of all of the festivity was a celebration of the school's tradition of excellence and achievement, Principal David Ewers shared.

"What we have strived to be in our first 100 years is what we are going to strive for in our next 100 years," he added.

To kick off the festivities, Shawnee Mission North held a 100th anniversary parade. In addition to decade-themed floats built by students, graduates from various classes joined the fun.

The experience was all about memories, noted Roma Drebetts-Martin, a former Shawnee Mission North teacher.

"I still remember so much of Shawnee Mission North," Drebetts-Martin expressed. "It was the most amazing place I've ever taught."

In addition to a parade, homecoming events, and an open house, North wrapped up the commemoration with a ribbon cutting. The event celebrated the start of the next 100 years of education at North.

Board of Education President Dr. Mary Sinclair congratulated the original SMSD high school on its anniversary.

"Our roots in excellence started here," she said.

Sara Goodburn, Board of Education Vice President and North area representative, noted the multiple generations of families who have attended Shawnee Mission North. She highlighted the Garcia family, who joined the 100th parade celebrating three generations and more than 20 graduates from SM North.

"Generations of families have been educated in this building – loyal members of the North family who stayed in the area to raise their families and attend North," she noted.

Current senior and student body president Gage Chapman talked about how his experience at North has been like having a second family.

"The people I've met have taught me life lessons and have given me memories that I will carry with me for years to come," Chapman shared. ◆

Westwood View Elementary students have completed nearly an entire semester in their new school building and the reviews are in. It only took one tour of the building for Maria-Sofia Alghabra to realize how much she liked it.

"It's beautiful, it's amazing, and I'm so excited," the second grader said. "At first I was a little bit worried, but looking at the new building, meeting the teacher herself, and seeing the whole room makes me happy, it makes me excited, and it leaves my worries all away. I just love it. It is fun!"

Westwood View is the first in a series of elementary school rebuilds to be completed as a result of the \$264 million bond approved by voters in 2021. More students await their first building tours in the coming weeks. John Diemer is scheduled to be the next elementary school to be ready to welcome students in January 2023. Construction also continues on Pawnee Elementary School, with the gymnasium, roofing, and walls taking shape this fall. The Rushton Elementary community held a farewell event this fall for their facility, which was built in 1954. Construction will start on their new building in early 2023.

As this transition takes place, Rushton principal Kristy Fornal is confident students and staff will carry a strong sense of community forward. "It truly is a community school and people love it," Fornal added. "That is the most awesome thing about it. I hope the new space brings the same feelings our beloved Rushton gives now."

The passing of the bond allowed for facilities improvements across the entire Shawnee Mission School District. Here is a look at other projects currently underway:

Shawnee Mission East High School: The home of the Lancers is gaining an addition that provides a large classroom/meeting space, an elevator, and restroom renovations.

Westridge Middle School: Westridge is receiving an addition on the school corridor for a large collaboration space. The main office, counselor offices, and conference rooms are being remodeled. A restroom renovation is underway. A large collaboration space downstairs is being added as a result of remodeling. Westridge will also have a new outdoor classroom in the school's courtyard.

Horizons High School: Renovations are taking place on the school cafeteria and commons space as well as restrooms. Some remodels are also underway for various classrooms and program spaces.

Shawnee Mission Early Childhood Education Center: This school is undergoing two phases of renovation. The first provides television installations in each classroom. New ceilings and lighting fixtures have also been installed. In phase 2 the school will gain new flooring, a restroom remodeling, and new casework for classrooms.

Visit www.smsd.org/bond-2021 to follow bond progress. ◆



Westwood View students on the first day of school.



SM East under construction



Rushton Elementary rebuild plans



Pawnee Elementary under construction

The Shawnee Mission Education Foundation

Fostering a Love of Reading



This fall, the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation announced an exciting new partnership that has some of the youngest readers in Shawnee Mission running to check the mailbox.

At the annual Fall Breakfast, the Foundation revealed it is now the first affiliate of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Johnson County. Families in our community with children ages birth to 5 years old and living within the boundaries of the Shawnee Mission School District can now sign up to receive a free, age-appropriate book in the mail each month.

