



Insider

NORTH KANSAS CITY SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER



▲ Crestview Elementary

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Back to School In Brand-New Buildings

Students kick off the new year
in new and renovated learning
spaces across NKC Schools Pages 4-5



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MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Welcome back, North Kansas City Schools! The new school year is in full swing and the air is buzzing with excitement across the district. On the first day, August 20, I had the privilege of visiting all 36 of our school sites to check in with students, staff and families. While a few tears were shed by kindergarteners (and their parents), the positive energy present throughout the district was inspiring. I watched a student lose her tooth at lunch while simultaneously biting into a sandwich and talking with me. I even heard from a preschooler how disappointing it is that we don't get to go to school on the weekends, too! Our older students were glad to be reunited with friends and familiar faces at school.

I am thankful for the many individuals behind the scenes who make this return to school possible for our more than 21,500 students: staff members, families, volunteers, business partners, and the entire NKC Schools community. As a new superintendent, the new year brings me great pride and gratitude, and I am humbled, honored, and promise to serve you to the best of my ability.

To that end, one way we demonstrate our commitment to serving as relentless champions for all students is by providing world-class facilities. We aim to create schools our students and staff can all take pride in. What a pleasure it was to witness the excited faces of students at **Crestview** and **Nashua** as they returned to brand-new, state-of-the-art facilities on August 20. At **New Mark**, **Meadowbrook**, **Topping**, and **Golden Oaks**, students were greeted by upgraded and renovated learning spaces. We are also watching a brand-new **Greenway Elementary** take shape, scheduled to open in 2025.

Each of these investments and more were made possible by your support for North Kansas City Schools in April 2022. We are deeply grateful for our community's consistent support of bond and levy issues over the past several years, enabling us to improve aging facilities and manage ongoing student enrollment growth. Thank you! We know there is work still to be done. Look for more information to come this fall about the next steps in our long-range facility planning process and how you can shape the future of our schools. You're also invited to join us for Homecoming celebrations, musical productions, or exciting fall sports matchups. As we look forward to an exciting season, I wish you the very best school year ahead.



Rochel Daniels, Ph.D.
Superintendent – North Kansas City Schools
superintendent@nkcschools.org



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Celebrate Homecoming in NKC Schools

Join us this fall for exciting Homecoming celebrations full of school spirit, student excellence and alumni pride. All are invited to take in the annual parades or cheer on our teams under the Friday night lights.

Oak Park Northmen

Traveling Parade: Tuesday, October 1

Game: Friday, October 4 at 7 p.m. vs. St. Joe Central

Northtown Hornets

Parade: Friday, October 11 at 1 p.m.

Game: Friday, October 11 at 7 p.m. vs. Oak Park

Winnetonka Griffins

Parade: Friday, October 11 at 1 p.m.

Game: Friday, October 11 at 7 p.m. vs. William Chrisman

Staley Falcons

Parade: Wednesday, October 16 at 6 p.m.

Game: Friday, October 18 at 7 p.m. vs Lee's Summit

If you're heading to a football game, remember to purchase your tickets online at gofan.co.

Planning to attend a reunion? Check nkcschools.org/alumni for event details.

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BACK TO SCHOOL



Welcome back to more than 21,500 students! On Tuesday, August 20, students, family, staff members and the community celebrated the first day of the 2024-2025 school year. Smiles, hugs and familiar faces greeted learners as they returned to ring in the new year.



Superintendent Dr. Daniels speaks to students at **North Kansas City High School**.



Students at **Antioch** spot a familiar face in the hallway on the first day back.



Friends reunite at **Briarcliff** during recess on the playground.



Oak Park students design their own personalized sneakers during art class.



Staff members at **Northtown** help the Hornets navigate their way to classes.



The Falcons are all smiles as **Staley** students return for the first day back.



West Englewood students tested out the new rock wall during P.E. time on August 20.



Students work together at **West Englewood** to practice problem-solving and collaboration.



Imagination was in the air at **Chouteau** as this student created a scene with dinosaurs.



Crestview students were excited to return for their 30th day of school in a brand-new building.

In Brand-New Buildings

The morning air was buzzing as students at **Crestview** and **Nashua** waited to enter their new buildings on August 20! Thanks to the strong support from our community for the 2022 bond issue, students at both schools were welcomed back to brand-new school buildings. The two state-of-the-art facilities feature spacious classrooms and collaborative workspaces to foster creativity, collaboration, and growth. NKC Schools is proud to officially open these two new world-class learning environments.



CRESTVIEW



Connecting the ground floor of the new Crestview is a unique “canyon” space, home to the school’s library media center and Innovation Lab. Each area in the school is themed after a different biome, from the savannah to the rainforest.



The Cheetahs received a red carpet welcome as they returned to school in their brand-new facility.



Students and teachers alike benefit from the upgraded furniture and larger classrooms to accommodate Crestview’s growing student population.



NASHUA



A bridge connects the upstairs “neighborhoods,” or classroom areas, in the new Nashua and serves as a focal point of the design.



Eager students arrived extra-early to explore their new school!



It’s a big thumbs-up from Nashua students as they settle in to their new classrooms.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Summer Work Creates New Looks

Every summer, the district's maintenance and facilities departments are busy updating and upgrading schools across the district, so when students return in August, they are greeted with renovated cafeterias, bathrooms, hallways, and classrooms with new paint and flooring. Some even enjoy new playgrounds. This work is on top of the major construction projects such as the new Crestview, Nashua, and Greenway (opening fall 2025). The summer of 2024 was no exception! Here are several of the schools that saw improvements this summer:



Major improvements were made to **New Mark's** commons area, creating a much more inviting area for students to eat lunch and gather.



