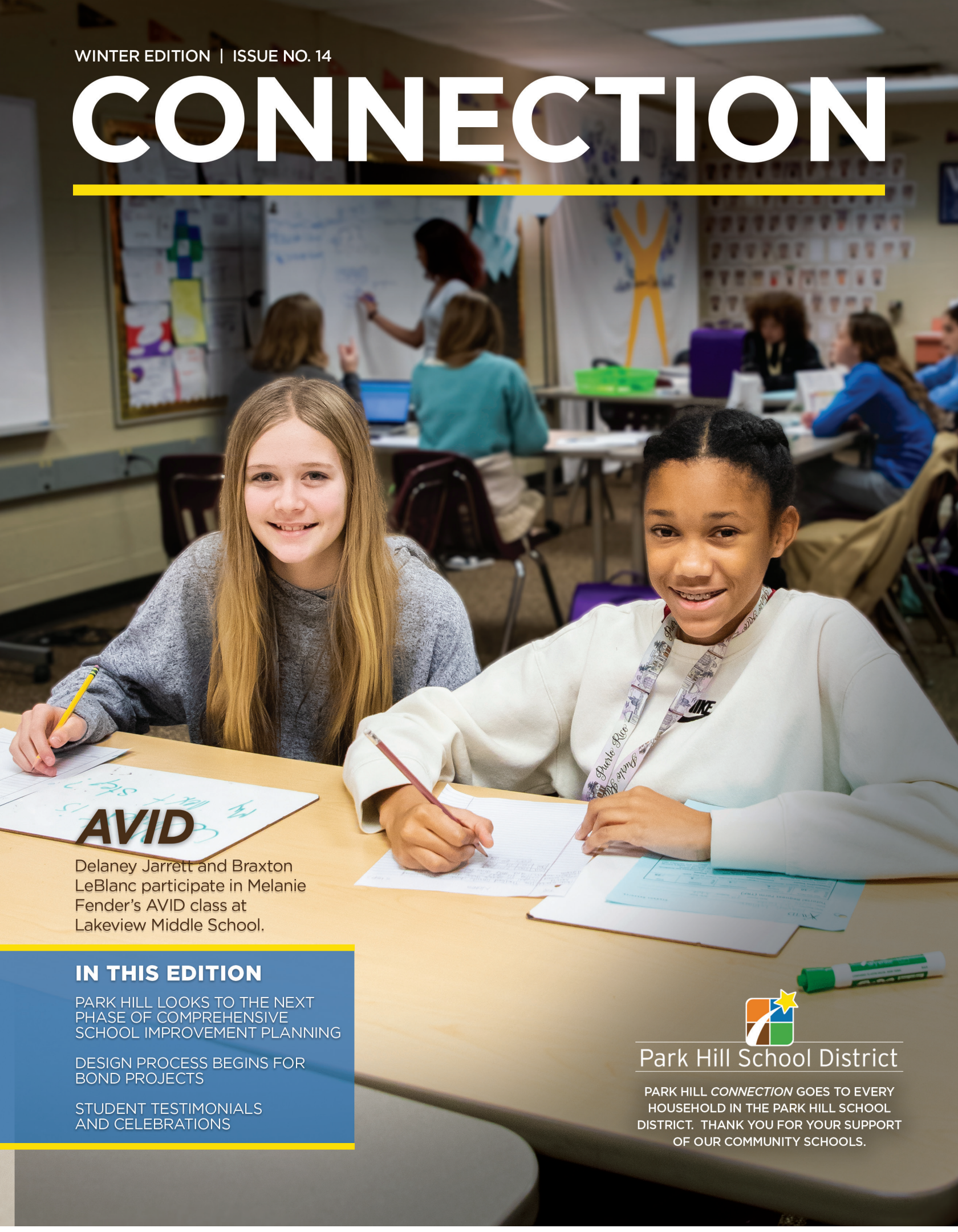
WINTER EDITION | ISSUE NO. 14

CONNECTION



AVID

Delaney Jarrett and Braxton LeBlanc participate in Melanie Fender's AVID class at Lakeview Middle School.