"By serving as an affiliate of the Imagination Library, the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation is committed to helping foster a love of reading in children before they are even students in the Shawnee Mission School District," shared Kim Hinkle, executive director of the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation.

Since September 2021 the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund has been working to expand Dolly Parton's Imagination Library across the state of Kansas.

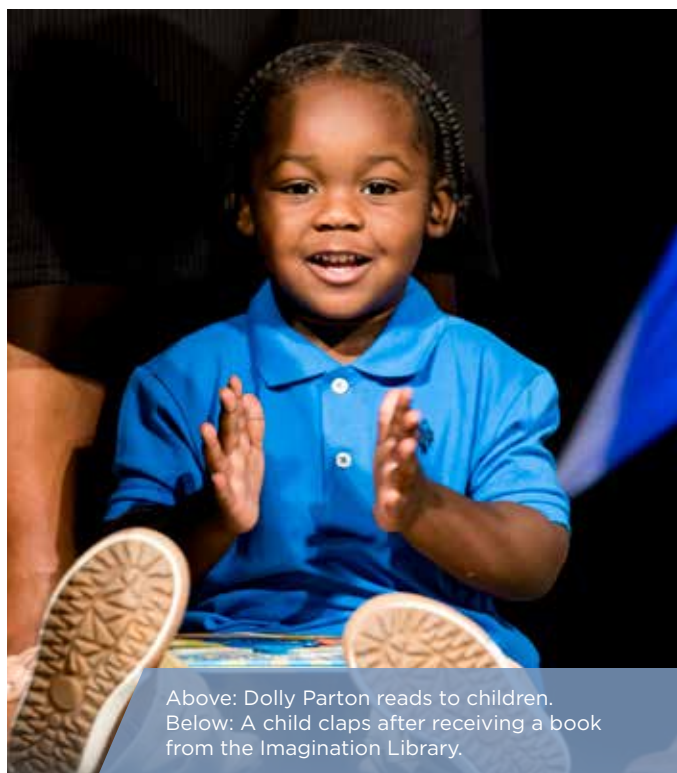
The Foundation staff has been delighted and amazed at the enthusiastic response to the program. Since announcing the partnership in September, more than 3,300 area children have been enrolled in the program. This more than doubles the Foundation's initial goal of registering 1,200 children in the first year.

"It's thrilling that so many children in Shawnee Mission will have this opportunity to explore and connect with books right in their homes," expressed Hinkle. "The Foundation is so proud to be part of that story."

Children who are enrolled at birth will collect their own personal library of 60 books by the end of the program. The first title children receive is "The Little Engine That Could" and the last title, "Kindergarten, Here I Come!" comes the month the child turns five.

Families who live within the boundaries of the Shawnee Mission School District can sign-up for the program at www.smef.org/dolly.

To make a gift and support the Imagination Library, visit www.smef.org/givebooks. ♦



Above: Dolly Parton reads to children.
Below: A child claps after receiving a book from the Imagination Library.



Left: SM East students receive letters with individual scholarship offers. Right/Below: SM West students meet with a college representative.

Scholarship Shawnee Mission

Connecting Students to College

For the fourth year in a row, the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation is connecting students to opportunities through Scholarship Shawnee Mission.

A key Foundation program, Scholarship Shawnee Mission works to match high school students with college scholarship offers before they've even applied. This year the Foundation has expanded the program to also include juniors.

The Foundation presented the scholarship offers to seniors at assemblies held in the gymnasium at each comprehensive high school in the District. After reviewing their individual offers, students were encouraged to visit with

college representatives who were set up at stations on-site. This year, 49 universities and colleges participated in the program.

One of the program's goals is to bring postsecondary opportunities directly to students, explained Kim Hinkle, executive director of the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation.

"For some students, this opens up a whole new world of colleges that they might not know about," shared Hinkle. "They may have plans to go somewhere local, but now they have offers from places all over the country."

Ed Márquez, Foundation program officer, explained that receiving multiple offers may help students and their families make better decisions on the front end of the enrollment process.

