SPRING EDITION | ISSUE NO. 19

CONNECTION

In this edition:

District Achievements

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 Spring 2024 edition of the *Connection* magazine! This spring we are celebrating our achievements, honoring the work of our students and staff to help each of our students earn recognition for solid academic growth and achievement.

Like you'll read about in our feature piece, our achievement data is strong. We are high achieving in Park Hill, meaning:

- 73% or more students achieved at, or above the 41st percentile on the NWEA Reading (74%), Math (73%), and Science (75%) exams during the most recent winter window.
- 11% of all ACT exams taken by PHSD students during the 2023-2024 school year through December earned an ACT Composite Score of 30 or above.

PHSD students exceeded the district goal of 70% of students showing reading proficiency (73%), math proficiency (76%), and science proficiency (78%) as measured in our 2023-2028 CSIP.

We also help students grow at successful rates, meaning:

- 50% or more students met their fall to winter growth goal on the NWEA Reading (50%), Math (53%), and Science (50%) exams during the most recent winter window.

And we are making progress on closing the achievement gap for our student groups, meaning:

- PHSD is closing the achievement gap on NWEA Reading, Math and Science Exams in the last four NWEA testing windows with respect to our student groups.

This academic success happens because of the people we have in Park Hill. Our students, staff and community all work together to ensure an environment of growth and achievement for all. Thank you for helping celebrate our students this spring!



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. Our magazine format launched in the fall of 2022.

Park Hill Board of Education

Brandy Woodley, President
Daryl Terwilleger, Vice President
Janice Bolin, Treasurer
Layla Barbur, Member
Shereka Barnes, Member
Scott Monsees, Member
Kimberlee Ried, Member



SCHOOL SNAPSHOTS:

STUDENTS IN ACTION ACROSS OUR DISTRICT!



CHINN ELEMENTARY



CONGRESS MIDDLE SCHOOL



ENGLISH LANDING ELEMENTARY



GERNER FAMILY EDUCATION CENTER



GRADEN ELEMENTARY



HAWTHORN ELEMENTARY



HOPEWELL ELEMENTARY



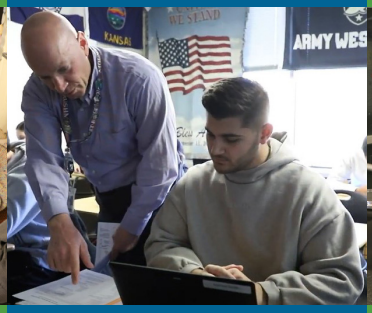
LAKEVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL



LEAD INNOVATION STUDIO



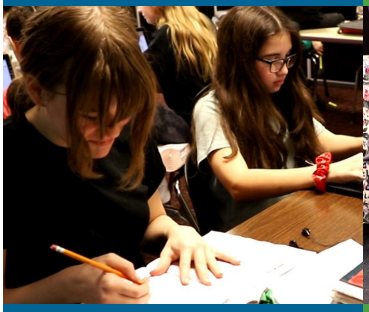
LINE CREEK ELEMENTARY



PARK HILL HIGH SCHOOL



PARK HILL SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL



PLAZA MIDDLE SCHOOL



PRAIRIE POINT ELEMENTARY



RENNER ELEMENTARY



RUSSELL JONES EDUCATION CENTER



SOUTHEAST ELEMENTARY



TIFFANY RIDGE ELEMENTARY



UNION CHAPEL ELEMENTARY



WALDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Straight From Our Staff

Ayanna Anderson, 8th grade reading teacher, Plaza Middle School



Park Hill: What is your biggest celebration as a teacher in Park Hill this year?

Ayanna: This year, my biggest celebration would be the reading growth my students have demonstrated, due to our focus on reading strategies, while incorporating a few writing standards that complement my writing teammate's lessons. We read and annotate an article of the week at least once a month, and the students are required to write a response after reading and annotating. My teammates and I have seen gains in their reading comprehension and writing expression, and we think the article of the week has played a large role in contributing to that growth. I also celebrate the students' vulnerability in sharing their voices through writing, as the articles reference many current events and issues relevant to their lives. I enjoy reading about the academic and personal connections they make.

PH: What should we be celebrating as Park Hill School District?

