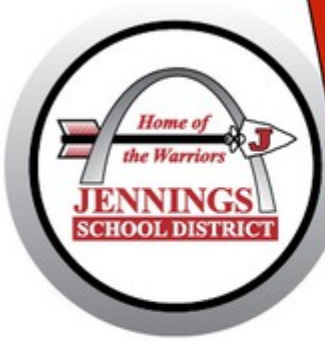




WARRIOR WAY NEWS

ISSUE 1 - August 2025

A Newsletter for the Jennings School District and Community.

Dr Knight's Superintendent Message - Aug. 2025

Superintendent's Message



Dr. Paula D. Knight



Every new school year is exciting for me, but we truly have a lot to celebrate as we open our doors to the 2025-26 school year! Over the past few weeks, our district has hosted many events and activities to help our students, families and staff start the year right. Please see highlights below in the inaugural issue of the Warrior Way News.

First Day of School 2025-26



Enrollment is on-going for the 2025-26 school year.

[Click here for a PDF with requirements or visit your school office for assistance.](#)

Welcome New Teachers and Staff



Jennings Added 67 New Staff Members This School Year

This year, Jennings welcomed a total of 67 new staff members to our team including 24 certified teachers and 43 support staff. If our new hire orientation is any indication, these new team members bring expertise, valuable experience and contagious excitement. They will be joining our

dedicated veteran educators who continue to help set the tone for an exceptional team. Together, they will infuse our district with renewed energy, enthusiasm and a shared commitment to the success of ALL JSD students. *(The three students in the front row were there to help our new staff get a feel for what to expect on the first day and beyond.)*

Prop J is Underway!



Upgrades, installation and construction projects made possible by the 2024 passage of Proposition J, a \$9 million no-tax-rate-increase bond issue, are in full swing district wide.

- Perhaps the most visible changes are the **electronic marquees** now at each school site. The electronic signs are programmed with important updates/information and are positioned to provide the best visibility with two sides facing passing traffic. The signs are on dimmers regulated by our technology department.
- There are two **new scoreboards** at the Jennings Senior High

School. First is outside for the football field and the second is inside the A-gym basketball court.

- The District is also in the process of installing **security gates** (and other security upgrades) along with bollards (posts) and fencing at specific locations.
- Several buildings will also see **parking lot upgrades**.
- The District has purchased a **12-passenger transit van** and **two carts** to support athletic and academic activities.

We are grateful to the Jennings community for making these upgrades possible and for their ongoing support. Please stay tuned for more exciting Prop J updates at www.jenningsk12.org/PropJ.

Back-to-School Jamboree 2025

About 1,500 people attended the **Jamboree** and left with backpacks, school supplies and more. We thank all staff, volunteers and partners who made this event a success!



Thanks to Our Partners and District teams for Making the Event a Success

On Saturday, Aug. 9, JSD hosted the annual Jamboree. This back-to-school event gets better every year in its ability to offer literally something for everyone. Backpacks and school supplies were

distributed to JSD students in PreK through 12. Families met teachers, enrolled in school and engaged with healthcare staff for immunizations and physicals. They also enjoyed entertainment, crafts, food and fun for the entire family!

New Day in the "J"

New Day In The "J"



Jennings is on a Roll Thanks to a \$100,00 Enterprise Mobility Foundation™ Grant

The Jennings School District's [Friends of Jennings Foundation](#) was just awarded a \$100,000 grant from [Enterprise Mobility Foundation](#)™, which will help offset a significant portion of District transportation costs in the coming 2025-26 school year. Specifically, the funds will help purchase a second shuttle bus. In addition to daily transport, the shuttle will help ensure safe and accessible out-of-town travel for athletics and field trips throughout the year.



Opportunity Flows Through Workforce Grant from American Water

A new \$25,000 Workforce Readiness Grant from [American Water](#) will help students gain work experience and explore career paths in new and emerging fields. We are grateful to **Senator Angela Mosley** for nominating Jennings for this grant. (Senator Mosley is shown at center/left, surrounded by American Water, board members and administration.)

New Proficiency Scales Will Provide a Detailed Road Map to Student Success

This year we will be rolling out new Proficiency Scales – an assessment tool to help teachers and students accurately review individual progress and target areas of improvement. It helps identify gaps in teaching and learning as a first step in creating a personalized education plan. Over the next few months, we will introduce training on the process to our teachers. We will demonstrate how this new, nationally-recognized tool will help students, parents and teachers create actionable, personal improvement plans for every student. More information to come.



