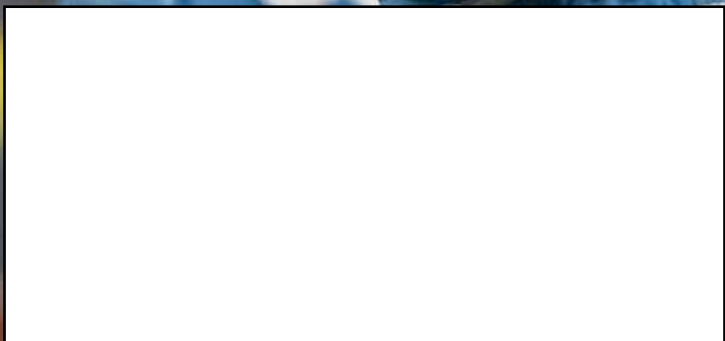
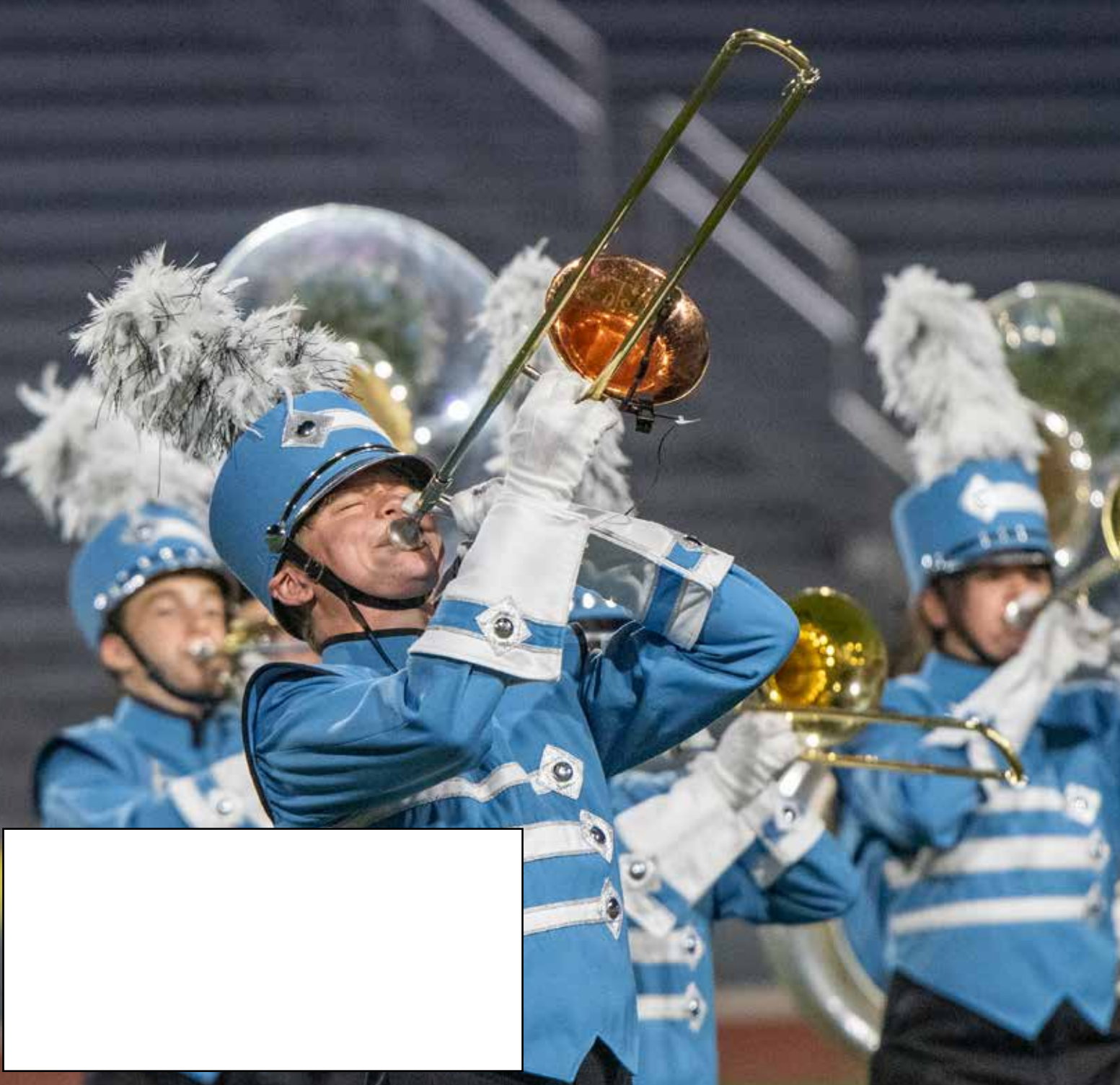


