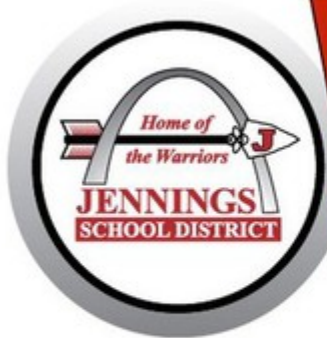




WARRIOR WAY NEWS

ISSUE 3 - December 2025

A Newsletter for the Jennings School District and Community

Message from Superintendent Dr. Paula D. Knight

Wishing You All the Best This Holiday Season!

These past four months have gone by in a blur of new openings, events, new partnerships, ribbon-cuttings, dedications, awards and honors! And, here we are at the holidays, a time for remembrance, relaxation and reflection. As you read through this newsletter, please be reminded of all the hard work our students and teachers have put in over the past semester in order to ensure a smooth transition into 2026. I am just as excited about the level of engagement we have seen from parents and the community during first semester.

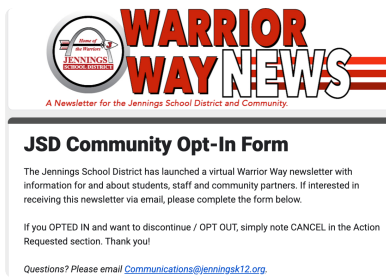


We look forward to getting more people involved in learning and sharing the District's story. In September, we launched the **Warrior Way News** e-newsletter as a way of keeping our parents, staff and community informed and centered in the conversation on education. The **new outdoor marquees** are proving to be a great way of spotlighting important dates, recognitions and generating excitement around school activities.

Now, to deepen our commitment to engagement, we are preparing to launch a couple of **new communication channels** to carry our story to our community and beyond. Stay tuned for more information as we work to bring our story to life through new print, broadcast and news distribution methods in the new year.

Parental and community engagement will continue to be a driving initiative as we work together to personalize instruction and assessment and provide new education pathways along with extra-curricular and enrichment activities. I invite you to join us as we work to share all the reasons why **every day is a great day in the J!**

On behalf of our Board of Education and administration, I wish all of our families and community the very best of the holiday season.



Having **Warrior Way News** emailed directly ensures you receive important Jennings school news, updates and other timely reminders – helping ensure you never miss news that impacts our students and school community. While parents and staff should be automatically receiving this e-newsletter, our community members are encouraged to [opt in by clicking here to complete a brief registration form](#). Thank you!

Happenings in the “J”

Board of Education Hosts Holiday Party for Families



In partnership with the Little Bit Foundation, the JSD Board of Education hosted its annual holiday party for Jennings families on Monday, Dec. 15. Following a family-style meal, prepared by Southwest Food Excellence staff, program moderators Miranda Walker Jones and Yolanda Fountain Henderson led the Board and their guests through games and prize giveaways. Gift bags, carefully assembled by the elves at Little Bit, were loaded with everything from personal supplies to clothing and shoes.

Partners Team Up to Provide Meals for Winter Break

J-Town Food Distribution on Dec. 17, 2025 (Miranda Walker Jones)





**Jennings
School
District**

Miranda Walker Jones

President and CEO, Little Bit Foundation
& JSD Board of Education President

Please click the video above.

On Wednesday, Dec. 17, the District's J-Town Food Market hosted a major holiday food distribution organized by The Little Bit Foundation and Operation Food Search, with funding support from the St. Louis County Children's Services Fund, distributing 200 fresh produce boxes and 480 food boxes filled with fresh and shelf-stable meal kits and healthy snacks.



Superintendent Dr. Paula D. Knight emphasized that food insecurity intensifies during long school breaks and praised the partnerships for providing stability, dignity and hope for families.

The Little Bit Foundation President and CEO Miranda Walker Jones (and JSD Board of Education president) said their effort included the distribution of 4,300 meal and produce kits across the metro area including Jennings, supporting approximately 8,000 families. (Click on video above for message from Miranda Walker Jones.)

Operation Food Search President and CEO Kristen Wild (photo) noted that rising costs, uncertainty around SNAP benefits and the impacts of the May 16 tornado made these joint distributions a critical source of relief for families.



The J-Town Market also works closely with the St. Louis Food Bank to help ensure the families have the assistance they need year-round. For more details about the Dec. 17 distribution, visit www.JenningsK12.org/121725JTown. Individuals interested in supporting the ongoing efforts of the J-Town Food Market, please contact Dr. Leon Hite at HiteL@JenningsK12.org or 314-653-7810.



