

Piper USD 203

INCLUSIVITY | INNOVATION | COMMUNITY | INTEGRITY | PASSION

FROM *the* HELM

A Message from the Superintendent, Dr. Jessica Dain



As we celebrate the achievements of our graduating seniors, I am filled with pride and excitement for the future they are stepping into. Graduation is not merely an end, but a significant milestone in our mission of "Building the future one student at a time." This vision underscores our commitment to providing each student with a personalized educational journey that prepares them for success beyond high school.

Our district has taken great strides in ensuring that every student is equipped with the tools and experiences necessary to thrive in an ever-changing world. One of the key elements in this effort has been our senior capstone experiences. These projects allow students to delve deeply into areas of personal and academic interest, fostering critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills. By engaging in these capstone experiences, students

are not only demonstrating their mastery of the competencies found within the Piper Portrait of a Graduate, but they are also exploring their passions and potential career paths.

In addition to capstone experiences, we have placed a strong emphasis on developing market value assets for our students. Market value assets are the credentials, skills, and experiences that enhance a student's ability to compete in the job market or succeed in higher education. These include industry-recognized certifications, internships, dual enrollment opportunities and advanced coursework and entrepreneurial experiences. By providing these opportunities, we are ensuring that our students graduate not only with a diploma but with a competitive edge that sets them apart.



Personalized plans are at the heart of our approach. We recognize that each student is unique, with individual strengths, interests, and aspirations. Therefore, we work closely with students and their families to develop tailored educational plans that align with their goals. These plans are dynamic, evolving as students grow and discover new interests, ensuring that they are always on a path that is right for them.

Our educators, counselors, and industry partners play a crucial role in this process, offering guidance and support every step of the way. They help students identify their strengths, explore various career options, and guide the experiences that will best prepare them for their future endeavors. This personalized attention ensures that each student feels valued and supported, empowering them to take ownership of their learning and future.

As we move forward, we remain committed to our vision of "Building the future one student at a time." We will continue to innovate and adapt our programs to meet the evolving needs of our students and the demands of the world they are entering. Our goal is to equip every student with the knowledge, skills, and experiences they need to achieve their dreams and make meaningful contributions to society.

To our graduates, congratulations! You have worked hard, shown resilience, and demonstrated a commitment to your education that will serve you well in all your future endeavors. To our returning students, know that we are here to support you as you continue your educational journey. Together, we will build a bright and promising future.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in making our vision a reality.

Proud to be a Pirate,

Jessica

PIPER EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION WRAPS UP BUSY SPRING AHEAD OF SUMMER FUNDRAISERS

The Piper Educational Foundation has marked an exceptional spring with a series of successful fundraising events that have not only brought the community together but also significantly bolstered the Foundation's mission of supporting educational excellence in the Piper School District. This year's highlights included the Annual Celebration Breakfast, the inaugural Golf Classic, and the launch of the Secure the Ship campaign. Each event showcased the Foundation's commitment to fostering educational opportunities and equipping students with the tools they need to succeed.

Annual Celebration Breakfast: Honoring Excellence

The Annual Celebration Breakfast was a momentous occasion, celebrating achievements within the Piper community and honoring those who have made significant contributions to education. This year, the event was particularly special as it included the induction of Eric Stonestreet, the beloved actor known for his role on "Modern Family," into the Piper Educational Foundation Hall of Fame. Stonestreet, a Piper alumnus, was recognized for his outstanding career and his dedication to giving back to his community.

Inaugural Golf Classic: A Hole-in-One for Education

The Foundation's inaugural Golf Classic was another highlight of the spring fundraising season. Held at the picturesque Dub's Dread Golf Club, the event brought together over 30 teams composed of local businesses and community members. The Golf Classic was not only a day of fun and friendly competition but also a significant fundraiser for the Foundation. Participants enjoyed a day on the greens, complete with various contests, raffles, and an awards ceremony. The event successfully raised substantial funds, all of which will go towards supporting the Foundation's educational initiatives.

Secure the Ship Campaign: Equipping the Future

The spring fundraising season culminated with the launch of the Secure the Ship campaign, a crucial initiative aimed at raising funds to equip the Academy labs at Piper's new state-of-the-art high school. The kick-off event brought together leaders from various industries, all united in their commitment to advancing education.

The campaign seeks to ensure that the new high school is outfitted with cutting-edge technology and resources, providing students with the best possible learning environment. The support from the business community and individual donors has been overwhelming, demonstrating a shared belief in the power of education to transform lives.