IN THIS EDITION

PARK HILL LOOKS TO THE NEXT PHASE OF COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

DESIGN PROCESS BEGINS FOR BOND PROJECTS

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS AND CELEBRATIONS

Park Hill School District

PARK HILL *CONNECTION* GOES TO EVERY HOUSEHOLD IN THE PARK HILL SCHOOL DISTRICT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS.



Straight from the Superintendent

Dear Park Hill Community,

The first semester of our school year produced so much good work and progress for our schools and community. The first of these "good works" revolves around the completion of our newest Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP). The CSIP process allowed us to produce our next five-year strategic plan.

The 2023-2028 CSIP was approved by the Board of Education in December and you will see many details of the new strategic plan in this edition of our *Connection* magazine.

Additionally, we've continued the implementation process in our Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) work. Specific work groups in Communications, Safe Spaces, DEIB Champions, Events and Calendar, and Community Learning and Education have been formed and are beginning their next phase of work.

We've also been excited to launch the design process for each of our phases of bond projects.

From Elementary #12 to Park Hill High School and Park Hill South High School to Russell Jones Education Center and all of our schools, Hollis + Miller Architects are working with students, families, staff and community members to design our projects.

We've also selected our construction management firms for each of our school projects. You should expect to see project renderings and construction starting throughout this spring, summer and fall.

Have a wonderful start to 2023 and thank you for your continued connection to the Park Hill School District.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mike Kimbrel

Superintendent

Welcome to the New *Connection*!

Connection is a publication of the Park Hill School District. The *Connection* magazine is distributed quarterly, without charge, to patrons within the Park Hill School District boundaries. Our new magazine format was launched in the fall of 2022.

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Janice Bolin, President
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Scott Monsees, Member
Daryl Terwilleger, Member



