



WARRIOR WAY NEWS

ISSUE 2 - November 2025

A Newsletter for the Jennings School District and Community

Message from the Superintendent

Homecoming to Holidays: Jennings Celebrates the Season



Welcome to the Warrior Way News! It is my pleasure to call out some of the highlights from the first quarter. In this newsletter, we will recap an amazing **Homecoming** and the long-awaited unveiling of our **new mascot**. On Nov. 1, we opened the doors to a history-making partnership with the former Jennings Historical Society—now called the **JSD Historical Society** and located at the Gore Center. This unique arrangement between the Society and the Jennings School District is unlike any other. Our new partner, **Synapsory**, has created two Sensory Rooms in Fairview Elementary School.

We have analyzed the recently released **Annual Performance Report (APR)** scores for 2025 and are working on instructional improvements. In the coming months, we will provide parents/guardians and the community with more context to help us all understand what these numbers mean. This is the second consecutive year that our composite score (based on three years of APR data) has remained within the range for accreditation. We are continuing to analyze the data and identify individual student target areas for improvement, using online assessments and instructional programs as additional resources. In the meantime, I encourage parents/guardians to partner with school teams in renewed efforts to personalize learning. That includes regular school attendance. **Being in school every day is critically important to student success.**

We have a lot of work ahead of us, but there is also a lot to look forward to as we prepare to greet the new year with a **healthy fund balance**, thanks to careful financial management and planning. Even so, projections for the 2025-26 school year are being made cautiously as we attempt to assess the potential impact of proposed federal funding cuts.

Any delays or reductions in **school food programs** or SNAP benefits could negatively impact critical services for many of our students and their families. We are carefully monitoring the situation. In the meantime, if your family is experiencing hardships, please speak with our school counselors and leaders. We are ready to provide support as best we can.

Please read the short updates in this newsletter to learn more details about all the fall happenings in the District, including honors, recognitions, new programs, special events and stay on top of important upcoming dates, especially this Thursday's **MSIP6 Community of Learners Café**. Check out our news and learn why **every day is a great day in the "J!"**

Jennings Homecoming 2025

Homecoming 2025 is One for the History Books



It was a perfect day for the Jennings Homecoming Parade! A procession of brightly colored jeeps rivaled the beauty of the autumn trees as they led the caravan of dance squads, JROTC squad, marching band and themed float along the parade route. Driven by the beat of the JSD Warrior Marching Band, the parade traveled through neighborhoods of cheering families in lawn chairs and waving business owners along Jennings Station Road. The show of support meant a lot to students, families and staff.



THIS JUST IN!: You will have another opportunity to cheer on the 52-member **Jennings Marching Warrior Band** and Director **Brittney Dickson**. The band has been selected to perform at the **41st Annual Ameren Thanks-for-Giving Day Parade** on Saturday, Nov. 22. The parade route is eastbound on Market from Tucker to N. Broadway. Stepping off at 2 p.m., Dickson says the band is excited and they are ready! "We had previously put in a lot of practice time getting ready for the JSD Homecoming (Oct. 11), said Dickson."

After learning they had been selected, she says, "We have extended practices by marching through our community. Now, we are working to select songs that are compatible with parades." Dickson is excited her students will have this experience. "There is nothing like the sound of music notes and drum beats bouncing off the downtown buildings. It's going to be a great time!" The JSD band will be among 120 parade units selected to participate! You won't want to miss this, especially with trophies on the line for the best of the best! Watch school marquees for additional information or [click here](#).

Jennings Football vs Brentwood Clayton - Homecoming 2025



The Homecoming 2025 football game saw the Warriors undefeated following a full week of exciting student and alumni events, including the unveiling of the new Mascot. Thanks to Athletic Director **Marlos Reynolds** and his team of students, staff and alumni – the Warriors now have a mascot that unifies the district in the spirit of strength, courage and determination.

Congratulations also to Head Football Coach **Darrell Green**, the coaching staff and the mighty Warriors for an exciting football season, which ended in a 42-24, loss to St. Mary's Dragons. Even so, the Warriors hit a record 8-2 season. Reynolds says the coaches are building more than just a competitive sporting team. Each time they take the field and through every lesson that follows, they are building character and a strong mindset for success on and off the field.



Homecoming week kicked off with the spirited unveiling of a new warrior mascot!

Happenings in the “J”

This Season the J-Town Market Gives AND Receives!

