WARRIOR WAY NEWS

Approved ISSUE 11 - August 2026

A Newsletter for the Jennings School District and Community

Message from the Superintendent



Welcome to the 2026-27 school year!

Hello, I'm Dr. Paula Knight, the superintendent of Jennings School District. I'm thrilled to welcome you to the beginning of the 2026-27 school year.

Last year, we navigated some rough waters, literally, as we faced the aftermath of the high school flood. I am excited for our community to see the outcome of renovations that continued into the summer. Then in March, we thwarted a cyberattack, hired a forensic cybersecurity firm and strengthened safeguards around all digital equipment, programs and files.



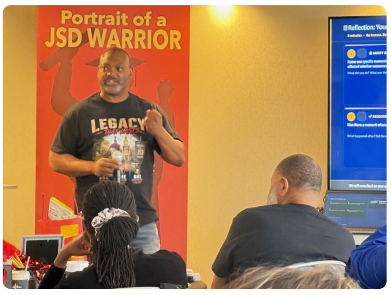
But, as I reminded our team at the Opening Day Convocation, "No good Captain ever prevailed on calm seas."

Although I just celebrated my fifth year in the district, I still feel the excitement of a brand new school year. I look forward to seeing the faces of our students and how they've grown in just a few weeks of summer. The annual back-to-school Jamboree was one of the largest in recent history! It was a great way to kick off the year for our students, family and staff.

Students left with backpacks, supplies, crafts and more; to make the start of the school year as smooth as possible for everyone, including our new teachers! This year, we're bringing all our resources to bear, including a large group of new teachers who will bring fresh insights, experience and energy to their new roles. A few will be stepping into a classroom for the very first time!



I’m energized and excited after a very productive administrative retreat (group photo below), where we spent three days discussing our opportunities, challenges, academic goals and student performance. You'll hear more about Personalized Competency-Based Learning (PCBL), Core Tier One Literacy, Multi-tiered System of Support (MTSS) and Data Literacy throughout the school year. It's our own particular formula for growth and achievement.





To learn more, I encourage you to check out our MSIP6 Café and dinner discussions (flier with dates is below). Our academic calendar (also below) is filled with events that will help you learn more about how to support your students’ success.

Jennings has everything a student needs to succeed, thanks to our unique resources, engaged parents and the support of committed partners who help us achieve our goals.

Together, we will make this year productive for all because–that's what we do! We add to our legacy each day; that's why **every day is a great day in the J!**



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

News Coverage for the First Day of School



Check out the news coverage from KMOV First Alert 4's morning reporter Haley Kerby (above) along with the early morning report by Fox 2 Now's Chris Regnier available on [Fox2now.com](Fox2now.com).



*This summer, the **JSD administrative team** participated in a productive **three-day retreat** focusing on institutional growth and academic excellence. During the intensive sessions, school district leaders collaborated to evaluate current opportunities, address systemic challenges and establish clear academic goals aimed at elevating overall student performance and success for the upcoming school year and beyond.*

Happenings in the "J"

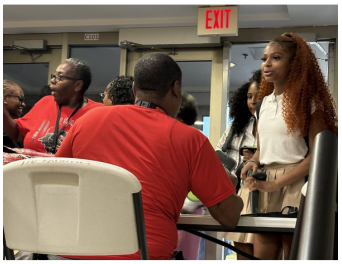
First Day of School at JSD



The JHS first-day welcoming committee included board members, partners, administrators, alumni and members of Alpha Phi Alpha, Epsilon Lambda and Alpha Kappa Alpha. Prior to the early-morning start of school, JHS Warrior basketball players came to check out their new main gym. Upon entering the school, JHS students picked up free clear backpacks and Yondr bags for storing their cell phones. Jennings was one of the first districts in the region to offer this solution for limiting cell phone use during class time.









Annual Back-to-School Jamboree: Wrap Up





The 2026-27 Jennings Back-to-School Jamboree on Saturday, Aug. 8 saw students, families, teachers and staff attending in record numbers, despite the sweltering heat! The Gary Gore campus offered a full range of fun, education and excitement with a gaming van, petting zoo, bubble bus, immunizations, physicals and more. Thanks to our partners, including the St. Louis County Police Department, the JSD team created one of the best events in recent years. Thanks again to everyone – attendees and partners – who shared in making this an amazing event for all.









