CONNECTION

Spring Edition | ISSUE NO. 23

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Park Hill School District

PARK HILL *CONNECTION* GOES TO EVERY HOUSEHOLD IN THE PARK HILL SCHOOL DISTRICT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS.

On the cover: Park Hill South High School students tour the new competition gym at Park Hill South High School, opening in August 2025



Straight from the Superintendent

Since last summer and fall, we've been planning and preparing information to get to the point where our Board of Education placed two propositions – Propositions G+O – on the April 8, 2025, ballot. As we've continued progress on our Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP) – our strategic plan – this next step involves addressing recruitment and retention of the best teachers and addressing our aging facilities. Both of these investments are the result of continued feedback from our students, staff, families and community.

In this edition of the *Connection* magazine, we've laid out several pages of information about Proposition G and Proposition O – GO Park Hill. You'll learn about how we want to ensure competitive pay and benefits for our teachers and how we want to maintain the community's investment in our facilities by continuing to bring them up-to-date. You'll also learn about the impact to taxpayers, the master site plans for a future Park Hill High School phased replacement and Park Hill South High School stadium and field improvements, and what's specifically on the ballot.

We know the pride and care that our community has for our teachers and our schools. We see the love and support that you show our teachers, and we see the love and support you show our schools through programs, academic work, athletics, clubs and activities and so much more. Propositions G+O address these notions directly.

Please vote on Tuesday, April 8. Polling places open at 6:00 a.m. and are open to 7:00 p.m.

Thank you for being part of our community. And thank you for learning more about how these ballot propositions impact our teachers and schools.



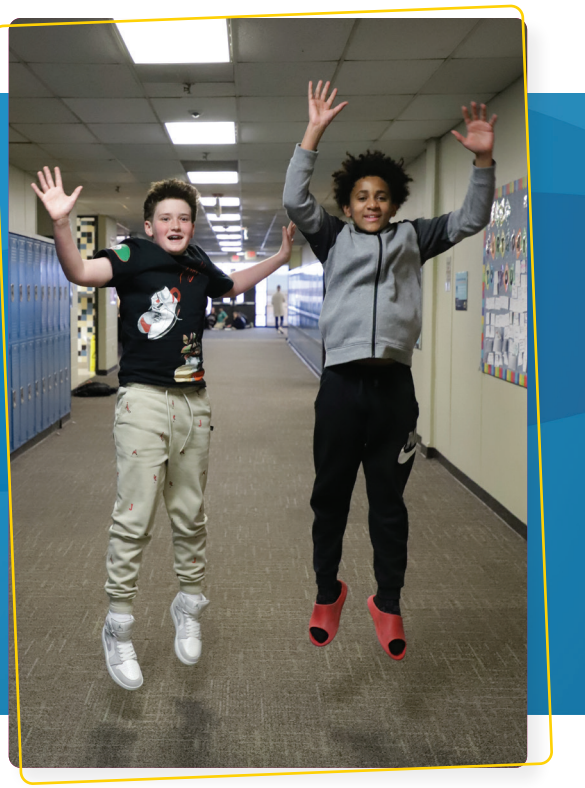
Dr. Mike Kimbrel
Superintendent

Welcome to the *Connection*!

Connection is a publication of the Park Hill School District, distributed quarterly, without charge, to patrons within the Park Hill School District boundaries.

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SCHOOL SNAPSHOTS:

STUDENTS IN ACTION ACROSS OUR DISTRICT



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WALDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Future of Park Hill Schools: What You Need to Know



PARK HILL

GREAT TEACHERS +
OUTSTANDING SCHOOLS









It takes both great teachers and outstanding schools to deliver the quality of education our Park Hill community expects.

To continue the community's investment and Park Hill pride in our schools, the Park Hill Board of Education put two initiatives on the April 8, 2025, ballot, **Proposition G** and **Proposition O**.

Propositions G and O address the needs of our schools. **Proposition G** focuses on recruiting and retaining teachers, while **Proposition O** provides funding for upgrades to aging school buildings and facilities.

"We've been working on these topics collectively over the fall," Assistant Superintendent of Business and Technology Dr. Paul Kelly said during the January Board of Education meeting.

"We've created strategies to address our CSIP (Comprehensive School Improvement Plan), specifically CSIP Goal 3, Systems, maximizing resources and addressing aging facilities that come from two funding sources."

SYSTEMS

Maximize Park Hill human and financial resources and address aging facilities in order to remove barriers to learning.

Proposition G

Proposition G ensures competitive pay and benefits, helping us recruit and retain excellent teachers and staff to support our high-quality school operations.

Proposition G asks for approval of a 10-cent increase in the operating tax rate to support teacher and staff salaries and benefits. For 22 years, our operating tax levy has stayed at the level voters approved in 2002, or even lower.