AROUND THE DISTRICT



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CONGRESS MIDDLE SCHOOL



ENGLISH LANDING ELEMENTARY



GERNER FAMILY EDUCATION CENTER



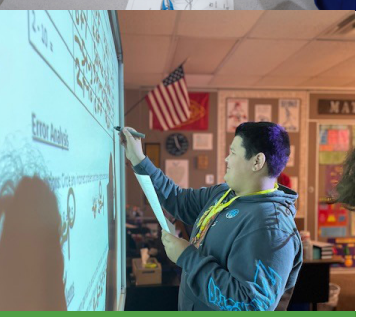
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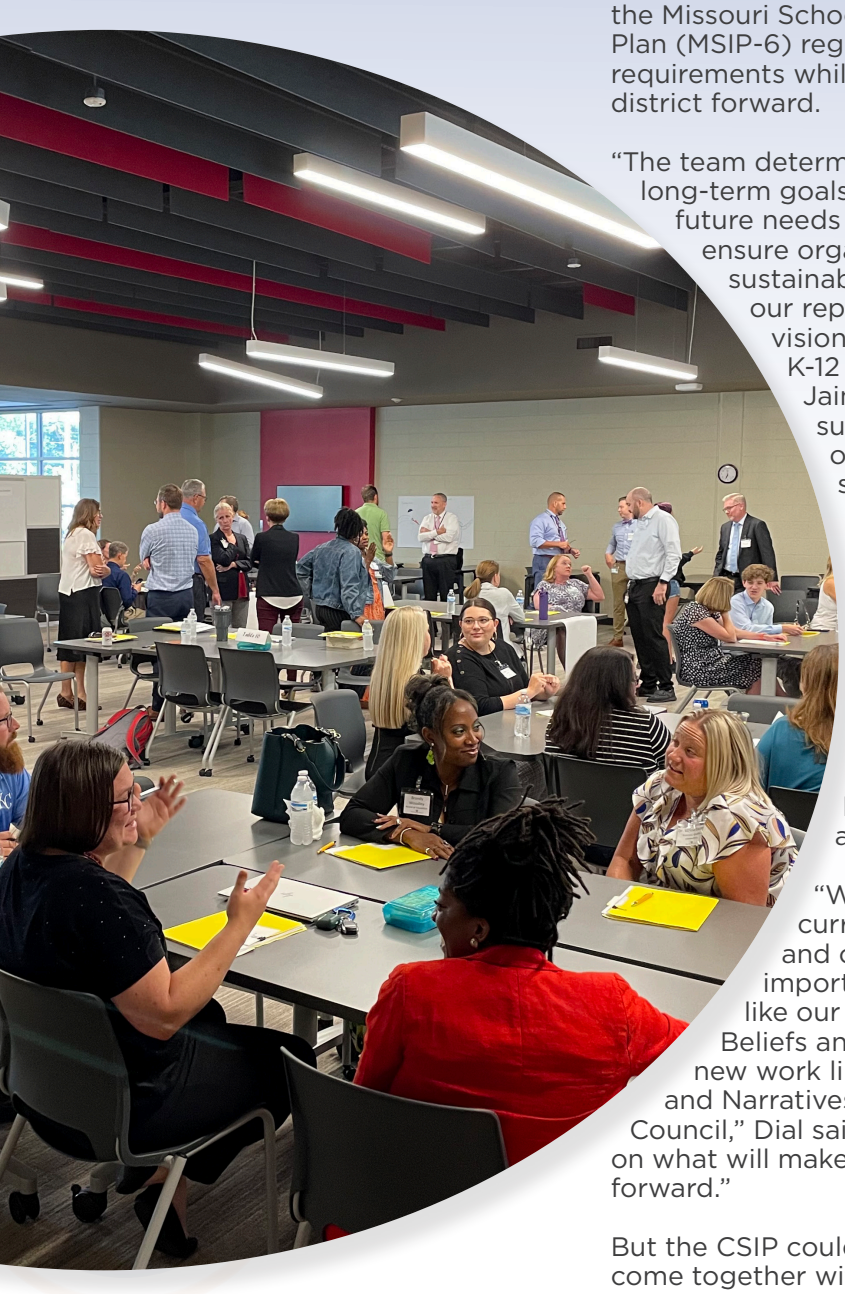


WALDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Park Hill's Comprehensive School Improvement Plan Guides Us Into The Future

The CSIP process included students, families, staff and community members helping to create the next phase of our strategic plan

What does it take to build successful futures for each student every day? With that question in mind, the district created a team to design the next iteration of our Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP), our roadmap for the next five years.



The 2023-2028 CSIP Planning Team consisted of community members, teachers, classified staff, building and district administrators, students, parents and board members. The team met throughout the fall of 2022, looking at the current CSIP to create a new plan aligning with the Missouri School Improvement Plan (MSIP-6) regulatory requirements while driving the district forward.

"The team determined short- and long-term goals to meet the future needs of our students, ensure organizational sustainability, and secure our reputation as a visionary leader in K-12 education," Dr. Jaime Dial, assistant superintendent of quality and student services, who led the team, said.

Another driving factor in creating the CSIP was continuity and building on the work the district had already accomplished.

"We looked at our current performance and carried over important pieces like our Instructional Beliefs and incorporated new work like the Drivers and Narratives of the DEIB Council," Dial said. "We focused on what will make us better going forward."

But the CSIP could only have come together with feedback from students, parents and district stakeholders.

"Gathering their feedback helped shape our plan," Dial said. "We had to determine the best way to meet their expectations."

Those expectations, an examination of the district's environment and a look at the academic advantages and strategic challenges the district faces led to a goal for the next five years:

Build successful futures for Park Hill students of all backgrounds.

The district will achieve this goal through work in three focus areas: academics, culture, and systems.

There's still work for the team to do, but excitement is building as to where the 2023-2028 CSIP will lead the district.

"It was an inspiring process," Daryl Terwilleger said. Terwilleger is a member of the Board of Education and the CSIP team. "I'm excited to see where we will go."

