



WARRIOR WAY NEWS

ISSUE 5 - February 2026

A Newsletter for the Jennings School District and Community

Message from the Superintendent

Celebrating Black Excellence Year-Round



February is traditionally noted as Black History Month and celebrated in various ways across the globe. While we are excited to pay tribute to those men and women who have been historically underappreciated or simply overlooked, I also want to ensure that these lessons are integrated through our curriculum, year-round, building a deeper and more lasting understanding for all students.

Throughout this month we have profiled black excellence on our social media (Facebook and Instagram) and marquee campaigns called, "Celebrating Black Excellence." We featured inventors, scientists, civil rights activists, entertainers and others—those whose legacies have endured as well as those whose accomplishments may have faded or been lost over the decades.

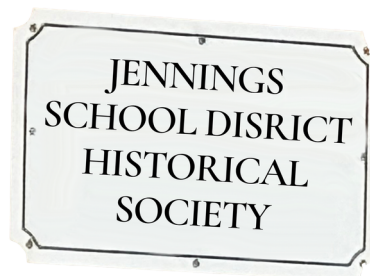
By telling and retelling these stories, we show our students what is possible. Our young people, of all races, will not know what is possible unless we **teach** them, **show** them and **provide** experiences that help level the playing field by convincing them that **they, too, can do great things**. See our campaign unfold at bit.ly/JSD2026BHM.

In the Jennings School District, in order to fairly represent American history, we will happily teach and celebrate Black History Month in February and throughout the other eleven months of the year.



You can also learn more about the African Americans who contributed directly to the history of the Jennings community by visiting the **JSD Historical Society in the Gary Gore Building**, open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesdays or email lindaschmerber@swbell.net for an appointment.

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



Happenings in the "J"

Jennings High School Update

As we work towards a "full return" to in-person classes at Jennings High School, hopefully later this spring, please be assured we will keep you informed of our progress. Over the past few months, we have been addressing the challenges caused by a broken water pipe in the school cafeteria that damaged nearby classrooms, auditorium and gymnasium. The hybrid schedule has helped to keep programs moving by limiting the number of students in the building at one time. We are making great progress in the restoration. Even so, it is very likely that once we return, we will still be working on some construction repairs. Watch for more details to come via email to families or online at jenningsk12.org/JHSReturn.



Please note, the JHS Athletics Department will continue to host games in the E-Gym for the remainder of this school year.

Get Food For Thought at MSIP6 Cafe

According to Dr. Monica Barnes-Boateng, director of assessment and data, the February 26 meeting is one you won't want to miss. "Our Community Learning topic for February is the **Annual Performance Report**, the Missouri Department of Education's performance report on progress to date," she said. "Jennings is fully accredited. We continue to strive to stay ahead of the curve despite the challenges of a changing assessment plan."

Dr. Boateng says parents are invited to come and learn about the process, which has gone through many changes over the years. "We will show you how our students performed, point out our successes and challenges, then walk you through our plans to personalize education to serve the specific needs of each student," she said. "Most importantly, you will have an opportunity to ask questions. We want to work together to ensure every student's pathway to success."



There is no cost for the seminar. In addition, every **MSIP6 Community of Learners Cafés** includes dinner and prize opportunities! Register now at www.JenningsK12.org/MSIP6Cafe.

Indoor Playground is a Hit with Preschoolers



...And with our Superintendent of Schools!

As early childhood students scrambled to get to their new indoor playground, one child exclaimed, "We have our own Chuck E. Cheese!"

Indeed, the 3,000-square-foot play space, with brightly colored walls and murals, and soft landing padded flooring, does rival the look and feel of a Chuck E. Cheese. The difference is, this playground ensures all of the District's Early Childhood Education (ECE) students the chance to stretch their legs, minds and imaginations—rain or shine.



Superintendent Dr. Paula Knight explained that when extra space was cleared at Fairview, the playground was her first thought. "It's important that we provide our youngest students with outlets that encourage them to explore freely and play without any environmental concerns."

