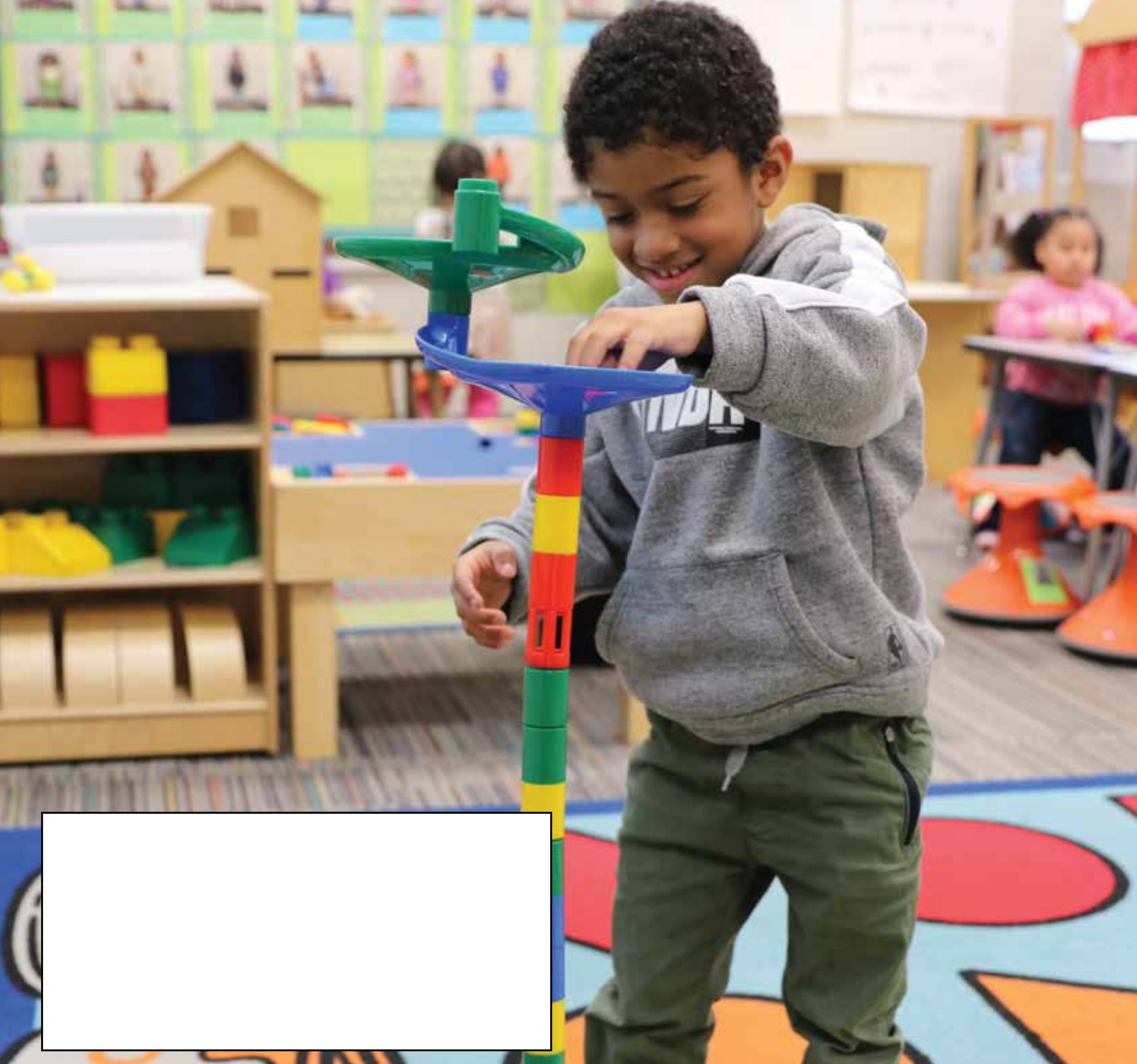


INSIDE



SHAWNEE MISSION SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPRING 2025



> **Shaping the Future
of Cybersecurity**

> **Now Enrolling Pre-K
and Kindergarten**

> **Join Us at the
R&D Forum**



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ON THE COVER: Liev, a Pre-Kindergarten student, explores in the classroom at Shawnee Elementary School.