"A student may have the sense that they will attend a specific university, but through this process they will find an option that is a better match financially, academically, culturally, or geographically," added Márquez. "They could discover an opportunity or school that wasn't on their radar and open the doors to

a great college experience."

Reflecting on the experience, Michael Houser, SM Northwest senior, shared his excitement for the future and overall pride in the achievement the offers represent.

"I'm just really proud of all of my friends and people I've been in classrooms with, some since Kindergarten," expressed Houser. "This is where we have all come to, this is the cumulative point and it shows we've worked hard. We're educated individuals that have a great future ahead of us."

Parents opt into the Scholarship Shawnee Mission program through the online verification process that occurs at the start of each school year. The Foundation shares student achievement data with participating colleges and universities, and the schools make scholarship offers to students who match their admissions and scholarship criteria.

This year, the Scholarship Shawnee Mission program presented \$2.7 billion dollars in scholarship offers to juniors and seniors in the Shawnee Mission School District. ♦



Awareness, Exploration, Preparation- Real World Learning for All Ages



Left: Caroline Lucia Cooney operates a dog sitting business. Right: Gabriella Ruiz and third grade teacher Natalie Kilgore. Kilgore is wearing a lanyard created by Ruiz.



Shawnee Mission’s goal is that by 2030, all high school seniors will graduate with a diploma and at least one Market Value Asset (MVA).

Already, students of all ages are earning MVAs, from fifth-grader Caroline Lucia Cooney running her own dog-sitting business to Luis Montanez becoming the first high school intern for Newkirk Novak Construction Partners.

An MVA can be achieved through:

- Work experiences (internships, client-connected projects)
- Entrepreneurial experiences
- College credit
- Industry-recognized credentials

Educators are working across the district to provide awareness, exploration, and preparation opportunities for all types of careers to help students of all ages eventually attain an MVA. The Real World Learning opportunities that help SMSD students achieve MVAs prepare students with the skills they need for college and career, according to Laura Harsch, business to education program officer. All of this work is rooted in the statewide Kansas Work-Based Learning Continuum, the district’s strategic plan, and the district’s partnership with the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation.

“Our biggest hope is that our students can proactively explore as many different kinds of career options as possible, at all ages, so they are ready for personalized college and

career opportunities,” Harsch added.

Elementary Awareness

Community members can play a huge role in helping elementary students see what is possible for their future, noted Dr. Ryan Flurry, principal of career education campuses and coordinator of career and technical education. The elementary years are an important time to raise awareness and guest speakers, mentors, and field trips are rich opportunities to introduce students to potential careers of interest.

“Helping students explore interests now, can connect students earlier to a potential fulfilling career,” Flurry expressed.

A field trip to a pumpkin patch could also be an opportunity to learn about careers in agriculture, marketing, food production, and much more. A neighbor who is a vet tech or a family member who owns a business could visit a classroom and be interviewed by students about their job.

Connections with community members at the right place and time played a role in Gabriella Ruiz and Caroline Lucia Cooney getting a head start on earning MVAs as elementary students.

Ruiz, a Nieman third-grader, was inspired to start an art shop during the pandemic. She was encouraged when a restaurant employee complimented a mask holder she had made. They said they wanted to buy one and Ruiz decided to make more. Months later, she sold beaded mask holders, keychains, lanyards, and bracelets and even featured her work at Shawnee KidsFest, an event for student business owners.

“It’s really fun and you get to help people,” Ruiz said. I think other students would like to do this too.”

Caroline Lucia Cooney, fifth grader, was especially inspired to work with animals after participating in an after-school club at Brookwood called “Little Vet School.” Led by veterinarians, she learned aspects of caring for dogs and was given a stethoscope, lab coat, and stuffed dog to encourage practice. She learned about walking dogs and how to make natural dog treats. Combined with her experience as a pet owner and her love of animals, she has used all she learned to run a dog-sitting business.

“I have slowly learned what it takes to run a small business. No matter how much time it takes to feed, walk, play and give them everyday attention it is worth it,” Caroline Lucia Cooney shared. “Reaching out to family and friends has slowly built my clientele.”

While not every elementary student is ready to start their own business, it is not too early to start connecting them to possible future options in all kinds of careers.

