FALL EDITION | ISSUE NO. 17

CONNECTION



SCHOOL IS IN SESSION!

In This Edition:

Park Hill 2034
Park Hill Voices
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

Welcome to the 2023-24 school year! As I've been in classrooms, at our athletic events and in schools throughout the district, I've been able to experience so many learning moments in these first few weeks of school. In fact, students at Renner Elementary let me join them for their paper airplane design and test runs the second week of school – learning through experiences and inquiry in action!

We'll be managing several projects throughout this year with students, staff and our community. One of these projects will be Park Hill 2034 – the district's next phase of long-range planning. After approving the April 2022 no tax increase ballot propositions, we got to work implementing the project timelines. With projects happening at every Park Hill facility, and major additions and renovations happening at Park Hill High School, Park Hill South High School, Russell Jones Education Center and the design and build of Elementary 12, Park Hill is completing the promise of those ballot proposition dollars.

Park Hill 2034 will involve decisions around facilities, classrooms and school space, technology and how our students and staff use our space. These decisions will be made in unison with our Park Hill staff, families and community, involving these valued partners throughout the process.

In addition, the Park Hill 2034 Team, a team of involved and connected parents, staff and community members, will help guide decisions and feedback opportunities throughout the planning process. Be looking for ways you can contribute your voice – we need you!

Have a wonderful school year full of experiences and learning. We'll be cheering along the way!

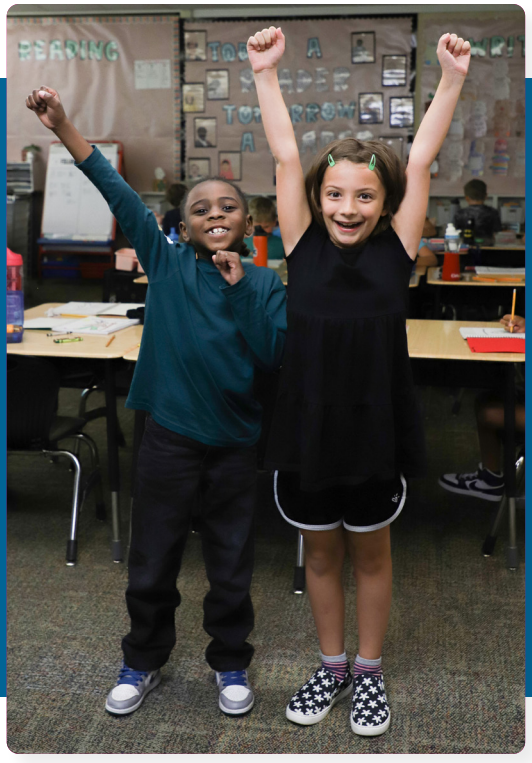


Dr. Mike Kimbrel
Superintendent

Welcome to the *Connection*!

Connection is a publication of the Park Hill School District, distributed quarterly, without charge, to patrons within the Park Hill School District boundaries.

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Park Hill Welcomes Our Students and Families for the 2023-24 School Year

WELCOME BACK!

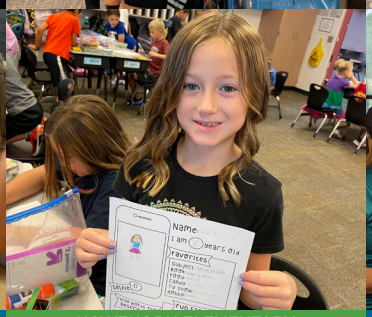

CHINN ELEMENTARY


CONGRESS MIDDLE SCHOOL

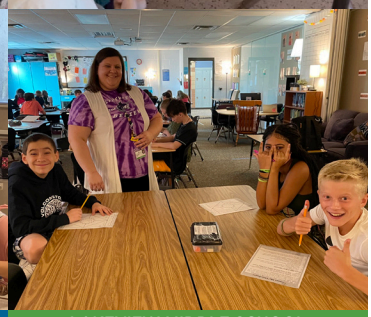

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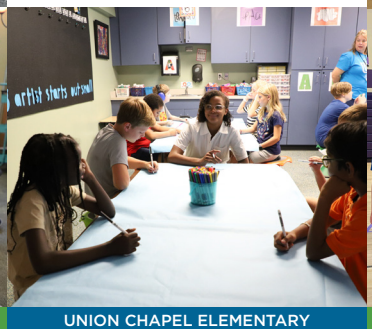