A: Park Hill School District should be celebrating its Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP). The privilege of serving on the committee is extremely eye opening and educational. The inclusive work to create specific, data driven and meaningful goals will continue to propel the district to the next level as we work to create a district that has staff representative of its diverse students, as well as students, parents and community members who feel a true sense of belonging. The simplicity and clarity in which the plan is communicated, to build successful futures for students of all backgrounds, is important as we live in an everchanging and diverse society, where traditional American cultures and beliefs are not the norm, and where college may not be the goal after high school. The CSIP works to celebrate and integrate differences, so that staff and students are successful as defined by their needs and experiences.

PH: How do you help celebrate our students and their successes in your classroom?

A: I celebrate students daily with a strategy I call two claps on three. Each time a student volunteers to share his or her voice, whether reading the learning target aloud, reading aloud a text we are analyzing or sharing a comment in response to a question or another student, the student is given two claps on my count of three. I learned it from a former colleague who was also a football coach. It is a quick, consistent and energizing celebration that also fosters confidence and a sense of community. In addition, I like to write specific feedback, encouraging, and happy notes on fun paper or personal stationery in order to motivate students to give their best effort and challenge themselves.

PH: How do you help celebrate your colleagues?

A: I celebrate my teammates by eating lunch together on or around their birthdays, and I bake a special treat of their request, which is shared with the team during our lunch. I enjoy writing notes, so instead of just a verbal thank you to staff members, I take the time to write a note on my personal stationery. I also enjoy looking at a document, which includes each staff member's favorite things, and sometimes surprising them with a special or sweet treat to accompany my thank you note.

PH: There's always something to celebrate. Is this statement true for you?

A: I do agree that there is always something or someone to celebrate. I love quotes and there are so many great quotes about celebrating: "Celebrate differences!" "Instead of hate, celebrate!" "The more you praise and celebrate your life, the more there is in life to celebrate." It is all about positivity. Sure, we have bad days, and times we need to vent, but focusing on what is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, and anything worthy of praise is a positive way to live each day. So, whether it is a smile I received from a student, a light bulb I see go off in a student's brain, an accomplishment of a colleague, or crossing one thing off a long to do list, there is always something or someone to celebrate!

Straight From Our Students

Noah Greenlee, 5th grade, Hawthorn Elementary School

Park Hill: What is your favorite thing about Hawthorn Elementary?

Noah: The teachers because they really support you and care about you. They wanted to come teach kids as their job out of everything else.

PH: We hear you designed the yearbook cover at your school. Tell us about your design!

N: I drew a detailed Husky. I painted around it and put Hawthorn Elementary above it and put 2023-2024 beside it.

PH: Why did you want to help create the yearbook design?

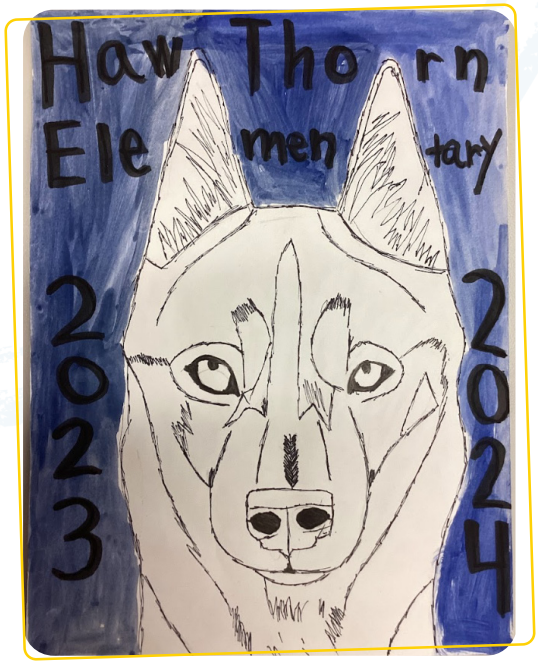
N: I thought it would be a good accomplishment. I thought it would be cool to have my drawing on the yearbook cover for the whole school.

PH: How do your teachers and the team at Hawthorn support you?

N: They give you a lot of opportunities – from winning leader of the month to joining the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) Council to winning the yearbook cover. They let you do what is best for you.

PH: What do you want to do when you grow up?

N: I am not sure yet, but I want to help people out in some way.



