



WARRIOR WAY NEWS

Vol. 2 Issue 3 - September 2026

A Newsletter for the Jennings School District and Community

Message from the Superintendent



Education Is Not a Job, It's a Calling!

Dear Families and Staff:

As I enter my sixth year as Superintendent in the Jennings School District, I still get excited by a new school year, seeing students' faces and how they have grown over the summer. Energized by our productive administrative retreat, the team discussed opportunities, challenges, academic goals and student performance along with Personalized Competency-Based Learning, Core Tier

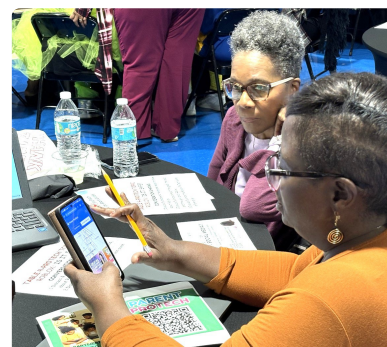
One Literacy, Multi-tiered System of Support and Data Literacy, all part of JSD's particular formula for growth and achievement – **because that's what we do in the J!**



Thanks to the resources and support of committed partners, JSD offers everything a student needs to succeed. We have a growing **FREE Early Childhood Education** program that begins at birth with **Parents As Teachers**. Our signature **Early College Academy's annual travel abroad program** heads to Africa this spring. Dual enrollment means students earn college credits *before* graduating high school. Students engage in Real World Learning projects that guide college and career decisions. And, to make healthcare

easier to access for parents/guardians, the district is partnering with **Affinia** to provide our Fairview Clinic with medical and dental services, immunizations and much more. (Appointments can be made through your school nurse or, email Central Office Administrator **Dr. Leslie Thomas-Washington** at washingtonl@jenningsk12.org.)

I encourage all parents, guardians, staff and community members to [please register here](#) for our **Saturday morning, Oct. 3, MSIP 6 Café Kick-off** and the following Thursday evening Cafés to come throughout the school year – enjoy a delicious meal, engaging discussions on topics especially targeted for parents, plus door prizes and giveaways.



We also look forward to connecting during **Parent-Teacher Conference Week** from **Oct. 19-22!** Since school schedules vary, please watch for specific timing details from your child's school.



Every year, the JSD team re-evaluates our programs and services to ensure our students receive the best possible education. To improve how we connect with families and staff, we established several key tools: this electronic newsletter, a mailed print magazine, time-sensitive school marquees, intentional social media posts and a streamlined website.

Please check with your school office to make sure your contact information is up-to-date for email notifications from the District.

To best support your student and stay active in our school community, please visit the [District website](#) to view our [Calendar of Events](#), [archived Warrior Way News](#) and [District News](#) stories between publication releases or access quick links at linktr.ee/JenningsK12.



Please read the featured highlights below to learn more about some of these programs along with other exciting news – especially Prop J updates!

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact a member of your school team; they are eager to support you and our students as they explore and grow.

Thank you for allowing me to serve,

Dr. Paula D. Knight

Superintendent of Schools



St. Louis American's Salute to Excellence in Education

The **St. Louis American** posted the following on their Facebook ([link to post with photos and video](#)) regarding its **October 17, 2026, Salute to Excellence in Education Gala**:

Jennings **Superintendent Dr. Paula Knight** says education has to be “a calling over a contract.” Her leadership through crisis, commitment to early learning and focus on expanding opportunities for students will be honored with the Stellar Performer Award at the 39th annual Salute to Excellence in Education Gala. [Click here to read more on the St. Louis American's website.](#)



Happenings in the “J”

67 Years of Service and Counting

Honoring Decades of JSD School Board Leadership

These three Jennings Board members have a combined 67 years of service on the **Jennings Board of Education**! State Representative **Yolonda Fountain-Henderson** (center) has served for 23 years and BOE President **Miranda Jones** and Treasurer **Harold Austin** each have served 22 years.