MSIP6 Café Resumes in January 2026

Reminder - No MSIP6 Café in December 2025

As part of our commitment to supporting families, the District's MSIP6 Community of Learners Café continues to address timely, real-world topics. In October, the Café focused on the growing influence of social media. The November Café highlighted valuable community, learning, health and financial resources available to families. Partner Alliance Credit Union spoke about their unique savings incentive programs for students and gave away gift cards to a few excited attendees!



Regardless of the topic of the month, families can expect useful information at the MSIP Café, along with food, fun and door prizes. We invite you to join us for the upcoming MSIP6 Community of Learning Café on **Thursday, Jan. 29, 2026, from 5–6:30 p.m.** Reserve your seats early at www.JenningsK12.org/MSIP6Cafe.

Edzone Lockers Help Keep Students in the "Game"



The Little Bit and Chris Long Foundations Open Edzone Lockers in Jennings!

As one of two new pilot programs, students at Jennings Middle School delivered a resounding display of appreciation for the Chris Long Foundation and the Little Bit Foundation upon the Dec. 4, 2025, installation of new EdZone supply lockers! The lockers are install in the in school's Little Bit Boutique and provide easy access to hygiene and personnel needs items. Both foundations engage a network of suppliers to help ensure EdZones in St. Louis and other cities stay stocked with quality, name-brand items that appeal to students, boost confidence and make it easier to be in class every day.



Affinia Partnership is Just What the Doctor Ordered!

Thanks to a new partnership with [Affinia Healthcare](#), Jennings parents can enjoy greater peace of mind just knowing they have access to the Fairview Clinic. Staffed by a roster of doctors, nurses and dentists, the Clinic serves both the insured and uninsured. The new Affinia partnership started Wednesday, Nov. 12 and the clinic will be open every Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The clinic is located in the back of Fairview Elementary, but is open to all district families every Wednesday with visits coordinated by the nursing and social worker teams.



"Our aim is to promote preventative care and increase access to fast, quality, affordable healthcare for all Jennings families," Jennings' Student Support Services Administrator Dr. Leslie Thomas-Washington said. "We are excited to welcome Affinia on board as they have an efficient delivery system that provides skilled medical staff to diagnose, treat and prescribe as needed. The Fairview Clinic is a full-service operation with spaces dedicated to health and dental care and designed primarily to serve students but it's also open to staff."

"In addition to treating the ailments of this cold and flu season, the Affinia team ensures that, with parental permission. We are equipped to offer immunizations, check-ups, physicals, treatment options and referrals. Through the clinic, we are teaching our students the importance of being proactive with healthcare by getting regular checkups. Students must feel well in order to fully receive the great instruction happening in our classes."

Dr. Washington said the mobile dental van makes monthly visits and the service is well-received by students who appreciate being treated in comfort and privacy.

In the photo above, District Social Worker Heather Simpson and Affinia's "Nurse Sue" administer immunizations to a Woodland student.

Marching Warrior Band Takes Third in the Ameren Parade!



Congratulations to Band Director Brittney Dickson and the Jennings Marching Band for the sound, precision and swaggering performance that earned them third-place in Ameren's Thanks-for-Giving Parade. This was the band's first time participating and to come out with a trophy was the icing on the cake. Although small in numbers, our Warrior team was mighty in spirit. For a time, downtown was owned by a sea of red, black and white as the 51-member Jennings Marching Warrior Band, flags and drum majors entertained the crowd.



Class Acts - Graduate Spotlight

Congratulations to JSD Graduate Angel Coleman



Very few people can say that they graduated from college BEFORE they graduated from high school. Thanks to the Jennings School District's Early College Academy (ECA), Angel Coleman

(18), JSD Class of 2025, earned her associate degree from St. Louis Community College in February 2025– becoming one of the youngest grads at age 17. She then went on to complete her studies at Jennings High School, graduating with her cohorts in May.

Angel, a church leader and praise dancer, also studied JROTC and thrived in the basketball and softball programs. But she had one more surprise for her family–she enlisted in the U.S. Army! Her drive to do good work was encouraged and nurtured by her parents Sherry and Pastor Ronald Coleman. Just before Thanksgiving, Angel celebrated the completion of her six-week Army Basic Combat Training at Fort Leonard Wood Air Force Base and will spend the next 16 weeks building skills in a specialty area of her choice.

"I am excited that the basic (training) is over and she won't have to endure that," Angel's mother said. "She was a strong basketball and softball player thanks to her coaches, but I was glad she was able to come through the basics without quitting or getting hurt." She added with a smile, "She's stronger than I thought!"