While no one can predict the future, one thing is clear – the new CSIP provides alignment across the district.

"We've progressed from four goals on our CSIP ten years ago to having one goal for the next five years," Dial said. "That's part of our continuous improvement culture and creates alignment all the way through."

Learn more about the CSIP process through the eyes of a teacher and student who served on the team on pages five and six.

Park Hill School District

2023 - 2028

COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

BUILDING SUCCESSFUL FUTURES

EACH STUDENT • EVERY DAY

GOAL

Build successful futures for Park Hill students of all backgrounds

CORE VALUES

Visionary Leadership
Integrity
Student Focus
High Expectations
Continuous Improvement
Equity

MEASURES

Graduate Profile Index
Access & Opportunity Index
Climate Index
Human Resources Scorecard
Financial and Operations Scorecard

MISSION

Through the expertise of an engaged staff, the Park Hill School District provides a relevant education in a safe, caring environment to prepare each student for success in life.

ACADEMICS

Implement the Park Hill teaching and learning model where students learn through experiences and inquiry.

CULTURE

Create an environment where all students, staff, and members of the Park Hill Community feel a sense of belonging.

SYSTEMS

Maximize Park Hill human and financial resources and address aging facilities in order to remove barriers to learning.



Straight From Our Staff

Park Hill UNFILTERED

My name is Morgan Corten, and I have been a teacher at Park Hill High School for the past six years. I teach ELA II and am about to graduate my first AVID cohort. I got my undergraduate degree and Master's in Curriculum from the University of Missouri – Columbia: GO TIGERS! I am currently working on my second master's at Kansas State that will certify me in school counseling. I have two dogs, Penny and Lulu, that I love like my own kids. I adopted them both from Unleashed Pet Rescue.

Park Hill: Why did you choose to teach in the Park Hill School District?

Morgan: When I was a senior at Mizzou, I emailed Dr. Kincheloe in November and told him that I wanted a job in his school. I grew up in Smithville, and in my eyes, Park Hill was always the school district of choice, so I set that as my goal all throughout college. Dr. Kincheloe invited me in when I came home for Thanksgiving break that year, and when I left that day, I knew this is where I would be.

PH: What's one thing you'd like the Park Hill community to know about the work you do?

M: We work so incredibly hard in this building. There is nothing I could have learned in my undergraduate career to prepare me for all of the work that comes with this job. That being said, I love what I do, and we love the kids. The job comes with highs and lows, like getting to see them chase their dreams but also seeing them lose family and go through the hardest times. As corny as it sounds, we get to see kids at their worst and at their best and help guide them toward whatever they choose to do when they leave this building, and that is really special.

PH: Why did you want to be a part of the CSIP committee?

M: I chose to be a part of this committee because I am very passionate about making sure we do right by every kid who walks through our doors. I have always been one to be more outspoken about my thoughts, and I knew this was such important work that needed to be done. Hearing the experiences from my classroom could only help make sure our CSIP reached all the needs that we have.

PH: Is there something you've learned from your committee work that has surprised you?

M: As stated, I am an English teacher, and when we talked about financials and what we must spend money on, I was shocked. We support so many resources. I am so glad I will never have to be in charge of that aspect. I also learned that this was not an easy process; everyone has an opinion, and making sure we hear them all and show the value of all is really difficult.

PH: How would you explain the committee's work to the Park Hill community?

M: This CSIP committee took a hard look at everything our district stands for and where we want our district to go by evaluating the amazing things we already do and figuring out where we have been lacking. We reflected on how we could turn those areas of growth into realistic goals to better our district. We had to have tough conversations about what we need to change in order to keep our district a competitive district, while making sure we are doing our best to make our students ready to take on whatever they choose to do in this world.

PH: What's a really good story from your classroom experience at Park Hill High School?

