



WARRIOR WAY NEWS

ISSUE 7 - April 2026

A Newsletter for the Jennings School District and Community

Message from the Superintendent

Spring Has Sprung and Summer is Coming Fast

As we transition into the spring testing season and prepare for year-end exams, our focus is also shifting toward an exciting summer and fall. This newsletter includes highlights from the past month, along with some wonderful news regarding our future.

I am thrilled to announce that several of our **school board** members have officially renewed their oath of office. Additionally, six of our **district leaders** have accepted new positions for the upcoming school year. The high school **students have returned** to their school to find beautiful renovations to some of the flooded areas.



As you enjoy the latest stories in this month's edition of the **Warrior Way**, I encourage you to watch the featured videos through to the end—there are a few wonderful surprises waiting for you!

It is heartening to see our community embrace this newsletter so warmly. We are eager to continue growing our readership to ensure everyone stays connected and informed about the great things happening in the J. Please feel free to share this edition with your friends and family.

I also want to sincerely thank our students, parents, staff and neighbors for their dedication. On behalf of our students, **thank you** for your ongoing partnership and everything that you do in service for our children and our families—it's what makes every day a **Great Day in the J!**

In service together,

Dr. Paula D. Knight

Superintendent of Schools

P.S. As this school year winds down and we prepare for next year, I ask that you please save the date and join us for our annual **Back-to-School Jamboree** on Aug. 8, 2026.



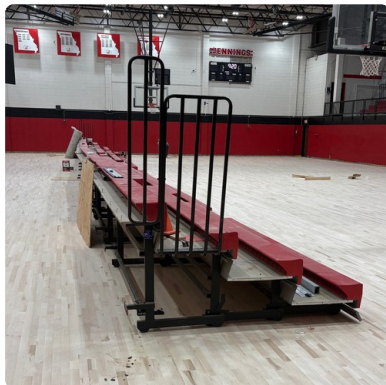
JHS Returns to Building After Winter-Break Flood

We're Back!

After four months of hybrid learning following December's devastating flood, all 700 Jennings Senior High students will return to their classrooms for in-person instruction this Thursday, April 23, just in time to finish this school year JHS-strong and start state tests next week!

"I'm so proud of our students and teachers for their resilience and support throughout this process," Superintendent Dr. Knight said.

"The flood was an unprecedented crisis that kept us in a state of uncertainty for four months. The upside is we are now returning to a space that, in many ways, looks brand new."



We are excited to welcome everyone back to a refreshed campus featuring:

- Brand new red, white and black floor tiling in hallways and classrooms.
- A modern, industrial-style Commons and school kitchen (serving area is still in process).
- A state-of-the-art floor with triple-layer protection in the A-gym.

Huge thanks to our students, parents, staff and partners, including Jennings PD and First Onsite, for their resilience and support. For more details, visit www.jenningsk12.org/JHSreturn to read the full news release.

Congratulations!

Six New Administrative Appointments for SY 2026-27



Dr. Monica
Barnes-Boateng



Dr. Curtese
Howard-Holmes



Ms. Alisha
Shannon



Dr. Ann Shaw



Ms. Jaclyn Overbey



Ms. Kay Gage

This week, Superintendent Dr. Knight announced the appointment of six rising stars in the Jennings School District to critical leadership roles for the 2026-27 school year.

"I am incredibly proud of these individuals," Dr. Knight said. "Their expertise and commitment will be instrumental in strengthening our academic performance in key areas across the district."

Dr. Monica Barnes-Boateng, director of assessment and data accepted the position of Chief Academic Officer. **Dr. Curtese Howard-Holmes**, principal of Rose Mary Johnson Jennings Junior High School, will move to Executive Director of School Leadership. **Ms. Alisha Shannon**, instructional coordinator for mathematics at RJJJH, will be responsible for the development and training of mathematics instruction districtwide as the K-12 Mathematics Specialist. **Dr. Ann Shaw**, curriculum and instruction/special projects, will focus on reading instruction as the Literacy Curriculum Coordinator. **Ms. Jaclyn Overbey**, third-grade teacher at Fairview Elementary School, will be working closely with first- and third-year teachers as PT Instructional Coach. **Ms. Kay Gage**, student information specialist, will serve as Core Data Specialist, responsible for overseeing the Infinite Campus tracking and recording system and reporting data directly to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Happenings in the "J"

Board Members Take Oath of Office & Elect Officers

Oath of Office for Jennings Board of Education: April 13, 2026



At the April 13, 2026, Board of Education meeting, Rev. Harold Austin facilitated the "Oath of Office" to three Jennings Board members who were re-elected on April 7. Tammy Dailey, Margie Jones and Miranda Walker Jones were sworn in to three-year terms.