The success of these spring fundraisers is a testament to the dedication and generosity of the Piper community. The funds raised will have a lasting impact, enabling the Foundation to continue its vital work in supporting educational excellence. As the Piper Educational Foundation looks ahead, it remains committed to its mission of empowering students and fostering a love of learning. With the continued support of the community, the Foundation is poised to make even greater strides in the years to come.



Piper School District

SECURE THE SHIP

Learn More

GOAL - \$2 million

\$382,000

\$

SECURE THE SHIP CAMPAIGN SAILS THROUGH THE SUMMER

Piper launched the Secure the Ship campaign in May to financially support Piper's Real World Learning programs and initiatives through partnership contributions and equipment donations. The launch of the campaign coincides with the grand opening of Piper's state-of-the-art high school opening this August. This summer, the district announced partnerships with Kansas City Kansas Fire Department and Lockton Companies.

"The donation of fire equipment demonstrates the deepened relationship between KCKFD and Piper USD 203, emphasizing a shared mission to enhance fire science education and training," said Dr. Jessica Dain, Superintendent of Piper Schools.

"Piper is proud to prepare its students for post-secondary success, and to funnel this homegrown talent pipeline to local businesses and organizations here in the Kansas City Metro. We are grateful for partners like KCKFD who want to play an active role in ensuring our students are FUTURE READY."

"The Kansas City, Kansas, Fire Department is extremely proud to partner with Piper High School to provide the best vocational training in our entire region," said KCKFD Chief Dennis L. Rubin.

"Anytime our fire department can work closely with such an incredible group of educators, we will take the opportunity to help. Thank you for allowing us to be part of this powerful public safety training program for the future leaders of Wyandotte County and beyond!"



"The Piper leadership team, teachers and community have bought in to creating real world education opportunities for every student," said Matthew Tritz, Senior Vice President, Producer, Lockton Companies.

"The pace of change in the working world is moving faster than it ever has with no slowdown in sight. The Piper vision is one that Lockton is very proud to support as the next generation of Kansas City employees prepares to enter the workforce and contribute to our local economy."

THANK YOU TO SUPPORTERS OF THE GIVING WALL

THE KNETTER FAMILY (CHRIS KUGLER MEMORIAL
 SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE)
 PIPER EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
 THE YODER FAMILY
 DS BUS LINES
 THE HURRELBRINK FAMILY
 UNIVERSAL CONSTRUCTION
 BOB & SANDY HENNESSEY
 THE GIBSON FAMILY
 MINI ADVENTURES
 THE MUSIL FAMILY
 LIFESAVERS CPR INSTRUCTORS, LLC
 SARAH OCHS
 MARILYN THEISS
 THE ENGLEHART FAMILY
 THE SCHNELLER FAMILY
 DESIREE' FERGUS & SONS
 CASSANDRA MESCHKE
 AMY BOLEND & FAMILY
 THE RICHARD FAMILY
 THE EIDSON FAMILY
 ROLYN FRISCH FAMILY
 THE FARMER FAMILY
 THE VON BEVERN FAMILY
 THE HURLEY FAMILY
 DOLLY WITTMAN
 JOY HEALTH & WELLNESS
 THE SIBLEY FAMILY
 VINEYARD CHURCH
 JAMISON & KIM BOSCH & FAMILY
 THE HAWES FAMILY
 THE TRENT FAMILY
 THE SIMPSON FAMILY
 MARGE ECKARD
 BRADLEY & KELLY LIGHTFOOT
 THE HOLYFIELD FAMILY
 THE KRUMME FAMILY
 THE MIZELL FAMILY (BLINDMOMOFBOYS)
 THE BOGART FAMILY
 THE WISE FAMILY
 BRAD & CINDY HORCHEM
 THE DAIN FAMILY
 THE LADISH FAMILY
 NEAL & LUANN PALMER & FAMILY
 INCITE DESIGN STUDIO
 ADAM & CASSANDRA MESCHKE
 STACEY WEBB & RANDY WEBB
 THE BIONDI FAMILY
 RICKY & COLLEEN JOHNSON
 JOHN & DONNA FEEBACK FAMILY
 THE CALHOUN FAMILY
 THE OCHS FAMILY
 KEVIN, TORI, OLIVE &
 GENEVIEVE & FAMILY
 THE PIPER HIGH SCHOOL
 SPEECH & DEBATE TEAM
 ANDY & JENNIFER NELSON
 THE BAKARICH FAMILY
 RICK, AMY, ADDIE, & AVERY WALKER
 BRAD EIKENBARY & FAMILY
 KEVIN & KIM BROWN & FAMILY



The Piper Educational Foundation was proud to present "The Giving Wall" campaign, a donor wall displayed prominently in the new high school to recognize the businesses and community members who financially support the mission of the Foundation and School district to enhance educational opportunities for students and staff.