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WALDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Looking Toward The Future

Park Hill 2034 charts our course for the next 10 years

The completion of Elementary 12, scheduled for June 2025, marks the end of the district's current long-range plan. Enter **Park Hill 2034**, the district's next phase of long-range planning and part of the 2022 no-tax increase ballot proposition approved by Park Hill voters.

"Park Hill is here to build successful futures for each student every day," Superintendent Mike Kimbrel said. "**Park Hill 2034** is the plan to ensure that happens."

Park Hill 2034 will involve decisions around facilities, classrooms and school space, technology and how our students and staff use our space. These decisions will be made in unison with our Park Hill staff, families and community, involving these valued partners throughout the process.

This includes the **Park Hill 2034** Team, a group of involved and connected parents, staff and community members who will help guide decisions and feedback opportunities throughout the planning process. This team will meet consistently throughout the school year to help shape the direction of our long-range planning.

Rob Willard has two children in the district and joined the **Park Hill 2034** Team to help ensure they, and all Park Hill students, have the best resources and facilities they need to get the best education. "We have to be equitable," he said during the team's first meeting. "Educational opportunities can't be limited because of the building a student may be in."

"Aging facilities impact educational opportunities," Andrew Hargis added. Hargis is a Park Hill parent and employee. He serves as the principal at Chinn Elementary, one of the older buildings in the district.

"Look at Hopewell Elementary, with all its collaborative spaces," he said. "You don't see those in the district's older facilities. Our buildings can't be obstacles to learning."









Community Input

Community feedback is vital to our work, and you will have multiple opportunities to provide input throughout this year-long planning process. A recent opportunity was the first round of **Park Hill 2034** community meetings in partnership with Hollis + Miller, project architects for the district's 2022 Bond Projects and **Park Hill 2034** process consultants.

With buildings ranging from two to 90 years old, the age of district facilities and the impact on teaching and learning was one topic discussed. Other discussions included what elementary and secondary classrooms might look like in the next 10 years and what the district should consider when creating the 10-year plan. Traffic patterns, learning opportunities and physical and emotional security were high on the list of considerations.

Community meetings will be held for each phase of the 10-year planning process. Join us at the next community meetings:

- Monday, Oct. 16, 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Park Hill High School
- Wednesday, Oct. 18, 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Park Hill South High School

And our second community survey opens soon. You can access surveys, learn more about upcoming meetings and follow the progress of **Park Hill 2034** at https://www.parkhill.k12.mo.us/about/park-hill-2034.

Our timeline spans the 2023-2024 school year and includes several opportunities for staff, family and community input. It is essential that the community help shape the future of Park Hill School District.

Fall 2023

Data Collection

School and facility assessments
Online surveys and feedback forms
Community meetings
Open house gallery walks
Board of Education meeting presentations
Staff meetings and informational sessions

Late Fall 2023 - January 2024

Planning Criteria Established

Online surveys and feedback forms
Community meetings
Open house gallery walks
Board of Education meeting presentations
Staff meetings and informational sessions

Early Spring 2024

Exploring Options

Online surveys and feedback forms
Community meetings
Open house gallery walks
Board of Education meeting presentations
Staff meetings and informational sessions

Late Spring 2024

Adopting Best Plan

Community meetings
Open house gallery walks
Board of Education meeting presentations

PARK HILL 2034

BUILDING SUCCESSFUL FUTURES

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

SURVEY 1:

Fill Out Our Survey Above.