The Board held the election of new officers and the results of the unanimous votes are as follows:

- Miranda Walker Jones, President
- Rev. Harold Austin, Vice President
- Tammy Dailey, Treasurer
- Yvonne Fortman, Secretary

Thank you to our Board of Education for your ongoing dedication and service to the children and families of the Jennings School District community!

Board Honors First Responder to JHS Flood



In the wee hours of Dec. 22, St. Louis County Police Officer JohnPaul Werner was patrolling through Jennings when he noticed water running in the street. He tracked the water back to the high school and immediately sounded the alarm. Officer Werner received a standing ovation at the April 13 school board meeting, where he was acknowledged publicly for his quick action.

Superintendent Dr. Knight said, "Although we are still dealing with the aftermath of the flood, it could have been 10 times worse had you not been as observant and vigilant as you were." She added, "Some people would see a puddle and keep going, but you didn't. You tracked it right back to the high school and made the call. On behalf of the Board, our high school students and the entire District, we thank you and we appreciate you for your support."



Student Council Rises to the GOLD Standard - AGAIN!



Congratulations to the Jennings Senior High Student Council and their dedicated coordinator, ELA teacher **Andrea N. Hayes, M.Ed.** We are thrilled to announce that the JSD StuCo has been named as a 2026 National Gold Council of Excellence by the [National Association of Student Councils \(NASC\)](#).



This prestigious award recognizes our students' high standards of leadership, innovation and community service. From hosting the Special Olympics to raising \$200 for the American Cancer Society, the JSD council leads with heart. They also continue to make an impact through signature programs that support our teachers, administrators and student voters.

We are incredibly proud of their hard work. Join us in celebrating our student leaders!

Student Council Helps District Host Special Olympics

On April 15, Superintendent Dr. Knight and members of the Jennings Student Council were proud to host the annual Special Olympics on the Jennings High School track. JHS leaders were paired with Special Olympic student-athletes from across the region. The young athletes were excited to compete in events that inspired personal greatness while fans cheered wildly!



Heavy Lifting, Big Rewards from Club Fitness



Club Fitness Awards \$10k in Scholarships to HS Seniors

The Club Fitness marketing team, led by Matt Bohn, presented seniors **Amiyah Jordan** and **Dazayvion Henderson** with \$5,000 scholarships in honor of the Club's ongoing partnership in health, wellness and fitness for our students. Club Fitness is also the sponsor of the new, state-of-the-art weight room at Jennings High School!

Isaac Bruce & Ameren Surprise Two JHS Seniors

On April 30, Pro Football Hall of Famer Isaac Bruce surprised JHS graduating seniors **Jayden Coleman** and **Mariah Mosley** with \$5,000 checks from the Isaac Bruce Foundation's annual scholarship fund. Bruce started his scholarship in St. Louis in 2008 after playing for the Rams for 14 seasons, and partnered with Ameren's grant program in 2015 to support students with opportunities to access quality education. Jayden shared with a KMOV News 4 reporter that the funding brings him closer to choosing his ideal school, while Mariah said that it will help her pursue a career in fashion. To learn more, visit isaacbruce.org.



Walk It Out with Dr. Knight: A Healthy Day in the J



On Thursday, April 30, more than 100 Jennings students, staff and neighbors stepped up to the challenge to "Walk It Out with Dr. Knight."

Sponsored by the District's **Health and Wellness Committee**, this annual community stroll highlights the importance of staying active and healthy.

It was a great afternoon of fitness and fresh air, proving that wellness is a team effort in the J!

Early Childhood Director Extraordinaire 2026 Nominee

Fairview's **Kimberly Wooden** has been nominated by a committee of nonprofit educational organizations for the honor of 2026 Early Childhood Director Extraordinaire! Wooden will be acknowledged at a ceremony on May 17 at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Win or not, she is an extraordinary resource for the children of Jennings.

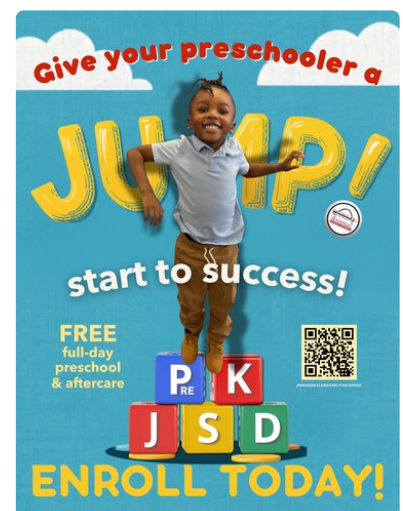


Congratulations from our committee: Limitless Horizons, LUME Institute, Nine PBS, RISE, Ready Readers, SouthSide Early Childhood Center, St. Louis Public Library, St. Louis Community College, St. Louis County Library, Gateway Early Childhood Alliance, Divine Events, Turn the Page STL, United 4 Children and Urban Sprouts!

