



Insider



NORTH KANSAS CITY SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

FALL 2021



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North Kansas City Schools
2000 NE 46th St
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Welcome Back, NKC Schools!

*21,000 students returned on
Monday, August 23 for the first
day of the new school year Page 4*



BY NORTH KANSAS CITY HOSPITAL AND MERITAS HEALTH

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What an incredible time to be a part of North Kansas City Schools! School is back in session, and we are so thankful to have our students learning in person full-time. There is truly no other time of year quite like August, when our classrooms, fields and stadiums are again buzzing with excitement.

We have much to celebrate! The recent full issuance of all \$155 million in bond funds approved by patrons last June has enabled us to create new opportunities for students across the district. Construction continues at sites spanning from north to south, including expansion at Staley High School, brand-new facilities at Davidson Elementary and Maplewood Elementary, true home stadiums at Oak Park and Winnetonka, and expansive renovations at countless additional sites. I am particularly proud of our new Early Education Center in Gladstone, which began a phased opening this spring and fully opened to welcome nearly 1,000 of our youngest learners in August.

Through a global pandemic, NKC Schools' commitment to our students has remained steadfast. Over the past year and a half, we have continued to provide high-quality, uninterrupted learning experiences for our 21,000 students. NKC Schools was prepared to meet the needs of all. Since March of 2020, we have distributed over one million meals to families! Wireless hotspots, additional support for housing and basic needs, and critical community partnerships also benefitted families as we navigated this new landscape together. I am incredibly grateful for the strong and ongoing support of our entire community as we strive to be Champions for All Students.

As we reflect on the past year and a half, I am prouder than ever to serve North Kansas City Schools. Our students, teachers and schools have demonstrated achievement at the highest levels despite many challenges. I am looking forward to another exciting year to come! Please join NKC Schools at a community event this fall: attend the Education Foundation Fall Breakfast, visit our new Early Education Center or celebrate Homecoming with us. Thank you for your continued support as part of our North Kansas City Schools family. We can't wait to see you this fall!

Dan Clemens, Ed.D.
Superintendent – North Kansas City Schools
superintendent@nkcschools.org



NORTH
KANSAS CITY
SCHOOLS
est. 1913

YOU'RE INVITED

Mark your calendar to attend NKC Schools events this fall! Community members are welcome to join us at upcoming celebrations for Homecoming, the Education Foundation Fall Breakfast and more!

- **Friday, September 24**
Staley High School Homecoming
- **Friday, September 24**
Winnetonka High School Homecoming
- **Friday, October 1**
Oak Park High School Homecoming
- **Thursday, October 7**
Education Foundation Annual Fall Breakfast
KCI Expo Center
- **Friday, October 15**
North Kansas City High School Homecoming
- **Sunday, October 31**
Boo Bash
Oak Park High School

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Follow NKC Schools on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!
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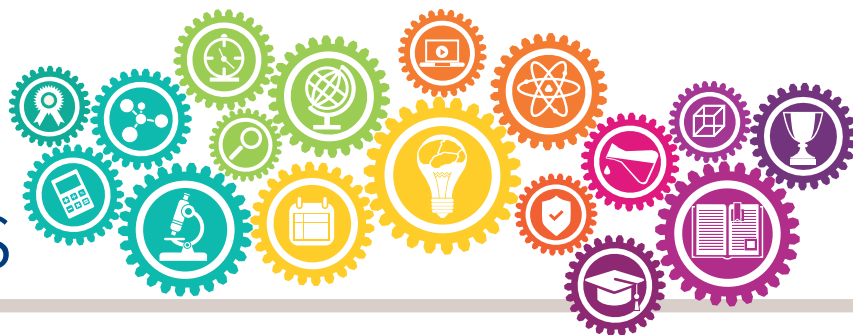
Thank you to the many advertisers whose generous support made it possible for NKC Schools to publish *Insider*.

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For the Office of
Community Relations

peyton.galloway@nkcschools.org
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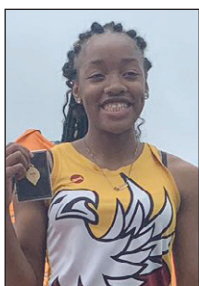
Extraordinary Achievements



Class of 2021 Graduates Earn Top Honors

The **NKC Schools Class of 2021**, made up of more than 1,500 students, earned an impressive total of \$17.5 million in scholarship funds to pursue their postsecondary plans. Eight seniors were named to Missouri Scholars 100, a statewide program that celebrates Missouri's top academic graduates. The Class of 2021 included several state champions, National Merit Scholars and accomplished artists and musicians. 73 students earned the Seal of Biliteracy, recognizing their skills in languages beyond English. Eight scholars not only graduated with their high school diploma, but with their Associate in Arts degree as well, giving them a head start on their postsecondary education. We are so proud of our newest alumni and cannot wait to see all they accomplish in the future!