INSIDE



SHAWNEE MISSION SCHOOL DISTRICT

WINTER 2024



> Supporting Student Success with Additional Athletic Programs

> Crisis Alert System Coming to SMSD

> Focusing on Attendance in Shawnee Mission



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ON THE COVER: Shawnee Mission East junior William Barcus performs a solo at the Shawnee Mission Marching Band Festival.

SAVE THE DATE!

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Enrollment Begins on January 1, 2025 in the Shawnee Mission School District

Watch www.smsd.org for more information



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INSIDE
Shawnee Mission School District
8200 W. 71st Street
Shawnee Mission, KS 66204

Inside Shawnee Mission School District is published by the Communications Team in the Shawnee Mission School District.

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**SHAWNEE MISSION
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Schu's News

Updates from Superintendent Dr. Michael Schumacher

As we near the end of the first semester, I couldn't be more proud or excited about everything we've accomplished together. The energy in our schools has been incredible, with students, educators, and families all showing how they're ALL IN for the Shawnee Mission School District.

While attending homecoming parades, sporting events, and art performances and presentations, I've had the privilege of seeing firsthand how our community comes together to cheer on and support our students. This fall, families and students had even more to celebrate with the addition of middle school football. For more about this exciting new opportunity and how it's helping students feel connected and stay motivated in the classroom, check out pages 8 and 9.

The dedication and hard work of our students and educators has led to impressive achievements. As you browse through this publication, I hope you share the same pride I feel for all we've accomplished together. Don't miss page 6, highlighting some of our recent accomplishments.

Looking ahead into the second half of the year, I encourage everyone to continue to be ALL IN for our students and educators. When we come together as a community, there is no limit to what we can achieve!



Dr. Michael Schumacher

National Merit Semifinalists

Shawnee Mission School District is proud that 11 seniors have been named semifinalists in the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program. These students rank among the top 1% of high school seniors nationwide, having excelled in the 2023 PSAT/NMSQT. As semifinalists, they will now compete for a share of nearly \$28 million in scholarships. Finalists will be announced in spring 2025.

Semifinalists from Shawnee Mission are:

Shawnee Mission East: Ishya Bhavsar, Emma Culp, Samuel Day, Sophia Leonard, Keira Schneider

Shawnee Mission Northwest: Mia Deeble, Willie Lin, Jackson Weems

Shawnee Mission South: Anne Hance, Henry Martin

Shawnee Mission West: Lachlan Smith



Incredible Educators

Talented, compassionate educators serve across the Shawnee Mission School District every single day. This fall, the district has recognized four individuals who represent the best among the best.

Ryleigh Diskin, a first grade teacher at Ray Marsh Elementary School, and Christopher Heady, journalism teacher at Shawnee Mission Northwest High School, are the district's 2024-2025 Kansas Horizon Award nominees! This honor recognizes teachers for the exceptional promise they show in the first year of their career.