JSD PreK: Now Open to Everyone & Still 100% Free

The Jennings School District is accepting preschool applications from residents and nonresidents for its free early childhood program. The full-day, Monday through Friday program includes after-school care, meals and snacks. Classrooms are staffed by certified teachers and assistants using advanced techniques to prepare 3-, 4- and 5-year-olds for kindergarten. Facilities include an indoor playground and sensory rooms.

Applicants must be potty-trained, age 3 years old by July 31 and parents must provide transportation. Spots are limited for the summer and fall semesters. To enroll, call Mrs. Reed at 314-653-8084 or visit jenningsk12.org/EarlyChildhood for more details.



A Night of Connection and Growth for SSD Families

JSD SSD Family Resource Fair - April 21, 2026

Family Engagement Resource Fair

Held April 21, 2026
at The Gary Gore Center



Learn more at www.JenningsK12.org/SSD



A special event for JSD families receiving SSD services to ask questions & get answers to meet their child's needs.

Thank you to the SSD families and staff who joined us for the Family Engagement Resource Fair on April 21. The Gary Gore Center was filled with energy as families gathered to connect, learn and discover resources tailored to their children's needs. It was a wonderful evening of collaboration where parents found meaningful insights and answers while students enjoyed engaging activities and snacks. Your participation is what makes our community stronger. We are grateful for your continued support.



Please watch the video above to see highlights from the event and **stay tuned until the very end for a special message from some of the student-travelers!**



SSD & Special Education Foundation Inspire Futures

SSD and the Special Education Foundation honored JHS student **Erica Buckley**, who also attends SSD's North Tech High School, with a scholarship during the April 23 Inspiring Futures annual event to celebrate SSD student achievers. The event's awards and scholarships honor perseverance, growth and the bright possibilities ahead for students with disabilities by bringing

together students, families, educators and supporters to recognize and inspire while reaffirming their commitment to helping students pursue their dreams beyond high school.

SSD Starfish Awardee - Donald Stanley

Congratulations to Hanrahan paraprofessional **Donald Stanley** (photo center), who was selected for the **Special School District Foundation's Starfish Award** (Starfishawards.org). An awards ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, June 11, from 6 to 9 p.m. at The Reverie STL in Chesterfield. [Click here to read the expanded story about his recognition in our February 2026 enews issue.](#)



Congratulations to Senior Mariah Mosely!

Congratulations to senior **Mariah Mosely** on being selected as a Missouri Association of Student Council Distinguished Leader! This award recognizes students who demonstrate superior student council leadership skills and knowledge.

Mariah was also selected to assist the production team with the 2026 MASC State Conference, which occurred in Branson, Mo., during Spring Break.