The District's **J-Town Market** at the Gore Center (2545 Dorwood Drive, 63136) opens to District families and the community at 1 p.m. on the **second and fourth Friday** of each month (when school is in session). Distribution continues while supplies last. ([Click here for flier with full schedule.](#))



Ahead of the holidays, the community is also invited to drop off **donations** in the large RED, St. Louis Area Foodbank donation bins. You will find them at the Gore Center and in the entries of JSD schools. We are gathering shelf-stable cans and boxes on Fridays, Nov. 21 and Dec. 12, to help round out holiday meals for families.

For additional information or to make a larger donation, please contact Dr. Leon Hite at 314-653-7810.

Parents at the MSIP6 Café Learn About Social Media Safety

Due to the growing influence of social media on our children, the District's **October** gathering of the popular **MSIP6 Community of Learning Café** focused on helping parents/guardians learn more about various social media platforms and how to navigate them safely. **Dr. Monica Barnes-Boateng**, District director of Assessment and Data, explained that she wanted to take on the timely

topic and help parents understand social media and learn how to help their children use it responsibly.



On **November 20**, Real World Learning Consultant **Shinita Jones, Ed.S.**, walked parents and guardians through community, learning, health and financial resources. Special guests from **Alliance Credit Union** spoke about their **Star Student Savings** incentive program and similar opportunities for children, birth through age 12. *(Parental permission and social security numbers required).* Students can earn cash incentives for saving and for top grades.

No matter the topic, you will always learn information you can use along while enjoying food, fun and door prizes! Please plan to join us for the next Café on **Thursday, January 29, 2026, 5 - 6:30 p.m.** Reserve your seats early at www.JenningsK12.org/MSIP6Cafe!



New JSD Historical Society is a History-Making Partnership

JSD Historical Society Ribbon Cutting Ceremony





On November 1, history was made in the City of Jennings as the Historical Society opened its doors to its new space. Now located in the lower level of the Gary Gore Education Center in the Jennings School District, the relocation allows the museum to operate more efficiently and offers greater access to information, materials and historical artifacts for schools and the community.

More than 50 guests were in attendance as Historical Society of Jennings Board Member **Susan Sneed** opened with a background on the museum, which was established in 1985. In celebration of the unprecedented new partnership between the Historical Society and the school board, Sneed accepted resolutions from **Senator Angela Walton Mosley** from the Missouri Senate's 13th District and **State Representative Yolonda Fountain Henderson** from the 85th District (and JSD School Board director). Both resolutions formally affirmed the new partnership.

Special guest, Jennings Historian and author **Linda Schmerber** shared her excitement along with a suggested follow-up to her popular book, *"Jennings: The Man, the City and its People."* She said *the next book would share* more stories of the enslaved men and women who helped to build community and families that still call Jennings home.



In addressing the crowd, **Superintendent Dr. Paula Knight** said, "Today is historic because this will now go in the registry of historical societies across the country." She added, "On behalf of everyone here who has played an integral role in ensuring this (agreement) was solid and got it locked in, I thank you. I thank the boards; without them, this would not be possible."

Dr. Knight went on to pledge ongoing support and reminded her community, "...I am THAT superintendent who will ask 'what is the evidence impact?'" She added, "There is *major* impact in this partnership. Thank you for coming out this morning on this truly historic day in the J!"

Historical Society Board President and retired educator, **Yolanda Austin** added, "I often look for teachable moments. The JSD Historical Society is truly that. My hope is that those who visit will reflect on the past and that it brings, peace, excitement, love to our community for many years to come." Austin says the museum will be open Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or email lindaschmerber@swbell.net for an appointment.

Stallone's Helps Etiquette Class Students Dress for Success!



Dressing for success is a key lesson in the District's six-week Etiquette course, but our students recently learned an unexpected lesson about community from a local family-owned business.

Phillip Stallone, of Stallone's Formal Wear, recently fitted 20 sixth-through twelfth-grade young men with suits for their culminating Etiquette Banquet. Their generous support helped to elevate each students' style, it also boosted their self-esteem to go along with the new skills learned in the Etiquette class.



Our young ladies received their attire courtesy of the school district, making the event a true celebration of teamwork, confidence and shared investment in student success. The experience gave students not only the chance to practice professional presentation but also to feel the support of their broader community. **For more information on the Etiquette class, contact Instructor Dr. Debbie Jones-Fowler.**

It's Never Too Cold for Slushies and Smoothies!