M: Last April, my AVID Juniors were waiting to hear back from KC Scholars. We knew they were going to release the names of the winners, but we didn't know exactly when the names would come out. I got the email that the names were released, but I was too nervous to open the document, and before I knew it, all 12 of my AVID students were outside my door because they wanted to hear the news, either good or bad, together. We found out that two of the 12 got the scholarships, and there was no jealousy or sadness for those who didn't get it; it was pure love and support for their classmates. We cried, and it was the happiest moment of my career.



Straight From Our Students

Park Hill UNFILTERED

Park Hill: Why did you want to be a part of the CSIP committee?

Jonathan: When I was asked to join the CSIP committee, I saw it as an opportunity to represent my peers while learning more about our district. I have had the opportunity to make positive changes at Park Hill South, and I was excited to see what impact I could make on this committee for our community.

PH: How would you explain the committee's work to your peers?

J: The committee worked to create a plan and set goals that would help advance the Park Hill School District to benefit all students, staff and the community.

PH: You're also the PHS student body president and are an involved voice for your peers. How is that?

J: The opportunity to serve as Student Council President at Park Hill South has allowed me to be involved with multiple activities and committees, such as CSIP. I feel fortunate to represent my peers by providing input that serves in the best interest of the student body.

PH: What's the most rewarding or challenging part of being on the committee?

J: The most challenging part of being on this committee was defining each of the objectives as they relate to Park Hill. While the most rewarding part of being on this committee is knowing that our efforts will help facilitate change in the district for years to come.

PH: Is there something you've learned from your committee work with CSIP that has surprised you?

J: As we worked through the CSIP, I learned how educators play a role in students' lives. The committee had to take all perspectives into consideration when creating the plan to ensure that all would benefit.

PH: What else would you like to share with our Park Hill community?

J: I am truly excited to see this plan go into effect and see how these guidelines will help advance the Park Hill School District. Even though I will be graduating in 2023, I look forward to seeing other students benefit from this CSIP.

PH: What's your best memory from your time in Park Hill?

J: My favorite memory was as a new student to the district my freshman year on the first day of school when we had one of the best assemblies I've ever experienced, and I felt so welcomed and excited to be at South. I made it a goal earlier this year to recreate this moment for all students at South on the first day!



Jonathan Smith

Park Hill South High School Senior who is a participant in our CSIP planning process as a student representative.

Bond Implementation

Project Design Teams Take Shape

Project design teams have been hard at work in the next phases of our bond implementation timeline. As highlighted in our Board of Education communications, the district has engaged with architects and construction management teams to begin the design phase of our bond project work. Design teams for several projects started meeting in November and December.

These teams are comprised of students, teachers and staff, administrators, families and community members. The teams are co-led by district staff, architects and construction managers.

The design teams currently meeting include:

- District Facility Vision Team
- Russell Jones Design Team
- Park Hill High School Design Team
- Park Hill South High School Design Team
- Elementary 12 Design Team
- District Standards Design Team
- Elementary Playground Design Team





Coming Soon

- *Elementary #12 design plans*
- *Park Hill High School design plans*
- *Park Hill South High School design plans*
- *Russell Jones Education Center design plans*

For more information about our progress and upcoming phases, please visit our website.

Education Foundation

Education Foundation proudly celebrates its 25th anniversary.

The Park Hill Education Foundation is proud to celebrate its 25th anniversary. Since the Foundation's inception in 1997, more than $1 million has been returned to the students and teachers of the district through student scholarships, classroom grants, AVID, Professional Studies, and many other educational programs – thanks to the Park Hill community.

"The Foundation provides a means for our community to become involved in public education," Susan Van Hooser, executive director of the Education Foundation, said. "We are uniquely positioned to provide opportunities for community and philanthropically-minded people to contribute to the future in a meaningful and long-lasting manner."

In 2022, those contributions included enhanced learning opportunities in student literacy, social and emotional learning and science and engineering in schools throughout the district.

While the Foundation supports the students and staff in our 20 schools, it is a separate 501(c) (3) non-profit organization governed by its own Council of Directors, composed of a cross-section of the community. It is recognized as a four-star charity by Charity Navigator.