#OneShawneeMission

Help us share great news from our district on social media at @thesmsd.

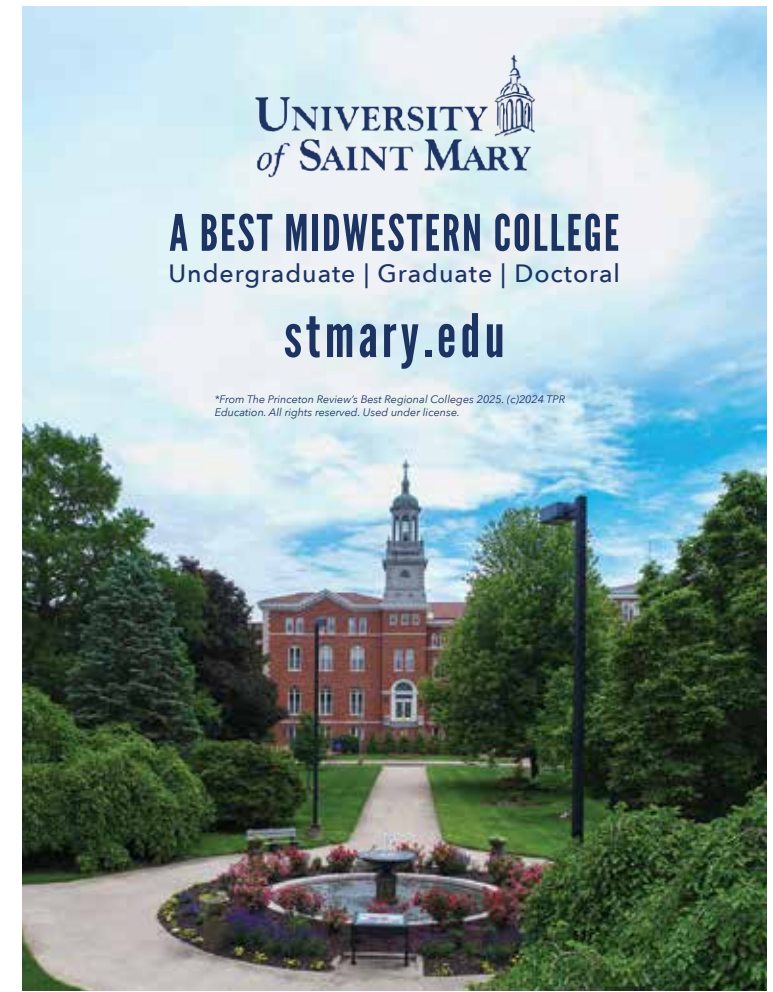
INSIDE

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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Schu's News

Updates from Superintendent Dr. Michael Schumacher

It is hard to believe more than a year has passed since I had the honor of being named Shawnee Mission's newest Superintendent. I shared when the announcement was made that from the time I started working in this district years ago, I knew this was where I wanted to serve. After almost a year in this role I am still so proud to lead with and be a part of this incredible community. Our students, staff, families, and surrounding community are amazing; I see how everyone is ALL IN to help every student achieve their personal best every day in our public schools.



Dr. Michael Schumacher

Our objective continues to be ensuring that each student has a personalized learning plan that will prepare them for college and careers with the interpersonal skills that lead to life success. Our students continue to excel, demonstrating rising achievement on state assessments as we work to move students into higher performance levels. The average ACT Composite score for SMSD students increased in 2024 and is higher than both the state and national averages. Our district aims to have every student complete a resume-worthy achievement, known as a Market Value Asset, by 2030. This includes work experiences, industry-recognized credentials, entrepreneurial experiences, and dual college credit. In 2024, 73% of the graduating class earned an MVA.

In the coming weeks we get to celebrate many accomplishments from this year.