Despite cooler fall temperatures, Jennings Senior High School students find that there's never a bad season to enjoy a delicious ice-cold slushy or smoothie! According to **Auprivave Young**, general manager for Southwest Foodservice Excellence (SFE), students just can't get enough of the tasty and nutritious drinks! Young says, "Driven by student request, the SFE team has created Slushie Stations at the middle and high school. New smoothie machines have been added to offer 'from scratch' drinks made from yogurt and fruit on Tuesdays and Thursdays. These drinks meet the state requirements for a nutritious meal entree, which is free to students."



A new grab-n-go cart at the high school helps promote breakfast by providing ease and fast access to even more nutritious snacks. After school, older students have access to Gatorade® drinks, cookies, slushies and chips. Hanrahan, Northview and Fairview students are also excited with their mini smoothies served with fruit and graham crackers/cereal for breakfast. These treats are just two ways in which the SFE team is bringing more healthy options and some added excitement to school meal times. (Slushies are sold at the middle and high school for \$2.)

Dr. Knight Receives Distinguished Alumni Award



The University of Missouri–St. Louis (UMSL) held its annual Founders Celebration on Thursday, Sept. 25, to recognize the 2025 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients.

Congratulations to our Superintendent, **Dr. Paula Knight**, who was among four accomplished honorees and the third member of her family to earn degree(s) from UMSL. She accepted her award (*photo*) from **Kat Riddler** of the UMSL Alumni Association.

Jennifer Tausig, associate vice chancellor for Alumni

Engagement, explained that there is an exhaustive vetting process each year, "This award is the highest honor bestowed by the UMSL Alumni Association."

Others honored with the coveted Triton pin are **Mary Troy**, BA 1970; **Paula Knight**, MEd 1996, EdS 2008, EdD 2014; **Sam Ganga**, MBA 1989; and **Luke Coffey**, BA 2002. **Eric'el Johnson**, BSEE 2019, is the recipient of the Desmond Lee Philanthropy Award. **Congratulations to all!**

Spotlight on Fairview Elementary School Sensory Rooms





Fairview Primary (K-3) and Intermediate (4-6) school students are excited about the addition of two sensory rooms! Designed with state-of-the-art sensory activities, the new spaces were sponsored by The [Synapsory](#). According to **Founder Terrie Desloge**, every item placed in the rooms is of the highest quality and built to last for years. "(They) will bring sensory regulation to the child, improving behaviors, anxieties and helping them learn. Because a child, unless they're sensory regulated, they can't learn and they can't behave properly."

Desloge says that by watching their students engage with the equipment and activities, teachers and parents can learn more about what is needed. Students will find the activities, calming or stimulating, and will gravitate toward what they need at the time. Every station within the two Jennings locations has a specific sensory function. Some activities, bring the "razzle-dazzle" (an interactive light box) – to stimulate and excite through lights, sounds and touch. Exercise becomes fun thanks to a special slide with rolling bars and trampolines. Others activities use the same methods but are designed to calm and soothe through colorful visual displays and mirrors that help each student become part of the learning process – finding out what works best in the moment.

Superintendent Dr. Paula Knight learned of the program through a partnership with the St. Louis County Police Department. **Sgt. Brendan McCrary** who was on hand for the unveiling said the finished rooms surpassed his highest expectations. He added, "What I really appreciate about Terry is, I always say these kids have the talent and some don't have the opportunity and she's bringing the opportunity."



JHS Students Honor Veterans with Moving Tribute



On Nov. 11, Jennings Senior High's annual Veterans Day program, "A Salute to Our Veterans: Honoring All Who Served," offered an emotional tribute to veterans within the District and beyond. Principal Dr. **Cryslynn Billingsley**, staff and students led the ceremony, with **JSD 10th-grader Mason Jones** serving as Master of Ceremonies. The event opened with the JROTC Color Guard, directed by 1SG Robert Newsbitt followed by recognition of District partners, including the Daughters of the American Revolution, represented by Jill Morris, who presented student awards.

