



FALL 2023

Insider

NORTH KANSAS CITY SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER



▲ West Englewood Elementary

Jumping Into A New Year

Welcome back! More than
21,500 students return to start
the 2023-2024 school year.....Page 3

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Welcome back, North Kansas City Schools! There's no time quite like the fall in our schools. On August 22, our first day back, I visited all 36 of our schools to welcome back students. I met so many excited kids, a few anxious kindergarten parents, and even one student who was proudly displaying the tooth he lost! Thank you for entrusting your children to us. We pledge to do our very best to serve as relentless champions for each and every student.

This fall takes on a special significance to me, as it will be my last back-to-school season serving as superintendent of North Kansas City Schools. As I have shared, I plan to retire in December of this year, handing over the reins to Dr. Rochel Daniels, our current Chief of Staff. This district holds so many special memories for me, stretching back to my first days as principal of **Nashua Elementary**. Things have certainly come full circle, as Nashua will be moving into a brand-new school in fall of 2024!

Along with the ongoing construction at Nashua, students at several buildings returned to upgraded and renovated learning spaces. A new entrance and classrooms at **Chapel Hill Elementary**, the addition of a classroom wing on to **Rising Hill Elementary**, and new floors throughout **Clardy Elementary** were all made possible by your support for North Kansas City Schools at the polls in April 2022. Thank you! Next, we will continue to watch brand-new schools come to life at **Crestview Elementary** and on the current **Lakewood Elementary** facility grounds, scheduled to open in 2025 as the new home of the combined Lakewood and Winnwood school communities. We appreciate our community's strong support of bond and levy issues over the past several years to provide world-class schools for all.

On behalf of our entire team, I invite you to join us at an event this fall. Whether you return for Homecoming, cheer on our student-athletes, or visit one of our newly renovated schools, our families and community are always welcome in North Kansas City Schools. We wish your family all the best this season and hope to see you soon.

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



NORTH
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SCHOOLS

est. 1913

Volunteer In Our Schools

NKC Schools welcomes community volunteers in our schools. You could support students as a mentor or tutor, guest speaker or career expert. The options are endless!

- **YouthFriends** work directly with students in small groups or as mentors, or these volunteers can choose to help in school libraries or classrooms. *Turn to page 9 for more information.*
- **Senior Tax Exchange Program (STEP)** participants are seniors who can earn credit toward property taxes in exchange for time spent volunteering in schools. If you are interested, please call (816) 321-5018.

Join Us For Homecoming!

- Friday, Sept. 15 at 7 p.m.
Oak Park Northmen vs. Truman
Oak Park Athletic Complex
- Friday, Sept. 22 at 7 p.m.
North Kansas City Hornets vs. St. Joseph Central
NKCHS Football Stadium
- Friday, Sept. 29 at 7 p.m.
Staley Falcons vs. Liberty
District Activities Complex
- Friday, Oct. 13 at 7 p.m.
Winnetonka Griffins vs. Ruskin
Griffin Stadium

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www.nkcschools.org

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Back to School

2023-2024

Tuesday, August 22 was a day full of excitement across NKC Schools as more than 21,500 students returned to classrooms, reconnected with friends and met their new teachers.



Bell Prairie staff members welcome students back as they arrive on buses for the first day of school.



It's good to see familiar faces! A **Clardy** student surprised principal Andrea Eatinger with a big hug.



West Englewood students test out new playground equipment on a short break outside.



Reunited with friends, **Linden West** students are ready to get back to gym class.



Two friends meet at **Winnetonka** to find their way to new classes as the bell rings.



Students prepare to hear the high note at **Clardy** as student teacher Mr. Tosatto plays his French horn during music class.



The Stars at **Nashua** were all smiles and waves on their first day of school.



Sixth graders settled in at **Eastgate**, getting right to learning on their first day as Eagles.



Mrs. Garcia kicks off the first day of school with a fun activity to build connections among her class.



With a little help, students practice opening their lockers for the first time!



Tonka students stream into the building on August 22, a first day with dense fog and humidity for the record books!

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction continues across multiple projects within NKC Schools.
Projects are on time and on budget!



Chapel Hill Elementary students were greeted with a totally renovated building and a new front entrance as they began the 2023-24 school year. Chapel Hill is located at 3220 NE 67th Terrace in Gladstone.

New classroom spaces, new carpet, new tile, and a new gym were also among the renovations made to **Chapel Hill**.



Clardy Elementary School, located at 8100 N. Troost in Kansas City, North also received improvements including new wall graphics, tile and much more.



Construction continues on a brand-new building for the **Crestview** school community, opening in the fall of 2024. Crestview is located at 4327 N. Holmes, Kansas City, North.