We will celebrate student innovation, creativity, and achievement at the Research and Development (R&D) Forum in April. Everyone in our community is welcome, so I invite you to review the invitation details on page 12. We look forward to honoring retiring individuals and colleagues celebrating longevity milestones, as well as all who serve our district during Educator Appreciation Week from May 5-9, 2025. We are also looking forward to commencements in May along with celebrating all who are advancing to new grade levels. These achievements are made possible by so many people working together. Thank you to all who support the Shawnee Mission School District by being All In.



Staying Informed on Budget and Finance

It is important that our community has ways to remain informed about Shawnee Mission School District financial decisions. We share this information in a variety of ways regularly because, as it states in our mission, an engaged community is part of what distinguishes our district.

There are several ways our community can find out more about budgetary decisions and actions. First, our district hosts a quarterly Finance and Facilities meeting. Agendas, videos, and other details are available on our Board of Education webpage: www.smsd.org/about/board-of-education. Regular reports are shared at Board of Education meetings. These meetings are usually held twice a month and can be watched in person or via livestream on smsd.org. Information related to budgets and financial reports is also available on our Budget and Finance page: www.smsd.org/about/budget-finance. Knowing mill rates are a topic of frequent questions and conversations, we have also developed a resource to help provide more detail. Please use the QR code provided here to view that resource.

We are pleased to share with our community that we have made facilities improvements to every building in the district as a part of the \$264 million bond approved by voters in 2021. We are proud that SMSD is an Aaa organization, as rated by Moody's, which is considered the highest quality rating and indicates the lowest level risk to creditors. We thank our community for ongoing support and awareness.



Read Across SMSD



Our monthly celebration of reading for all ages continues! Recent episodes of Read Across SMSD have highlighted students from Sunflower Elementary School demonstrating how music allows everyone to join in community, Westridge Middle School students pursuing passions, and Shawnee Mission North students encouraging everyone to find their way. Thank you to NEA Shawnee Mission for their ongoing partnership and to the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation for providing access to Read Across SMSD books. Visit smsd.org/about/read-across-smsd to connect to more resources.



Shawnee Mission Mic'd Up



Another great way to stay connected to the SMSD is to listen to our podcast. Recent episodes have highlighted Women in Leadership, our service animals, and one of our students who is a published author, award-winning innovator, and a special education advocate.

Stay up-to-date on episodes by visiting smsd.org/information-central/micd-up.



Jessica Tickle is shaping the Future of Local Cybersecurity



Jessica Tickle and Shawnee Mission School District Cybersecurity competitors.

Jessica Tickle needs hackers. The nationally recognized cybersecurity teacher has made Shawnee Mission School District a pipeline to employment for computer-curious students, and local employers want more.

“Our problem now is having companies wait for students to graduate,” joked Tickle.

It’s a unique “problem” to have, one that reflects Tickle’s passion and extensive experience in cybersecurity education.

Tickle started at SMSD in 2017 as an instructor in the SMSD Engineering Signature Program. In 2020, she launched the Cybersecurity opportunities after seeing the growing need in the community.

“Kansas City is a unique area,” explained Tickle. “We have just as much industry need here as they do in Texas, California, and Virginia because we’ve got so many excellent companies that are providing services across the country.”

Industry analytics show that the Kansas City area is one of the fastest growing cybersecurity hubs in the country, with a growth rate 11 times the national average. Tickle is determined to satisfy the demand by teaching students to follow their curiosity and explore the vast cyber expanse.

“Sometimes, technology, you just happen on accidentally, and you start clicking around, and next thing you know, you figured out how it responds,” explained Tickle. “If you don’t start clicking around, you’re never going to figure out how it works. So it’s pretty cool for kids in our district that are really good at that.”

Tickle describes her teaching style as hands-off to keep

students engaged. By following her own curiosity, she’s created innovative opportunities for students to learn.