Announcing Leadership Changes for Fall 2026



Dr. Lisa Gray, JHS Principal

Entering her fifth year with the Jennings High School Warrior family and more than 30 years of dedicated educational experience, **Lisa Gray, Ed.D.**, stepped into the role of **JHS principal**. After a year of strong growth in student attendance, instructional progress and positive behavior, we're expanding elite opportunities for every student through targeted character building. Dr. Gray encourages families and community members to partner with JHS, visit our campus, share improvement ideas and work together to ensure every student achieves or surpasses their personal goals.

Coach Rayshawn Simmons, Boys Basketball Coach



Jennings High School has named **Rayshawn Simmons** as its **new Head Coach for the Boys' Basketball program**, drawing on a leader with extensive professional playing and coaching experience. Before joining the Warriors, he played overseas and in the NBA Summer League, later coaching at Principia High School to a State Championship and assisting at Moberly. In this new role, he aims to build a pride-worthy program focused on developing disciplined, accountable and resilient student-athletes. He is excited to lead the team and utilize basketball as a tool to foster lifelong growth both on and off the court.

Jeff White, IT Director

With more than 24 years of experience in technology, including 13 years at JSD, **Jeffrey White** now serves as the District's new **director of information technology**. He was a scholar-athlete at Fort Zumwalt High School, worked for banks and nonprofits after high school and then in the gaming



industry. He joined JSD as a contractor and stepped up to system administrator two years later. As director of IT, he is responsible for managing the IT framework, cybersecurity, equipment troubleshooting, website development and staying on top of artificial intelligence (AI) trends. He plans to continue working hard to build relationships as he believes it will serve him well in his new role. “It's important not to concentrate on just 'closing a ticket,'" he said. “You must make sure the educator, staff person or student customer has everything needed to get the job done.”

District Launched New Website



The newly updated **JSD website** serves as a comprehensive digital hub designed to keep the school community connected and informed. The platform offers a wide range of resources, including back-to-school links, the **SRSN Data Dashboard** to track academic growth and up-to-date and archived **Warrior Way News**.

Parents are highly encouraged to explore these new digital tools, especially as the upcoming school year gets underway. Seamlessly utilize the **Infinite Campus** for Parent Portal to manage online student enrollment and school messages; review the online **Parent Handbook** with daily and emergency procedures and important **public notices and rights**; verify **Shuttle Routes and schedules** (Transportation), **School Supplies**, **Breakfast and Lunch Menus** (Food Services) and

reference the interactive **District Calendar** to ensure you never miss important district events. **Bookmark your favorite site** to stay actively involved in your child's educational journey.

Senior Day with the JSD Historical Society



"I'm Shirley Hart McInerney, and I was raised in Jennings all my life on Shirley Avenue… " began the conversation at the **JSD Historical Society's Senior Day on July 22**. Shirley traveled from Florida with a Fairview High classmate to share memories with 40 local senior citizens. Their visit included a tour of Shirley's family roots, highlighting her family's former dairy and a relative who worked for the city's founder.



The rewarding event catalyzed the relaunch of the **Historical Society**. Society President Yolanda Austin and her husband, Reverend Harold Austin, who serves as JSD Board of Education's vice president, now aim to bring more students and teachers into the space. Anyone can support these ongoing community history efforts through a $50 adult membership. Learn more about the organization at www.jenningsk12.org/community-partners/jennings-historical-society.

JHS Students Head to South Africa in Summer 2027

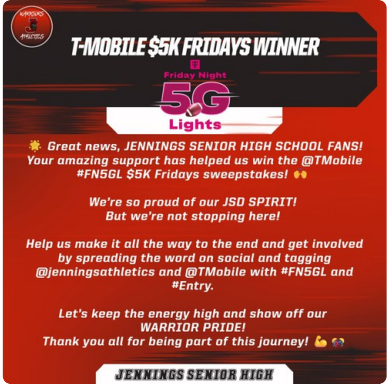


Early College Academy (ECA) students are preparing for the upcoming Jennings' signature travel-abroad program to **South Africa from June 2 to June 12, 2027.** This highly anticipated trip will introduce students to their first international flights, new cultures and unfamiliar cuisines. The immersive experience is designed to challenge their perspectives and deliver a life-changing adventure through deep cultural and historical exploration. Watch for more information to come, along with ways you can personally support these students. For more information, contact Debbie Jones-Fowler, Ed.D., at JonesFowlerD@JenningsK12.us.

