



WARRIOR WAY NEWS

ISSUE 8 - May 2026

A Newsletter for the Jennings School District and Community

Message from the Superintendent



Class of 2026 Nets More Than \$6M Scholarship Offers

The graduation of the Jennings High School Class of 2026 on May 22 was a beautiful culmination of 13 years of hard work, great fun and exciting milestones. Our 161 graduates earned more than **\$6 million in combined scholarship offers and thousands more in organizational honors**. This was a very productive and rewarding year and, as it unfolded, it became clear that our students also learned how to rise to a challenge. Despite a mid-term pivot to hybrid learning following the flood and temporary cyber threats that forced security upgrades, our students and teachers finished this year the way they started it—**they finished Warrior Strong!**

The ceremony was a beautiful display of color and creativity. Students proudly wore their memories and tributes on custom sashes, announced their future plans through cords honoring different disciplines and caps were emblazoned with life lessons and goals. Our students found every way they could to express themselves—their joy, spirit, pride and appreciation. We were a small group for the Chaifetz Arena, but the auditorium was filled with a sense of accomplishment. The arena lifted the voices of the school choir and yielded to the steps of the color guard. That's the kind of confidence and excitement we want our graduates to take out into the world.



At the beginning of the school year, we talked about the importance of building and nurturing personal and professional legacies. We encourage students to take all that we've given them as they go forward into their futures, but also leave something behind—something we all can continue to learn from and build upon.

For the class of 2026, their legacy is tied to their resilience, an important attribute in good times and in times of uncertainty and change. Despite the external challenges they have faced this year, or perhaps because of them, we believe this class is capable of handling whatever comes their way.

And, whatever roads they choose to travel in life, we—their teachers, coaches, counselors, social workers, administrators, parents and guardians—have cleared the path for them. **Today, their journeys begin.**

Thank you, **parents and guardians**, for entrusting your child's education to JSD and for actively taking part in events, activities and community engagement opportunities throughout the year. **Thank you, teachers and staff**, for helping our students embrace continuous learning, build on their strengths, find their voices, challenge themselves and embrace new experiences. We have seen many examples of this success over the past year.

And, finally, to the **JHS Class of 2026, we are proud of you and we** can't wait to see where your education takes you. Thank you for making every day a great day in the J.

In service together,
Dr. Paula D. Knight
Superintendent of Schools



The Jennings High School Class of 2026 Finishes Strong!



Congratulations to **Holly Cousins Special Friends Extended Scholarship** Winners (left to right, holding certificates): **Amiyah Jordan, Mariah Mosely, Cory Dixon, Jayden Coleman and Dorian Rhone**, flanked by College and Career Advisor **Dr. Bryon Thornton** and JHS Principal **Dr. Cryslynn C. Billingsley** (left) and Superintendent **Dr. Paula K. Knight** (far right).

Happenings in the “J”

Summer Learning has Begun!

In addition to personalized instruction on core subject areas like math, science and reading, Summer Learning will include custom field experiences. Some of these activities include visits to Missouri Department of Conservation, Berkeley Fire Department, Kitchen Conservatory and Saint Louis Art Museum. Our education and community partners help enhance learning opportunities through specialized programs that include Maryville University STEM Exploration, Saint Louis Chess Club, Healthy Kids Express (Asthma Mobile Unit through St. Louis Children's Hospital), MERS Goodwill and The Little Bit Foundation's Literacy and STEM program. New partner **Affinia Healthcare** will support Summer Learning by providing medical services in June at the Fairview Clinic. More information to come.



Summer Learning Shuttle Schedule

JSD's Summer Learning transportation will be provided. Best behavior and safety guidelines must be adhered to while boarding, riding and deboarding the bus. Failure to do so may result in the removal of bus riding privileges. Please see the schedule below:

AM Route KDG – 8th

7:45am	Bentwood Townhomes
8:00am	Woodland Elementary
8:05am	Hanrahan Elementary
8:10am	Huiskamp & Solway
8:15am	Fairview Elementary
8:20am	Jennings Jr. High

PM Route KDG – 8th

2:00pm	Jennings Jr. High
2:10pm	Fairview Elementary
2:15pm	Bentwood Townhomes
2:20pm	Woodland Elementary
2:25pm	Hanrahan Elementary
2:30pm	Huiskamp & Solway

High School AM Route

6:55am	Hamilton & Harney
7:00am	Emma & Hodiament
7:05am	Fairview Elementary
7:10am	College & Garesche
7:15am	Bentwood Townhomes
7:20am	Sunbury & Kinamore
7:25am	Huiskamp & Solway

Home Depot Donates Labor and Materials to Hope House 2

RJJHS Hope House 2 in Process - June 4, 2026



Rosemary Johnson Jennings Junior High

Hope House 2 Project Phase 1 (June 2022)



The Home Depot Foundation sent a six-person crew of construction experts for a day of work on June 4 with Mr. Michael Daughtery's eighth-graders at Rosemary Johnson Jennings Junior High (RJJJH). The student team is working on a second Hope House to provide housing for students in need while learning valuable work skills. The student team included Construction Foreman **Garrison Pounds**, along with **Christian Hardin**, **Jared Rogers** and **Jason Coopwood**. Watch for the expanded story in the next print issue of Warrior Way. In the meantime, please enjoy the video above. If you would like to help mentor or donate to the Hope House initiatives, contact jenningsk12.org/friendsofjennings for more details or to donate to the program.