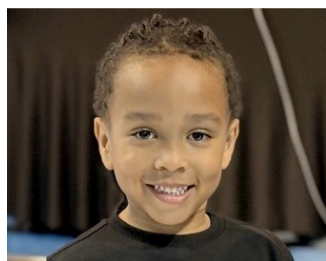
The Coleman family spent Thanksgiving near the base because Angel has limited time off. Angel's mother added that they expected her to pursue a field related to the aerospace industry. "When she was just 15, she learned to fly an airplane," she said, referring to the ECA partnership with Wings of Hope, where training in medivac transports led students to pilot an airplane.

Still excited about learning new things, Angel surprised her parents once again by electing to study the areas of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear defense (CBRN). This course includes strategies, equipment and training used to protect military personnel from CBRN threats. Interestingly, Fort Leonard Wood also refers to their soldiers as "Warriors!"

The Warrior News would love to share more stories about JSD graduates. If you have information you'd like to share, email communications@jenningsk12.org.

Students of the Month

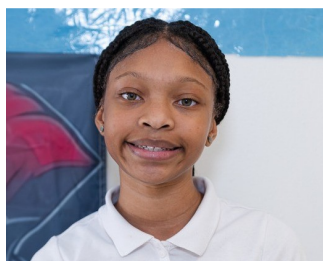
December 2025 - JSD Student Board Recognitions



Banx Wings

PreKindergarten

Northview Elementary School



Journee Billups

6th Grade

Kenneth C. Hanrahan



Heaven Vance

Senior

Jennings High School

School Attendance Spotlights

School Attendance Award Competition is Heating Up!



Attendance Award Sparks Serious Competition!

Although principals enjoy some good-natured competition for the school board's monthly attendance awards, they take attendance very seriously. Jennings schools are awarded trophies each month based on the prior month's Average Daily Attendance (ADA), 90 percent of students attend 90 percent of the time (90/90) and staff attendance.

Student and staff attendance are key MSIP6 criteria and directly affect District funding. But, more importantly, when students miss class or direct contact with their teacher, instructional momentum is lost. Parents and guardians are encouraged to ensure students arrive on time each day and stay until the final bell.

MONTH	STAFF ATTENDANCE	ADA ATTENDANCE	90/90 ATTENDANCE
DECEMBER	Fairview (97.28%)	Hanrahan (96.9%)	Hanrahan (85.06%)
NOVEMBER	Woodland (96.43%)	Hanrahan (92.42%)	Hanrahan (77.48%)
OCTOBER	Fairview (98.45%)	Hanrahan (94.41%)	Hanrahan (81.17%)
SEPTEMBER	Fairview (96.38%)	Hanrahan (92.42%)	Hanrahan (77.48%)

Upcoming Calendar Dates



Friends of Jennings School District Foundation 501(c)(3)

Mrs. Miranda Jones, Member
Mr. Harold Austin, Member
Dr. Debbie Jones-Fowler, Member
Mrs. Victoria Glaspy, Member
Dr. Paula Knight, Member
Ms. Stephanie Grice, Member

Mark Calendars: Friends Foundation Reception, April 16

On Thursday, April 16, from 5:30 to 8 p.m., The Friends of Jennings Foundation invites you to join in the food, fun and festivities at the annual spring fundraising event. This year's event will be held at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown St. Louis and will feature nationally recognized saxophonist Tim Cunningham along with his band. Proceeds raised through donations and auction items will help advance educational opportunities for students and teachers. We are also interested in collecting any items you have to contribute to the custom gift packages we will auction off that evening. Please watch for follow-up email for more details.

Mark Your Calendars!

- Dec. 15-19: High School finals week
- Dec. 19: End of First Semester / Second Quarter
- Dec. 22 - Jan. 5: NO SCHOOL – Winter Break and J Readiness Day
- Jan. 6: School Resumes
- Jan. 19: NO SCHOOL – MLK Holiday
- Jan. 29: MSIP6 Cafe (5-6:30 p.m., Gore Center) [Click here to register for food count.](#)
- Feb. 6: NO SCHOOL – Professional Development
- Feb. 16: NO SCHOOL – Presidents' Day
- March 9-13: Parent Teacher Conference Week
- March 13: NO SCHOOL – Parent Teacher Conferences (8a-11a)
- March 16-20: NO SCHOOL – Spring Break

[Click here for 2025-26 JSD District Calendar.](#)

Jennings Station and Emma Crossing Guards Needed



**Jennings
School
District**

Interested? Call 314-974-8431



Have a Wonderful Winter Break

See you in 2026!

District Closed Dec. 22 - Jan. 5
Monday, Jan. 5 - J-Readiness Day

2559 Dorwood Drive, Jennings, MO 63136

314-653-8000

Communications@JenningsK12.us

Jennings School District

www.jenningsk12.org

Find our social media and other important links via linktr.ee/JenningsK12