Noah's cover design for the Hawthorn Elementary 2023-2024 yearbook



1ST SCHOOL DISTRICT TO RECEIVE QUALITY TEXAS FOUNDATION REGIONAL AWARD IN 12 YEARS

3 QUESTBRIDGE MATCH SCHOLARS

88% OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS LINK PARK HILL AREA GROWTH TO SCHOOL DISTRICT'S REPUTATION

5 PERFECT ACT SCORES



ALL FO
MID
SCH
PLACE
TOP
IN THE

Park Hill Proud

With five perfect ACT scores, our middle and high schools being recognized as among the best in the state and three students receiving life-changing scholarships through the QuestBridge Match program, we have a lot to celebrate in the Park Hill School District.

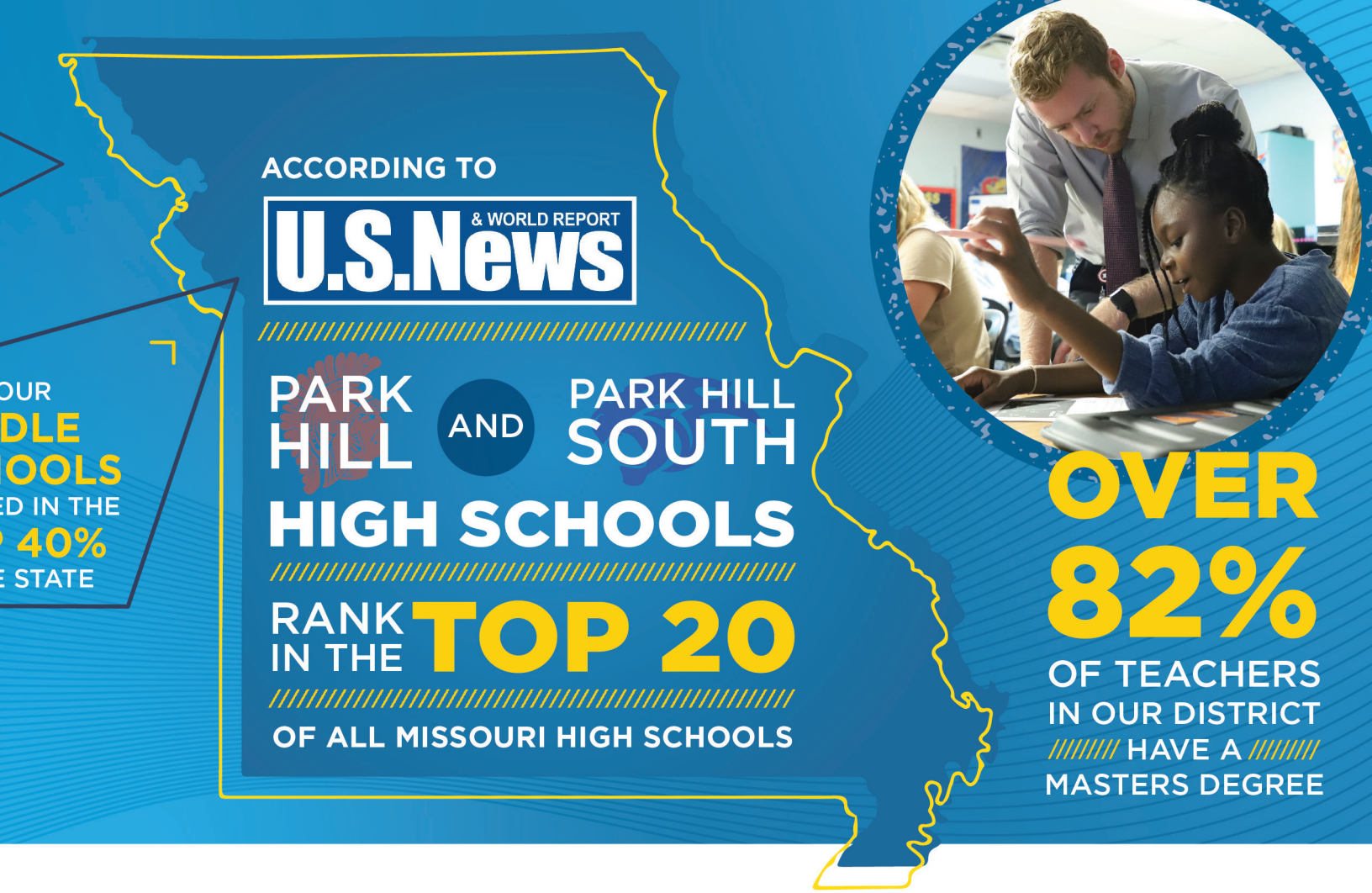
It's been a year since the district was the first K-12 public school district in 12 years to receive the Quality Texas Foundation Regional Program (QTFRP) Highest Level of Quality Award. The honor, which advances organizational excellence and competitiveness in the region, is the highest-level quality award in the district's history. The district won the state-level Missouri Quality Award in 2009 and 2015, becoming the first public school district to win the award twice.