Shauna Hammett, a kindergarten teacher at Apache Elementary School, and Lara Caldwell, an English teacher at Horizons High School, are being celebrated as the district nominees for Kansas Teacher of the Year. Moving forward,

these talented educators have the opportunity to win the regional, state and national competitions. The Kansas Teacher of the Year Award recognizes and utilizes representatives of excellent teaching in the elementary and secondary classrooms of the state. From left to right: Shauna Hammett, Lara Caldwell, Christopher Heady, and Ryleigh Diskin.



Read Across SMSD

We are proud to offer another season of Read Across SMSD. Shawnee Mission presents this celebration of reading in partnership with NEA-Shawnee Mission and the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation. Modeled after the National Education Association's Read Across America campaign, the program highlights a monthly theme and provides related educational resources.

This November, the theme is "Engage with Community," focusing on how understanding one another enriches and strengthens our connections. This theme also aligns with Native American Heritage Month.

The featured elementary book for November is "Loaf the Cat Goes to the Powwow" by Nicholas DeShaw. Recently, Board of Education member Mario Garcia III and Nieman Elementary students had an insightful conversation with Jace Morales, a 2024 graduate of Shawnee Mission West High School and a member of the Creek Nation. Morales shared how his heritage has deepened his connection to family and community - an inspiring example of this month's theme in action. Visit www.smsd.org/about/read-across-smsd to participate!



Shawnee Mission Mic'd Up

Keep up with everything that's going on in the Shawnee Mission School District by tuning into the Shawnee Mission Mic'd Up podcast. Recent episodes have featured conversations about the school lunch program, the expansion of middle school sports, and why SMSD has been ranked as one of the best places to work in Kansas by Forbes magazine (hint: it's the people!) Tune in by visiting: smsd.org/information-central/micd-up.



National Award Winner



Jessica Tickle, Project Lead the Way Engineering Signature Program and Computer Science Instructor, has been named a 2024 recipient of the Presidential Cybersecurity Education Award. The honor, presented by the U.S. Secretary of Education, was announced during a surprise ceremony on Tuesday, November 19, 2024.

This highly selective award recognizes just two educators nationwide each year. According to a U.S. Department of Education press release, it celebrates teachers who "demonstrate superior achievement in instilling skills, knowledge, and passion with respect to cybersecurity and cybersecurity-related subjects. These

recipients embody the dedication and expertise of educators who are critical to increasing the cybersecurity awareness of all students, inspiring the nation's future cybersecurity workforce, and contributing to a more secure society." ♦

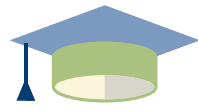


All In

FOR SHAWNEE MISSION ACHIEVEMENT!

NATIONALLY RANKED

SM East, SM North, SM Northwest, SM South, and SM West High Schools are all ranked on the U.S. News and World Report list of Best High Schools in the United States. Shawnee Mission East was ranked #3 in the state of Kansas.



MVA SUCCESS

Shawnee Mission aims to have every student complete a resume-worthy achievement, known as a Market Value Asset (MVA), by 2030. These include work experiences, industry-recognized credentials, entrepreneurial experiences, and dual college credit. For the Class of 2024, 73% earned an MVA.



SEAL OF BILITERACY

More than 150 Shawnee Mission students have earned a Seal of Biliteracy in 2024, the highest number receiving this honor in the district so far. This recognition is presented to students who earn proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation.



FORBES RANKED

The Shawnee Mission School District was ranked among the best employers in the State of Kansas by Forbes magazine. The list includes 1,294 organizations. Shawnee Mission is ranked in the top 15 in Kansas.



AP EXCELLENCE

In 2024, 1,292 high school students completed 2,409 Advanced Placement exams, representing an all-time high in student AP exam participation in Shawnee Mission.



BLUE RIBBON AFFILIATE

Shawnee Mission Parents as Teachers (PAT) has earned the designation of Blue Ribbon Affiliate from the national Parents as Teachers organization. This designation recognizes that our affiliate provides the highest quality services possible. Parents as Teachers serves families of young children - ages birth to Kindergarten - by providing information, support, personal home visits, social activities, and developmental screenings.



