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SUPERINTENDENT’S MESSAGE

OUR DISTRICT’S MISSION – TO PREPARE EACH STUDENT FOR SUCCESS IN LIFE -- IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT.

To meet this mission, our district continuously emphasizes stewardship, financial planning, accountability and transparency.

It also emphasizes innovation, both from our dedicated team of 2,900+ educators and our nearly 18,000 students.

This issue of Our Schools is all about the innovation our teachers, staff and student bring into the classroom as we prepare students for successful futures.

Turn to page 2, to meet Braylon Jackson, a Meadow Lane fifth grader who was recently chosen to participate in the elementary school’s Diner’s Club in which students are selected to enjoy a monthly luncheon with their parents and MLE administration to celebrate exemplifying a specific character trait. Way to go, Braylon!

On page 3, you will be introduced to Katie Messick, a Bernard Campbell Middle School art teacher, who was selected as a Parade of Hearts artist. Learn more about Ms. Messick’s teaching philosophy and how that philosophy informs her own artwork.

I cannot be prouder to celebrate LSR7 marching students Carson Brooks and Gavin Mears, who participated in a signing ceremony to recognize their registered youth apprenticeships with JCI industries. Learn more about LSR7’s debut as a U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) Registered Apprenticeship Program Sponsor on pages 4 and 5.

Our Parents as Teachers program has long served Lee’s Summit R-7 School District families with information, services and resources dedicated to early childhood development. But many in our school community still don’t know that all families who reside in our boundaries can access Parents as Teachers. Learn more about what PAT has to offer on pages 6 and 7.

Finally, kudos to the Lee’s Summit Educational Foundation for debuting a new grant program that recognizes students’ innovative ideas for their classroom. You can read about the existing ideas that earned recognition on page 8.

Thank you to everyone in our community for your support of our students and staff during the 2022-23 school year. As we near the end of the 2022-23 school year, I look forward to all the innovative ways we will come together to support kids in the coming years.

With much appreciation,

DAVID BUCK, Ed. D
SUPERINTENDENT

BEHIND THE COVER

Parents as Teachers program empowers families with early childhood development knowledge. Find out more on pg. 6

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I really like math. Math is a challenge for me and I like to do challenges.

Being a good friend is about being able to trust them and always being there for them.

My favorite part about going to school is seeing everybody each day.

I am excited to become a middle schooler next year because I get to see all my fifth grade friends again.

I try to respect the teachers and be nice to others everyday.

I like to play video games and play outside with my friends when I am not at school.

I want people to say that I’m a nice person whenever they think of me. You can trust me to be a role model.

If I had a million dollars, I would donate money to hospitals and schools, so they have a lot of money to give to the students.

I try to help by showing others around the school and helping them with different subjects when other kids need help during school.
To me, art is a fantastic outlet. A lot of kids really struggle academically. Sometimes art is the one place where they can kind of be themselves and they can express themselves.

In education, the arts often get overlooked. But the truth is, visual arts can be implemented in everything cross-curricular.

I think we should all have those favorite hobbies, those things that make us happy, and keep us going.

In my class, everything that we do hits on multiple aspects of principles of art and design. Whether it be learning to shade, drawing forms and cylinders, working with lines… every project crosses off one of those skills that’s important. Those provide the base that all of these kids will need to take art classes in high school.

I want everyone to be able to leave this class, having learned at least one new skill that they truly enjoy. One that maybe they want to pursue later on in life.

I really enjoy a lot of the people that I work with. I feel like I have a lot of great support from my fellow teachers. We really care about each other. As simple as that answer is, there’s a lot of places you can go that you just don’t find that.

I work on the Teacher Advisory Board at the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art. Part of my job is actually helping to develop resources and curriculum or different things that they can take into their classrooms.

Kansas City is an incredibly artistic community, there are so many different programs through so many different outlets to express yourself.

[On being selected to be a Parade of Hearts artist] It was a big deal. I actually screamed.

520 people submitted an application and sketches to be chosen. So I thought, ‘Oh, I’m never gonna get that.’

I told the kids that I was selected and then they all broke down into this huge applause and it was really cute.

[When people see her heart in the Parade of Hearts] I want people to think that [the heart] just kind of encompasses the Midwest and Kansas City. My design kind of has a little bit of everything. It has little reference to the Nelson, to the monarchs, the skyline, and the World War One Museum and Memorial. Then you flip it on the back and it’s got a big cow on it. Each level of mandalas is meant to represent either a growth cycle, like the seeds and the sun, or something that has to do with farming here. It’s not just about the Kansas City area, but Missouri as a whole.
On Feb. 9, LSR7 machining students Carson Brooks and Gavin Mears signed Youth Apprenticeships with JCI Industries. These are the first two students to sign with JCI Industries following the Lee's Summit R-7 School District officially becoming a U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) Sponsor in 2022.

Hosting a signing ceremony is a testament to the hard work that has already been put into the program by inaugural signees, said Jeff Buckner, LSR7 Career Curriculum Specialist.

“Kids going to college who get athletic scholarships have all this light shining on them. We want these students signing to get some of that same recognition,” said Mr. Buckner. “We want that signing to be visible. College isn’t for everyone and we want students to know that we support all avenues that students may want to pursue after high school.”