The fundraiser will run in the Fall and Spring of each year. Details on the next campaign and installation deadlines coming soon.

A big thank you to the supporters who generously donated funds to kick-off this campaign!



Details Here



AUCTION

SAVE THE DATE

9-28-24

PIPER EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

DINNER, DRINKS,
& LIVE AUCTION

DOORS OPEN 6 PM
DINNER 7 PM
AUCTION 8 PM

PURPLE

&

WHITE

SAVE THE DATE | SATURDAY, AUGUST 17

JOIN US FOR A GRAND OPENING / FLAG RAISING COMMUNITY CELEBRATION AT THE

NEW PIPER HIGH SCHOOL

AND TOUR DISTRICT BOND PROJECTS INCLUDING
PIPER EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER AND PIPER CREEK ELEMENTARY



Dear Piper Patrons -

I am thrilled to extend a warm invitation to you for the grand opening of the district bond projects including the new Piper Early Childhood Center, the renovated Piper Creek Elementary, and finally, the new, state-of-the-art Piper High School, a remarkable achievement made possible by your unwavering support and the successful passing of the bond referendum in 2022.

This momentous celebration marks a significant milestone for our community, reflecting our collective commitment to providing our students with the best educational opportunities. The grand opening celebration will begin with open house tours unveiling the results of the bond projects at Piper Early Childhood Center and Piper Creek Elementary, followed by a brief program and flag raising ceremony. Guests will then be invited to tour the new high school.

The state-of-the-art facilities at Piper High School and the improvements initiated throughout the district are a testament to what we can achieve when we come together with a shared vision for the future. We invite you to come celebrate with us PIRATE NATION!

Proud to be a Pirate!
Dr. Jessica Dain, Superintendent of Schools

AGENDA

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17

1 - 3 PM

OPEN HOUSE TOURS

**PIPER EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER &
PIPER CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

3:30 - 5 PM

**PROGRAM BEGINS AT PIPER HIGH SCHOOL
BRIEF REMARKS & OPEN HOUSE TOURS**

FOOD TRUCKS, MUSIC, & CELEBRATION!



2023 Kansans Can Star Recognition Feature

Individual Plan of Study

One district recognized at gold level

Piper-Kansas City USD 203



Kansas State Department of Education | KSDE.ORG



PIPER IS THE ONLY SCHOOL IN KANSAS TO EARN A GOLD DISTINCTION FOR INDIVIDUAL PLAN OF STUDY

Piper USD 203 was the only school district in the state of Kansas to earn the Kansans Can Individual Plan of Study GOLD STAR for offering quality and inclusive opportunities for ALL students to experience connected learning which develops academic knowledge, as well as technical and employability skills.

Piper cultivates a culture of career exploration and planning from elementary school onward, recognizing the importance of early exposure to diverse career paths.



INSPIRE
ELEMENTARY

At the elementary level, Piper focuses on INSPIRING students with interactive career awareness activities and #FUTUREREADY projects. Each of these awareness activities includes our Portrait of a Piper Graduate Competencies and direct connections to industry partners.



IGNITE
MIDDLE

At the middle school level, Piper IGNITES students' individual passions and begins linking those directly to careers of interest. The Academy exploration courses help students deepen their understanding of the workforce and culminates in students electing an Academy which provides a lens to direct their studies at the High School.



IMMERSE
HIGH SCHOOL

At the high school level, the students IMMERSE in their chosen career pathway, and explore the various sectors within each discipline. The experience culminates in a year-long capstone course that allows students to showcase their work and create industry-specific experiences that reflect their unique learning.

SENIOR CAPSTONE PROJECT

As a part of the Piper School District Graduation requirements, each senior participates in a Capstone Experience. This experience provides each individual senior the opportunity to be immersed in real world learning and to stand before their business partners, mentors, educators, community leaders, and peers to showcase their achievements in a culminating presentation. This showcase not only indicates the employability and technical skills learned in the capstone experience, but also the Portrait of a Piper Graduate Competencies and Market Value Assets achieved.

The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation produced a video highlighting Piper's Wall-to-Wall Academies and Senior Capstone Project.