Action Teams Move Strategic Plan Work Forward

The Shawnee Mission School District (SMSD) is putting Strategic Plan Cycle II into action. In June of 2024, the Board of Education adopted the updated strategic plan, developed by members of the Shawnee Mission community, to serve the SMSD through 2029. Now, students, staff, and members of the community are participating on Action Teams to move the work forward.

“This was built as an aspirational plan, identifying where we want our students to be in the future, and challenging us as a district to think about our possibilities and work as a system to achieve them,” Dr. Leigh Anne Neal, chief of early childhood and sustainability shared. “There is a lot of excitement as this plan moves forward.”

Action Teams are advancing the work of six strategies: Learning, Belonging, People, Technology, Mental Health, and Facilities. Technology and Mental Health represent the newest strategies added to the district’s Strategic Plan Cycle II.

Work Begins on Newest Strategies

The Technology strategy has drawn widespread interest from the community, specifically with respect to the use of personal technology devices in school. An Action Team began work to address the issue in the first quarter of the school year, conducting research, creating a process for consensus, reviewing policies, and engaging community input through a ThoughtExchange.

Participation in the ThoughtExchange was strong, with 4,658 participants. During the Oct. 28, 2024 Board of Education meeting, Superintendent Dr. Michael Schumacher thanked the action team for their work, and stated his plan to bring forward a “thoughtful, well-researched recommendation” to the Board of Education in early December.

Action Teams have also begun work on the other new strategy outlined in the Strategic Plan: Mental Health. Teams began steps to clarify and define the roles and responsibilities of mental health professionals as well as reviewing staff-to-student ratios to develop a plan to meet the social, emotional, and academic needs of students.

“The inclusion of Mental Health as a strategy in the 2024-2029 Strategic Plan is a testament to the commitment SMSD’s Board of Education, Superintendent, and community have made to acknowledge and support the mental health of all SMSD students” according to Dr. John McKinney, director of student



and family services and action team facilitator.

The Mental Health strategy was included based in part on strong suggestions from students who served on the Strategic Plan Steering Committee. Now, Vicente Gutierrez, senior at Shawnee Mission North, is one of the students serving on a Mental Health Action Team.

“It’s a very important issue,” Gutierrez shared. “I’m glad to know I can have an impact for countless students in grades below me. I’m glad I can help create a better plan for them, a better way for them to express themselves and say how they are feeling, and help them have a support system.”

Action Team Volunteers Needed

The Shawnee Mission School District continues to seek students, staff, family members of students, and members of the community to contribute time to Action Teams in the coming months. Opportunities to be involved across all strategies will be available. Community members are invited to fill out an application via the QR code on this page and share the opportunity with individuals who may be interested. Community involvement continues to be essential to the success of our strategic plan.

“I thank everyone who has already worked so hard on our Action Teams,” Dr. Schumacher stated. “This is not my plan, this is not the Board of Education’s plan, or any one person’s plan. This is our community’s plan. We’re proud of that fact and the work our teams are doing to move us forward.”



Supporting Student Success with Additional Athletic Programs



Trailridge Wildcats take on Hocker Grove Eagles in the first-ever SMSD middle school football season.



This fall, for the first time in its history, the Shawnee Mission School District kicked off a middle school football season with more than 200 students participating. In the inaugural season, the program is already making a difference in the classroom.

“One of the great things that we are seeing is our academics are in a great place for our athletes,” said Ericka Corrado, athletic director and associate principal at Trailridge Middle School. “It is rare that I have to have a conversation with a student about academics if they’re involved in activities. They are motivated in their classes. The same is true for behavior. It’s really helping, in terms of what our hallways look like and how students are interacting with each other and holding each other accountable.”

Football was part of the middle school sports expansion plan approved by the board of education in March 2023 that also included boys and girls soccer, which started in Spring 2023. When considering the addition of football, district athletic director Kent Glaser says it helps SMSD create a well-rounded education for students. Offering another school-sponsored sport provides more extra curricular options for students, and extracurriculars help students feel a greater sense of belonging and connection with their school community.