We thank the entire Jennings Board of Education for their ongoing dedication and service to our students, staff and community!



Let's Celebrate Homecoming 2026!

The excitement is building for the ultimate weekend as Jennings High School gears up for the big **2026 Homecoming football game** against McClure on **Friday, October 16**, with kickoff at 6 p.m. Secure your entry ahead of time – [purchase tickets online at GoFan](#); and preview clear-bag policy, parking instructions and more on the Jennings Athletics' [Game-Day Expectations](#) webpage.

The celebration keeps rolling the next morning during the District's annual **Homecoming Parade** on **Saturday, October 17**, beginning at 10 a.m. We proudly invite the Jennings community to gather along the parade route ([Click here for a JPG of the parade route.](#)) and enjoy the sights and sounds of our local talent. The parade will showcase the **JHS Marching Warrior Band** under the direction of **Brittney Dickson** with performances by the **JHS Cheer and Dance teams**, and a variety of other community participants. We look forward to seeing you there!



Connect Through Parents as Teachers Community Event

On Sept. 17, JSD's **Parents as Teachers (PAT)** program hosted a successful community event that drew families and educators from five neighboring school districts. Families enjoyed games, food and the indoor Stay and Play area.

JSD's Director of Extended Programs **Kimberly J. Wooden, Ed.S.**, expressed gratitude for the high level of engagement: "Everyone was engaged in learning more about parenting. Even one of our teachers noted that she was not aware of all of the work that was being done by educators working with PAT."



Wooden and her team of certified preschool educators continue to actively connect with local neighborhoods to promote this free program for our youngest community members.

Parents interested in helping their child reach their fullest potential can join PAT today by calling (314) 653-8084 or visit JenningsK12.org/PAT to learn more about what PAT has for your child age birth through start of kindergarten (usually 5 years old).

UniverSoul Circus Visited Fairview

The circus was back in town in early September 2026! For 32 years, the **UniverSoul Circus** entertained children and adults across the country. This team of incredible performers left the big top to make a stop at Fairview Elementary School on Sept. 1, where the audience responded to this sneak peek with laughter and cheers before heading to the St. Louis Galleria for their scheduled shows.

We thank them for their visit and for ensuring that JSD students got front-row seats to their incredible antics.



JHS Students Serve Coffee and More



Students in **Karen O'Neal's** classroom run a **coffee cart program** that teaches responsibility, confidence and real-world business skills. Through this enterprising service, students fulfill classroom orders by making drinks, assembling snack packs based on orders received, delivering items and managing daily sales, including collecting money and reconciling the accounts.

According to O'Neal, these enterprising students are learning about marketing, merchandising and running a business in addition to performing a service for their teachers and classmates.

New Food Service Menu Includes Green Menu Option

The Jennings School District has partnered with **Southwest Foodservice Excellence (SFE)** to serve fresh, scratch-made school meals and healthy snacks that fuel student success. Starting in September 2026, families can easily view online school breakfast and lunch options with detailed nutrition lists. To check the current meal schedule, visit JenningsK12.org/food-menus or subscribe to inbox alerts ([click here](#)) to "go green" with an optional auto-email menu. JSD menus are also accessible via linktr.ee/JenningsK12.



Unleash Your Creativity: Oct. 15 Family Ceramic Night



Since 2017, JHS art teacher **Jennifer Kelch** has coordinated **Family Ceramic Nights** twice a year for the Jennings community. Building a loyal following of local artists, community members paint pottery alongside students, family, teachers and friends. With supplies displayed before them, artists of all ages transform mugs, plaques, trays and lanterns into inspirational art objects.

Limited seats are available for the **Thursday, Oct. 15** event, scheduled from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at Jennings Senior High School. Sign up online at JenningsK12.org/CeramicNight.