Sharp Named St. Louis Post-Dispatch Teacher of the Month

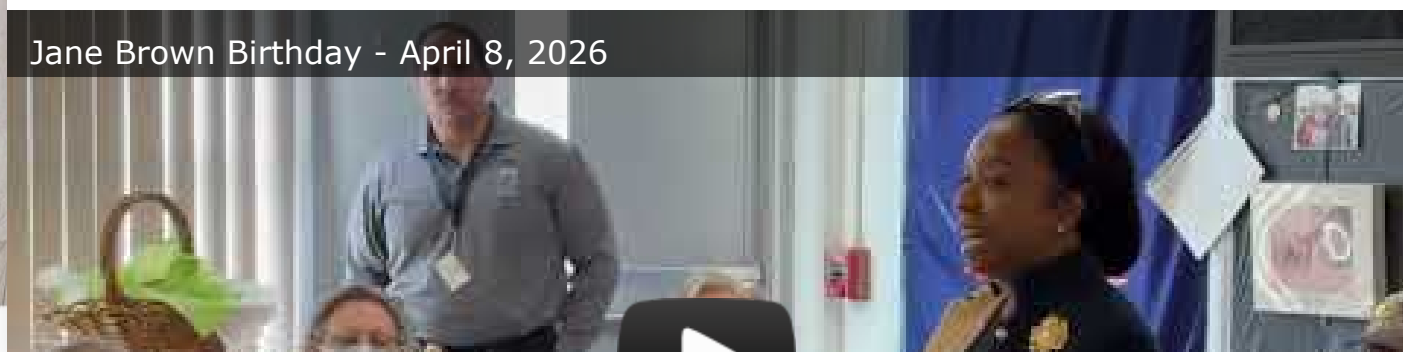


Congratulations to **Brian Sharp**, second-grade teacher at Northview Elementary (Shown with Principal DeShonda Payton), who has been named St. Louis Post-Dispatch Teacher of the Month for April 2026! Mr. Sharp will receive a \$250 Target gift card and be featured in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. [Click here to read the STLtoday.com story.](#)

Here's a brief excerpt from his nomination: "In a grade level that is foundational to students' academic confidence and love of learning, he consistently goes above and beyond to ensure every child feels seen, supported and capable of success."

JSD Historical Society Celebrates Ms. Jane Brown's Birthday

Jane Brown Birthday - April 8, 2026





Celebrating **Ms. Jane Brown's** 90th birthday on April 8, **JSD Historical Society President Yolanda Austin** presented a \$2,000 donation to Superintendent Dr. Knight to benefit the Friends of JSD Foundation. This gift honors Ms. Brown's lifelong commitment to Jennings youth and ensures continued support for our students' essential needs.

Watch the brief video above to see and hear Dr. Knight's heartfelt thank you to Ms. Brown and the Historical Society for their generosity and dedication to our community's legacy.



Please consider supporting our mission by donating to the [Friends of JSD Foundation](https://www.jenningsk12.org/friendsofjennings) at <https://www.jenningsk12.org/friendsofjennings> or connecting with the [Jennings Historical Society](https://www.facebook.com/jenhs) at <https://www.facebook.com/jenhs>.

Successful Friends of Jennings for "Jazz in the J"



Phones were flying up the second **Tim Cunningham** and his band hit the stage at Jazz in the J on April 16! What an incredible night of music and community. We loved seeing the **JHS marching band** bring that signature energy to the room at the Renaissance Hotel! A massive thank you to everyone who supported the **Friends of Jennings School District Foundation** in making the evening

a sold-out success and culminating another Great Day in the J. Donations to support the Friends of JSD Foundation are accepted year-round at www.jenningsk12.org/FriendsOfJennings.

Please check out the video above, which was presented during the event. It showcases the generous donation from the Jennings Historical Society, as well as highlights two student groups' excursions abroad that were supported by Foundation funding. Be sure to watch until the end to hear the students share, in their own words, just how much these experiences meant to them.



Leading Learners Student Café



If you could design the perfect school for students, what would it look like? That was the question posed to a group of student leaders who attended the **Leading Learners Student Café** on April 2.

Student Data Specialist **Kay Gage** and Director of Assessment and Data **Dr. Monica Barnes-Boateng** brought together students from across the district for a creative brainstorming session and working lunch.

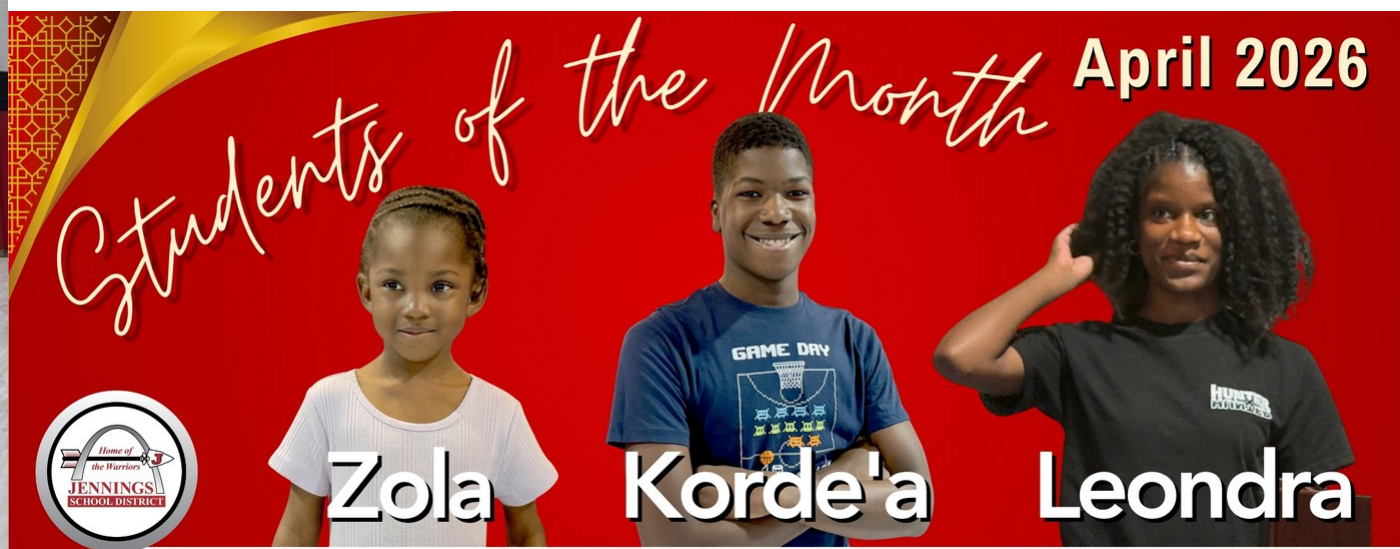
Dr. Boateng said, "We have a tradition of bringing our students together three or four times a year just to brainstorm and to hear some of their ideas on how we can make schooling better. The discussion is always energizing, and more often than that, we take away ideas that are later implemented in class."