Spring State Champions



Amyah Davis



Jazmen Newberry



Mamus Ogolor

Congratulations to our newest state champions! **Amyah Davis (Winnetonka)** and **Jazmen Newberry (Staley)** earned top honors at Missouri's track and field state championships in May. Amyah, a Class of 2021 graduate, became one of Winnetonka's first dual state champions, taking home gold in both 100m and 300m hurdles. Jazmen, a senior at Staley, won first in the 300m dash.

Staley 2021 graduate **Mamus Ogolor** also made history this year as he became Staley's first state champion in speech and debate, winning the title in Lincoln-Douglas debate. Congratulations, Mamus, Amyah and Jazmen!

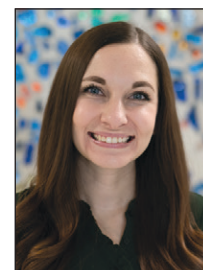
Cindy Woods Named Christa McAuliffe Pioneer in Education

The Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce surprised **Cindy Woods** with this year's Christa McAuliffe Pioneer in Education award! She was selected from a pool of the top educators across the Northland for the region's highest award. Cindy is known throughout NKC Schools for her passion for teaching and learning, incredible kindness and dedication. We wish her all the best on a well-deserved retirement after more than 27 years of service to students!



Chapel Hill Educator is a Missouri Teacher of the Year Semi-Finalist

Chapel Hill Elementary is now home to a Missouri Teacher of the Year Semi-Finalist! **Vanessa Thomson**, second grade teacher, was named one of only seventeen semi-finalist honorees in the state of Missouri. She will continue on to represent NKC Schools in the Missouri Teacher of the Year recognition program.



Winnetonka's Pippin Honored with Community Impact Award

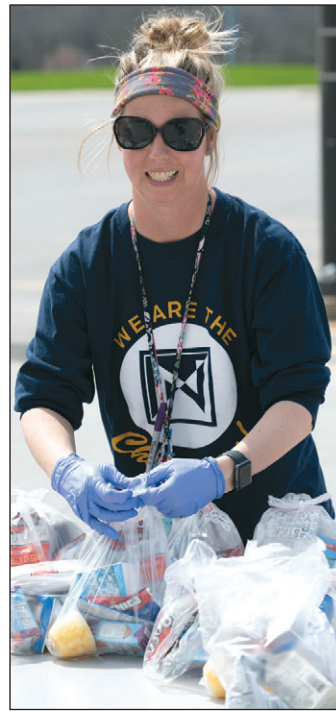


Winnetonka's award-winning theatre department continues to earn accolades! This year's musical, *Pippin*, updated the familiar story with a modern twist to amplify the voices of Winnetonka students on stage. This creativity was recognized by Starlight Theatre's Blue Star Awards program. In addition to several nominations for individual performances, costume design and stage management, Winnetonka's *Pippin* was named the winner of the prestigious Community Impact Award.



The past year brought new and significant challenges to our families and neighborhoods from COVID-19. Through all the uncertainty, NKC Schools remained focused on one goal: serving our community in all ways possible.

Beginning in March 2020, our staff quickly adapted to meet the changing needs of students and families, teaching both in the classroom and virtually. Our Technology team ensured all families were connected, providing hundreds of Wi-Fi hotspots to students across the district. Our schools hosted vaccine clinics for students, staff and families alike, providing convenient



access for all those who would like to participate. Our school buses even provided transportation to senior citizens as they went to get vaccinated! Last spring, we repurposed our fleet of school buses, delivering meals to families at their homes. Over the past 18 months, we have provided more than **one million free meals** to NKC Schools families!

NEW ADMINISTRATORS – 2021-2022



Gashland Elementary
Dr. Tarah Palmer
Principal



Linden West Elementary
Kajuan Cummings
Principal



Meadowbrook Elementary
Jenny Widman
Principal



Nashua Elementary
Leah Chamberlin
Principal



Topping Elementary
Tina Hinds-Booth
Principal



Eastgate Sixth Grade Center
Jessica Nolin
Interim Principal



Oak Park High School
Dr. Chris McCann
Interim Principal



Winnetonka High School
Dr. Edward Tate
Principal

Dr. Eric Johnson *Assistant Superintendent, Compliance & Support Services*

NKC Schools is proud to welcome **Dr. Eric Johnson** to the Superintendent's Cabinet.

Dr. Johnson is a dynamic leader with years of experience as a teacher, principal, and advocate for all. Dr. Johnson will serve as Assistant Superintendent of Compliance & Support Services, working closely with Dr. Perry Hilvitz, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, as he plans to retire at the end of this school year, ensuring a smooth transition and strong support for all students.