PIPER'S INNOVATION HAS GARNERED RECOGNITION & APPLAUSE REGIONALLY & NATIONALLY

The success of the wall-to-wall academies has caught the attention of education organizations and school districts from across the country. In fact, several superintendents from varying states have requested to participate in the senior capstone presentation experience to gather insight and model Piper's program at their respective districts. Members of the Kansas legislature and Kansas State Department of Education have also requested a seat at the table to participate in the student presentations.

Piper's award winning staff has also been recognized for their work in Real World Learning initiatives, and implementing the wall-to-wall academies. In 2024, the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation named Piper's Polly Vader as one of the Real World Learning Coordinators of the Year.

Other recent awards tied to Piper's success include Tim Leffert, Piper Middle School Principal, being named as the Kansas Principals Association (KPA) Area 1 Middle School Principal of the Year and Dr. Jessica Dain, Superintendent of Piper USD 203, being named by the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) as a Superintendent to Watch in 2023.

For more on Piper's latest news and awards visit piperschools.com/news.



STUDENT *News*



Piper Track & Field competed in the final meet of the season at Wichita State University for the State Championships. Several athletes won state medals, including Devin Kerr, who earned the title of 5A State Champion in high jump. The boys team had the highest team finish since Piper has become 5A, placing 5th overall.

State Champion | Devin Kerr – High Jump

2nd Place | Jayden Henry – 300m Hurdles

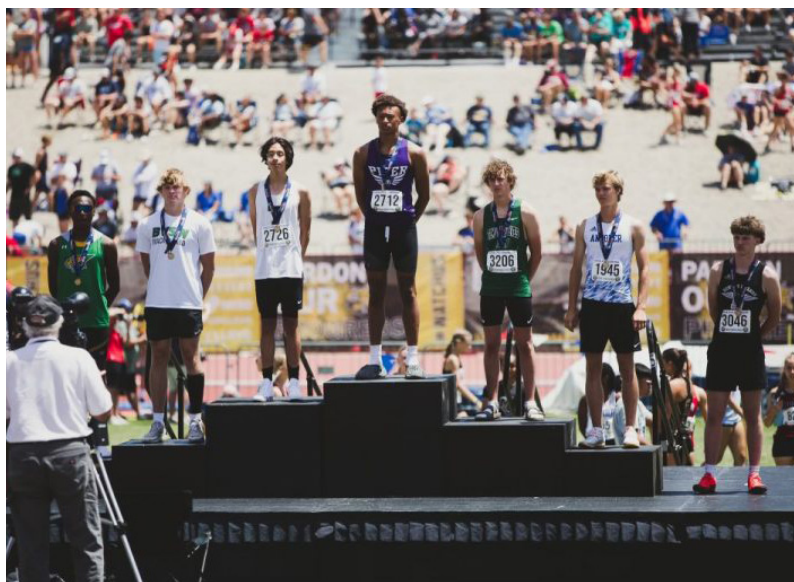
3rd Place | Nora Turney – 100m Hurdles, Jayden Henry – 110m Hurdles, Boys 4x100m Relay – Shinji Pollard, Zane Pudenz, JJ Jarrett, Jayden Henry

4th Place | Girls 4x100m Relay – Maia Dolinar, Nora Turney, Kylie Rice, Anneliese Lockwood

5th Place | Nora Turney – 300m Hurdles

6th Place | Boys 4x800m Relay – Quinn Hanson, Lukas Hein, Mikey Pruett, DJ Thomas

7th Place | Anneliese Lockwood – 400m Dash, Skyler Little – 200m Dash



8th Place | Skyler Little – 100m Dash

Other State Competitors:

Shinji Pollard – 300m Hurdles

Girls 4x400m Relay – Nora Turney, Kylie Rice, Ella Eads, Anneliese Lockwood

Anneliese Lockwood – High Jump

Aaron Henson – Shot Put

Maia Dolinar – Pole Vault

Pictured to the left: Devin Kerr, senior at Piper High School earned the title of 5A State Champion during the State Finals this May.

STUDENT *News*



Congratulations to the Piper Boys Tennis team for competing in the State Tennis Championship. Congrats to coaches Bryan Shelley and Matt Storrer on a great season. State qualifiers included Doubles Team - Brady Johnson and Griffin Gambrill; Singles Player - Baird Greenamyre, and Johnny Vogel. In addition to the player accolades this year, Coach Bryan Shelley was named the UKC Conference Boys Tennis Coach of the Year.