In 2023, Tickle collaborated with industry leaders in the community and the University of Kansas to bring Amazon Web Services to SMSD for a DeepRacer Competition. Students raced an autonomous, 1/18th scale race car driven by reinforcement learning in a 3D racing simulator. These competitions had been offered to post-secondary students and professionals, but through Tickle’s perseverance, SMSD students from middle and high school gained the opportunity.

“Kids love that kind of hands-on, race car idea, but yet, they’re doing it with artificial intelligence,” Tickle explained. “It just turned out amazing.”

In another first, Tickle successfully led a campaign to make SMSD the first K-12, public school district in Kansas and Missouri to house a “node.” The “node” is a critical piece of infrastructure in developing a cyber-range for safe cybersecurity training. The range is an initiative by EnterpriseKC to encourage community engagement in the cyber industry.

“This range that our node supports is a place where kids can go, and really grownups too, and practice hacking things where it isn’t illegal, it’s practice,” explained Tickle.

While “hacking” can sometimes have a negative connotation, this type of hacking serves a training purpose without causing harm. The initiative provides students (and the community) with yet another opportunity to practice in a real world setting, giving SMSD students a leg up in the industry.

As SMSD’s cybersecurity program grows, so does its reputation. Under Tickle’s leadership, students are consistently recognized. The program has a 100% graduation rate and has become a cornerstone of SMSD’s commitment to Real World Learning.

“Through challenging classes, competitions, and incredible real-world learning experiences, [Jessica] ensures her students graduate with the skills they need to thrive,” said SMSD Superintendent Dr. Michael Schumacher. “She’s a true example of a teacher who is all in for student success.”

Tickle was recently recognized amongst her peers when she was named a 2024 recipient of the Presidential Cybersecurity Education Award. This award, presented by the U.S. Secretary of Education, is given annually to two educators in the nation. This prestigious honor is given to educators who demonstrate exceptional achievement in cybersecurity education. Tickle is ensuring that SMSD students are not just prepared—they’re empowered to lead the charge in safeguarding our digital future. ♦



Left: Pre-K Teacher, Alyson Rodgers and students experiment with a balloon at Trailwood Elementary. Right: Nieman Elementary Pre-K student Tiana Jeffery practices writing.

Pre-K and Kindergarten Enrollment Now Open in SMSD!

The first day of school is a milestone moment, and the Shawnee Mission School District (SMSD) is excited to welcome the next class of young learners! Enrollment for Pre-K and Kindergarten is open now for the 2025-2026 school year.

Pre-Kindergarten in SMSD

Pre-K in SMSD is a half-day program designed to build foundational academic and social skills for young students. “Our preschool program is led by and taught by the most amazing team of people who really care for and are invested in the learning of each and every student,” explained Highlands Elementary Pre-K Teacher Lori Galloway. “Our goal is to help each student develop the skills they need to be ready for kindergarten and beyond.”

Pre-K sessions are available in the morning (8:10 to 10:55 a.m.) and afternoon (12:25 to 3:10 p.m.) at 21 elementary schools across the district. In the 2025-26 school year, SMSD is expanding the program by adding Pre-K classrooms at Pawnee and Tomahawk Elementary Schools!

Fee and no-fee options are available,

with wraparound care provided at select locations through Johnson County Park and Recreation and the YMCA.

To qualify, children must reside within the Shawnee Mission School District boundaries, be 4 years old on or before August 31, 2025 and not yet eligible for Kindergarten, and be fully potty trained.

Pre-K spots are limited, so early enrollment is encouraged!

Kindergarten in SMSD

Kindergarten in SMSD is a free, full-day program offered at all elementary schools, running from 8:10 a.m. to 3:10 p.m. Children must be 5 years old on or before August 31, 2025, to enroll.

“Kindergarten is so important because it lays the foundation for a child’s academic, social, and emotional development,” shared Rosehill Elementary Kindergarten teacher Abby Allen. “It’s not just about learning academics but also about building a strong foundation for future learning and personal growth. My favorite part about teaching Kindergarten is watching these students soar!”

For more information about

Kindergarten, including dates for Kindergarten Kickoff, please visit www.smsd.org/academics/kindergarten.