“These are team sports and even those individual sports like cross-country, there’s a camaraderie when you collect a bunch of kids together and there’s a common goal and they’re all encouraging one another to improve or work together,” says Glaser.

And the camaraderie extends to the stands where parents and students also feel the pull of community. “You know, some of us [caregivers] hadn’t seen each other since our kids left sixth grade,” explained Ginger Culbertson, an Indian Woods mom. “It’s become a nice thing to reconnect.”

“It’s great because all my friends are playing and my friends are in the bleachers, so it’s just a great time,” says Evan Surber, an 8th grader at Indian Woods.

Glaser and Corrado say they see the connection between what the students are doing outside of the classroom for extracurricular activities and how they perform in the classroom.

“We’re academics first,” explained Glaser. “We need to do what we came to school to do first, but at the same time, extracurriculars help students focus because the reward is participating in activities. The flip side of that, if you don’t take care of your academic responsibilities, you’ll find yourself ineligible and not able to participate. So it’s not bad for kids to have something to work towards.”

Because of that correlation, schools need to offer a variety of programs to keep students engaged.

“We try to have a little bit of something for everybody,” said Corrado. “I think that a lot of the lessons that they’re learning in practice are transferring to the school setting, which is wonderful for us to see. I think it’s just a positive across the board.”

All five of the SMSD middle schools are now seeing more than 50% of their student body participating in activities outside of academics, including sports, band, choir, clubs, etc.

“We want our families in the Shawnee Mission School District to have access to the best academics, the best activities, and athletic programs,” explained Glaser. “And all of those work collectively together to provide a true school experience.” ♦



Crisis Alert System to Support SMSD Emergency Response



taking shelter from a tornado. The system also alerts responders to the exact location where help is needed. It will operate without the need for operating Wi-Fi or cell phone signals.

“I think this is one of the best safety tools available in our type of work,” Mark Schmidt, SMSD director of emergency services and chief of police stated. “With this, combined with the security cameras and officers available and other resources, we will be able to zero in on a situation immediately. The quicker we know what type of response is needed, the quicker we can handle the situation.”

A staff training process will take place before the system is fully implemented. The system is expected

to be fully operational in the later part of next spring. Shawnee Mission joins the majority of Johnson County school districts who are currently using this system. According to

CENTEGIX, the company provides service to more than 12,000 locations, including educational settings, as well as healthcare, commercial, and government settings.

The Shawnee Mission Board of Education approved the purchase of this alert system on Monday, Nov. 11, 2024. The Board approved the purchase of system installation, training, and service for five years for \$2.6 million. The funds will be paid for through the district’s capital outlay budget, a fund dedicated to technology and district facility maintenance and improvement.

“We need our students and staff to feel safe in their school environments – that is an important part of creating a positive learning experience,” Schmidt said. “By adding this system to the other systems we have in place, we are adding to that ability to know you are safe when you are at school.”

Safety and security are top priorities for all staff and students in the Shawnee Mission School District (SMSD). A new security feature is coming to the SMSD – one that will better empower all staff members to respond instantly in an emergency event.

The SMSD will be implementing the CENTEGIX Crisis Alert system. This system includes wearable badges with alert buttons that allow any staff member to initiate response plans for a variety of emergencies. This system will be implemented in every SMSD building and will be used by every staff member, including substitutes and employees who rotate from building to building.

“Safety is essential for everyone who learns and serves in our district and this system will help make our entire Emergency Operating Plan more efficient,” shared Deputy Superintendent Dr. David Stubblefield. “We look at this as another added layer of security.”

The Crisis Alert system will serve the district through a variety of potential emergencies, whether it is severe weather, a security threat, or medical incidents.