Golden Oaks' outdoor areas also got spruced up, giving students and staff a place to learn and gather on nice days.



New turf and field graphics are ready for fall sports at **Winnetonka**.



Topping's new gymnasium pops with color and style.

Long Range Facility Plan Continues

Community leaders, parents, staff, and students have weighed in on the next Long-Range Facility Plan to guide district staff and the Board of Education as we look ahead to keeping up with growth and parity among our schools in the years to come. Currently, a committee composed of Board members and district leaders is analyzing data and needs from each building to determine a phased plan for improvements and new construction.

We aim to present a new facility plan to the Board of Education at their November business meeting for approval. More information will be forthcoming in future issues of *Insider* magazine, so stay tuned!



The foundation for a successful journey from kindergarten to graduation begins with high-quality early education. Over the past several years, NKC Schools has made significant investments in this key area.

In 2021, we proudly opened a brand-new Early Education Center with capacity to serve hundreds of three- and four-year-olds. NKC Schools' commitment to investing in our children and our community is already paying dividends for thousands of young learners.

Research shows that kids who attend high-quality preschool programs develop better language, math, and social skills. Kindergarteners who attended NKC Schools' early education programs were 20% more likely to be ready for kindergarten than those who did not.



This year, NKC Schools will serve more than 1,100 preschoolers through various programs, including full-day and center-based options, as well as services for all students qualifying for Early Childhood Special Education. Thank you to our community for your support of this important endeavor!

From expecting parents to almost-kindergarteners,



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Did you know that NKC Schools offers free programming and support for all residents with children from the prenatal stage until they begin kindergarten? Qualified parent educators support families with personalized home visits, offering:

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"I will be forever grateful for what the Education Foundation has provided me with..."

Andrew Harkey, Staley – "Soldiers fought and died, making the ultimate sacrifice so people could use [Omaha Beach] as a beach. So that people had the freedom to live their lives free from authoritarianism. I learned that one veteran's favorite thing to do was watch children play soccer on Omaha Beach because it reminded him why he fought."

Mariah Durgan, North Kansas City – "It's such a privilege to read or watch something about WWII and D-Day specifically, and think to yourself, 'I've been to the location where that happened.'"

Truman Camarda, Oak Park – "I came back from Normandy with an appreciation for ordinary soldiers who showed extraordinary heroism and leadership to help restore freedom to Europe."

Dominic Gonzalez, Winnetonka – "Beyond the exploration of the historical sites, there was also the educational value this trip provided. From the wonderfully curated exhibits at the National WWII museum, to the images and knowledge that our wonderful tour guide had, I left the trip feeling well-educated on the invasion of Normandy and beyond."



Normandy Academy is the trip of a lifetime, a 12-day immersive summer learning and leadership led by the National WWII Museum. Students travel to Normandy, France to visit historic sites, landmarks, and museums and are challenged to learn from the choices made before and during the historic D-Day landings.

The Education Foundation offers a 100% scholarship to Normandy Academy, established by Oak Park alumnae **Linda Holwick Bond '76** and other generous donors in memory of the late **Michele Evenson Lindsay**, Oak Park '76. Three cohorts have participated since 2022, and thanks to a matching grant from the Jedel Family Foundation, eight rising seniors will be able to attend in the summer of 2025.

FALL BREAKFAST UPDATE



At the NKC Schools Education Foundation, **we mean business** when it comes to creating bright futures for our 21,500+ students! By igniting the power of community at our annual Fall Breakfast, we connect generous hearts with our schools and provide opportunities for all students to experience the power of education and excel through extraordinary experiences.

Join us on

Thursday, October 17,

at the KCI Expo Center
for an inspirational event
featuring a showcase of
real-world and entrepreneurial
experiences, a spotlight on the
Education Foundation's impact over
the past year, and a message from
Superintendent Dr. Rochel Daniels.

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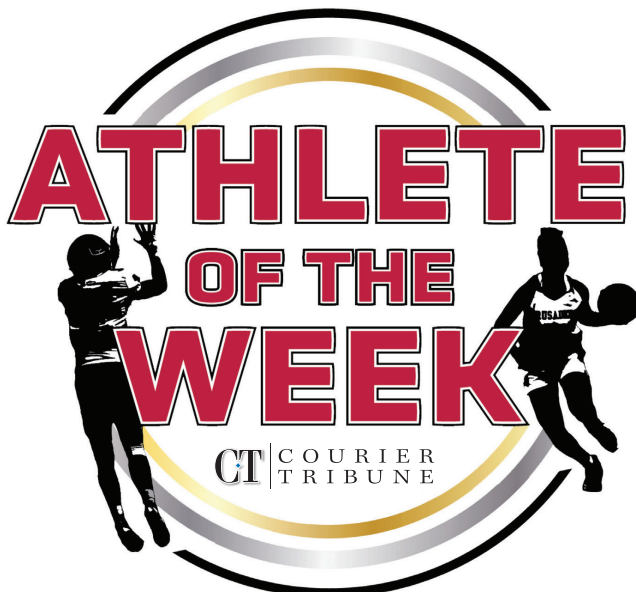


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