Apprenticeships serve as an alternative to college or technical school post secondary education. They offer an opportunity to learn skills for a trade by working with experts in the field. Students in the machine tooling apprenticeship work with JCI Industries – a pipe and pump manufacturer headquartered in Lee’s Summit. Students can begin the process of joining the machine tooling apprenticeship program at any time.

“There’s no onramping. Students don’t have to decide in their very first class. The schedule is very flexible for students who want to participate,” Mr. Buckner said.

Students can elect to work as a full-time employee with JCI after completing three courses; Advanced Materials and Processing, Metals, and Machine Tooling. These classes fill the requirement the USDOL calls “related instruction” and have been approved by the USDOL and JCI. They give students a foundation of knowledge to coincide with their apprenticeship. If a student has not yet completed their prerequisite courses, they are able to work during the week using the morning for classes and the afternoons working at JCI. This way, students can maximize the amount of hours they work in their apprenticeship prior to graduation.
The apprenticeship requires the student to gain 4000 hours of experience working at JCI. The apprentice can expect to receive two pay raises during their working period in addition to gaining a completion certificate from the USDOL when they meet the required hours. This certificate recognizes their skill in the machine tooling industry and is recognized in the field nationwide. It typically takes two years for the apprentice to meet the requirements and, even if it exceeds their time in high school, Career Specialists with the Lee’s Summit School District will assist the student with obtaining their certificate.

Becoming USDOL sponsor was no easy feat. The paperwork alone took over a year to be approved, but the early success of the program shows the value of the hard work for years to come. The district plans to expand the Youth Apprenticeship Program to a variety of occupations in the future.

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- JEFF BUCKNER
LSR7 CAREER CURRICULUM SPECIALIST
Across our school community, Parent Educators from Parents as Teachers (PAT) are visiting homes to empower parents with knowledge about early childhood development.

Through one-on-one visits available for families after birth and through pre-kindergarten, Parent Educators engage both parent and child at their homes in learning activities, such as educational games, reading and speech exercises and life-readiness lessons, that equip parents to meet their child’s developmental needs.

Parents as Teachers is a free, evidence-based home visiting program offered to all families with children prenatal to pre-kindergarten residing within the Lee’s Summit R-7 district boundaries since 1985. The program is housed at Great Beginnings Early Education Center.

Approximately 1,200 families in the Lee’s Summit School District were served by Parents as Teachers in the 2021-2022 school year through four different services: child developmental screenings, Parent Educator visits in the home, group connection opportunities such as parent groups and access to resources.

Each of these services is designed to empower parents with best practices for early childhood development as they raise their children.

“As an educator and teacher it can be hard for us to keep track of what to work on at home with our kids,” says Jalesa Young, a fourth grade teacher at Lee’s Summit Elementary whose children are part of the PAT program. “I am truly grateful for the program and because of them, I am confident that my child is ready for elementary school.”

PARENTS AS TEACHERS
TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE SERVICES PARENTS AS TEACHERS OFFERS, VISIT LSR7.ORG/PAT
During home visits, parents participate in the activities alongside their children so they can continue to practice essential developmental skills beyond lessons with the Parent Educator.

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For the first time in its history, the Lee’s Summit Educational Foundation (LSEF) is offering grants to students.

The Lee’s Summit Educational Foundation awarded more than $10,000 in grants to Lee’s Summit R-7 School District middle and high school students in December 2022 and January 2023. An anonymous donor provided the funding to pilot this opportunity for students to turn innovative ideas for their school into reality. Applicants collaborated with their peers to develop a concept, explain how it would benefit their school, and create a budget and implementation timeline.

A committee of LSEF Board and Committee members narrowed nearly 50 applications to a selection of 11 student group winners, including:

**Bernard C. Campbell Middle School**
Steppers Club ($996) - Laila Moncada, Moriah Davis, Angela James, Indya Harris, Kayle Conrad

**East Trails Middle School**
Button Maker ($802.60) - Stella Schnabel and Chrissa Erps

**Pleasant Lea Middle School**
Interactive Student Display ($620.36) - Giah Burns, Sylae Kemp, A’Lonna Burks, Shia Chambers

**Lee’s Summit High School**
Coffee Cart ($978) - Julius Jones, Dominic Escobedo, DeShawn B., Kaden Peter

**Lee’s Summit North High School**
Garden Supplies ($1,000) – National Honor Society
Robotics Battery Charging Station ($1,013.80) - Nate Tohill and Wesley Oxman
Positive Signs ($500) - Ashlyn Bandelier, Kennedy McEnany, Sasha Plowman, Hayden Davies, Leyton Porterfield and members of the National Honor Society

**Lee’s Summit West High School**
Robotics ($786) – Brianna Harmon and Ava Wischnewski
Read Across America Day Event ($970) – Nora Lassman and LSW Book Club members
Scholar Bowl ($958) - Finley Eder, Andy Yang, Jack Marsh, Hudson Artis, Luke Daley
Multicultural Festival ($579.94) - Ava Wischnewski and Anthony Klote

The Lee’s Summit Educational Foundation plans to highlight these projects on their social media and their website as they come to fruition. If you are interested in donating to provide funding for student-led grants in 2024, visit www.lsedfoundation.org.
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