Affinia Clinic Offers Free Student Immunizations

The **Fairview Clinic** has partnered with [Affinia Healthcare](#) to provide free medical care, dental care, physicals and **FREE immunizations** to all Jennings PreK-12th grade students during school hours. The Clinic operates **on-site at Fairview Elementary School every Wednesday**. To make care easily accessible for students across all JSD schools, the District will handle everything—including providing round-trip transportation from the student's school to the clinic.



To set up an appointment, JSD parent/guardians are asked to speak with their school nurse.

Beyond the Classroom: ECA Students Explore South Africa!

JSD Early College Academy (ECA) invites **ECA students** to apply for the opportunity to expand their horizons on an unforgettable trip to **South Africa** during Spring 2027. This immersive journey



through Johannesburg and Cape Town bridges real-world adventure with deep cultural discovery as students explore South African history, connect with local peers and experience a wildlife safari. Students gain a life-changing global perspective and realize their future potential.

This trip offers a special opportunity for District staff as well. To learn more, students and staff are to contact **Dr. Debbie Jones-Fowler**, Early College Academy administrator, at djonesfowler@jenningsk12.org.

JHS Athletic News Update

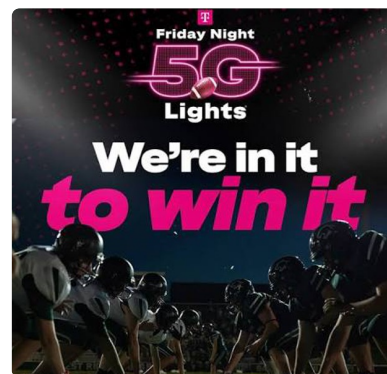


Jennings Receives \$5K Check from T-Mobile

Jennings Athletic Director Marlos Reynolds accepts a \$5,000 check from T-Mobile Senior Manager Emily Stefan during halftime at Warrior Field on Friday, Sept. 18, 2026. Jennings is a preliminary winner in T-Mobile's "[Friday Night 5G Lights](#)" contest and in the running for a \$1 million football field upgrade.

The top 40 division finalist schools will be announced **Oct. 8**. To vote for Jennings between **Oct. 8 and 25**, like (👍), comment, share and tag **#FN5GL** and **#Entry** on **@TMobile** and **@jenningsathletics** ([Facebook](#) / [Instagram](#)) posts. The final four champion schools will move on, with the grand prize winner announced **Nov. 12**.

Let's go Jennings and support our JHS student-athletes!



Prop J is Underway!



Warrior WAYgrounds Are Coming to Fairview & Hanrahan

When does a playground become a Wayground? When it's being built in the Jennings School District, where we practice the Warrior Way and students excel in character, behavior, attendance and community service — a standard known as the "Warrior Way."

Have you noticed the "Coming Soon" signs?

Project Manager Leon Hite noted that **construction is beginning ahead of schedule** on the massive, custom outdoor playgrounds at Fairview and Hanrahan elementary schools, funded by the Proposition J bond issue. The new installations are replacing Fairview's 30-year-old equipment and Hanrahan's bare concrete lot with vibrant, safe play spaces featuring extra turf comfort padding and interactive sensory equipment. Custom transportation-themed rides are built to inspire future pilots and engineers while ensuring age-appropriate exercise.



These highly visible upgrades follow the successful launch of Fairview's indoor play space last year, while critical **district-wide HVAC improvements** also continue behind the scenes thanks to **Facilities Director Corey Hellums** and the Operations team. Stay informed on **Prop J updates** online at JenningsK12.org/departments/facilities/prop-j.

Jennings School Board Recognitions

Each month during the school year, the Jennings Board of Education recognizes schools for attendance and students for achievements. Please join us in congratulating our latest award recipients.



On Sept. 14, 2026, Jennings High School juniors **Kenneth Moore** and **Zion Hite** were sworn in as 2026-27 student representatives to the Jennings Board of Education. BOE President **Miranda Jones** and Secretary **Yonnee Fortson** officiated the ceremony. Please join us in welcoming them. *Click the video above to witness their oath of office.*

Together, we look forward to a fantastic school year of leadership and success!