BACK TO SCHOOL



August 23 was a day full of excitement across NKC Schools! 21,000 students arrived on Monday morning to fun, smiles and a warm welcome as they returned to our schools for the 2021-2022 year.



- 1** It was all smiles at Fox Hill Elementary as students ate lunch together with friends.
- 2** We've missed our students! Teachers and staff welcomed students as they arrived for the first day.
- 3** Learners at Maplewood got right to work, starting the year off with math skills practice.
- 4** Back in their favorite spots in the school library, students listened to an interactive story.
- 5** Excited to welcome new Griffins, the Winnetonka dance team performed in their first day assembly.



Academic Calendar

JULY 2021

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AUGUST 2021

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SEPTEMBER 2021

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OCTOBER 2021

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NOVEMBER 2021

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DECEMBER 2021

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JANUARY 2022

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FEBRUARY 2022

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MARCH 2022

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APRIL 2022

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MAY 2022

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JUNE 2022

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2021

| | |
|----------------|---|
| August 9 | Leadership Team Workshops |
| August 10-13 | New & Beginning Teacher Orientation |
| ○ August 16-20 | District Workshops, Professional Development and Workdays |
| ○ August 19 | Back to School Night |
| August 23 | First Day of School |
| □ September 3 | Half Day K-12 Professional Development, District (PM) |
| ● September 6 | Labor Day, No School |
| ● October 8 | No School K-12 |
| ○ October 11 | Professional Development, No School |
| ● Nov. 24-26 | Thanksgiving Break, No School |
| ● Dec. 20-31 | Winter Break, No School |

2022

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| ● January 17 | Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, No School |
| January 18 | Second Semester Begins |
| ○ February 18 | Professional Development, No School |
| ● February 21 | Presidents' Day Observed, No School |
| ● March 14-18 | Spring Break, No School |
| ○ May 27 | Last Day of School, Half Day K-12 |
| ● May 30 | Memorial Day Observed, No School |
| □ May 31-June 3 | Make Up Days, if needed |

KEY

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| ● No Student or Teacher Attendance | ○ Half Day |
| ○ No Student Attendance/Teacher Workday | □ Makeup Days (If needed) |
| □ Student Half Day/District Professional Development | |

The extended year calendar for **Crestview** and **Winnwood** can be found at www.nkcschools.org/calendar.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

NKC Schools Continues Aggressive Construction Schedule

Thanks to the voter-approved bond election in June 2020, NKC Schools can manage its growth in student population through the construction of new buildings, new additions, and new programming throughout the district. Currently, additions are underway at Oak Park and Staley High Schools. New buildings are being built to replace Davidson and Maplewood Elementary Schools. Significant renovations are happening at Briarcliff Elementary School. New athletic facilities are opening at Oak Park and Winnetonka, and of course, the district's first-ever Early Education Center is now fully completed to serve our community's earliest learners.

Here's a peek at some of the projects underway. We are also showing all the projects promised as part of the 2020 bond package and will be noted when we complete construction and the facilities are in use. Watch for upcoming issues of NKC Insider for further detail!

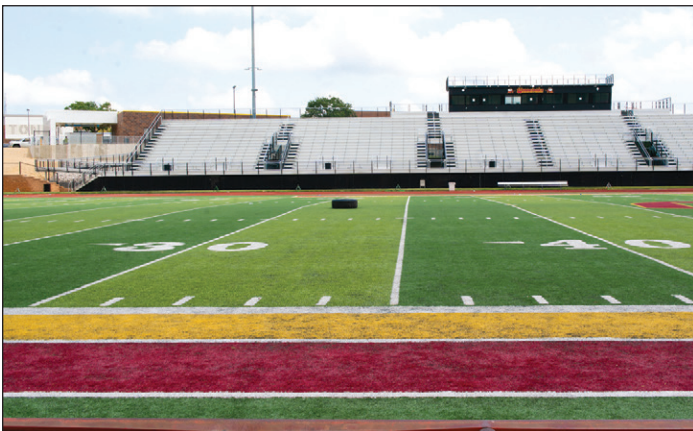
It's a great time to be part of the NKC Schools community!



Maplewood Elementary School is now under construction! A brand-new building is situated next to the existing Maplewood. Construction will continue throughout this year, with the first students welcomed into the new building in Fall 2022.



Staley High School is gaining a new classroom wing to accommodate growth at that school. The new branch opens in early 2022.



Winnetonka High School will play home games at home for the first time this football season. New permanent bleachers, concession stands, restrooms, press box, and an entrance pavilion opened to fans on September 3.