The honors continued as Lakeview Middle School was named an AVID National Demonstration School. AVID (advancement via individual determination) is a college and career readiness program used K-12th grade in Park Hill. AVID National Demonstration Schools demonstrate an ongoing pursuit of excellence, both in the AVID Elective and AVID Schoolwide, to ensure college readiness for all AVID Elective students and improved academic performance for all students based on increased opportunities and support for success. Lakeview was the third school in Missouri to receive the distinction.

U.S. News and World Report took note, too. They placed our high schools among the top in the state and the region. Park Hill High School ranked eighth in the state and sixth in the Kansas City metro area while Park Hill South ranked 12th in the state and ninth in the metropolitan area. All four of our middle schools rank among the top 40% in the state.

Not to be left out, Park Hill elementary leaders swept each category in the Clay-Platte Region of the Missouri Association of Elementary School Principals awards. Learn more about them on page 10.

Our students continue to bring home awards and honors. Three of our high school seniors received scholarships through the QuestBridge National College Match program, while 15 seniors received $50,000 scholarships through KC Scholars. You can read more about our scholarship winners on pages 9 and 10.



Did you know a Park Hill South Panther will serve as President in Washington D.C. this summer? Ysa Olsen attended Girls State last June and was chosen out of 600 delegates to be one of the two delegates to represent Missouri at Girls Nation. There, she was elected President and will preside over Girls Nation this summer.

Our student-athletes win big in the classroom, too. Park Hill High School's Anna Anderson was named Academic All-State as part of the Trojan football team while the soccer teams from both high schools and Park Hill High's volleyball team won national academic awards.

More academic accomplishments include five students recently earning perfect ACT scores, and 11% of all ACT exams taken by district students during this school year (through December) earned an ACT Composite Score of 30 or above. Park Hill also has the highest ACT Composite Score – 21.6 – in the Kansas City area for districts that provide the test to every student.

We are proud to report our students exceeded the district goal of 70% of students showing reading proficiency (73%), math proficiency (76%), and science proficiency (78%) as measured in our 2023-2028 Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP).

And our students' academic growth continues with 50% or more students meeting their fall to winter growth goal on the NWEA* Reading (50%), Math (53%), and Science (50%) exams during the most recent winter window.

It's no surprise that when surveyed, 88% of our community says the district's reputation is why people move to live within district boundaries. And there are more good things to come. We just broke ground for Angeline Washington Elementary School, which will welcome students in the 2025-2026 school year, and the Park Hill 2034 team continues its work on our next 10-year long-range plan. And, of course, we'll soon be celebrating as our seniors leave for their next big adventure.

**The Northwest Evaluation Association is a not-for-profit organization that creates academic assessments for students pre-K-12. NWEA assessments are used by over 9,500 schools and districts in 145 countries.*

MORE THAN 73% OF STUDENTS

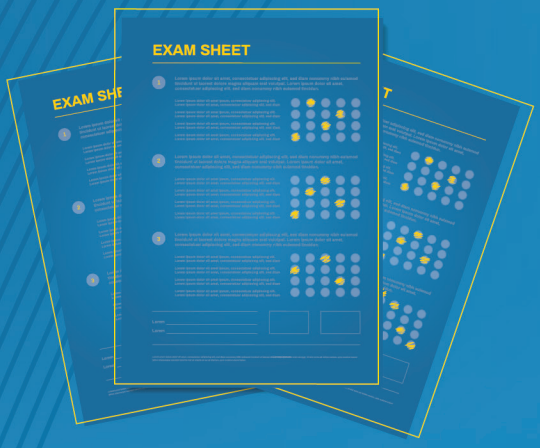
ACHIEVED AT, OR ABOVE THE **41ST PERCENTILE** ON THE NWEA* EXAMS DURING THE MOST RECENT WINTER TESTING WINDOW