We look forward to welcoming our newest learners to SMSD! Our school communities are ready to inspire, support, and celebrate each Pre-K and Kindergarten student as they begin their exciting educational journey.

How to Enroll

New families to SMSD can visit www.smsd.org/families/enrollment to access online enrollment. If you have children enrolled and attending Shawnee Mission Schools, log into your Skyward Family Access account and select New Student Enrollment to enroll your incoming Pre-K or Kindergarten student. All families can scan the QR code for more information. ♦



The Power of Music



Tiarra Johnston, junior, plays the cello in the Shawnee Mission North Orchestra.

For Shawnee Mission North junior Tiarra Johnston, music has always been more than just a favorite subject—it's been a passion. That passion ignited in fifth grade when she first picked up a cello in strings class at Bluejacket-Flint Elementary.

"I just loved it right away," Johnston said. "It was really fun, and I loved being surrounded by it and being in it."

Since then, her love for music has only grown. Now, she participates in orchestra, choir, and band at Shawnee Mission North. Outside of school, she works at a music store, dedicating even more of her time to learning and sharing her love for music. Looking ahead, she dreams of turning music into a career.

Johnston's story is one of many in the Shawnee Mission School District, where thousands of students find joy, creativity, and purpose through music. According to Dr. Bill Thomas, performing arts coordinator and Shawnee Mission West band director, more than 6,500 students participate in performing arts programs across the district. That number doesn't even include the many elementary students who participate in music as part of their weekly school experience.

A Strong Foundation

The district's dedication to music education starts early, ensuring every student gets the chance to explore and develop their musical talents. All elementary students participate in music classes, and by fifth grade, they can choose to join the strings or band program. Instrument fairs give them

a hands-on opportunity to try different instruments, with teachers guiding them toward the best fit for their skills and interests. Those who love to sing also have the chance to join their school choir in fifth or sixth grade.

As students move into middle school, their musical opportunities expand. Orchestra, band, and choir become daily class offerings, allowing for deeper skill development and ensemble experience. High school students have even more options, including music theory and music technology courses alongside traditional performance groups.

Outside the classroom, students gain real-world experience through unique performance opportunities. Many participate in district and state honor ensembles through the Kansas Music Educators Association (KMEA), showcasing their talents among top student musicians. Some even take their performances to global stages.

SMSD music groups have traveled internationally to locations like Italy, Germany, and the United Kingdom. Closer to home, students have performed at world-class venues like the Kauffman Center in Kansas City, Missouri, experiencing the thrill of a professional stage.

The Impact of Music Education

The benefits of music education go beyond learning to read music, play an instrument, or sing. Research consistently shows that studying the arts helps develop skills like critical thinking, problem-solving, and teamwork. Music also provides students with a creative outlet and a sense of belonging.

Shawnee Mission North senior and choir student Sage Reedy has experienced this firsthand.

"I've gone through a lot growing up, and music has always been a community where we create so much art on the fly and so quickly that we're all working together, supporting each other, and expressing emotion while making sure we're in sync," Reedy shared. "It's an indescribable experience to create music with my peers. It's very wonderful."

That sense of connection is something Shawnee Mission Northwest senior

and choir student Alex Houghtlin also values. During middle school orientation, the choir's executive board spoke to younger students about the strong bonds they've built.

"I did sports for a while, but choir has been the most true team I've ever been a part of," expressed Houghtlin. "We all work together to make beautiful music."

Preparing Students for College and Careers

The knowledge gained through a music education also translates directly into real-world learning that prepares students for success in college and the workforce.

"When you take a step back and look at the bigger picture, the performing arts and creative arts industry is the third-largest industry in the United States' gross domestic product, behind only health care and retail sales," Dr. Thomas explained on a recent Shawnee Mission Mic'd Up podcast. "Most industries and workplaces are looking for people who can collaborate, solve complex problems, and think creatively. That's what we do every day in our ensembles."

A career in music is exactly what Houghtlin sees for the future. Houghtlin will be attending the University of Central Missouri in the fall to study music education.