Dirt work has started for a new elementary school for the combined Winnwood and Lakewood communities at 4624 N. Norton in Kansas City, North. The new school will welcome its first students in 2025. The process of naming this facility will begin soon.

Promises Made, Promises Kept

Projects Completed – Winter/Spring 2023

- ✓ District Professional Development Center – Prospect Plaza

Projects Started – Winter/Spring 2023

- ✓ Nashua Elementary School – new building
- ✓ Crestview Elementary School – new building
- ✓ Rising Hill Elementary School – new addition
- ✓ Chapel Hill Elementary School – new addition
- ✓ Elementary School – new building for combined Lakewood/Winnwood schools
- ✓ Adult Education Center – Prospect Plaza

Projects Completed – Summer 2023

- ✓ Rising Hill Elementary School – new addition
- ✓ Chapel Hill Elementary School – new addition
- ✓ Clardy Elementary School – renovation
- ✓ Gashland Elementary School – accessibility upgrades
- ✓ Adult Education Center – Prospect Plaza

Projects Completed – Summer 2024

- ☐ Nashua Elementary School – new building
- ☐ Crestview Elementary – new building

Projects Completed – Winter 2024

- ☐ Elementary School – new building for combined Lakewood/Winnwood schools



Rising up next to the existing **Nashua Elementary School** at 221 NE 114th Street in Kansas City's Northland is a new larger building to accommodate the growth in student population in that neighborhood. The new school will open in the fall of 2024.



A professional development center and meeting space will bring together NKC Schools and administrators to collaborate and receive instruction in one location in Gladstone at the Prospect Plaza facility near the district's Technology and Early Education Centers.



More and more students and their families are moving to NKC Schools, so an addition to **Rising Hill Elementary School** was completed over the summer. Rising Hill is situated in the district's far northeast corner at 7301 NE 108th Street in northern Kansas City.



As with the other classroom wings at **Rising Hill**, the new addition features visually appealing graphics creating a warm and welcoming environment for all students.

Adult Education and Literacy

*For many in our community, achieving a high school diploma, becoming a U.S. citizen, or learning English is a lifelong goal. North Kansas City Schools is ready to support these goals with **free**, comprehensive Adult Education and Literacy programs. We offer four types of support:*

- Prepare to take the Missouri High School Equivalency Test, earning your high school diploma
- Prepare to enroll in college or begin a job training program
- Learn English or improve your proficiency (four skill levels available)
- Work toward becoming a U.S. citizen

Interested?

Visit our website to enroll and get started today or call

 816-321-5011.

Each year in June, we host a graduation ceremony to honor the achievements of our remarkable students in front of their families and friends.

We are exceptionally proud to congratulate this year's class, made up of dedicated learners of all ages and identities. 20 scholars, ranging from age 17 to 67, graduated with their High School Equivalency diplomas, while 16 additional students enrolled into a certification program, training program, or college. 17 extraordinary individuals celebrated the remarkable milestone of becoming American citizens. This celebration represented the culmination of their hard work, perseverance, and unwavering determination. Congratulations to all!



WELCOME, NEW LEADERS!

As our district continues to grow, we are fortunate to welcome several new principals to our North Kansas City Schools family. Each leader brings a strong record of excellence and is committed to serving as a relentless champion for all students and families.