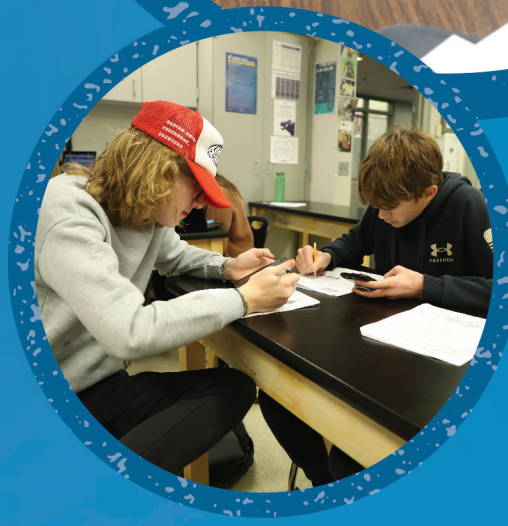


74% READING ★ **73%** MATH ★ **75%** SCIENCE

OVER 10% OF PHSD STUDENTS WHO TOOK THE ACT EARNED AN

ACT COMPOSITE SCORE OF 30 OR ABOVE





PHSD STUDENTS EXCEEDED OUR DISTRICT-WIDE GOAL OF **70% PROFICIENCY** IN READING, MATH AND SCIENCE

73% READING ★ **76%** MATH ★ **78%** SCIENCE

LAKEVIEW MIDDLE RECOGNIZED

AV

NATIONAL DEMONSTRAT



300 STUDENTS WON LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL AWARDS

KC SCHOLARS

$50,000 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO 15 STUDENTS SO FAR DURING THE '23-'24 SCHOOL YEAR

PHSD HAD THE LOWEST ACHIEVEMENT GAP ON NWEA READING, MATH AND SCIENCE EXAMS IN THE LAST FOUR TESTING WINDOWS

ASBO AWARDS PHSD THE **MERITORIUS BUDGET AWARD** 17 YEARS IN A ROW

70 STAFF MEMBERS WINNING LOCAL, STATE, NATIONAL AWARDS

SCHOOL
AS
ID®
ION SCHOOL

21.6 HIGHEST DISTRICT-WIDE ACT COMPOSITE SCORE IN THE KC AREA

Park Hill Celebrates Success Around our District

These are just a few of the awards and accolades Park Hill staff and students have received recently. Visit **www.parkhill.k12.mo.us/news-and-stories** to catch up on the latest honors and accolades.



Questbridge Match Scholarship

Congratulations to Henry Ye from Park Hill South High School and Talha Agha and Simbo Bero from Park Hill High School for earning top honors in the QuestBridge National College Match program. Ye matched with Washington University in St. Louis, while Agha matched with Boston College and Bero matched with Wesleyan University. They all receive full, four-year scholarships.

Nearly 21,000 students applied to the program. QuestBridge's 50 college partners matched with 2,242 finalists who are recognized as Match Scholarship Recipients. The Match Scholarship covers the full cost of attendance, including tuition, housing and food, books and supplies and travel expenses.



State Champions

We are #ParkHillProud of the Park Hill South Girls Swim and Dive Team. Not only did they have an undefeated varsity season, they also won the State Championship! The Panthers are the first Kansas City school to win State since 2009. The team came away with 23 total All-State Performances and eight All-State Honorable Mentions, plus the 200 Medley Relay and 200 Freestyle Relay made the cut for All-American Consideration! The team is coached by Tim Busenhart. (More on pg. 11)

ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS INTERNATIONAL

Meritorious Budget Award

Meritorious Budget Award

The Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) recognized our district for excellence in budget presentation with the Meritorious Budget Award (MBA) for 2023–2024. This award reflects our commitment to sound fiscal management and budgetary policies. Congratulations to our finance department and Assistant Superintendent for Business and Technology, Dr. Paul Kelly, for earning this award for the 17th consecutive year.

WALDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Yearbook Program of Excellence

Congratulations to the 2022-2023 Walden Middle School yearbook staff for receiving the Jostens National Yearbook Program of Excellence recognition at the bronze level! The award was presented to Walden for achieving defined criteria in between one and three of the following categories: creating an inclusive yearbook, generating school engagement and successfully managing the yearbook creation process. Tiffany Peeler is the yearbook sponsor at Walden.



Professional of the Year

We are #ParkHillProud of our Chief Communications Officer Kelly Wachel, the Missouri School Public Relations Association (MOSPRA) 2024 Professional of the Year.