Over the next few months, we will be collecting surveys to gather feedback from the community as a part of our long range plan. Use the QR code above to leave your input.

Straight From Our Staff

Patrick Lee, 4th Grade Teacher, English Landing Elementary



Park Hill: You're a Park Hill alumnus and graduate of our Aspiring Educators program. Why did you follow the Aspiring Educators track in high school?

Patrick: For the longest time I actually wanted to become an engineer and had a whole five-year plan through college. After about three weeks of AP Chemistry I realized that I was not cut out to become an engineer. I thought about other options and the only thing that came to my mind was how much fun I had coaching my summer swim team. When I brought this to my parents, who are both educators in this district, they told me that there was a program that gave me the opportunity to go into classrooms and see what it was like "behind the scenes" as a teacher. I told myself to try it. Worse case scenario I find something different after that semester. By the third week of learning at English Landing Elementary School from Natalie Barner, I started to realize that this is something that I could actually do for the rest of my life. I truly believe that I would not be prepared for this profession without the help of my amazing parents (Tom and Poppy Lee) and the wonderful teachers who helped me through the program (Matthew McGinley, Jennifer Reece, O' Keefe Richards, Matthew Mabrey, Amy Peeler and Natalie Barner).

PH: What was it like to walk into the district's new teacher orientation?

P: At first it was a bit overwhelming seeing all of us new teachers take in so much new information. Fortunately, I had graduated from this district and had gone through the Aspiring Educators program, so the information was easier to digest since I had learned a lot of it beforehand. The Park Hill School District does a great job of making sure that every one of their new teachers is educated on all of the new programs and resources that we will be using.

PH: Did you have a favorite teacher during your Park Hill School District school years? What made that teacher so special?

P: If I had to choose one it would have to be Mr. Laurent from my sophomore Materials Science Class at Park Hill High School. I took this class during a time in my life where I did not know what exactly I was going to do for the rest of my life. I knew I wanted to go to college and I was considering the Engineering field. I remember walking into his class on the first day and just seeing a huge smile across his face as he welcomed us. He was so eager to get to know every single one of us. A big reason why I loved his class was because of his enthusiasm for teaching and his warm demander style. He wanted all of us to strive to be the best people we could be.

PH: What is one thing you would like your students to remember about you?

