



WARRIOR WAY NEWS

ISSUE 6 - March 2026

A Newsletter for the Jennings School District and Community



♥
Thank
you!

Behind every
Great Day in the J
is a great

Board of Education

SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION 2026



Message from the Superintendent

Advocating from the Classroom to the Capitol

Lobby Day at the State Capitol!

On March 13, a contingent of Jennings administrators and I joined other education teams at the **State Capitol** in **Jefferson City** for Lobby Day. I want to thank **State Representative and Board Director Yolonda Fountain Henderson** for her hospitality and for introducing us to her fellow elected officials. It was a productive trip, which included a visit to **Senator Angela Mosley**, a longtime JSD supporter who is eager to share our story with her colleagues.

We were also pleased to have had the opportunity to speak with **State Representative Dane Diehl**, author of **House Bill 2710**. He was very gracious with his time as he walked us through his proposal for an A through F grading system for school districts. He shared his views that grading school districts would help recruit and retain students. Our team voiced concerns that without a clear grading scale that would be fair to all or additional funding or support to advance improvement, it would likely have the opposite effect for districts like Jennings. It is also unclear how the new grading system would align with the State's existing MSIP6/APR formulas, which are still being refined.



Rep. Diehl was receptive to what we had to share. While we may not have changed any opinions while at the Capitol, we hope to keep the lines of communication open. Our message is that we oppose any bill or measure that reduces local control by taking decision-making away from school boards and districts; promotes the growth and expansion of charter schools; includes mandates without the necessary funding, or would adversely affect our students or teachers. We are currently in the process of building a

legislative page on our District website to keep you updated on these efforts. *Thank you to Rep. Yolonda Fountain Henderson for the photo of the Jennings team with Rep. Dane Diehl.*

Senator Angela Mosley invited us all to her office. Pictured with the senator and her aide are **Dr. Monica Barnes Boateng** (*Data Assessment*), **Dr. Curtese Howard-Holmes** (*RJJJH*), **Dr. Irma Moore** (*Woodland*) and **Dr. DeShonda Payton** (*Northview*).



On Saturday, March 14, it was my privilege to represent the District at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new **Jennings City Center**, our community's new, state-of-the-art recreational center.

Congratulations to the City of Jennings on creating a beautiful, full-scale community resource that our students and families will value and support. I believe that the new recreational center will be a source of pride for residents and visitors alike.

Superintendent Dr. Paula Knight said, "We are grateful to Dr. Kruse and Ms. Hazel for their support and for taking time to visit our high school and for acknowledging the hard work our team and partners have put forth over the past three months. We literally walked them through the event

from the first alert call at 2 a.m. on Dec. 22, to the day of the walkthrough." She added, "Our visitors were able to see our progress and were visibly impressed with the work."



"I was proud to see our students walking confidently through the building and reacting to the new look," Dr. Knight added. "I thank our entire school community for their patience, resilience and diligence in executing the hybrid schedule. I am looking forward to announcing a full and successful return to a traditional schedule very soon."

Watch for details at jenningsk12.org/JHSReturn.

Faith Leaders Breakfast Lifted Hearts and Minds

On Tuesday, March 31, the district hosted its annual **JSD Faith Leaders' Annual Networking Breakfast**. Local, faith-based leaders dedicated time for fellowship, connection and meaningful conversation about the future of our district and community. JSD Board Director **Reverend Howard Austin** opened the meeting. Beyond enjoying a meal together, we explored new possibilities and emerging opportunities to partner.



Dr. Knight expressed her appreciation, "Thank you for being here with us today. We know it is a particularly busy time for all of you, but we really wanted to celebrate you and thank you for all you do for our community. We truly appreciate your gifts of time, dedication and perspective."

Missed the March 31 breakfast? We'd still want to connect with you! To join our mailing list for future events, please complete the form at <https://bit.ly/JSDFaithLeaders>.

Hanrahan's Donald Stanley Receives SSD's Starfish Award

As we celebrate Paraprofessionals' Day on April 1, we send a special congratulations to Hanrahan paraprofessional **Donald Stanley** (photo center) who was selected for the **Special School District Foundation's Starfish Award** (Watch Stanley's video at [Starfishawards.org](https://starfishawards.org)). The SSDF awards ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, June 11, 2026, from 6 to 9 p.m. at The Reverie STL in Chesterfield. [Click to read more about his recognition in our February 2026 e-news issue](#).



STEM Team Places Second in 2026 Tech Competition



On March 7, the Jennings STEM Team finished second among 20 entrants in the **STEM Student Forum**, hosted by the global technology solutions provider **World Wide Technology (WWT)**, earning accolades and a \$6,000 award. The St. Louis-based company annually invites technology students to demonstrate their skills and creativity. This year, the J-Town STEM Team created an app called "Warrior Track," designed to increase instructional time, track attendance, speed up the check-in process, alert parents when students arrive at school and more. Congratulations to students **Zorian Coleman, Jai Hamer, Cameran Holmes, Dorian Rhone, Dantrell Smith and Desmond Williams** and District sponsors **Mrs. Ray and Mr. Mba**.