Jumpstart Your Preschooler's Success

Enroll Now for FREE Early Childhood Education

The JSD Early Childhood team, led by **Director Mrs. Kimberly Wooden (Fairview)**, went door-to-door over the past two months to invite families with preschoolers to register for FREE full-day Preschool for the 2026-27 school year. The program runs Monday through Friday, 7:50 a.m. to 2:50 p.m. Certified Early Childhood teachers work to assess kindergarten readiness and provide students with the tools they need to succeed. JSD's Early Childhood Education locations are Fairview, Northview and Woodland Schools, with school assignments determined by home address and space availability. For more information, contact **Mrs. Michelle Reed, administrative assistant, at 314-653-8084**.



JSD's Early Childhood Education offers:

- FREE aftercare
- Meals & snacks
- Certified teacher & assistant in each classroom
- Interactive learning & kindergarten prep
- Brand-new indoor play space & sensory rooms on site
- Safe, comfortable & nurturing environment
- Developmental screenings to help determine placement



If you or a neighbor has a child who will be three years old by July 31 and fully potty trained, please visit jenningsk12.org/earlychildhood to enroll for fall 2026.

Give your preschooler a

JUMP!

**FREE full-day preschool
FREE aftercare**

- Meals & snacks provided
- Certified teacher & assistant in each classroom
- Interactive learning & kindergarten prep
- Brand new indoor play space & sensory rooms on site
- Safe, comfortable & nurturing environment

Eligible preschoolers must be:

- Three years old by July 31
- Fully potty trained

(Developmental screenings help determine placement.)

start to success!



ENROLL TODAY!

**Mrs. Reed
Administrative Assistant
314-653-8084**

**Early Childhood Education
7:50 AM to 2:50 PM
Monday - Friday**

Three Locations:

Fairview Primary School
7053 Emma Avenue

Northview Elementary School
8920 Cozens Avenue

Woodland Elementary School
8420 Sunbury Avenue

(School placement determined by home address and space availability.)

Enterprise Mobility Donates \$100,000

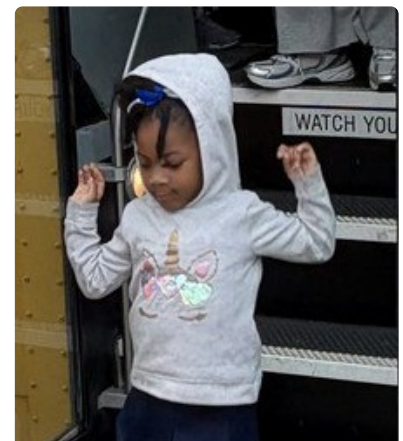


Enterprise Mobility has once again honored the Friends of Jennings School District Foundation with a \$100,000 donation to support some of the innovative work being done within the district.

Superintendent Dr. Paula Knight says, "We are most grateful to our partners at Enterprise Mobility, who are making it possible for our students to engage in impactful programs, opportunities and experiences that stimulate learning and growth and build confidence."

Last fall, Enterprise Mobility gifted funds that were used to purchase a new transportation shuttle (see photo) which has allowed students to comfortably attend events, competitions and academic classes at nearby colleges and universities.

Enterprise Mobility has held a longstanding partnership with the Friends of Jennings Foundation, providing support to students and key operational areas since 2017. "We are pleased to award this grant to the Friends of Jennings as part of our efforts to positively support and strengthen the communities where we live and work," said **Theresa Beldner, vice president of foundation operations for Enterprise Mobility**. "This is just



one example of our work to foster a culture of giving that helps us respond to natural disasters, steward the environment, and promote mobility opportunities.”

Jennings School Board Recognitions

Each month, the Jennings Board of Education recognizes schools for attendance and students for achievements. Please join us in congratulating our latest student achievers including new graduate Katelyn "Kaleo" Conlee, who, for the past year, served as student representative to the Board of Education.

Students of the Month



At the May 12 Board of Education meeting, the JSD community proudly congratulated three outstanding students for their shining examples of hard work and leadership. Congratulations to May's Students of the Month, **Serenity Hill**, prekindergartener at Northview Elementary; **Cameron Epps**, third-grader at Fairview Elementary; and **Katelyn "Kaleo" Conlee**, JHS Class of 2026! Congratulations and we will continue to expect great things from you going forward!