"I know that teachers can have a big impact on young kids, and I've experienced that myself," shared

Houghtlin. "If I can do the same for others, that would just be truly amazing."

Johnston is also charting a course toward a future in music.

"I'm still deciding on my undergraduate degree, which will be either music performance or music education, but for my master's, I want to study conducting,"

Johnston said. "Ultimately, I want

to be a symphony conductor."

Educators Who Make a Difference

Both Houghtlin and Johnston credit their teachers for inspiring and guiding them. Dedicated educators across the district play an important role in helping students develop their talent and providing mentorship. Students may have the chance to perform side by side with their teachers, attend concerts, or participate in clinics with visiting musicians. These experiences provide a unique window into the professional music world. Many of these educators also continue performing professionally in area ensembles.

"We have people that perform regularly with the Kansas City Symphony," Dr. Thomas said. "But we also have educators who play with military bands, jazz bands, and other professional groups. They actively continue to perform and share those experiences with students."

Experience the Power of Music

In Shawnee Mission, music builds confidence, fosters creativity, and opens doors to lifelong opportunities. To support the performing arts and see these talented students in action, visit the Shawnee Mission Performing Arts Calendar. Find an upcoming concert, performance, or event, and experience the power of music. ♦



Lynn Reynolds, Prairie Elementary music teacher, introduces students to the recorder.

Action Teams Move Strategic Plan Forward



The Shawnee Mission School District (SMSD) is making strong progress on the Strategic Plan, a roadmap designed to ensure every student has a personalized learning plan that prepares them for college, career, and life success. Approved by the Board of Education on June 24, 2024, the plan reflects input from hundreds of individuals from across the community, including staff, parents, students, and community members.

Since its approval, SMSD has focused on turning the plan into action. Action Teams, composed of staff, students, parents, and community members, have been working on priorities across six strategic areas: Learning, Belonging, People, Technology, Mental Health, and Facilities.

Throughout the first half of the year, Action Teams have been making meaningful progress on the work of the strategic plan. This work has included:

- Interpersonal Skills Development - Efforts are underway to help students develop strong interpersonal skills that will benefit them beyond the classroom.
- Comprehensive Evaluation Process Improvement - The evaluation process for staff performance and support is being improved to provide more meaningful feedback, enhance professional growth, and improve retention.
- Classified Staff Engagement Analysis - The Superintendent's Classified Advisory Council was created and is being strengthened, with a focus on improving classified data collection.

Another outcome of the Strategic Plan has been the development of a policy on personal electronic devices which went into effect on February 3, 2025.

As implementation of the plan continues, the district remains committed to engaging the community. Superintendent Dr. Michael Schumacher emphasized the importance of



collaboration, stating, "This plan is our community's plan. We need many voices and perspectives to make it a success."

Staff, students, family members, and community members are encouraged to apply or nominate individuals for upcoming Action Teams. Focus areas include:

- Learning: Professional development to support student success
- Belonging: Equitable discipline policies, mentorship programs, and accessible communication
- People: Expanding mentorship opportunities for teachers
- Technology: Implementing evidence-based frameworks for instructional technology

To apply or nominate someone for an Action Team, scan the QR code and complete the nomination form.

By joining an Action Team, community members can continue shaping the district's future and ensuring every student receives the support and opportunities they need to achieve their personal best. ◆



SMSD STRONG

Strong Schools, Strong Community

Bond Progress Update

SMSD residents approved a \$264 million bond in January 2021, providing essential funding to improve every school and facility across the district. The bond has supported the rebuilding of five elementary schools. Tomahawk Elementary, the final rebuild project, is set to welcome students back in August. Recently completed bond projects include a new two-story athletic training facility at Shawnee Mission West, as well as an expansion at Indian Hills Middle School. SMSD is grateful to our entire community for supporting the work of the bond! ◆



Enrollment Open for Summer Enrichment and Summer Band Blast

About Summer Enrichment

Students enrolled in Summer Enrichment in Shawnee Mission School District will have a lot to share about what they did over summer vacation. Some will perform musicals on stage or build rockets while others will explore wildlife, cook a feast, or kick a winning goal.