The system will be set up so that response plans can be initiated at the push of a button within buildings. It features a light/visual and sound system that helps all individuals in a school carry out an emergency response like a lockdown or

SMSD STRONG

Strong Schools, Strong Community



Left and bottom right: A new classroom and media center at Rushton Elementary. Right: Inclusive playground equipment at Prairie Elementary.



There’s No Place Like Rushton Elementary! This year, Rushton Elementary has chosen the theme, “There’s no place like home.” On the first day of school, students proudly followed the yellow brick road into their newly rebuilt school, which now feels just like home.

Fourth-grader Meryl McBride’s excitement was shared by many when she first saw the beautiful new learning spaces. “It looks amazing,” Meryl exclaimed. “I couldn’t even imagine it could look like this. I’m so excited to be going to school here!”

The new Rushton Elementary is more than just a beautiful building - it’s an investment in the future. Thanks to the \$264 million bond approved by the Shawnee Mission community in 2021, SMSD has been able to make significant improvements across the

district, including the rebuilding of five elementary schools, with Rushton among them.

Principal Kristy Fornal shared her heartfelt appreciation for the community’s support. “Rushton has always been a wonderful place to learn and grow, and that sense of community is stronger than ever. We’re so grateful to everyone who helped us reach this milestone.”

Yvonne Corpus, a fourth-grade teacher and proud Rushton alum, reflected on the school’s deep ties to the community. “The nice thing about Rushton is that not only do I get to teach here as a former student, I am teaching the kids of people I went to school with,” Corpus added. “Rushton is a place you want to come and stay and raise your kids.”

The new school features spacious halls for collaborative learning, an expansive media center, and an outdoor classroom, all designed with input from families, students, staff, and the neighboring community. This combined effort has created a learning space that will serve students and teachers for years to come.

“We’re so thankful for our



community,” expressed Superintendent Dr. Michael Schumacher. “These upgrades are so important to making sure our kids and teachers are learning and working in state-of-the-art facilities. They truly deserve it.”

Installation of Inclusive Playgrounds Completed

In addition to the five elementary rebuilds, the Shawnee Mission School District has completed the installation of inclusive playgrounds at all 34 elementary schools. These new playgrounds ensure that children of all abilities can play together side-by-side. This important project was made possible by the community’s approval of the \$264 million bond in 2021, reinforcing the district’s commitment to creating accessible and welcoming spaces for all.

“We look at this as another added layer of security.”

- Dr. David Stubblefield, Deputy Superintendent

“I couldn’t even imagine it could look like this. I’m so excited to be going to school here!”

- Fourth-grader Meryl McBride

Attendance Matters in the SMSD

New Attendance Specialists, District-wide Goals Help Counter Chronic Absenteeism



T.L. Foster, attendance specialist, hosts Lunch Buddies to help sixth-grade students learn more about the transition to middle and high school.

Months before they ever set foot in a middle school, groups of Shawnee Mission School District sixth-graders have been learning about their future in middle school. They've joined a group called Lunch Buddies led by T.L. Foster, district attendance specialist. Over lunch trays, they talk about passing periods, lockers, how to select classes and other aspects of what life in middle school will look like.

Foster is one of six attendance specialists SMSD hired last spring to address chronic absenteeism in each feeder pattern, supporting students from elementary to high school. One message he hopes to convey is just how important it is to attend school. He also talks to students about what to expect as they transition to middle and high school.

All of this discussion is meant to help prevent one of the most common root causes for chronic absenteeism, as cited by the non-profit initiative

Attendance Works. That root cause is aversion.

"When students start a new school, they can be a little intimidated, or have high anxiety," Foster shared. "I'm trying to help so they don't feel that pressure and know they get to see at least one friendly face when they get to middle school because I'll be there."

Even going to one Lunch Buddies session helped sixth-grader Kyle Velez feel better about next year.

"Overall it just makes me feel like there's more people that are kind than bad," Velez shared. "It takes a lot of stress off sixth graders when they are about to go to middle school."

Lunch Buddies is just one example of the proactive moves SMSD attendance specialists are taking to address an issue being faced by schools across the country.