“Helping all of our students have a plan for their future is the biggest goal,” Flurry shared. “We want all of our elementary students to have a coherent set of experiences to connect them to career fields they may not know about.”

Middle School Exploration

The same is true for students in middle school.

A visit to Indian Hills Middle School from JE Dunn professionals gave students a hands-on opportunity to learn about careers in construction. After talking about construction projects, the visiting professionals gave students 15 minutes and a variety of materials like pipe cleaners, lasagna noodles, Styrofoam squares, and tape, and asked them to build a tower.

Chera Hishaw, JE Dunn community impact education manager, measured each structure and noted how well students worked together.

“I learned cooperation is important and some of our ideas didn’t work, but that’s OK,” noted Holly Cordaro, an eighth grade student at Indian Hills.

This lesson, as well as opportunities like job shadows, mock interviews, field trips, and career mentoring, are exactly the kind of lessons Kyle Miesner, Indian Hills robotics and career exploration teacher, hopes to connect his kids to during the middle school years. Miesner served with a team of Shawnee Mission educators who helped develop curriculum to expand Career and Technical Education pathways, to provide even more ways for middle school students across Kansas to explore.

“Opportunities like these help connect students to the reasons behind what we are learning,” he shared. “We want to provide springboards for our students. If they can put their foot in the pool, it gives them a chance to decide if they want to engage deeper.”

Community’s Essential Role

This fall, the SMSD held its first of several Career Expos for high school students to help them take steps in earning their MVAs. These events are designed specifically to connect

students to internships and other experiences in businesses throughout the community.

“We look to everyone in our community to get involved,” Laura Harsch said. “Whether it’s speaking to elementary students, or being interviewed by a middle school student about a job, or hiring high school interns, in a district our size there is room for everyone at the table.”

HNTB, a global infrastructure solutions firm located in Kansas City, Missouri, has previously brought on interns at the collegiate level, but worked to connect with high school students at the Expo. It provided an important, new opportunity to reach younger students in the field, according to Jordan Herbert, project manager for HNTB. The expo provided a valuable chance to talk to students about the company, engineering, and transportation, with the hope they might consider it along their career path.

“More and more we are seeing great candidates start to get the experience we are looking for at the high school level and we need to be here to get to meet them,” Herbert shared.

MVA Success Stories

Luis Montanez, senior, Shawnee Mission North

Montanez became the very first high school intern for Newkirk Novak Construction Partners, working on the Pawnee Elementary Construction site. He has learned to read drawings and site plans, and has earned OSHA 10 certification.



“I feel like I’m getting a head start in life,” Montanez expressed. “I would definitely recommend this to other students because it is a great opportunity to be able to experience your potential future in the real world.”

WaterOne Job Shadows

Each month, WaterOne staff hosts a high school senior, providing the student a day in the life of finance careers. “These students are bright, talented, engaged, and willing to learn,” noted manager of financial planning and analysis, Natalie Morrison. “They are a delight to be around and especially for more seasoned professionals, I would encourage them to keep an open mind and welcome the opportunity to learn from this next generation.”

If your business would like to participate, please contact Laura Harsch, Business to Education Program Officer at lauraharsch@smsd.org or 913.993.9367.

Opening Doors Through SMSD Arts



Left: Music technology students at SM West learn to use recording software in class. Right: Comanche Elementary students draw symbols while listening to a story.



This year, Shawnee Mission students interested in music and the performing arts were able to enroll in an exciting new course offering. For the first time, a music technology class is being offered at each comprehensive high school. The Shawnee Mission School District is the first in Kansas to take the national standards and create a course in music technology.

Some students, like Shawnee Mission West junior Logan DeAngelis, signed up for the course as soon as it became available.

“I knew I wanted to take this class,” DeAngelis expressed. “I’d been hoping there’d be something like this.”

In the class, students learn to create music with technology by using computers, digital mixing consoles, and recording software. The course gives students who are interested in creating music another option, explained Dr. Bill Thomas, performing arts coordinator and SM West band director.

“It helps bring relevance because some of the kids are already doing this at home,” Thomas shared. “They just love music and want to find a way to get involved with it, but they’re not intrigued by the traditional offerings of band, choir,

or orchestra. It’s a way to expand access to musical education.”