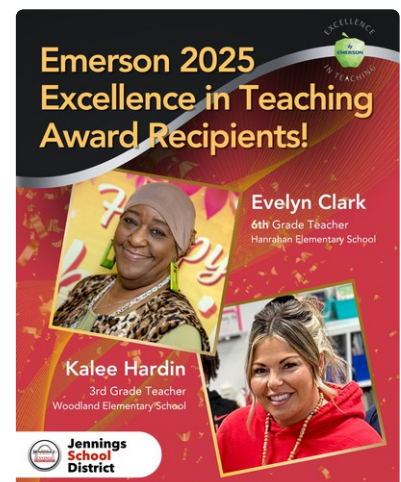


Keynote speaker **Lorenzo Boyd** (photo), managing director at Stifel and a U.S. Navy veteran, *Lorenzo is a familiar face in Jennings and in other K-12 districts where he focuses on school finance. Over the years, Boyd has helped to build Jennings properties, assets and ultimately, establishing another personal legacy of excellence.* He reflected on his military service during Desert Storm and how it became the foundation for his successful career. His message

that "Freedom is not free," underscored the importance of respect, sacrifice and service. *We thank Lorenzo Boyd and all veterans for their service.*

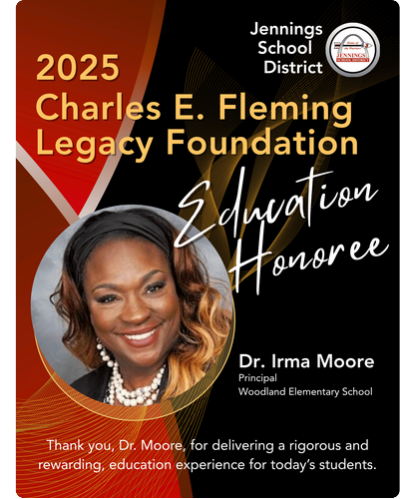
Two Earn the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award!

Congratulations to this year's **Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award** recipients — **Evelyn Clark**, a sixth-grade teacher at Hanrahan Elementary School, and **Kalee Hardin**, a third-grade teacher at Woodland Elementary School. This prestigious award honors educators across the St. Louis region who exemplify excellence in the classroom, dedication to student success and a deep commitment to their school communities. Clark and Hardin were selected for their outstanding teaching, creativity and lasting impact on students. Their passion for education reflects the very best of our district and inspires both colleagues and learners alike.



Dr. Irma Moore Receives Fleming Foundation Award

Congratulations to **Dr. Irma Moore**, principal of Woodland Elementary School, who has been named a **2025 Charles E. Fleming Legacy Foundation Education Honoree**. This distinguished award recognizes educators who demonstrate exceptional leadership, innovation and service in advancing the success of students and strengthening their communities. Dr. Moore's commitment to academic excellence, equity and the holistic development of every child reflects the very spirit of this honor. We thank her for delivering a rigorous, inspiring, nurturing and rewarding educational experience for today's students where they can thrive and futures are transformed.



Crossing Guards Needed at Jennings Station and Emma



The District needs additional crossing guards to help guide students, particularly at the intersection of Jennings Station Road and Emma, one of our city's busiest traffic ways. When Superintendent Dr. Paula Knight put out the call for help, parent **Katrina Tate** stepped up to help recruit people for these paid positions. But, we need additional people to join our crossing guard program. This position pays \$20 hourly. If you or someone you know is interested, please call our Security Director **Colonel Deandre Davis at 314-974-8431**. After completing the application and background check, successful candidates can start right away. Thank you for your support and, in the meantime, please remind students to be careful at crosswalks.

Students of the Month

September 2025 - Student Recognitions



Rylan Carson

PreKindergarten

Northview Elementary School



Riley Epps

8th Grade

Rose Mary Johnson
Jennings Junior High



Tha'Jae Hawthorne

Senior

Jennings High School

October 2025 - Student Recognitions



Kardejah Hardwict

PreKindergarten

Woodland Elementary School



DeMya Barnes

6th Grade

Fairview Elementary School



Daniyah Furlow

Senior

Jennings High School

November 2025 - Student Recognitions



Demonté Dawson

PreKindergarten

Fairview Elementary School



Li'Nya Curry

Kindergarten

Northview Elementary School



Jeremy Ingram

Senior

Jennings High School

School Attendance Spotlights

Congratulations to Our Top School Attendance Awardees!

The attendance percentages shown below are based on numbers from the month prior and the chart highlights our top-achieving schools each month. But, more importantly, we want to emphasize that if a student is not in school, or arrives late to class regularly, that student misses out on essential learning and test preparation that can be hard to recover.

Parents, please help by ensuring your student arrives at school each day on time and ready to learn. Thank you in advance for your support!

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



Prop J is Underway

[Link for Updates on Prop J](#)



Upcoming Calendar Dates

Mark Your Calendars!

- Nov. 26-28: NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Break
- 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.](#)

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

Have a Wonderful Thanksgiving Break



**District is closed
Nov. 26-28, 2025**

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Jennings School District

www.jenningsk12.org

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