Chronic Absenteeism - A National Concern

Attendance, and preventing chronic absenteeism, hit a peak point of national concern during and after the global pandemic. In 2021, the U.S. Department of Education reported 14.7 million students were chronically absent - nearly double the rate for the 2015-2016 school year.

Chronic absenteeism is defined nationally as "any student missing 10 percent or more days of school for any reason." Chronic absenteeism is associated with reading difficulties by grade three, lower math achievement in middle grades, and higher dropout rates in high school, according to Attendance Works.

The SMSD has tracked concerning numbers as well in recent years. Some of the highest rates of chronic absenteeism were recorded in 2022-2023. In the following school year, educators defined attendance as one of the district's Wildly Important Goals (WIGS). These goals are areas of focus for both the district and individual school communities.

"We know that if students are not coming to school, they risk falling behind in their education as well as their social and emotional growth," explained Dr. Christy Ziegler, chief of student services, diversity, equity, and inclusion. "Placing attendance as a focus of our Wildly Important Goals sends a message of importance and focus on improvement so that our students are increasing in their abilities to attend and succeed in school."

Working Together

One thing is clear: there is not a single reason for chronic absenteeism. Some common reasons, cited by Attendance Works, include illness or mental health struggles, aversion, disengagement, or misconceptions, like not understanding that frequent excused absences can disrupt learning. Some also don't yet understand that there are legal requirements for school attendance.

Some schools have launched awareness campaigns to encourage attendance and help families understand possible consequences. Other efforts have been designed to address a specific, common root cause, like mental health or a struggle to motivate a student.

While mental health struggles can be a significant factor for chronic absenteeism, the routine and stability of the school day can also help with managing symptoms of anxiety or depression, according to Tim DeWeese, director of the Johnson County Mental Health Center.

"So many young people are struggling with feelings of loneliness and isolation," DeWeese added. "Being in school can provide those critical social connections and interactions to keep them engaged, not just with their peers, but also with supportive adults - that sense of belonging is so important."

Some of the efforts outlined in the Strategic Plan focused on mental health will also likely help SMSD schools address this particular root cause, Ziegler added.

"We've worked with families where we've been able to get students in the door by finding them a school nurse or social worker or counselor to connect with," Ziegler explained. "If we can get them in the door, then usually we can keep them in the door and they can have a successful day."

Conversations are also taking place

in classrooms across the district about the importance of attendance. For Cheryl Phipps, Kindergarten teacher at Oak Park-Carpenter Elementary School, the conversation usually starts with a question about whether there are circumstances that prevent students from getting to school. Sometimes, a resource like school breakfast or having students bring their food to eat when they arrive can help.

Kindergartners improve immeasurable amounts when they can maximize their instruction time, Phipps noted.

"Students have shown that they can start knowing zero letters of the alphabet and leave reading on grade level or beyond," Phipps explained. "They also grow in confidence, independence and relationships while gaining connections to peers and teachers/staff who can provide a safe and supportive environment."

No one on the Shawnee Mission team wants to escalate cases of absenteeism to the courts, Ziegler shared. "As ONE Shawnee Mission, we want our students and families to know that our educators want to see our students in school," Ziegler added. "If there is a barrier for a family, we encourage them to reach out to an attendance specialist or another team member so we can work together to help address whatever barrier or challenge is in the way for a student reaching their educational goals."

That's why the role of attendance

specialist is envisioned to serve as an advocate, Ziegler shared.

"We are truly about advocating for our students and families to make sure we are meeting their needs," she added.

Advocates at Work

Attendance specialist Anika Jones says her first step in advocating for students starts with a conversation to figure out what the challenge is. Maybe a transportation barrier can be helped by giving assistance in filling out bus-ing paperwork. Sometimes a student struggling to get to school can change the pattern after getting connected with a sport or activity they are interested in, Jones shared.