Alliance Credit Union Program Offers Savings Incentives to Students PreK-12th Grade

Jennings students in PreK through 12th grade are invited to jump start financial literacy learning by opening a savings account with Alliance Credit Union. This is not your typical account – students and families control the account and earn incentives along the way. Parents and guardians will be able to sign permission forms for this opportunity at **all schools during Open House week, Sept.**

8-12. The Alliance team will be there to explain the program and set up new accounts with a \$5 gift from Alliance. Visit your students' school during Open House and get an early start on developing good savings and investment habits. Here are the program highlights:

- Receive a \$5 gift to start your account. (Minimum savings level \$5)
 - Receive \$1 for every "A" or "B" on semester report card.
 - Students earn 10% interest on the first \$500 saved.
 - **12-Month Superstar Saver CD: Perfect way to start saving for college. Open now for just \$250.**
- To open an account or learn more, please visit alliancecu.com/youth-savings.
-

Jennings Historical Society Finds New Home in the Gary Gore Education Center

The Gary Gore Education Center is the new home of the Jennings School District Historical Society. In this new partnership between the City of Jennings and the District, we are combining resources to create a space where we can welcome schools and community on a walk through

history. All the museum's assets and artifacts are now housed at Gore. A grand opening will be held this fall.



Let's Get it Poppin'!

Buy Double Good Popcorn and Help Students Travel Abroad

The District's [Early College Academy](#) (ECA) is selling Double Good Popcorn as an online fundraiser. Prices start at \$11 and 50 percent of each dollar raised will help fund the African Diaspora trip to Western Europe scheduled for March 14-20, 2026. [Click HERE to order on Sept. 8-12](#). Please share this link with family and

friends.



J-Town Food Market at Gore: Drive Thru on the Second and Fourth Fridays

We are very excited about our new J-Town Market, a community food pantry sponsored by the St. Louis Area Food Bank and the Bayer Fund. The market is also housed at Gore and is now easily accessible to students and families in need of free, healthy food products. To collect healthy vegetables, milk, juice and more, Jennings families may just drive up to the Gore Center starting at 1 p.m. on the second and fourth Fridays of each month. School counselors may also make arrangements for pick-up times for

**JENNINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMUNITY CUPBOARD**

**Community Cupboard Food
Distribution Dates | 2025-2026**

Every 2nd & 4th Friday of the Month
1:00 PM
Dates may vary due to holidays.

REMINDER

July 11, 2025 10:00 AM
July 26, 2025 10:00 AM
August 8, 2025
August 22, 2025
September 12, 2025
September 26, 2025
October 10, 2025
October 24, 2025
November 14, 2025
November 21, 2025
December 12, 2025
December 19, 2025

January 9, 2026
January 23, 2026
February 13, 2026
February 27, 2026
March 13, 2026
March 27, 2026
April 10, 2026
April 24, 2026
May 8, 2026

FREE Fresh Produce/Canned Goods/Dry Goods/Meat/Potatoes
(Food items may vary month-to-month.)



FIRST COME—FIRST SERVED

NEW LOCATION

PICK UP FOOD AT
GARY GORE COMMUNITY CENTER
25415 DORWOOD DRIVE
JENNINGS, MO 63136

GOVERNMENT CONTACT:
DR. LASH NITE III
314.418.8900
NITE@JENNINGS12.ORG
WWW.JENNINGS12.ORG



Lawmakers Made the Call to Restrict Cell Phones in School -- JSD Was Ahead of the Curve

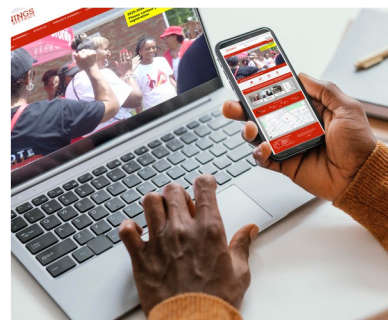
Four years ago, JSD became one of the first school districts in Missouri to institute Yonder cell phone pouches to help limit distractions in the classroom. Now, a **new state law, [Senate Bill 68](#) (Section 162.207)**, mandates restrictions of electronic personal communication devices, including cell phones, in school for all Missouri public school students – from the first bell of the school day to the last bell. Lawmakers, informed by research and likely encouraged by the success of school districts like Jennings, set the law to take effect this school year.

Clear Backpacks Are Part of JSD's Safety Protocols

JSD now offers free, clear backpacks for students to help make it easy to adhere to the District's safety protocols. Clear backpacks are known to be strongly effective in preventing contraband and inappropriate objects from being brought into schools. It's just one more way we can all work together to maintain safe and healthy school environments.