JHS Athletic News Updates

- **Congratulations!** JHS Athletics team for being a **$5,000 weekly winner of the T-Mobile #FN5GL Friday Night 5G Lights sweepstakes**. Department officials are urging fans to keep sharing and tagging social media posts with #FN5GL and #Entry on all social media platforms to continue supporting the school throughout the competition.

- Mark your calendars for the Friday, October 16th **Homecoming football game** against McClure, which begins at 6 p.m. Tickets will be available via GOFAN (link).
- The **JHS Homecoming Parade** is scheduled for Saturday, October 17th. Watch for details to come.
- **JHS 2026-27 Season Passes** are available for purchase online through August 28, 2026, via GOFAN (link). Individual tickets are also available through this new ticketing app.



For more information on ticketing and game day expectations, along with links to follow JSD Athletics on various social media platforms, please visit www.jenningsk12.org/departments/athletics or check out more updates in the July 2026 Warrior Way eNews archived at www.jenningsk12.org/wwNews.

Upcoming Calendar Dates

Important 2026-27 District Calendar Dates!

- **Aug. 24: First Day of School for SY 2026-27**
- Aug. 28: J-Town Food Market @ Gore Center (1 p.m.)
- **Sept. 7: District Closed – Labor Day Holiday**
- Sept. 11: J-Town Food Market @ Gore Center (1 p.m.)
- **Sept. 14-18: Open House Week**
- Sept. 14: Board of Education Regular Meeting
- Sept. 24: First MSIP6 Cafe @ Gore Center (5-6:30 p.m.) RSVP
- **Sept. 25: Half Day for Students – Professional Learning (Building)**
- Sept. 25: J-Town Food Market @ Gore Center (1 p.m.)
- **Oct. 16: Half Day for Students – Professional Learning (District)**
- Oct. 16: Homecoming Game vs McClure (6 p.m.) GOFAN (ticket link)
- Oct. 17: Homecoming Parade
- **Oct. 19-22: Parent-Teacher Conference Week**
- **Oct. 22: Parent-Teacher Conference Meetings (3:30-7 p.m.)**
- **Nov. 13: Half Day for Students – Professional Learning (Building)**
- **Nov. 23-27: District Closed – Thanksgiving Break**
- **Dec. 14-18: Finals Week**
- **Dec. 18: End of Second Quarter / First Semester**
- **Dec. 21-Jan. 1: District Closed – Winter Break**
- **Jan. 4: No School for Students – J Readiness Day**
- **Jan. 5: Students Return to School**
- **Mar. 22-29: District Closed – Spring Break**
- **May 27: Last Day of School for Students**

Click here for printable 2026-27 JSD District Calendar Below

Click any flyer below to access and download the JPG version.

JENNINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Aug. 3-7	New Teacher Orientation
Aug. 8	Back To School 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
	Blackout Dates: Aug. 3 - Aug. 21
Sept. 7	Labor Day Holiday
Sept. 14-18	Open House Week
Sept. 25	Half Day for Students - Professional Learning (Building)
Oct. 16	End of First Quarter (39 days)/Homecoming Game
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. 14-18	Finals Week
Dec. 18	End of Second Quarter (40 days)
Dec. 21-Jan.1	Winter Break
	Blackout Dates: Nov. 13
Jan. 4	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	Presidents' Day Holiday
	Blackout Dates: Jan. 4, Feb. 5
Mar. 12	End of Third Quarter (47 days)
Mar. 15-19	Parent Teacher Conference Week **(Mar. 18: 3:30pm-7:30pm)**
Mar. 22-29	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 28	Teacher Work Day
May 28	Graduation
June 1-4	Make Up Days (If Needed)
June 7-July 1	Extended School Year
June 14-July 8	Should Make Up Days Be Used

July 2026

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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August 2026

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September 2026

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October 2026

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November 2026

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29	30					

December 2026

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27	28	29	30	31		

January 2027

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31						

February 2027

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28						

March 2027

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28	29	30	31			

April 2027

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 2027

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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June/July 2027

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

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 Student - Professional Learning

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

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

Dr. Paula D. Knight, *Superintendent of Schools*
Central Administration & Board of Education Office