"I find it fitting that 2002 was the last time we increased the tax levy and that was to get into the top three for teacher pay,"

Board of Education President Daryl Terwilleger said. “Now 23 years later, we’re doing that again to rededicate ourselves to the top five starting salaries and top three overall salaries.”

2024-25 Beginning Teacher Salary

1. Blue Valley - $50,100
2. Shawnee Mission - $50,048
3. Olathe - $48,500
4. Hickman Mills - $46,500
5. North Kansas City - $45,500
6. Platte County R-3 - $44,720
7. Liberty - $44,496
8. Independence - $44,275
9. Center - $44,200
10. Fort Osage - $44,200
11. Lee’s Summit - $43,620
12. **Park Hill - $43,210**
13. Raymore-Peculiar - $43,022
14. Belton - $43,000
15. Raytown - $42,167
16. Blue Springs - $42,000
17. Grandview - $41,150

2024-25 Average Teacher Salary

1. Hickman Mills - $70,080
2. Grandview - $69,216
3. Raytown - $68,112
4. Liberty - $67,872
5. Independence - $67,457
6. Lee’s Summit - $67,147
7. Center - $67,056
8. **Park Hill - $66,591**
9. North Kansas City - $66,272
10. Platte County R-3 - $65,370
11. Blue Springs - $64,234
12. Belton - $63,711
13. Fort Osage - $63,328
14. Raymore-Peculiar - $62,499

Proposition O

Proposition O allows us to maintain the community’s investment in our facilities and bring them up-to-date. This includes:

Phase I replacement of Park Hill High School

Park Hill High School would begin the first phase of two major replacements on the same campus. The Phase 1 replacement would join the new competition gym, weight room and fine arts upgrades to continue the upgrade and replacement of Park Hill High School’s aging facilities.

Stadium and field improvements at Park Hill South High School

Park Hill South High School would continue stadium and field improvements.

“This is an opportunity for us to have our buildings the way we want, especially Park Hill High School which is used for several events and has people visiting all the time,” Board of Education member Shereka Barnes said.

These improvements and updates were identified through Park Hill 2034, our 10-year long-range facilities plan. As a reminder, Park Hill 2034 involves decisions around facilities, classrooms and school space, technology and how our students and staff use our space. These decisions were made in unison with our Park Hill staff, families and community, involving these valued partners throughout the process. You can learn more about Park Hill 2034 in the “About” section of our website.

What G+O Means For Our Community

Propositions G and O, if passed, would maintain our quality teaching staff and our commitment to providing quality facilities.











Investing in staff and improved buildings now will benefit many future generations of students and homeowners. It is taking a step, just like those who have lived in our community for many years, to make sure our district continues to be a place where families and children can thrive — a community where residents are committed to making schools first.

Quality schools produce strong property values. In total, our Park Hill staff and school buildings represent over a $1 billion dollar investment by our community. To protect that investment, we need to take care of our teachers and staff and keep school facilities up-to-date and in good working condition.

Impact to Taxpayers

Proposition G asks to increase the adjusted operating tax levy 10 cents per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation for the purpose of paying teachers and staff competitive salaries and benefits.

Proposition O asks to increase the debt service levy 30 cents to issue general obligation bonds in the amount of $128 million for the Phase 1 replacement of Park Hill High School, stadium and field improvements at Park Hill South High School, additions to various elementary schools, safety upgrades and the purchase of land.

Cost to Homeowner	Prop G $0.1000 Operating per $100 of AV	Prop O $0.3000 Debt Service per $100 of AV	Total $0.4000 Total per $100 of AV
Annual Property Tax			
$100,000 Home	19.00	57.00	76.00
$200,000 Home	38.00	114.00	152.00
$300,000 Home	57.00	171.00	228.00
$400,000 Home	76.00	228.00	304.00
$500,000 Home	95.00	285.00	380.00
Monthly Property Tax			
$100,000 Home	1.58	4.75	6.33
$200,000 Home	3.17	9.50	12.67
$300,000 Home	4.75	14.25	19.00
$400,000 Home	6.33	19.00	25.33
$500,000 Home	7.92	23.75	31.67

Through these propositions, the Park Hill community can continue to invest in the future of our schools and students.

Learn more about GO Park Hill from the perspective of a staff member and student on pages 7 and 8.

Paid for by the Park Hill School District
Dr. Mike Kimbrel, Superintendent
7703 NW Barry Road
Kansas City, MO 64153

GO PARK HILL

GREAT TEACHERS + OUTSTANDING SCHOOLS

The last day to register to vote: Wednesday, March 12. Learn more about voter registration and absentee voting at the Platte County Elections website, www.plattecountymovotes.gov.

Polling places open at 6:00 a.m. on April 8 and will remain open until 7:00 p.m. Those individuals arriving after the polling place has closed will not be allowed to vote. However, those individuals in line at 7:00 p.m. will be allowed to vote.