Wachel has been a great leader for MOSPRA, serving on the Board as the Western Region Director, as President-Elect, two years as President (during the exceptionally trying times of the pandemic), and as Past President. She has shared her time and expertise as a state and national presenter, and she has published two books on school communications.

The Professional of the Year is MOSPRA's most prestigious award, and Kelly now has the opportunity to apply for the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) Communicator of the Year Award.



National Speech and Debate Honor

Congratulations to Park Hill High School junior Jack Unsell for achieving Premier Distinction, the highest degree in the National Speech & Debate Association Honor Society! Fewer than 3% of NSDA members earn Premier Distinction before graduation. This milestone celebrates the hundreds of hours Jack has spent preparing, practicing and competing to hone his communication and leadership skills.



Award-Winning Principals

Park Hill elementary leaders swept each category in the Clay-Platte Region of the Missouri Association of Elementary School Principals awards. We are #ParkHillProud of:

- Clay-Platte Exemplary New Principal Dr. Andrew Hargis from Chinn Elementary
- Clay-Platte Distinguished Principal Brooke Renton from Hawthorn Elementary
- Clay-Platte Outstanding Assistant Principal Dr. Sarah McQuinn from Prairie Point Elementary

Scholarship Winners

We are #ParkHillProud our seven students receiving $50,000 scholarships to Missouri State University from KC Scholars!

Congratulations to:

Park Hill South

- Hunyoung Choi
- Viany Cruz-Hernandez
- Ta'Shiya Ewing
- Cathy Kwot
- Esteban Rodriguez

Park Hill

- Tyler Dinh
- Kaden Seeger



ALL-STATE BAND & ORCHESTRA

State Band and Orchestra

Congratulations to our Park Hill and Park Hill South High School students who received All-State Band and Orchestra honors.

Park Hill High School

All-State Band:
*James Barrie - first chair, English horn
*Jessica Yu - 12th chair, clarinet

All-State Alternate (Band):
Elisha-Daniel Agbor - second alternate, alto sax
West McElhany - first alternate, tenor sax
Ethan Hurd - first alternate, baritone

All-State Honorable Mention (Band):
Layla Nelson - ninth chair, flute
Meredith Bell - 16th chair, clarinet
Dylan House - second chair, baritone

All-State Orchestra:
*Jacob O'Toole - bass section
*Yosep Maeng - second alternate, violin section

Director of Bands is Ky Hascall
Orchestra Director is Suzannah Smith

Park Hill South High School:

All-State Concert Band:
*Brady Rouse - sixth chair, percussion

All-State Concert Band Honorable Mention:
Bea Olasz - eighth chair flute
Noah Floyd - sixth chair, clarinet
Hailey Parsons - first chair, contra alto clarinet
Lauren Redding - first chair, french horn

All-State Jazz Band Alternate:
Connor Thompson - lead trumpet

Band Director is Andrew Gillespie

*denotes students who performed at the Missouri State Music Conference in Osage Beach.

ALL-STATE SWIM & DIVE

Park Hill South High School State Highlights:

First team to score overall 300 points since 2008.

Largest point differential between first and second place since 2004.

All-State Performances:
200 Medley Relay: Lizzie Landuyt, Alyssa Gordon, Molly Henry and Charlotte Sander placed first, set a school record and made an All-American consideration cut

200 Freestyle Relay: Elisa DeCaro, Alyssa Gordon, Charlotte Sander and Natalie Dunaway also placed first, set a school record and made an All-American consideration cut

400 Freestyle Relay: Elisa DeCaro, Molly Henry, Lizzie Landuyt and Natalie Dunaway placed second

200 Freestyle: Lizzie Landuyt, seventh place

200 IM: Alyssa Gordon, tied for fourth place

50 Freestyle: Natalie Dunaway, third place and Charlotte Sander, fifth place

Diving: Megan Wells, second place and Aniya Clemons, third place

100 Butterfly: Molly Henry, fifth place

100 Freestyle: Natalie Dunaway, fifth place

100 Backstroke: Lizzie Landuyt, third place and Molly Henry, eighth place

100 Breaststroke: Alyssa Gordon, second place

All-State Honor Mentions:
200 Freestyle: Brooke Nichols, 15th place and McKelvey McDaniel, 16th place