In fact, Thomas estimates 95% of students in the music technology classes are not enrolled in other music courses. “We’re blown away and excited by that,” he added.

Shawnee Mission West junior Elijah Cranshaw learned about the course during the elective fair.

“I like listening to music, and lately I’ve been thinking, ‘What if I want to make music?’ so I decided to try it,” Cranshaw added. One of the best parts of the class has been working and collaborating with other students.

“Learning by myself at home, I’d only be listening to the stuff that I was making and here I’m able to hear what others are doing and it gives inspiration,” Cranshaw shared.

SM West senior Raine Mangers enrolled in the course and has found learning the digital audio workstation software in a classroom setting to be a plus. Mangers had already been exploring music creation at home. “Being in a class that makes you turn in assignments, helps you keep the consistency and keeps you growing as a musician,” Mangers added. “It’s been really helpful and fun.”

In addition to learning how to create digital music, Thomas shared that music technology could help prepare students for postsecondary studies and careers in music production, engineering, song composition, or multimedia production.

It’s something that interests DeAngelis. “I have a song on Spotify and it might be fun to see where this takes me,” DeAngelis noted. “Maybe I’ll have a career as an audio engineer or something like that.”

To learn more about the performing arts in Shawnee Mission, scan the QR code to visit the website and find the performing arts calendar.



Arts Integration Thrives in the SMSD

Brookridge Elementary students in Angela Metcalf’s sixth grade class recently learned how doodling and drawing during class time can help them remember details and understand important concepts in stories and text.

The lesson was taught by Jamin Carter, a teaching artist who visited the classroom as part of the Kennedy Center Partners in Education program. During the session, Carter taught students how drawing abstract symbols while reading or listening to text can improve their ability to recall information and help make sense of unfamiliar content.

Metcalf shared that she often looks for ways to integrate the arts into school subjects. “I’m a firm believer in doodling, and I’ve seen how bringing the arts in can help deepen learning in all subjects,” expressed Metcalf.

Integrating arts into the classroom is at the heart of the Kennedy Center Partners in Education program. Formed by the Shawnee Mission School District, JCCC/Midwest Trust Center, Liberty Public Schools, and Kansas City Young Audiences, the partnership offers professional development in arts integration by bringing Kennedy Center teaching artists to the region. The visiting artists offer professional development workshops to educators and also visit a select number of classrooms to demonstrate strategies and work directly with students.

Teachers who have discovered arts integration are passionate about the benefits for students, according to Megan Ellis, visual arts coordinator and Lenexa Hills Elementary art teacher.

“Arts integration opens doors for all students in learning, but it definitely opens doors for students who might struggle with math, English Language Arts, or a more traditional instruction style. This gives students an avenue into accessing learning and sharing it more authentically,” shared Ellis. “It’s powerful.”

The Kennedy Center Partners in Education Program is supported by the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation

State Honors for SMSD Art Education

The Kansas Art Education Association has recognized art excellence in Shawnee Mission this fall.

Megan Ellis was recognized by the Kansas Art Education Association with the Outstanding Art Administrator award. The association also recognized the Shawnee Mission Board of Education with the Art Enhancer Award for support of the arts.

Hocker Grove art teacher Alyssa Passmore expressed her gratitude for all of the ways Board members support and value arts in all Shawnee Mission schools. She also shared that Ellis deserves the award for the effort she makes to help all art teachers throughout the district feel connected and supported.

“Megan brings such a light into the department and really facilitates in incredible ways to make all of our jobs easier. A lot of our art teachers can feel like islands being the only teacher in their buildings, and Megan really provides a



communication point for everybody to help make them feel connected and supported,” shared Passmore. Each quarter the Shawnee Mission School District proudly shares student artwork in a districtwide quarterly art show.

Scan the QR code to see amazing works of art created by students in Pre-K through 12th grade during the first quarter of the school year. 🎨



Above: Cape Code by Dolce Bauer, SM East junior. Below: Rainbow Birds by Kevin Hurt, Merriam Park Elementary first grader.

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