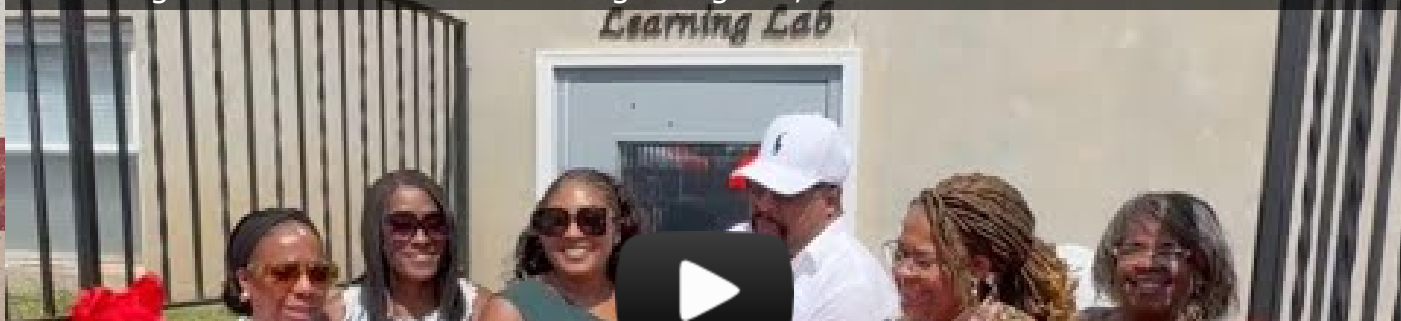
Check Out Our Updated Website!

We are excited to share that our website, www.JenningsK12.org, is getting a facelift. Our new look will be unfolding over the next few weeks, along with updated content that will keep you informed of the latest updates for our schools and district. The redesigned homepage will be easier to navigate, visually appealing and better organized to help families, students, staff and community quickly find the information they need. You will find quick links to frequently visited sites including parent portal, shuttle bus routes, lunch menus, news, announcements, plus academic and athletics schedules. The redesign reflects our commitment to clear communication and accessibility. We invite you to explore the updated site and see what's new. **(Please take a moment to make sure all contact information is up-to-date at your school site to make sure you don't miss anything.)**



In Loving Memory

CALL Sign Revealed & Ribbon Cutting - Aug. 15, 2025





New Learning Lab is Now Open at Central Office

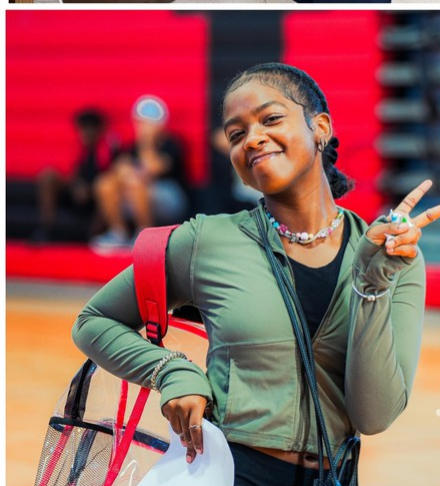
On Aug. 15, the Jennings community and the family of the late Dr. Charmyn Andrews, came together to formally dedicate the Dr. Charmyn Andrews Learning Lab (THE CALL). Dr. Andrews, former assistant superintendent of secondary education, passed suddenly last school year. In honor of Dr. Andrews and her dedication to teaching and learning, the administration found a perfect way to honor her memory.

The newly remodeled learning space in the lower level of the District's Central Office, heralds a lasting tribute to an administrator, wife, mother, colleague and friend who impacted generations of children and colleagues, locally and across the globe. [Click here for PDF to read more.](#)



Welcome to SY 2025-26





Upcoming Calendar Dates

Upcoming Calendar Dates:

- Sept. 1: NO SCHOOL – Labor Day

- Sept. 8-12 - ECA Double Good Popcorn Sales ([link](#))
 - Sept. 8-12: Open House Week
 - Sept. 13: First Varsity Football Home Game (1 p.m.) vs Roosevelt*
 - Sept. 26: NO SCHOOL – Professional Development
 - Oct. 11: Homecoming - Football vs Brentwood/Clayton (1 p.m.)*
 - Oct. 13-17: Parent Conference Week
 - Oct. 16: Parent Conferences (3:30-7:30 p.m.)
 - Oct. 17-20: NO SCHOOL – Fall Break
 - Oct. 24: End of 1st Quarter
 - Nov. 7: NO SCHOOL – Professional Development
 - Nov. 26-28: NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Break
 - Dec. 22 - Jan. 6: NO SCHOOL – Winter Break and J Readiness Day
- *[Jennings Athletics website](#) includes sports schedules and game-day ticket links

Click here for 2025-26 JSD District Calendar.



Have a great school year!



2559 Dorwood Drive, Jennings, MO 63136

314-653-8000

Communications@JenningsK12.us

Jennings School District

www.jenningsk12.org