Ms. Gage said, "In fact, the idea for the adult community learning cafés came from one of the student learner brainstorms."

Jennings School Board Recognitions

Each month, the Jennings Board of Education recognizes schools for attendance and students of the month for achievements.

Students of the Month



From our youngest learners to our graduating seniors, JSD is proud to celebrate these outstanding students for their shining example of hard work and leadership. Congratulations and keep up the amazing work! This month's students of the month are (left to right above) **Zola Sanders**, a prekindergartener at Fairview Elementary School; **Korde'a Haynes**, a sixth grader at Northview Elementary, and **Leondra Howard**, a senior at Jennings High School.

School Attendance Awardees

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

Attendance Awards

April 2026



Northview & Woodland

A huge round of applause as we celebrate our schools that were recognized at the April 13, 2026, Jennings Board of Education meeting for their commitment to being present and ready to learn during the month of March 2026! This month's attendance award winners are:

- ✓ **Woodland* – 93.32% ADA (Average Daily Attendance)**
- ✓ **Woodland* – 76.89% 90/90 Attendance**
- ✓ **Northview – 96.75% Staff 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.

**First-time awardee this year!*

National Teacher Appreciation Week

May 4-8, 2026

#ThankATeacher



Upcoming Calendar Dates

Mark Your Calendars!

- May 4-8: Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 8: Summer Learning Academy Registration Closes
(Please check with your home school for more information.)
- May 18-21: Finals Week at HS
- May 21: End of 4th Quarter/Last Day of School
- May 22: Last Day for Teachers

- May 22: JHS Graduation
- May 25: District Closed for Memorial Day Holiday
- May 26-28: Possible Make-up Days
- 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
- August 8: District Jamboree for SY 2026-27 ([Click here for table registration](#))
- August 24: First Day of School for SY 2026-27

Registration is Open for Summer Learning Academy 2026

JSD's Summer Learning Academy 2026 is scheduled for Monday through Thursday, June 1 to June 25. Elementary sessions are from 8:50 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Fairview and Northview. The Junior High session will run at the same time. The Senior High offers two sessions: 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and noon to 4 p.m. Registration remains open through May 8. In addition to classroom instruction, students participate in field trips to the Missouri Department of Conservation to learn about fishing and to the Saint Louis Art Museum. To support student wellness, Affinia Healthcare will be on-site to provide required immunizations and physical exams. Families interested in enrolling their children may contact their home school for more information.



JSD Summer Learning Academy
is FREE for EVERYONE!

K-12 Students
Enroll Now for Summer Learning!

June 1 - June 25, 2026
Monday - Thursday
No School on Fridays

It's FUN, it's FREE
and seats are filling FAST!

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Personalized Lesson Plans
- Refine Skills in Core Subjects
- STEM Exploration Activities
- College Prep/Credits
- Field Trips
- Special Guest Appearances
- Sports & Recreation
- Arts & Crafts
- Daily Breakfast
- FREE to Jennings Students!

Elementary:
8:50 AM-2:00 PM
Fairview/Northview

Junior High:
8:50 AM-2:00 PM

Senior High:
7:30 AM-11:30 AM
or
12:00 PM-4:00 PM

Contact your home school office
for more information

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

Having **Warrior Way News** 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

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.

Please submit tips for upcoming news stories to communications@jenningsk12.org. Thank you!

Jennings School District

www.jenningsk12.org

Find our social media and other important links via linktr.ee/jenningsk12