Students of the Month



Ivy Clark
PreKindergarten
Northview
Elementary School



Alaila Warren
8th Grade
Rose Mary Johnson
Jennings Junior High



Zion Guthrie
12th Grade
Jennings
Senior High

During the Sept. 14, 2026, Board of Education meeting, the JSD community proudly congratulated three outstanding students for their shining examples of hard work and leadership. Congratulations to August's Students of the Month: **Ivy Clark**, a pre-kindergartener at Northview Elementary; **Alaila Warren**, an eighth-grader at Rose Mary Johnson Jennings Junior High; and **Zion Guthrie**, Jennings Senior High Class of 2027! Congratulations! Your hard work sets a wonderful example for us all!

School Attendance Awards

Congratulations!

Hanrahan Elementary

Winner of ALL THREE Attendance Awards

SEPTEMBER 2026



Hanrahan SWEEPS Attendance Awards - Taking ALL THREE for August 2026

A huge round of applause as we celebrate **Dr. Marsha Wallace** and the students and staff at **Hanrahan Elementary School**. The school community was recognized at the Sept. 14, 2026, Jennings Board of Education meeting for their commitment to being present and ready to learn and teach during the month of August 2026! What a great way to start off the school year!

- ✓ 93.39% **ADA (Average Daily Attendance)**
- ✓ 72.99% **90/90 Attendance (90% of students attending 90% of the time)**
- ✓ 99.07% **Staff Attendance (WOW!)**

Attendance is a key building block for student success. Thanks to the staff and students at this school for leading the way!

Crossing Guards Needed



Interested? Call 314-974-8431

Crossing Guards Still Needed

Upcoming Calendar Dates

Important 2026-2027 District Calendar Dates!

- Oct. 3: MSIP6 Cafe @ Gore Center (Saturday 10 a.m. Breakfast; 10:30 a.m. Session) [RSVP](#)
- Oct. 9: J-Town Food Market @ Gore Center (1 p.m.)
- Oct. 12: Board of Education Regular Meeting
- Oct. 15: Ceramic Night @ Jennings High School (5-6:30 p.m.) [RSVP](#)
- Oct. 16: End of First Quarter
- Oct. 16: Half Day for Students – Professional Learning (District)
- Oct. 16: Homecoming Football Game (6 p.m.) [Purchase tickets online at GoFan.](#)
- Oct. 17: Homecoming Parade (10 a.m.) [Parade Route](#)
- Oct. 19-22: Parent-Teacher Conference Week
- Oct. 22: Parent-Teacher Conference Meetings (3:30-7 p.m.)
- Oct. 23: J-Town Food Market @ Gore Center (1 p.m.)
- Nov. 13: Half Day for Students – Professional Learning (Building)
- Nov. 23-27: District Closed – Thanksgiving Break
- 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

SATURDAY, OCT. 3

MSIP 6 COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS CAFÉ

at
GORE CENTER

10 am Breakfast

10:30 am Session

**GIVE-AWAYS
& DOOR PRIZES**



RSVP TODAY
JenningsK12.org/MSIP6Cafe





FAMILY CERAMIC NIGHT



5-6:30p • Thurs., Oct. 15 @ JHS



RSVP: JenningsK12.org/CeramicNight



Teacher Professional Development Day

Half-Day for Students

Friday, Oct. 16, 2026

Purchase Home Game Tickets Online



gofan.co/app/school/MO24123

[Click here to purchase October 16, 2026, Homecoming Football Game Tickets.](#)



JENNINGS PARADE 2026 HOMECOMING

**Saturday,
Oct. 17, 2026
10-11:30 a.m.**

Parade Route



Click here for printable 2026-27 JSD District Calendar Below

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 the 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