Classes offered in SMSD's Summer Enrichment Program are taught by certified educators and designed to help students explore interests and activities they enjoy. Use the QR code on this page to find out more and enroll.

Classes are offered for students currently enrolled in Kindergarten (2024-2025 school year) through seventh grade. A Pre-Kindergarten class is also available.

Times: Morning sessions are 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Afternoon classes are from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Lunch care is from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Morning Care is from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Dates: Monday through Friday, June 9 through July 18. There will be no program on June 19 or 20. There will be no Summer Enrichment the week of June 30-July 4.

Location: Westridge Middle School, 9300 Nieman Road
Use the QR Code on this page to find out more and enroll.

About Summer Band Blast

Students in fifth through eighth grade looking for a way to stay in playing shape during the summer months are invited to Summer Band Blast. This program offers a mix of band rehearsals, small ensembles, and sectionals to help students strengthen their skills in the summer.

Summer Band Blast is held from:

9 a.m. to 12 p.m. June 2 to 6 for fifth and sixth graders

9 a.m. to 12 p.m. June 9 to 13 for seventh and eighth graders

Use the QR code on this page to find out more and enroll.



Summer Lunch Bunch

This summer, children ages 1-18 can enjoy free meals while adults can purchase a lunch for \$5.00 (cash only). Children do not have to be students in the district to enjoy lunch. All are welcome. Dates: June 2, 2025 - July 25, 2025, Monday through Friday (closed June 19, June 20, and July 4)

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Locations:

Comanche Elementary School, 8200 Grant Ave.

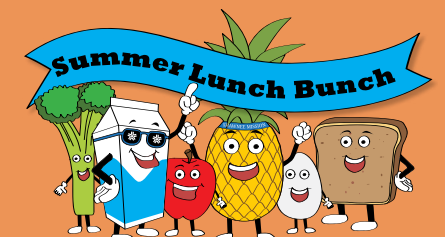
Rosehill Elementary School, 9801 Rosehill Rd.

Shawnee Mission West High School, 8800 W 85th St.

Shawano Elementary School, 11230 W. 75th St.

Westridge Middle School, 9300 Nieman Rd.

Summer Lunch Bunch will be dine-in only. Grab and go will not be available. Check out menus and more at: smsd.org/about/departments/food-service. ◆





Students share their creativity and innovation at the Student Showcase and Next Great Idea competition.



Join Us at the 2025 R&D Forum

Shawnee Mission's Research and Development (R&D) Forum is a district-wide celebration of student innovation and achievement. The entire community is invited to join us for this event in April!

Student Showcase

This district-wide open house features student art, science, and career and technical education projects created throughout the year. The event also features live demonstrations and musical performances! Open Houses will take place from 4 to 7 p.m. on April 22, 23, and 24 at the Center for Academic Achievement (CAA), 8200 W. 71st St.

Next Great Idea Live Pitch Competition

Student innovators will present their ideas to judges for a chance to win cash prizes and turn their ideas into reality. The event will be from 9 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 26, 2025. Visit smsd.org to watch the event and cast a live vote for the People's Choice Award. Voting will take place after the final pitch!

Catching Up with Next Great Idea Winners

These students received a \$1,000 cash award and up to \$1,500 to further their ideas:

Audrey Jennings, a junior at Shawnee Mission West, started a business called The Dot Spot, a business that provides feminine hygiene products. She has accomplished her goal at school and

has plans to expand the idea in her community. "I'm really glad I got this far, I'm making good progress, and I'm able to help people," Jennings reflected.

Miles Muehlbach, an eighth grader at Indian Hills Middle School, has continued to develop his idea, "Flight Suit Systems" interactive lessons for students. He shared that the Next Great Idea was an amazing opportunity offered by SMSD, to help students develop something that is real, used by everyday people, and helps the world. "I'm learning so much by being able to talk to people in industry, learning about all of the work that goes into doing this project," Muehlbach shared. The Shawnee Mission School District thanks the Regnier family for their support of the R&D Forum. 🍀



Audrey Jennings, SM West junior, accepts a prize at the Next Great Idea competition.