School Attendance Awardees

A huge round of applause as we celebrate our schools that were recognized at the May 12, 2026, Jennings Board of Education meeting for their commitment to being present and ready to learn during the month of April 2026! This month's attendance award winners are:

- ✓ **Rose Mary Johnson Jennings Junior High – 97.69% Staff Attendance**
- ✓ **Fairview Elementary School – 93.32% ADA (Average Daily Attendance)**
- ✓ **Woodland Elementary School – 76.89% 90/90 Attendance**

Attendance is a key building block for student success, and we are so proud of the staff and students at these schools for leading the way.

For MONTH of	STAFF ATTENDANCE	ADA ATTENDANCE	90/90 ATTENDANCE
APRIL	Junior High (97.69%)	Fairview (93.32%)	Woodland (76.89%)
MARCH	Northview (96.75%)	Woodland (93.32%)	Woodland (76.89%)
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%)

Upcoming Calendar Dates

Mark Your Calendars!

- June 1: First Day of Summer Learning Academy
- June 19: District Closed for Juneteenth Holiday
- June 25: Last Day of Summer Learning Academy
- July 3: District Closed for Independence Day Holiday
- Aug. 3-7: New Teacher Orientation
- Aug. 8: District Jamboree for SY 2026-27 ([Click here for table registration](#))
- Aug. 10: District Convocation for Staff, Collaborative Planning and Cultural/Climate
- Aug. 11-14: District Professional Learning
- Aug. 17-19: Building Orientation and Professional Learning
- Aug. 20-21: Teacher Workdays
- Aug. 24: First Day of School for SY 2026-27
- Sept. 7: Labor Day Holiday
- Sept. 14-18: Open House Week
- Nov. 23-27: Thanksgiving Break
- Dec. 21-Jan. 4: Winter Break and J Readiness Day
- March 22-29: Spring Break
- May 27: Last Day of School for Students

2026-2027 DISTRICT CALENDAR (Approved May 12, 2026)

	July 2026	August 2026
Aug 3-7	New Teacher Orientation	
Aug 8	District Jamboree	
Aug 10	District Convocation/Collaborative Planning/Culture & Climate	
Aug 11-14	District Professional Learning	
Aug 17-19	Building Orientation/Professional Learning	
Aug 20-21	Teacher Work Days	
Aug 24	First Day of School for Students	
Sept 7	Labor Day Holiday	
Sept 14-18	Open House Week	
Sept 19	Half Day for Students - Professional Learning (Building)	
Oct 16	End of First Quarter (29 days)/Professional Learning	
Oct 16	Half Day for Students - Professional Learning (District)	
Oct 19 - 22	Parent Teacher Conference Week (Oct. 22: 3:30pm-7:30pm)	
Nov 13	Half Day for Students - Professional Learning (Building)	
Nov 23-27	Thanksgiving Break	
Dec 18-19	End of Second Quarter (40 days)	
Dec 21-Jan 4	Winter Break	
Jan 4	Blackout Date: New 13	
Jan 5	J Readiness Day	
Jan 5	Students Return to School	
Jan 18	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday	
Feb 5	Half Day for Students - Professional Learning (District)	
Feb 15	Presidential Day Holiday	
Mar 12	Blackout Date: Jan. 4, Feb. 5	
Mar 12-19	End of Third Quarter (47 days)	
Mar 22-29	Parent Teacher Conference Week (Mar. 26: 3:30pm-7:30pm)	
Apr 16	Spring Break	
Apr 16	Half Day for Students - Test Prep/ Instructional Planning (Building)	
May 24-27	Finals Week	
May 27	Last Day of School for Students (48 days)	
May 27	Teacher Work Days	
May 28	Graduation	
June 1-4	Make-Up Days (37 hours)	
June 7-July 1	Extended School Year	
June 14-July 9	Should Make-Up Days Be Used	

Legend
Blue Blackout Day
Orange Professional Learning
Red No School (Breaks/Holidays)
Yellow End of Quarter
Green Extended School Year/Summer School
Pink Half Day for Students - Professional Learning

The calendar may be adjusted during the school year to ensure compliance with state law.

Half Day Dismissal Time:
11:30 am for all students

[Click here for printable 2026-27 JSD District Calendar.](#)

District Closed



June 19, 2026

Annual Back-to-School Jamboree: August 8 at Gore



The 2026-27 Jennings Back-to-School Jamboree is set for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 8 on the Gary Gore Campus (NEW LOCATION!) This year's FREE event for the Jennings community promises to be even bigger and better than ever with free backpacks, school supplies and immunizations. Family-friendly entertainment includes arts and crafts, music, prizes, food, fun and more! Note to school clubs, activities and others interested in participating with a table: Please help organizers by registering early at <https://bit.ly/JSD-Jamboree-Table-2026>.

School Year 2026-27 Starts Aug. 24!



We realize that some of you may have missed prior issues of our monthly e-news publications. To catch up on ALL the news, please check out our new website at www.JenningsK12.org/WWNews.

To submit tips for upcoming news stories, please email them to communications@JenningsK12.org. Thank you!

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