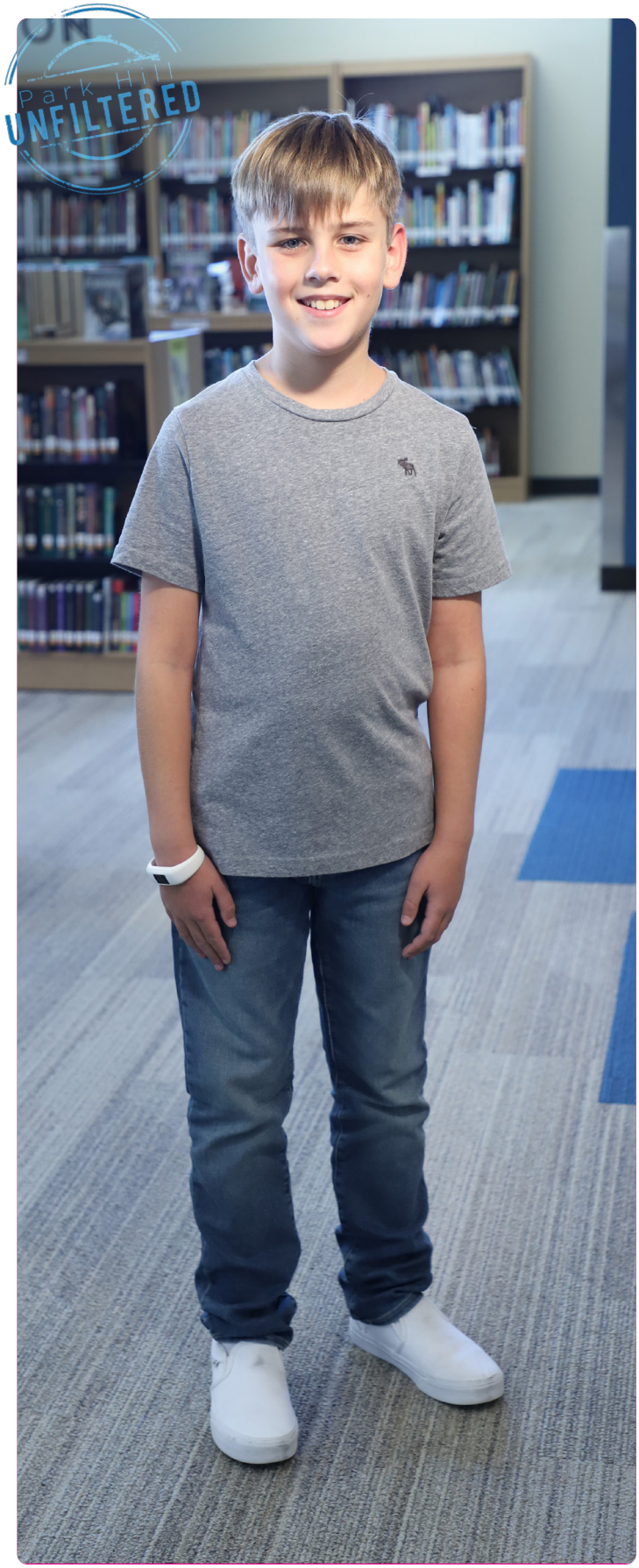
P: I want them to remember that I cared about each and every one of them, not just if they were able to pass a math test or write a great paper, but as actual human beings. There are things going on in each student's daily life and things from their background that I would not be able to relate to or even understand, but they still show up ready to learn. I want them to remember that my classroom was a safe space for them to talk to not only me but to their fellow classmates as well.

PH:What are you most looking forward to at PHSD in the next five or 10 years?

P: I am most looking forward to seeing what kind of new research and technology has affected our practices here in the Park Hill School District. Back when I was in elementary school I remember my teacher writing everything by hand on the board and we would take notes. Now every student has their own piece of technology that they can use to enhance their learning.

Straight From Our Students

Sutter Sheer, 7th Grader, Walden Middle School



Park Hill: As a member of the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council (SSAC) last year, you were among the first (and youngest) to offer input and feedback for the additions and improvements coming to Park Hill South High School (PHS). What was it like to be a part of that process?

Sutter: The design team from Hollis + Miller came to the district office and we got split into groups based on what high school we were going to and showed us designs for classrooms. We got to pick which ones we liked the best. It felt good to be able to have a say in what my future high school would look like. It was interesting because it was a new experience. I have never been asked to do anything like that before.

PH: The PHS improvements are scheduled to wrap up in March 2026, the end of your freshman year. What's it like to know you'll be in a school you and the SSAC helped to form?

S: I feel honored because I know that I had a say in what Park Hill South High School will look like for years to come. It felt good to be trusted with that responsibility, even as a 6th grader last year.

PH: What made you want to be a part of the SSAC?

S: I like to participate in leadership groups, and this one was for the entire district. I loved that my opinions would be considered to make all of Park Hill School District even better.

PH: What would you say to a friend or classmate who wanted to join the SSAC?

S: It is a really fun thing, and you get to meet kids from across the entire district. You get to really have a say and opinion in the big decisions. It is important for kids to provide this feedback because they have a different perspective than the adults. You even got lunch!

PH: What are you most excited about this year?

S: I am excited to learn new things and have new experiences as a 7th grader.

Straight From Our Students

Chamberlain Webster, Sophomore, Park Hill High School

Park Hill: As a Superintendent's Student Advisory Council (SSAC) member last year, you were among the first to offer input and feedback for the additions and improvements coming to Park Hill High School (PHHS). What was it like to be a part of that process?