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.



TEACHER HONOREES

Shauna Hammett, Kindergarten teacher at Apache Elementary School, and Lara Caldwell, an English Teacher at Horizons High School, were selected by the Shawnee Mission School District to represent the district in the Kansas State Department of Education Kansas Teacher of the Year program. First grade teacher Ryleigh Diskin from Ray Marsh Elementary School is a 2025 Horizon Award Winner. The Horizon Award, presented by the Kansas State Department of Education, recognizes outstanding first-year teachers in the State of Kansas.

FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Through a strong partnership with the Shawnee Mission School District, the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation provides countless opportunities for our students.

Here are recent examples:

- More than 137,388 books have been sent to the youngest learners in our community through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.
- More than \$35,000 funded classroom projects through Excellence in Education Grants that support innovations like Apple Pencils for middle school animation classes and assistive technology for Pre-Kindergarten students.



HIGH SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

High School Opportunities Signature Programs offer the opportunity to explore unique areas of study in biotechnology, culinary arts and hospitality, engineering, animation and interactive media, sustainability and urban agriculture, and medical health science. Project Blue Eagle students study law enforcement, fire science, and emergency medical services. International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement offerings for high school students are also available. Signature Program students consistently shine in national and international competitions including NASA Hunch, National Pro-Start Invitational, National SkillsUSA, CyberPatriot, MITRE eCTF, and Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair.

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. As part of its commitment to employee well-being, SMSD provides an onsite clinic and fitness center available to all SMSD employees.



Grant Expands Sensory Room at Broken Arrow Elementary

Students at Broken Arrow Elementary now have even more tools to help them regulate their energy and emotions, thanks to an Excellence in Education (E2) Grant from the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation. The grant has allowed the school to update and expand equipment in its sensory room, a space designed to help students calm down or recharge so they're ready to learn.

The room includes new colorful sensory floor tiles, a crash pad, calming lighting, sensory foam rollers, weighted blankets, a swing and jump pod, tents and more. With different zones for movement and relaxation, students can choose activities that help them regain focus and self-regulate when feeling overstimulated or overwhelmed.

Special education teacher Kendra Greenwood, who applied for the grant, has seen the need for students in the structured learning classroom (SLC) program to have a safe and supportive setting to re-center themselves.

"Students with autism or other cognitive delays have a strong need to regulate their sensory systems in order to learn," Greenwood shared. "Having a space where they can process big emotions has been game-changing."

She explained that the goal is to use the room proactively, helping students self-regulate before they become overwhelmed. "Sometimes, just walking to the room helps them find calm," she added.

But the sensory room isn't just about relaxation, it's about making learning more accessible. Greenwood emphasized that students struggle to focus when their sensory systems are out of balance. By providing a space to reset, the room helps them engage more effectively in the classroom.

"We want to give students the chance to take 10 to 15 minutes to regulate so they can be successful for the rest of the day," Greenwood said.

Though the room was designed with special education students in mind, it has become a valuable resource for all students across the school. Teachers and staff bring students in when they notice signs of sensory overload, helping them return to class feeling focused and ready to learn.

"We have students from all over the building who pop in throughout the day," Greenwood said. "Just a little time in this space can completely change their day."

Greenwood has successfully received multiple grants from the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation to support students at Broken Arrow, including funding for a sensory desk and the "Munch Mobile" snack cart. This latest grant, called "Strong Roots," reflects the idea that students need a strong foundation of regulation before they can grow academically and socially.

This year alone, the Foundation has funded \$35,000 in E2 grants across the district. These grants help educators bring innovative ideas to life, ensuring students have access to enriching opportunities that enhance learning. ♦



Top: Liam Talbott, Broken Arrow sixth grader, demonstrates sitting on the new platform swing in the sensory room. Bottom: A sensory station in the room promotes tactile discovery and fine motor skills.

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College of Education



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Visit: <https://qrc0.de/bfBiaw>



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