Fairview Principal Dr. Shaire Duncan says the state-of-the-art play space will serve all early childhood students in the District, including classes at Northview and Woodland. "This new addition to our district's developmental program is an invaluable learning adventure for three- to five-year-olds. It was also given the 'thumbs up' by several of our instructors who couldn't resist climbing aboard! Just as importantly, the playground is a testament to the importance our administration places on Early Childhood Education."

ECE instructor Kimberly Wooden added, "ECE is the jumpstart that children need to become kindergarten-ready. The strength of our instruction and programming is now a critical part of a

child's growth and development."

FREE Early Childhood Education enrollment opened in January for Jennings School District's young residents who will be three or four years old by July 31. Students must be potty-trained. Apply online at JenningsK12.org or call 314-653-8084. Space is limited.



UP, UP and AWAY! Students Prepare to Travel

Six Students Head to L.A. for Live Nation Immersive Experience

Six Jennings Senior High School students have been selected to participate in an exclusive opportunity sponsored by JSD and Live Nation, an international promoter of live performances. Live Nation's Immersive Experience in Los Angeles will take place over spring break in March. It is being funded by the District and offered at no cost to students or families. The students will go behind the scenes and have face-to-face meetings with company CEOs and UCLA staff. The whole experience is designed to help students understand the career and educational options available to them in a variety of entertainment pathways. Three District chaperones, Dr. Monica Barnes-Boateng (assessment), Stephanie Grice (executive secretary) and Corey Hellems (facilities) will accompany the students throughout the journey.



ECA Students Explore Western Europe

The annual Early College Academy (ECA) trip this year will have students and chaperones traveling to Western Europe during spring break, following in the footsteps of those who were part of the African American diaspora. In addition to visiting educational and cultural sites, the group, led by Dr. Debbie Jones-Fowler (ECA) and chaperones, students will learn more about why this part of the world held so much interest and opportunity for African Americans. They will also study the positive impact African Americans had on entertainment, literature, art, science and European culture.
(Photo from SY 2024-25 ECA trip.)



Starfish Honoree: Making a Difference One Child at a Time

I AM BEAUTIFUL BECAUSE...



Jennings paraprofessional **Donald Stanley** began the school day, as usual, walking into an elementary classroom filled with students shouting his name on Feb. 5, 2026. By noon, however, they had something new to celebrate. During a surprise presentation with Jennings School District and Special School District staff, Stanley learned he is one of eight recipients of the 2026 Starfish Awards, presented by the Special Education Foundation. The annual award honors educators who make a difference in the lives of students.



More than 90 nominations were submitted this year. Stanley was selected for the strong connections he builds with the students he serves. Nominated by a co-worker, Stanley celebrated the honor by calling his mother. "Mom, you won't believe what just happened!" he said.

Surrounded by teammates and District administrators, Stanley marked the moment with a celebration he will not forget.

Superintendent Dr. Paula Knight congratulated him on what she called a well-deserved honor. "Donald, thank you for all you do. We are all so proud of you," Knight said.

Star Football Player Jeremy Ingram is Heading to Iowa

Jeremy Ingram Signing Day - 020426





JHS Warrior's Football Defensive Back **Jeremy Ingram** is surrounded on Feb. 4, 2026, by family and friends as he signed his 2026 letter of intent to attend and play football for **Morningside University in Sioux City, Iowa**, in the fall. **AD Marlos Reynolds** and **Head Football Coach Darrell Green** congratulated Jeremy on his tenacity and commitment.

Jeremy's Grandma is proud of his Fall 2025 Class 4 achievements: being named "All-State" by the Missouri Coaches Association, as well as First Team All-Conference for Suburban Conference Blue, First Team All-District and Third Team All-State.