Oak Park High School also opened a new stadium on September 3. New bleachers, entry pavilions, concession stands, restrooms, and press box serve student-athletes and fans. A bonus plus at Oak Park is the south endzone concession stand/restrooms, a shared facility with Gladstone Parks and Rec, for the community attending events at Oak Grove Park such as Gladstone Theatre in the Park and Bluesfest.



NKC Schools Early Education Center Welcomes Young Learners

NKC Schools set another milestone with the opening of its Early Education Center, located at 64th and N. Prospect in Gladstone. The EEC is a wonderland for the district three- and four-year-olds, complete with brightly colored “neighborhoods” featuring learning and conversation nooks, unique furniture scaled to young children, and more.

The Early Education Center is home to preschool special education students, Parents as Teachers, Success by Six, and community preschool programs. The Center is over 100,000 square feet in size, located in what used to be Hobby Lobby and Price Chopper stores.

NKC Schools is excited to offer a variety of early education programs in one location.

For more information on early education programs available through NKCS Schools, please go to www.nkcschools.org/earlyeducation or call the EEC at (816) 321-5250.



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25 FOR 25

For its 25th anniversary, the Education Foundation awarded district staff 25 Dr. Dan Kahler Innovative Teaching Grants worth \$44,500 for the 2021-2022 school year.

The winners were surprised during the Great Grant Giveaway May 18. Since 1996, staff members have received 321 grants totaling \$465,000.



SAVE THE DATE!



Support the
Education Foundation
as we celebrate our
25th anniversary!

The Fall Breakfast is back
as an in-person event on
Thursday, Oct. 7,
at the KCI Expo Center.

Join us for the Student Showcase
starting at 7 a.m.,
followed by a breakfast buffet
and program at 7:45 a.m.
Sponsorships range from
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**For more information,
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Join NKC Schools for HOMECOMING ▶ This Fall!

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North Kansas City High School Friday, October 15

Football Game

Hornets vs. Oak Park HS
7 p.m.

NORTH KANSAS CITY HIGH SCHOOL
FOOTBALL STADIUM



Oak Park High School Friday, October 1

Football Game

Northmen vs. St. Joseph Central HS
7 p.m.

OAK PARK HIGH SCHOOL
FOOTBALL STADIUM



Staley High School Friday, September 24

Football Game

Falcons vs. North Kansas City HS
7 p.m.

NKC SCHOOLS DISTRICT ACTIVITIES
COMPLEX (east of Staley High School)



Winnetonka High School Friday, September 24

Football Game

Griffins vs. Ruskin HS
7 p.m.

WINNETONKA HIGH SCHOOL
FOOTBALL STADIUM



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Laurie D. Riddell MD
Ermalyn Kubart MD
Stephanie A. Marx MD
Kathryn Hauptmann MD
Melissa J. Beard MD
Stephanie R. Bays DO
Heather J. Malone MD
Amanda Finn DO
Nick Stasic MD
Lisa Green, MD
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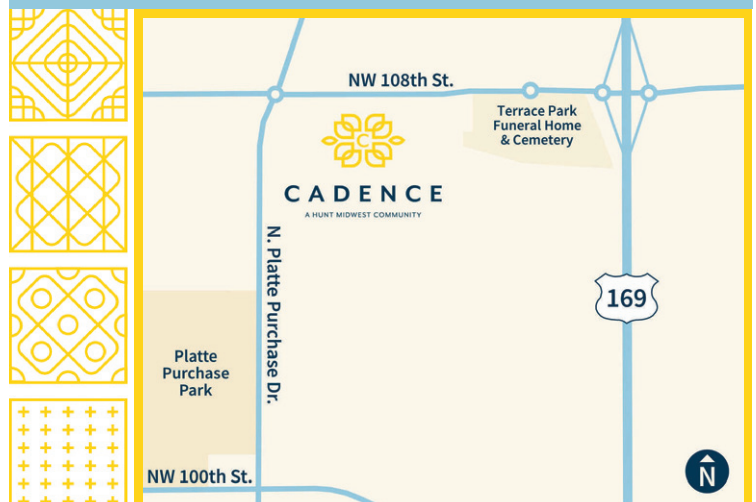
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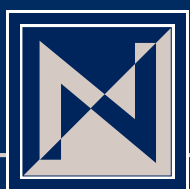
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Advertise to More Local Parents

Although it provides quality educational opportunities for its students, the North Kansas City School District knows that to achieve that goal, it needs patron support. Therefore, good communication in the district is necessary, which is why it publishes the *North Kansas City Insider* four times a year. This full-color, all glossy magazine features important news and photos from throughout the district, as well as limited advertising space.

For more information, contact Sandy Nelson
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Insider

NORTH KANSAS CITY SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

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