Proposition G requires a simple majority, or 50 percent plus one vote.

Proposition O requires a 4/7th majority, or 57.1 percent.

VOTE APRIL 8, 2025

Learn more on our website:
www.parkhill.k12.mo.us/about/go-park-hill

Straight From Our Staff

Brad Kincheloe, principal, Park Hill High School

Park Hill High School opened its doors at its current location in 1958. PHHS Principal and Class of 1972 alum Dr. Brad Kincheloe has been a firsthand witness to much of the school's history. As the district looks to **Proposition G** to ensure competitive pay and benefits, Dr. Kincheloe is leading the way at PHHS for Phase 1 improvements, which **Proposition O** would fund.

PH: How do you believe offering competitive pay and benefits impacts the quality of teaching in the overall learning experience for students?

Dr. Kincheloe: When we were the best paying district around, I was in the position to interview lots and lots of candidates. And, from those, I was able to select the very best and they were eager then to sign a contract to work at Park Hill.

As we became less competitive with compensation, we went from being the place where the best and brightest were eager to come and work to a spot where the best and brightest might choose us, but they might choose someone else. So naturally, that's going to impact what happens in the classroom. We want to put our students in front of the best teachers we could possibly secure.

And we want to have our building in the hands of the support persons who are going to take the best care of our facility and our students.

PH: The PHHS Phase 1 improvements would include a building addition featuring a new entry and commons area, expanded campus parking, updated campus signage, and the relocation of the baseball field with new restrooms and parking. How would these updates impact the daily experience for students, staff and visitors?

Dr. K: Just looking out my window I see three cars that are parked along the curb because there's no place for them to be. And one of the government classes has invited me down to talk with them about how we can possibly improve the parking situation for our seniors.

Those are just two examples of how parking is just not convenient here at Park Hill High School. And as we try to get more and more community members coming to the building and participating, having to hike to the door is not a good way to welcome our guests.

I think students learn better when they are comfortable in their surroundings. There are very few people who have gone to a movie theater or airplane or a bus and



said, "I wish there were more people packed in tightly around me." And that's where our students are. They're not interested in having people packed in more tightly around them, either.

PH: How would the new addition to the building foster a stronger sense of community within the school?

Dr. K: Our students are proud to be Trojans. And their parents are pleased to send them to Park Hill. But our students are proud to be Trojans because of our long-standing traditions, community and high expectations. What they're not particularly proud of is our building.

I want to be in a position where students are not only proud to go to school with the staff and students they share the building with, I want them to be proud to come to their building with a sense of pride in the facilities, as well.

PH: How would relocating the baseball field impact the school community, and what new opportunities would the updated facility provide for athletes and fans?

Dr. K: Moving the baseball field to a new location is a means to an end. Where the baseball field is now located is where the proposed additions would be. The district would take care to move the baseball field to a location with more space for amenities. And that would be an improvement.

I was not yet in elementary school when my office was first built. The shell has been here for a while. A part of my heart will be joyous when I see how proud the youngsters who now come to school are when they see their building if these improvements are approved.

Straight From Our Students

Jackson Scott, sophomore, Park Hill South High School

PH: How does offering competitive teacher pay help schools attract and keep great teachers, and how would that benefit students like you?

Jackson: Offering competitive teacher pay will help our school attract more and keep great teachers. This positively benefits me as the teachers I have may be more qualified and better teachers if offered competitive pay. This would also benefit the students as teachers who are really good may stay for future generations. For example, a great teacher may want more money at another school, but if we offer competitive pay, they may stay and for us as students, we will continue to excel in learning.

PH: Improvements are planned for Park Hill South's football, softball and baseball fields. How would these field improvements impact school pride and spirit among students at Park Hill South?

J: With stadium improvements on our football, softball and baseball fields, our school spirit would be more positive. As a football player, we travel to Park Hill District Stadium to play our games. But if we were able to play at South, I feel we would have more school spirit and pride as we would have our own field. It also makes it easier so we don't have to get buses and bus drivers to travel to Park Hill's district stadium. For the baseball and softball improvements, I know that they sometimes struggle and are forced to cancel games due to rain. So, if they were able to improve and turf the field, they may be able to play more games and not have to deal with rain cancellations.

PH: What role would these updated facilities play in bringing the school community together for events?

J: Upgrading these facilities would play a big role in bringing the school community together. With these facilities, we can host our own football games so people may be more inclined to attend the games since they do not have to travel to Park Hill High School. Also like I said earlier, with our own stadium I feel we have our own home which can really bring our community together. For the baseball and softball facility upgrades, those will bring the community together as well with their improvements. Player performance may also be improved.



PH: In what ways would having top-notch facilities influence students' overall school experience?