Student Artwork Hanging in State Capitol

Senator Angela Mosley recently notified District administrators that Jennings High School student **Laderricka Davis'** rendering of a lady in a Venetian mask was accepted to be part of the display on the third floor of the **Missouri State Capitol** in Jefferson City in celebration of **Missouri Youth Art Month** and will remain on display for a full year.

Laderricka's acrylic canvas is immediately eye-catching for the use of exciting content and color. A culmination award presentation is scheduled for April 9. Congratulations to Laderricka and her art teacher **Jennifer Kelch!**



JHS' Lady Warriors Host First Girls Flag Football Team

On March 25, Jennings High School hosted its first **girls flag football** game! With each game and practice, they are picking up skills and improving. Coaches and players are excited to add flag football to the list Jennings sports roster.

For those who are not familiar, flag football is a more accessible version of the traditional game, offering a safer experience as players grab flags rather than tackling. Proponents say it teaches teamwork, increases physical activity and improves agility.

Supporters also view the sport as another way to hone our school's "Warrior spirit!" So, be on the lookout for great things to come from our Lady Warriors flag football team!

We are proud to support the student-athletes as well as their coaching staff: Chris Sims, Darrell Green, Brandi Taylor, and Saylun Brown. The upper photo showcases Deasia Owens in action, ready to pull the flag from their opponent. The lower photo shows Deasia ready to receive a hiked ball from Teshura Walker. **GO Warriors!**



Travelers Return from Adventures at Home & Abroad!



Welcome back to our young leaders from their recent educational adventures! Over spring break, six **Early College Academy** students traveled to Western Europe and traced the journey and the cultural impact of the African Diaspora.

A second group of six traveled to Los Angeles, California, and engaged in a customized **Live Nation** educational immersion into performing arts. Both groups served as outstanding ambassadors for the Jennings School District and will be reporting about their experience soon, so we don't want to steal their thunder!



A special thank you to our community and families for supporting these brave steps toward your futures. Special thanks to the chaperones **Dr. Debbie Jones-Fowler** (who facilitated the ECA tour) and **Marc Reid**. Los Angeles chaperones were **Dr. Monica Barnes-Boateng**, **Ms. Stephanie Grice** and **Mr. Corey Hellems**.

While these types of experiences serve many purposes, such as character building, more importantly, they introduce students to new possibilities, open doors to emerging careers and help them navigate their rapidly changing future.

Join Friends of Jennings for "Jazz in the J"

Hosted by the **Friends of Jennings School District Foundation**, the 2026 "Jazz in the J" spring reception and fundraiser is set for **Thursday, April 16**, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel on Natural Bridge Road. This event features the smooth R&B and jazz stylings of saxophonist [Tim Cunningham](#) and student performances under the direction of Brittney Dickson.

Tickets are \$30 each and support unique enrichment opportunities for District students. With the sales deadline approaching fast, you can secure your spot or make a donation through the JazzInTheJ.eventbrite.com. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Debbie Jones-Fowler at jonesfowlerd@jenningsk12.org.



2026 JSD Jamboree Planned for Aug. 8



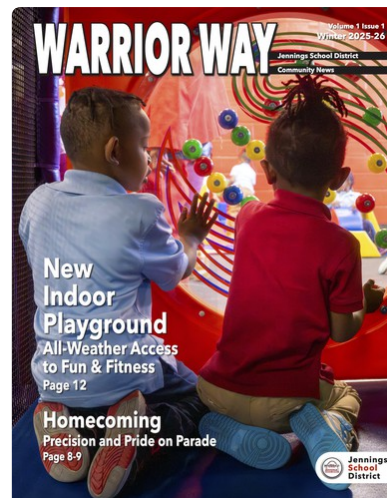
The **2026-27 Jennings Back-to-School Jamboree** has been set for **Saturday, August 8**. We are now developing our lineup of partners for this traditional kickoff event. This year's event promises to be even bigger and better thanks to a planned relocation of the event to the **Gary Gore Center complex**! Here we double our capacity and our fun! Families will receive **FREE** backpacks, school supplies, and immunizations. There will be refreshments and family-friendly entertainment including arts & crafts, music, prizes, food, fun and more! Bring the whole family!

Participating school clubs, activities and other vendors may register early at <https://bit.ly/JSD-Jamboree-Booth-2026>.

Watch the Mail for the Warrior Way PRINT Magazine!

Magazine to Carry News Our Community Can Use!