It's been a busy year for Van Hooser and her team. They were thrilled to host the annual Community Breakfast in person for the first time since 2019. More than 300 community members came together to hear more about the work happening in the Park Hill District with an update by Superintendent Dr. Mike Kimbrel.

Next up is the Foundation's signature event, Night with the Stars, on Wednesday, April 12. Guests will enjoy a fun-filled evening of conversation, dinner, and a first-run movie at the AMC Barrywoods 24 theater, plus recognition of Classroom Grant and Scholarship recipients.

There are numerous ways to get involved with the Park Hill Education Foundation. Visit their website to learn more about how you can make a difference by investing in the lives of Park Hill students and staff.





Park Hill Celebrates Success Around our District

Recognizing accomplishments of our students and staff throughout Park Hill



District Advisor of the Year

Jamie Faudere, seventh-grade reading teacher at Congress Middle School, was named the Middle Level Student Council Advisor of the Year for the Northwest District of the Missouri Association of Student Councils. She is now in the running for the statewide Advisor of the Year award in March. Congratulations, Jamie!



Human Resources Administrator of the Year

Congratulations to our Director of Human Resources, Dr. Linda Kaiser, for being named the Missouri Association of School Personnel Administrators (MOASPA) Human Resources Administrator of the Year.

Recipients for this award are nominated by their peers and selected for their significant contributions to the betterment of the district they serve, involvement in regional or state committees, boards, or organization leadership.



Nationally Recognized Counselor

Congratulations to Hawthorn Elementary counselor Bianca Mayfield-Miller for receiving the Nationally Recognized Missouri Program Award (NRM) from the Missouri School Counselor Association.

The NRM recognizes Missouri building-level school counseling programs that have demonstrated exemplary work in providing a fully implemented school counseling program that is data-driven and based upon the Missouri Comprehensive School Counseling Program.



National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

Congratulations to Park Hill High School senior Ari Staggs and Park Hill South seniors Sophia Nguyen, Ryan Kempton and Tessa Mitchell for being selected as semifinalists in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program.

They are among more than 16,000 semifinalists who now have the opportunity to compete for 7,250 National Merit scholarships worth nearly $28 million next spring.



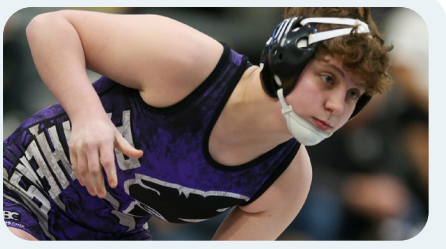
Choir, Band and Orchestra Musicians Earn All-District Honors

Dozens of Park Hill School District choir, band and orchestra students competed against students from schools throughout the Kansas City region to earn positions in the KC Metro District Honor Choirs, Bands and Orchestras.



Band Day Success

The PHS Panther Marching Band recently traveled to Carrollton High School to participate in the Carrollton Band Day Festival with more than 20 other bands. Please help us congratulate our students on receiving second place in Class 5A. They also received the highest score in the music caption for the day.



Female Athlete of the Year

Congratulations to Park Hill South's Maddie Kubicki for being inducted into The National Wrestling Hall of Fame – Missouri Chapter as the Female Athlete of the Year. Kubicki was chosen for her impact on the sport and recently honored at a ceremony in Columbia, Mo.



Top High School Volleyball Player in Kansas City

Park Hill High School senior Shaye Koski won the 2022 Evelyn Gates Award. Shaye was one of four finalists from around the metro and won the award during an assembly at the school.

The Evelyn Gates Award was established to honor a female high school varsity volleyball student-athlete in the Kansas City area who exhibits top-tier skill, spirit and sportsmanship. The winner of the award is chosen by area high school coaches. This award is the only one of its kind honoring a female athlete in Kansas and Missouri.

Shaye will attend The University of Texas at Tyler next year and play volleyball.