J: Having the facilities would strongly improve the student school experience as it would give us higher chances to succeed. We would be able to perform better with these new facilities and even be able to perform more often, as I mentioned earlier with the rain delays. Overall, I just think having top notch facilities would really improve our school experience.

Park Hill Celebrates Success Around our District

These are just a few of the awards and accolades Park Hill staff and students have received recently. Visit our website to catch up on the latest honors.

Best of the Best

Park Hill and Park Hill South high schools have earned spots on the honor roll — again! According to *U.S. News & World Report*, Park Hill is ranked 10th and Park Hill South 13th in Missouri, putting them at the top of the Kansas City region, the state and the nation. LEAD Innovation Studio student performance is included in their home high schools and is reflected in this recognition as well.

PARK HILL SCHOOL DISTRICT
LEAD
Innovation Studio

Best Middle Schools

Our middle schools are on the honor roll, too! *U.S. News & World Report* ranked all four of our middle schools among the Best Middle Schools in the state!

CONGRESS MIDDLE SCHOOL
LAKEVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL
PLAZA MIDDLE SCHOOL
WALDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL





Perfect ACT Scores

Congratulations to Park Hill South High School students Jacob Bartels, Gavin Fritts and Tarun Venkatesh on achieving perfect ACT scores of 36. According to ACT, this outstanding accomplishment is achieved by less than one-quarter of the top one percent of test-takers nationwide. Bartels, a senior, earned a perfect composite score on the December exam. Fellow senior Fritts and sophomore Venkatesh achieved perfect superscores through the September exam.



United States Senate Youth Program

We are #ParkHillProud of Park Hill South High School senior Jaelyn Woodley for being selected to attend the United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) in Washington D.C.

The USSYP is an extremely competitive merit-based program, held in Washington D.C. in March 2025, gathering two high school juniors or seniors from every state for an intensive week-long study of the federal government and its leaders.

The state departments of education throughout the country select the students through a rigorous nomination and selection process. A $10,000 undergraduate college scholarship is given to each student in the name of the U.S. Senate, with encouragement to continue coursework in history, government and public affairs.

National Accreditation

Congratulations to the Gerner Family Early Education Center for receiving a five-year term of accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) again!

NAEYC-accredited programs have met 10 standards for high-quality early childhood education. These programs have demonstrated that they provide a safe and healthy environment for children, have well-trained teachers, have access to excellent teaching materials and work with a curriculum that is appropriately challenging and developmentally sound.

Gerner earned its first accreditation in 2008.

MSNA Recognitions



We are #ParkHillProud of our schools recognized by the Missouri School Nutrition Association (MSNA) for increasing lunch participation last year. Schools had to increase participation by three percent or more to be recognized. Congratulations to the Nutrition Services staff at Chinn Elementary, Hawthorn Elementary, Prairie Point Elementary, Renner Elementary, Southeast Elementary and Tiffany Ridge Elementary!

At the MSNA conference, Traci Sheen, manager at Prairie Point, was selected as Northwest Regional Director for the MSNA. Additionally, our Director of Nutrition Services, Grennan Sims, will serve as the MSNA Professional Development Chair, helping educate and train members at MSNA conferences.

The Impact

We Create Together



Amanda Irvin-Black
Resource Special Education Teacher
Park Hill High School

See our newest award recipients and how they used their classroom grants.

Because of the **Power of You**, we are able to do great things for our teachers and classrooms!

Shining Star Classroom Grants provide funds that enhance the learning experience for Park Hill students. With more than 350 grants awarded, totaling over $475,000, your support is making a lasting impact! Visit our website to see the difference you help create.

Park Hill School District
Education Foundation
Investing in the Future of Our Students

WANT YOUR AD HERE?

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

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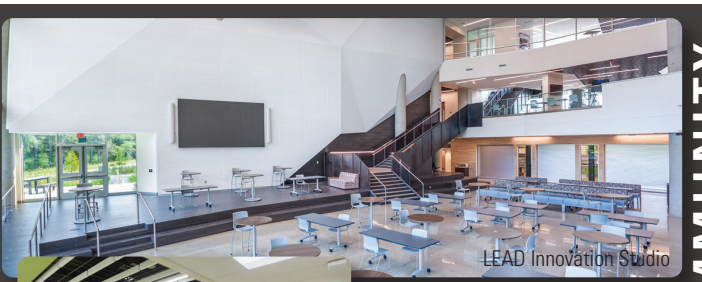


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Park Hill Highlight

It's been a big year for Park Hill High School football student-athlete Anna Anderson. She won the Nathan Stiles Inspiration Award at the Thomas A. Simone Awards ceremony, was named a wide receiver for the Team USA U17 national girls flag football team and, on top of that, earned The Kansas City Chiefs Girls Flag Football Player of the Year!

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