Read-In Connects Fairview Students to History

Fairview elementary students celebrated African-American culture as part of the annual African-American Read-In. Principal **Dr. Shaire Duncan** and Event Coordinator **Rebecca Price Jones** welcomed more than 50 volunteers from all walks of life, including administrators and JHS student athletes! After receiving an orientation, readers were assigned to classes with age-appropriate and culturally significant books by African-American authors or others specializing in cultural exploration. The celebratory mood was set by colorful clothing and historical hall displays.





Early College Academy hosts
Celebrating Black Excellence
Feb. 27 Trivia Night
6–9 p.m. Gore Center **\$30 per seat**



VISIT BIT.LY/022726TRIVIA



Prop J is Underway

Check Out Prop J Updates at JenningsK12.org/PropJ

Thanks to the August 2024 passage of Prop J, districtwide improvements across the District are moving from planning to completion. Upgrades and installations include:

- New electronic marquees at each school
- New JSH scoreboards
- Enhanced security features
- Parking lot improvements
- New HVAC systems
- Building soft-washing
- Interior painting
- Flooring refreshes
- Upgraded water heaters and boilers

Prop J funds also supported the construction of a 3,000-square-foot Stay & Play indoor playground featured above.

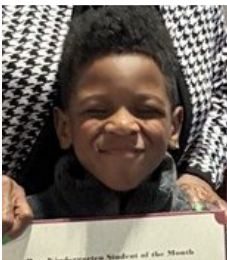
District leaders, teachers and students thank our community for its continued support. Learn more about these Prop J updates at www.JenningsK12.org/PropJ.



Jennings School Board Recognitions

Each month, the Jennings Board of Education recognizes schools for attendance and students of the month for achievements. January honorees were announced at the February Board meeting.

December 2025 - Students of the Month



Ariyon Johnson

Pre-Kindergarten

Fairview Elementary School



Jace Brown

8th Grade

Rose Mary Johnson
Jennings Junior High School



Andre'as Walker

12th Grade

Jennings High School

January 2026 - Students of the Month



Nova Gray

PreKindergarten

Woodland Elementary School

Kinsley Harden

1st Grade

Woodland Elementary School

Alecia Campbell

12th Grade

Jennings High School

School Attendance Awardees

For MONTH of	STAFF ATTENDANCE	ADA ATTENDANCE	90/90 ATTENDANCE
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%)

Despite transitioning to a hybrid schedule after winter break, **Jennings Senior High School** showed outstanding *virtual* attendance, earning an **honorable mention** for January 2026 with an average daily attendance rate of 98.99% and a 90/90 rate of 99.41%. A special thank you to the high school team who showed up and showed out, especially during these unusual circumstances



Upcoming Calendar Dates

Mark Your Calendars!

- Feb. 26: MSIP6 Cafe (5-6:30 p.m., Gore Center) [Click here to register for food count.](#)
- Feb. 27: ECA Trivia Night (6-9 p.m. Gore Center) [Click here for \\$30 ticket information](#)
- March 2: [National Read Across America Day](#)

- March 9-13: Conference Week
- March 12: End of 3rd Quarter (45 days)
- March 12: Parent Teacher Conferences (3:30-7:30 p.m.)
- March 13: NO SCHOOL – Parent Teacher Conferences (8-11 a.m.)
- March 16-20: NO SCHOOL – Spring Break
- March 26: MSIP6 Cafe (5-6:30 p.m., Gore Center) [Click here to register for food count.](#)
- April 3-6: NO SCHOOL – Spring Recess
- April 16: 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 HS
- May 21: End of 4th Quarter/Last day of School (42 days)
- May 22: Last Day for Teachers
- May 22: JSH Graduation
- May 25: Memorial Day
- May 26-28: Possible Make-up Days
- August 8: District Jamboree for SY 2026-27



Friends of JSD Foundation

JAZZ IN THE J

Thursday, April 16



Tickets:
JazzInTheJ.eventbrite.com

CELEBRATING BLACK EXCELLENCE



Learn more at

bit.ly/JSD2026BHM



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

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