Kelly Bailey
Chapel Hill
Elementary



Andrea Eatinger
Clardy
Elementary



Jake Hartley
Crestview
Elementary



Amy Williams
Fox Hill
Elementary



Dr. Branson Bradley
Gateway
6th Grade Center



Kate Place
Gifted Programs



Britany Harris
Gracemor
Elementary



Dr. Leah Roesgen
Linden West
Elementary



Dr. Christopher
Green
Maple Park
Middle School



Courtney Minnich
Nashua
Elementary



Dr. Keith Jones
North Kansas City
High School



Dr. Laura Foster
Ravenwood
Elementary



Dr. Rena Hawkins
Rising Hill
Elementary

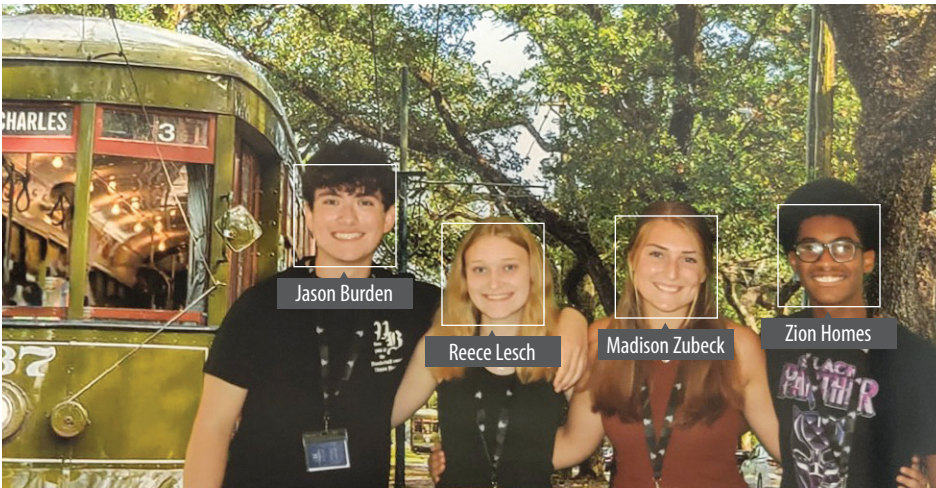


Dr. Micah Fritz
West Englewood
Elementary



Dr. Enjoli Avila

Dr. Enjoli Avila joins the Superintendent's Cabinet this year as Assistant Superintendent of Organizational Development. Dr. Avila previously served as principal of Chapel Hill Elementary and has been an integral part of our leadership development efforts districtwide including facilitating induction programming for new principals, serving on the steering committee for district Strategic Planning, and participating in our district's High Performance/High Potential Institute. Joining the district team, she now oversees leadership development and communications, playing a critical role in fostering a culture of success, support and achievement throughout NKC Schools. We look forward to her leadership!



“Normandy Academy truly made an impact on my life...”

Jason Burden, North Kansas City – “The lessons I learned in Normandy, the memories I made with those around me, the infinite amounts of knowledge I gained... I will use all of it to continue my passion for history.”

Reece Lesch, Oak Park – “Going into the real world, I have learned from the Normandy Academy how to be truly empathetic to all. For my upcoming senior year, I grew my leadership skills in ways I didn’t even know were possible.”

Madison Zubeck, Staley – “Because of that experience and the opportunity to immerse myself into June 6th, 1944, I take back a higher sense of gratitude toward the greatest generation to have lived.”

Zion Holmes, Winnetonka – “Being a part of the Normandy Academy, I learned the vital importance of history and being educated on the subject of WWII. Seeing the true battle and grave sites, the solemnity was overwhelmingly powerful.”



The Normandy Academy Scholars program is led by **Oak Park alumnae Linda Holwick Bond '76** and other generous donors in memory of the late **Michele Evenson Lindsay, Oak Park '76**. Thanks to their support, the Education Foundation provided a second round of scholarships to a cohort of rising seniors from each of our four high schools to attend the National World War II Museum’s Normandy Academy in July. The 12-day immersive summer learning and leadership experience takes students to Normandy, France, challenging them to learn from the choices made before and during the historic D-Day landings.

FALL BREAKFAST



nkc schools education foundation

By igniting the power of community at our annual **Fall Breakfast**, the Education Foundation connects generous hearts with our schools to provide opportunities for all students to experience the power of education and excel through extraordinary experiences.

Join us on

Thursday, October 19,

at the KCI Expo Center for an inspirational event featuring a showcase of student achievements and performances, a spotlight on the Education Foundation’s impact over the past year, and a message from Superintendent Dr. Dan Clemens.

7:00 AM – Student Showcase

7:20 AM – Breakfast Buffet

7:45 AM – Program

**Join us today and RSVP
for the event at
[nkcschoolsfoundation.org/
events/fall-breakfast](https://nkcschoolsfoundation.org/events/fall-breakfast).**

Thank You

Across our district, more than 400 individuals serve as YouthFriends. These mentors are members of the community who support students academically and socially. They help in a variety of ways, from offering one-on-one tutoring to serving as a lunch buddy or working in the school library media center. No matter how they serve, each volunteer makes an incredible impact on our schools and students' lives. They are truly relentless champions for all!



Interested in becoming a YouthFriend?

✉ Email Athena Graham at athena.graham@nkcschools.org for more information and to get started.



Several of our volunteers celebrated anniversaries this spring!

We thank them for their continued dedication and many years of service to our students.

25 YEARS

Julie Peetoom

20 YEARS

Ann Bradley

Kristin Skuldt-Niederberger

15 YEARS

Megan Clarkson
Terry Ebinger
Jessica Glenn
Stephanie Hogue
Kristin Kinkade
Lisa Raney
Shara Redshaw

Scott Rolf
Jen Schulz
Maelynn Shelton
Elizabeth Thompson
Mandy Tomlin
Sarah Zerr

10 YEARS

Roy Fleshman
Terry Hensley
Jenny Kessler
Kathie May
Catherine Munson

Maureen Pio
Jeff VanDerWeele
Sandra Whitesell
Cindy Wiens

5 YEARS

Debbie Burman
Jennifer Ford
Robin Heller
Lisa Housh
Jane Jackson
Sudie Jones

Katie McCoy
Sally Neumann
Christine Ostermeyer
Barb Reres
Michelle Shaw
Laura Swanson