We are thrilled to share that the first printed edition of the **Warrior Way** community magazine has officially arrived! In February, the magazine was mailed to approximately 6,900 homes across the District's communities of Jennings, Flordell Hills and Country Club Hills. The magazine allows JSD news to reach even more neighbors and offers a dive deeper into the stories that shape our district and community. Our goal is for the magazine to grow along with our community, featuring topics that matter most to our district and residents. **The next publication will arrive over the summer. Please check your mailbox for your copy.** Stay tuned as we continue to share the great things happening in our schools! If you are a staff person, partner, parent or guardian and are not receiving the magazine at your home, **please email** JSDCommunications@jenningsk12.us.



Prop J is Underway



Excitement is Building for Two New Playgrounds!

Dr. Leon Hite shares some samples and "top-secret" photos of new outdoor playgrounds at Hanrahan and Fairview! Teams are reviewing options for equipment, surfaces, turf and the overall look and feel of the new spaces. As the project gets further along, please watch for updates coming soon at www.JenningsK12.org/PropJ.

Jennings School Board Recognitions

Each month, the Jennings Board of Education recognizes schools for attendance and students of the month for achievements. Let's celebrate them!

Students of the Month

Congratulations!



Loyal



Anayah



Miyah



Montrell

Congratulations to this month's students of the week (left to right above) **Loyal Rice**, a pre-kindergartener at Fairview Elementary School; **Anayah Winston**, a kindergartener at Woodland Elementary School; **Miyah Patterson**, a fifth grader at Hanrahan Elementary, and **Montrell Thomas**, a senior at Jennings High School.

School Attendance Awardees

For MONTH of	STAFF ATTENDANCE	ADA ATTENDANCE	90/90 ATTENDANCE
FEBRUARY	Fairview (96.34%)	Hanrahan (90.45%)	Hanrahan (53.82%)
JANUARY	Northview (96.88%)	Hanrahan (86.76%)	Hanrahan (53.59%)
DECEMBER	Junior High (96.58%)	Hanrahan (91.47%)	Fairview (73.23%)
NOVEMBER	Fairview (97.28%)	Hanrahan (96.90%)	Hanrahan (85.06%)
OCTOBER	Woodland (96.43%)	Hanrahan (92.42%)	Hanrahan (77.48%)
SEPTEMBER	Fairview (98.45%)	Hanrahan (94.41%)	Hanrahan (81.17%)
AUGUST	Fairview (96.38%)	Hanrahan (92.42%)	Hanrahan (77.48%)



There's Nothing Like Friendly Competition to Put Focus on Attendance

You can tell by the photo that **Jennings High School** is looking forward to claiming a trophy for themselves soon! At the March school board meeting, Dr. Knight acknowledged the high school students and staff who, despite their hybrid schedule (splitting virtual and in-person days), have exciting attendance numbers, which serves as a great indication of what we can do when we work together!



Congratulations to **Fairview and Hanrahan Elementary Schools** (photo above with trophies) for outstanding student and staff attendance in February 2026.

Upcoming Calendar Dates

Mark Your Calendars!

- April 3-6: NO SCHOOL – Spring Recess
- April 7: Election Day
- April 16: Jazz in the J - Friends of Jennings Reception, 6-9 p.m., Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel. [Click here for \\$30 tickets via Eventbrite.](#)
- May 18-21: Finals Week at High School
- May 21: End of 4th Quarter/Last Day of School
- May 22: Last Day for Teachers
- May 22: JHS Graduation
- May 25: District Closed - Memorial Day
- May 26-28: Possible Make-up Days
- August 8: District Jamboree for SY 2026-27. [Click here for booth registration.](#)
- August 24: First Day of School for SY 2026-27

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

Reminder: Spring Recess is Fri., April 3 & Mon., April 6

No School April 3 & 6 SPRING RECESS



**Jennings
School
District**

Reminder: Election Day is April 7

Three Board Members Seek New Terms on April 7

- > **Miranda Jones**
- > **Tammy Dailey**
- > **Margie Jones**



**Jennings
School
District**



Get Your "Jazz in the J" Tickets NOW on Eventbrite!

Friends of JSD Foundation

JAZZ IN THE J

Thursday, April 16



Tickets:
JazzInTheJ.eventbrite.com



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



**WARRIOR
WAY NEWS**

A Newsletter for the Jennings School District and Community

JSD Community Opt-In Form

The Jennings School District has launched a virtual Warrior Way newsletter with information for and about students, staff and community partners. If interested in receiving this newsletter via email, please complete the form below.

If you OPTED IN and want to discontinue / OPT OUT, simply note CANCEL in the Action Requested section. Thank you!

Questions? Please email Communications@jenningsk12.org

Jennings School District

www.jenningsk12.org

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