Congratulations to the Lady Pirate Swim team state qualifiers including: Savannah Carstensen, Megan Kindle, Tara Huisman, Breckyn Shaw, Grace Ringel, Ella Heininger, Leah Heininger and Ilyssa Cruickshank; Medley Relay - Savannah Carstensen, Breckyn Shaw, Megan Kind and Tara Huisman finished 17th; 200 Freestyle - Megan Kindle finished 21st, and Savannah Carstensen finished 23rd; 200 Free Relay - Breckyn Shaw, Tara Huisman, Megan Kindle and Grace Ringel finished 23rd; 100 Backstroke - Savannah Carstensen placed 6th; 400 Relay - Megan Kindle, Breckyn Shaw, Tara Huisman and Savannah Carstensen finished 16th. Congratulations to coaches Amy Bartlow and Courtney Johnson.



Congratulations to Jack Wells who earned 3rd Place in the 5A Forensics State Championship. Congratulations to Forensics Coach Tori Deneault.



Congratulations to Piper High School choir state qualifiers: 1 Rating Soloists - Trin Bales, Denise Braithwaite, MaSya Calhoun and Ashlyn Warrell; Excellent 2 Rating Soloists - Claira Baker, Ilyssa Cruickshank, Emilio Holden and Calei McConnell; 1 Rating Ensembles - Bella Voce - Claira Baker, Trin Bales, I'Nya Carter, Deziree Davis, Abby Everson, Lelah Dodds, Brooklyn Ferris, Chloe Gray, Alexa Grenovich, Kaylyn Jamison, Isabella Larossa, Pixel Marcus, Maddy Mares, Calei McConnell, Kira McNew, Dyani Porter, Grey Shelton, Isabelle Thebeau, Danika Thoele, Kagan Vicker and Ashlyn Warrell; Musica con Brio - Nick Behrman, Malachi Dinkel, Emilio Holden, Ben Kempker, Xavier Lee, Ramon Marks, Jack Wells and Riley Wells;



Musica Dolce - Denise Braithwaite, MaSy Calhoun, Ilyssa Cruickshank, MJ Jones, AJ Minich, Kamryn Monroe, Faith Obiesie, Morgan Parker, and Chau Tran; National Association for Music Education Student of Excellence - Emilio Holden. Congratulations to Choir Director Shelly Cole.



Congratulations to the Lady Pirates Softball team coached by Stan McAfee, Emma Golden, Pat Gosserand and Em DePreist on a remarkable season, ending with a 20-5 record and making it to the State tournament.

Congratulations to band state qualifiers: 1 Outstanding Rating- Annabelle Palm - Trumpet, Faith Paulakovich - Flute, Harrison Sellers - Alto Sax, Ilyanna Foehrweiser - Bass Clarinet, Tristan England- Violin and Alto Sax; Percussion Quintet - Thomas Hapke, Ava Foster, Ramon Marks, Jayden Holroyd and Aiden Aleman; 2 Excellent Rating - Flute Trio - Faith Paulakovich, Madison Raveill and Lilyan Gerend; 3 Good Rating - Layla Dupree. Congratulations to Band Director Josh Kelley.



DISTRICT *News*



Piper USD 203 announced that it has been recognized as a 2023-24 Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Distinguished School District. This honor is given to a select number of schools across the U.S. for providing broad access to transformative learning experiences for students through PLTW STEM curriculum. PLTW is a national nonprofit organization that serves millions of PreK-12 students and teachers in schools across the U.S., aiming to make every child in every grade STEM successful. The PLTW Distinguished School recognition honors schools committed to increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in their PLTW programs. To be eligible for the designation, Piper had to have more than 75 percent of the student body participating in the program and had

to offer at least one PLTW Launch module at each grade level during the 2022-23 school year. "We are honored to recognize Piper USD 203 for their commitment to providing students with exceptional educational experiences while ensuring equitable access to PLTW programs," said Dr. David Dimmett, PLTW President and CEO. "We congratulate them on this achievement and celebrate their dedication to empowering students with the knowledge and skills to succeed, not only in STEM subjects, but also preparing them for future careers and life beyond the classroom." Piper is part of a community comprised of PreK-12 schools, colleges and universities, and corporate and philanthropic partners across the country united around a commitment to providing students with inspiring, engaging, and empowering learning opportunities. For more information about PLTW's Distinguished Program Recognition, visit pltw.org/our-programs/program-recognition.



RETURN ADDRESS LOCATION

POSTAL
INDICIA
LOCATION