50 Freestyle: Elisa DeCaro 13th

Diving: Molly Toohig, ninth place

100 Butterfly: Bella Knittig, 16th place

100 Freestyle: Charlotte Sander 10th place and Elisa DeCaro 16th place

500 Freestyle: Zella Berberich, 14th place

*Includes all dual meets, invitationals, Conference and State

816.741.0251

MEYERS
NORTHLAND CHAPEL

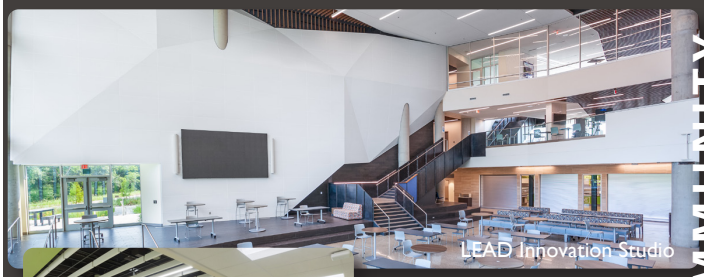
Proud supporters of our Park Hill Schools


Todd DeMint


Loretta Temple



Meyersfuneralchapel.com


LEAD Innovation Studio


Hopewell Elementary


District Transportation Center


Walden Middle School



Support Service Center


Tiffany Ridge Elementary

UNIVERSAL
CELEBRATING
90
YEARS
CONSTRUCTION

A Proud partner of the **Park Hill School District** since 2006

913.342.1150 www.universalconstruction.net

BUILDING A BETTER COMMUNITY.

PARK HILL SCHOOL DISTRICT

WE ARE HIRING

PART-TIME AND FULL-TIME POSITIONS

By the Blade
AMBASSADORS OF OUTDOOR LIVING



Picture yourself with us!

LANDSCAPES · AQUASCAPES
POOLS · IRRIGATION · LIGHTING
Call us today at 816-505-0444 | bythebladekc.com

PARK UNIVERSITY
UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE
DEGREE PROGRAMS

INCLUDING

NURSING,
BUSINESS,
AND SPORTS & EXERCISE SCIENCE
MAJORS

FIND OUT MORE!
PARK.EDU/APPLY

BUILDING CHARACTER THROUGH HEALTHY COMPETITION
NORTHLAND SPORTS ALLIANCE

BASEBALL • SOFTBALL
NOW REGISTERING

WWW.NSAKC.COM
CONTACT: STEPHANIE@NSAKC.COM



NISSAN
REISELMAN Nissan
EVERY CUSTOMER. EVERY TIME.

WE SERVICE & SELL
All Makes & Models
Come check us out!
www.ReiselmanNissan.com

Parkville's Premier Med Spa
Undo
Skincare & Wellness Center
816.974.8636
www.undotoday.com
6442 NW Crooked Rd.
Parkville, MO 64152

* Skin Rejuvenation
* Botox/Jeuveau
* Acne Treatments
* Scars/Stretch Marks
* Laser Hair Removal
* Custom Facials
* Massage
* Body Sculpting
and more...



QP
QUALITY PLUMBING
INC.



KEEP QUALITY IN MIND

BOOK TODAY
QUALITYPLUMBING.COM
816-472-4994



Your Parkville Home Team!

Wow Homes KC

816.588.3831

WowHomesKC.com



BLUE HEATING & COOLING

BLUE is KC's Trusted HVAC Service & Repair Company

info@blueheatingandcooling.com

9926 NW Hwy 45
Parkville, MO 64152

(816) 719-0199

Southern BANK

BANKWITHSOUTHERN.COM

McKeever's PRICE CHOPPER

ZONA ROSA

SEE WHAT'S NEW.

@ZonaRosaKC

NEW SHOPS.
—
NEW PARKS.
—
THE NEW HUB OF THE NORTHLAND.



WANT YOUR AD HERE?

Contact Samantha Fitzgerald at
FitzgeraldSa@parkhill.k12.mo.us
or call 816-359-6716

orangetheory®

restore (community church)

Meeting at Park Hill High School
Sundays | 9 & 10:30 AM

Helping people find their way back to God

restorecc.org

Park Hill School District
7703 NW Barry Road
Kansas City, MO 64153

Non Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
KC Presort
ECRWSS-EDDM

Postal Customer

Park Hill Highlight

Congratulations to Anna Anderson, the first girl in the history of the Park Hill School District to earn a varsity letter in the sport of football. The barrier-breaking Park Hill High School Trojan was also named Academic All-State.

Way to go, Anna! #ParkHillProud

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