2026-2027
Jennings School District Shuttle Bus Route

TIME	STOP
6:48 AM	HAMILTON & LENA
6:50 AM	(FIRE HYDRANT) REINEKE CT
6:52 AM	FAIRVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
6:54 AM	COLLEGE & GARESCHE
7:00 AM	JENNINGS SR HIGH
7:02 AM	JENNINGS JR HIGH
7:07 AM	BENTWOOD TOWNHOMES
7:10 AM	WOODLAND ELEMNTARY
7:13 AM	HANRAHAN ELEMENTARY
7:16 AM	JENNINGS SR HIGH
7:18 AM	JENNINGS JR HIGH
7:23 AM	SOLWAY & HUISKAMP
7:25 AM	SOLWAY & CLARION
7:27 AM	SOLWAY & ELLISON
7:30 AM	W. FLORISSANT & GAYLORD

TIME	STOP
7:32 AM	HAMILTON & LENA
7:33 AM	(FIRE HYDRANT) REINEKE CT
7:35 AM	FAIRVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
7:37 AM	COLLEGE & GARESCHE
7:40 AM	JENNINGS SR HIGH
7:42 AM	JENNINGS JR HIGH
7:47 AM	BENTWOOD TOWNHOMES
7:52 AM	WOODLAND ELEMNTARY
7:54 AM	SUNBURY & KINAMORE
7:56 AM	HANRAHAN ELEMENTARY
8:00 AM	JENNINGS JR HIGH
8:05 AM	JENNINGS SR HIGH

TIME	STOP
2:55 PM	LEAVING JENNINGS SR HIGH
3:00 PM	(FIRE HYDRANT) REINEKE CT
3:03 PM	FAIRVIEW ELEMENTARY
3:05 PM	EMMA & COLLEGE
3:07 PM	COLLEGE & GARESCHE
3:10 PM	7048 BEULAH
3:15 PM	HAMILTON & GARESCHE
3:22 PM	BENTWOOD TOWNHOMES
3:27 PM	WOODLAND ELEMENTARY
3:29 PM	SUNBURY & AVIE
3:31 PM	HANRAHAN ELEMENTARY
3:34 PM	HUISKAMP & SOLWAY
3:36 PM	SOLWAY & ELLISON
3:41 PM	BENTWOOD TOWNHOMES

TIME	STOP
3:46 PM	JENNINGS SR HIGH
3:48 PM	JENNINGS JR HIGH
3:53 PM	HUISKAMP & SOLWAY
3:55 PM	SOLWAY & ELLISON
4:00 PM	BENTWOOD TOWNHOMES
4:07 PM	JENNINGS SR HIGH
4:09 PM	JENNINGS JR HIGH
4:14 PM	HUISKAMP & SOLWAY
4:16 PM	SOLWAY & ELLISON
4:21 PM	BENTWOOD TOWNHOMES
4:28 PM	HAMILTON & GARESCHE
4:31 PM	(FIRE HYDRANT) REINEKE CT
4:33 PM	FAIRVIEW ELEMENTARY
4:35 PM	EMMA & COLLEGE
4:37 PM	COLLEGE & GARESCHE
4:39 PM	7135 GARESCHE
4:43 PM	SUNBURY & KINAMORE
4:45 PM	KINAMORE & MCLARAN AVE
4:47 PM	COLLEGE & MAIN ST



Portrait of a JSD Warrior

2559 Dorwood Drive, Jennings, MO 63136 Phone: (314) 653-8000 Fax: (314) 653-8030

Jennings School District
J Town Food Market

Distribution Dates | 2026-2027

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

REMINDER

Thursday, June 11, 2026
@ 10:00 AM
Thursday, June 25, 2026
@ 10:00 AM

Market Dates

August 14, 2026
August 28, 2026
September 11, 2026
September 25, 2026
October 09, 2026
October 23, 2026
November 13, 2026
November 20, 2026
December 11, 2026
December 18, 2026

January 08, 2027
January 22, 2027
February 12, 2027
February 26, 2027
March 12, 2027
March 19, 2027
April 09, 2027
April 23, 2027
May 14, 2027

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



FIRST COME–FIRST SERVED

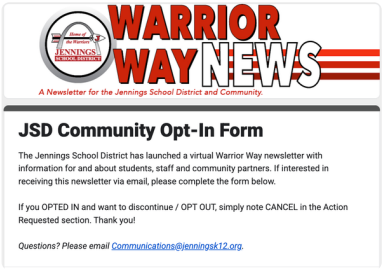
GARY GORE COMMUNITY CENTER
2545 Dorwood Drive
Jennings, MO 63136

Questions? Contact:
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(314) 653-7810
hitel@jenningsk12.org
www.jenningsk12.org





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**.



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

Jennings School District
www.jenningsk12.org

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