



Extraordinary Educational Experiences

September 22, 2026

Students

Seven Named National Merit Semifinalists

This evening, we are proud to celebrate seven outstanding students who have been named National Merit Semifinalists! Each scholar earned this high honor thanks to demonstrated academic excellence and performance on standardized exams. Semifinalists represent the top 1% of test-takers throughout the country. Our seven honorees will now advance in the competition to become eligible for many selective scholarships to support their post-secondary goals.

Tyler Beeson – Oak Park

Penelope Burke – NKCHS

Lucy Evans – Staley

Aila Kraynak – NKCHS

Tatum McGinness-Wood – NKCHS

Nhila Murillo – NKCHS

Phuong Nguyen – Staley



Schools & Staff

Cafeteria Teams Honored for Excellence in Safety

Our school cafeterias are some of the busiest restaurants in the city, and now they are being recognized as some of the safest, too! Congratulations to twenty of our school nutrition teams who have earned top honors for excellence in food safety. Awarded by the Clay County and Kansas City, Missouri Health Departments, this recognition is earned through our staff members' hard work, attention to detail and commitment to serving students at the highest level. Thank you!

Chapel Hill

Chouteau

Clardy

Davidson

Early Education Center

Fox Hill

Gashland

Linden West

Meadowbrook

New Mark

Northland Innovation

Center

Northgate

Northview

North Kansas City HS

Oakwood Manor

Oak Park

Staley

Topping

West Englewood

Winnetonka

Community Partner

Swope Health



Just after the school year began, NKC Schools hosted its annual Community Resource Fair to connect families with important community services and support. Swope Health was a key partner in this event, providing Medicaid enrollment assistance, vision and hearing screenings, and dental screenings with fluoride treatment. Their support helped make valuable health resources easier and more convenient for families to access. We are thankful for Swope Health's continued partnership and commitment to serving as relentless champions for our students and families.

Champions of Service

Jeff Huebener, Utility Trades – Maintenance

Since joining NKC Schools as a utility tradesperson last summer July 2025, Jeff has quickly become a tremendous asset to the district. With experience across multiple trades, he is always willing to step in, solve problems and take on whatever project comes his way. When Jeff started, the team was facing a backlog of nearly 400 complex work orders. Within six months, he had completed most of them and brought his workload back to a manageable level. Jeff approaches every task with a positive attitude and flexibility, making him an incredible teammate and champion for all.