Top High School Football Player in Kansas City

Congratulations to Park Hill High School senior quarterback Kendrick Bell who recently won the 39th annual Simone Award, the top award for the best all-around high school football player in the Kansas City area. Kendrick is the third Trojan to win the prestigious award, and he's set to play football next year at the University of Michigan alongside his brother Ronnie who was awarded the Simone in 2017.

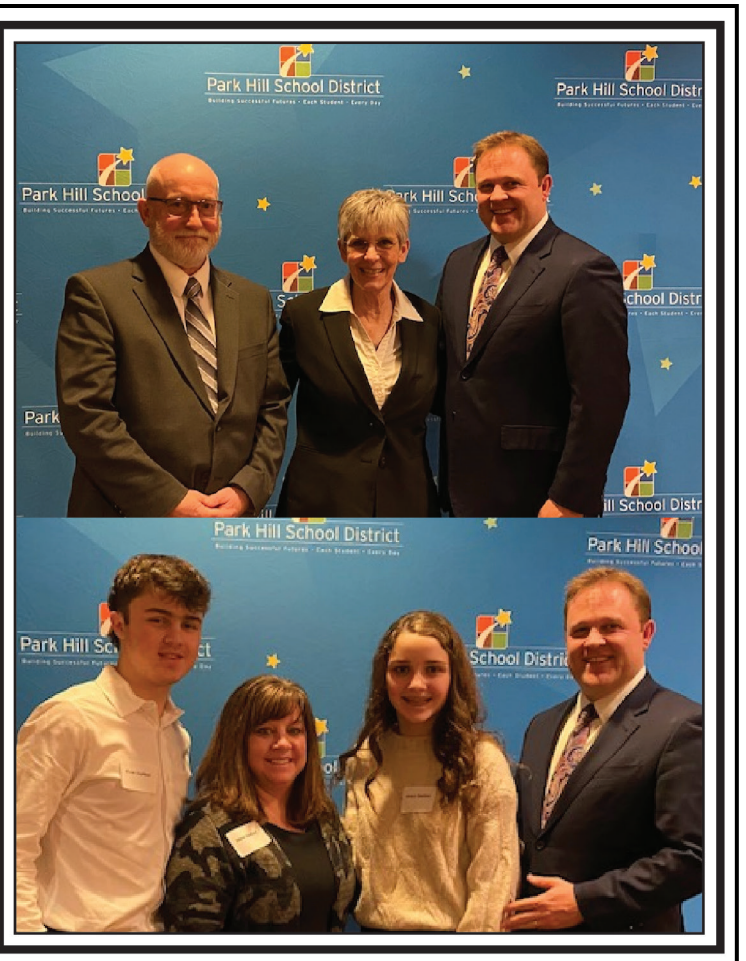
The Simone Award originated in 1932 in the name of Dr. D. M. Nigro and was presented until his death in 1976. The award was not given again until 1983 when Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Simone reinstated the award as a tribute to their 12-year-old son Tommy, who was tragically killed in an automobile accident in April 1983.



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Sporting Rec. League
(Pre-K - 2nd Grade)


Sporting City North
(U9-U19 Boys & Girls)

Outdoor programs take place at the new Central Bank Sporting Complex

Score goals and make memories this Spring with Sporting KC Youth!