"Sometimes it just helps to build a relationship with students and let them know there's at the very least one person at school who cares about them at their school," Jones shared. "It's serving as a bridge between the student and the school."

Students and staff can also support this work by spreading the word about clubs and opportunities, working to be nice, and making sure the school environment is inclusive and not exclusive, Jones added.

In her role as a student leader in multiple positions, Shawnee Mission West High School senior Mya Williams sees the role she can help play in supporting student attendance. She is among those in her school community spreading the word and inviting students into opportunities to connect and get involved.

"I always like to help plan and make interactive events and try to get as much engagement as possible so that people are interested and want to be involved," she noted. "It's comforting for students to know that the people around them (students/staff) truly do care about them and what challenges they face."

All students and staff can play a role in partnering with attendance specialists to help students stay in school, and in creating a sense of belonging, Foster shared. He talks about the power of positive praise, he said, especially when a student returns to school. "Saying 'I'm glad you are here,' or 'Hope to see you tomorrow,' can go a long way." ♦



Cheryl Phipps, Oak Park-Carpenter Elementary teacher encourages attendance knowing how kindergartners improve immeasurable amounts when they maximize instruction time.

The Shawnee Mission Education Foundation's Corporate Council

Powering Real World Learning in Shawnee Mission

Tim Rogers, vice president of commercial operations for Higgins Commercial, first met Shawnee Mission Northwest High School student Noah Golden at a career fair hosted by the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation last spring.

"Noah stopped by our booth to talk and we had a good conversation," Rogers recalled. "He [Golden] followed up after the fair, interviewed, and we brought him on as an intern." After graduating from Shawnee Mission Northwest, Noah was offered a full-time position, marking the start of his career with Higgins Commercial.

For Rogers, it's rewarding to be part of the Foundation's Corporate Council. "We're showing students that the trades and other hands-on careers are viable paths to make a good living. It's great to help young people recognize the possibilities."

Higgins Commercial's story is just one example of the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation's Corporate Council making an impact. Corporate Council members support Real World Learning in several ways. They support the program financially, provide hands-on experiences through internships, and mentor students directly. In addition, these companies share their expertise with Shawnee Mission leadership to shape programs and encourage community involvement.

"With the Corporate Council, we really see community partnership in action," shared Laura Harsch, business to education program officer for the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation. "These businesses are not only investing in our students' futures, but also helping

to shape tomorrow's workforce."

In September, the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce joined the effort by hiring a high-school intern, Cooper Grotzinger Frerichs, a senior at Shawnee Mission South High School.

"This has been an incredible way to build a sustainable talent pipeline," shared Andrew Weisberg, director of talent for the Overland Park Chamber. "There are so many ways to engage, from career fairs to career exploration events. It's inspiring to see all that Shawnee Mission students are accomplishing and to know we're part of helping them prepare for the future right here in Overland Park."

On Friday, March 7, students will have another opportunity to connect with Corporate Council members at the "Students Ready to Work" Career Fair. This event offers a chance for students to explore career options and make connections in their field of interest.

To learn more about joining the Corporate Council and its benefits, contact Laura Harsch at lauraharsch@smsd.org or (913) 993-9367. You can also learn more at www.smef.org/corporatecouncil.

The Shawnee Mission Education Foundation thanks its Corporate Council Partners and Fellows. ♦



Cooper Grotzinger Frerichs, Shawnee Mission South senior and Overland Park Chamber of Commerce intern, welcomes guests to a chamber event.



SUMMER ENRICHMENT 2025

Get ready for a summer of learning, playing, and exploring with SMSD's acclaimed Summer Enrichment Program. This engaging program offers interest-based classes for kids in pre-k to seventh grade.

Registration opens in February 2025 and some of our most popular classes fill up fast! To be the first to know about the classes offered and when registration is live, scan the QR code and enter your email address. We'll keep you posted about any significant updates, so you don't have to worry about missing out!

Visit our web page for more information at: www.smsd.org/academics/summer-programs.



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Openings Available Now!

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