Chamberlain: Being a part of deciding how our school will develop was a worthwhile experience. As the year went on, I actually saw our group's ideas put into practice, so I felt like I was being heard. I was able to participate in the process and contribute to the decisions that affected our school community in a direct way. Seeing that the administration valued our opinions and was acting on them gave me assurance.

PH: The PHHS improvements are scheduled to wrap up in March 2026, just two months before your class graduates. How do you think you'll feel, watching the progress but then heading on to your next adventure?

C: I think it'll feel a bit bittersweet as I witness the completion of the PHHS improvements, knowing that a new chapter awaits me. It is still amazing to know that I was someone who played a part in making this happen. Even though I won't be there to see it myself, I know that students in the future will greatly benefit from these improvements.

PH: What made you want to be a part of the SSAC?

C: I originally wanted to be a part of SSAC because I wanted to contribute to the betterment of students' experiences in the future. I believed that by being a part of the council, I could play a role in implementing these improvements and making a positive impact. I really enjoyed being able to meet students from around the district, especially from Park Hill South High School, and collaborate on various projects.

PH: What are you most excited about this year?

C: I'm most excited about expanding my horizons and trying some new things this year. I'm looking forward to being a part of the council for a second year and meeting new people who share similar interests and goals. I'm also excited about the potential opportunities and experiences that may come my way.



Park Hill Celebrates Success Around our District





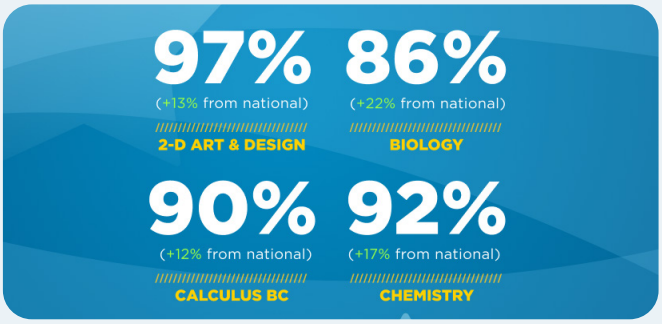
Perfect ACT Scores

Congratulations to Park Hill High School seniors James Barrie and Jessica Yu! They earned perfect scores (36) on the ACT, putting the pair in the top less-than-one-percent of test takers.



2023 Governance Team Award

We are #ParkHillProud of the Park Hill School District Board of Education for earning the 2023 Governance Team Award for its commitment to ongoing learning, continuous improvement and participation in public school advocacy. Boards receive this award through district accreditation, ongoing professional development and active involvement within the Missouri School Boards' Association. The Board is one of only 17 school boards in Missouri to earn the award this year.



Advanced Placement Celebrations

We are #ParkHillProud of our Advanced Placement (AP) program! Last year, Park Hill School District students recorded a 73% pass rate on the AP exams. That's 13% higher than the national average and the highest pass rate in program history. Our students earned an average AP score of 3.20, the highest score achieved by the district. In addition, when compared to the nation, the district saw a higher percentage of students achieve a passing score in 23 of 30 subjects.

Girls Nation President

We are #ParkHillProud of Park Hill South High School senior Ysabella "Ysa" Olsen. She attended Girls State in June and was one of two students elected to represent Missouri at Girls Nation in Washington, D.C. There, she was elected President of the American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation.

To earn this honor, Olsen had to create original legislation to share with the delegation at Missouri Girls State, advocate for its passage and undergo a rigorous interview process. Once at Girls Nation, she had to win her party's nomination through a primary process and then run against her opponent in a general election.

Olsen is the second Park Hill South student in two years to attend Girls Nation and the first to be elected President. She will preside over next year's Girls Nation delegation.