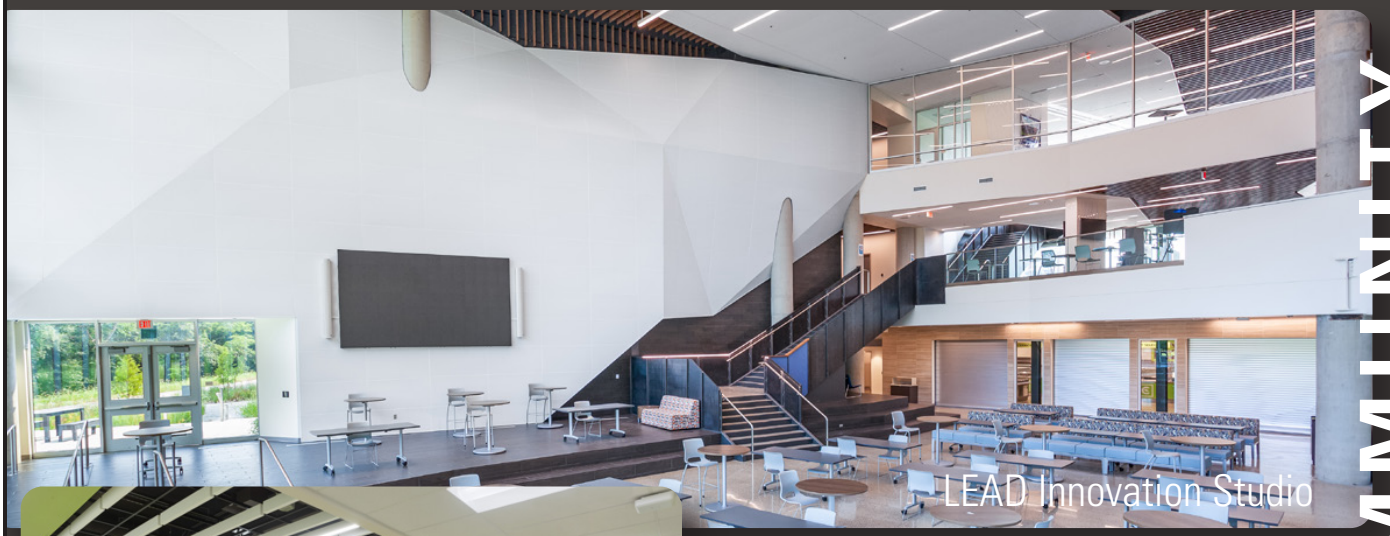
Sporting KC Youth Soccer provides opportunities for boys and girls of all skill levels to have fun with soccer.

Whether your child is kicking a soccer ball for the first time or ready to join a competitive team, we have a spot for them.

All programs are available for boys and girls.

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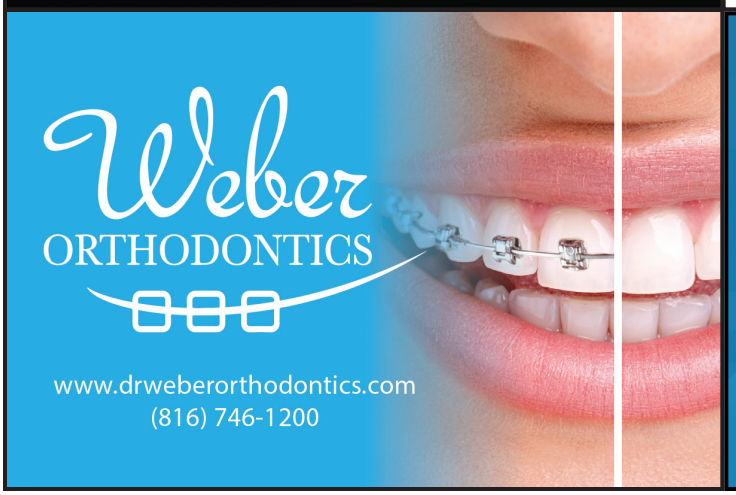
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Park Hill Highlight

Park Hill High School football players Dario Peto and Bryce Lisaka *(not pictured)* are good guys on and off the field.

During their day off, Dario and Bryce volunteered in Andrea Wilkens' class at Prairie Point Elementary and made quite an impression. So much so that Nicholus Singleton-Holland went to the Trojan football game that Friday night and got a picture with Dario on the field.

The following Monday in class, Nicholus wrote about his experience and still carried the towel Coach Andy Sims gave him at the game. Nicholus wrote, "Dario won the football game, we won. I saw Dario catch the ball. He is a good football player."

As Mrs. Wilkens said to the high schoolers, "Way to make a difference and be a hero to a group of young people, they really do look up to you. Keep being awesome!"

For more moments like this, be sure to follow our social media channels on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube.

Park Hill School District
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www.parkhill.k12.mo.us