Team Academic Award

Congratulations to Park Hill High School's 2022-2023 girls' volleyball team for earning the Team Academic Award from the United States Marine Corps and the American Volleyball Coaches Association. This is the eighth year the school's volleyball team has won the award. The Team Academic Award honors teams who match their dedication in the classroom with their dedication on the court. This means the PHHS volleyball team maintained a year-long GPA of at least 3.3 on a 4.0 scale. Lindsey Hood is the coach.











College Board National Recognition

Four Park Hill School District seniors earned academic honors from the College Board National Recognition Programs. These programs celebrate students' hard work in high school and showcase their strong academic performance. Congratulations to:

Lynda Makori *(Park Hill High School)*
National African American Recognition Award

Benjamin Shepherd *(Park Hill South High School)*
National Hispanic Recognition Award

Olivia Clemons *(Park Hill South High School)*
National African American Recognition Award

Roslyn Strong *(Park Hill South High School)*
National African American Recognition Award

TOP RANKED HIGH SCHOOLS

U.S. News & WORLD REPORT

Top High Schools in the State and Region

U.S. News & World Report ranks Park Hill High School and Park Hill South High School among the top in the state and region!

Park Hill High School

#8 Public High School in Missouri

#6 Public High School in KC Metro *(including Kansas)*

#13 in Missouri for proportion of students taking and passing at least one AP Exam

#14 for State Assessment Proficiency Rank

#14 in Missouri for proportion of students taking and passing multiple AP Exams

Park Hill South High School

#12 Public High School in Missouri

#9 Public High School in KC Metro *(including Kansas)*

#8 for State Assessment Proficiency Rank

Visit
www.parkhill.k12.mo.us/news-and-stories
for more honors and celebrations

PARK HILL
HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS

Each January, the Park Hill School District inducts three alumni into the Alumni Hall of Fame. This award honors those district graduates whose lives and careers are models of achievement and community service.

Do you know an alumnus or alumna who deserves to be in the Park Hill Alumni Hall of Fame? The nominee must be a graduate of Park Hill High School or Park Hill South High School who graduated five or more years ago. We accept posthumous nominations.

Visit **parkhilllistens.com** to nominate someone today.

NOMINATE A
PARK HILL STAR

Our employees are the reason we are so successful here in the Park Hill School District, and we would like to recognize them for all they do for our students.

That is why we present the Park Hill Star award once a month to a pre-K or elementary teacher, a secondary teacher and a support employee.

Anyone can nominate an employee at **parkhilllistens.com**.

Visit the district's Facebook page to see September's Park Hill Star winners.

You invest in our students

– and we're investing in you.

The Park Hill School District is offering a $5,000 stipend per student teaching position. Learn from a high-quality teaching staff in a high-performing school district.

Why you should student teach in Park Hill:

- Employee Resource Groups
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- Curriculum Guides
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- Virtual Work Days
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WE'RE CHARTING THE COURSE FOR MAJOR SUCCESS THIS YEAR! PLEASE JOIN US AT THE

ANNUAL
COMMUNITY BREAKFAST
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26TH, 2023
AT THE ARGOSY CASINO & HOTEL

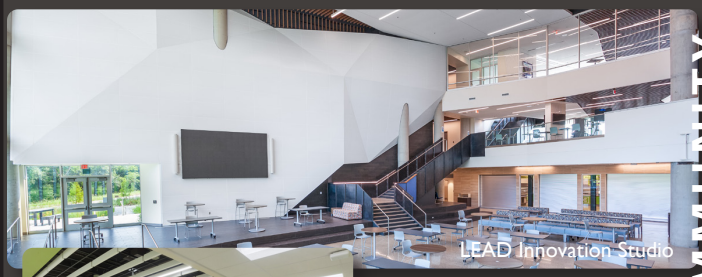
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IT WILL BE LEGENDARY.

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Park Hill Highlight

We welcomed more than 150 new educational rock stars to the Park Hill Family in early August. We are so glad they chose Park Hill!

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

Park Hill School District
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