



Lori Willis, Communications
Jennings School District, 314-456-5457

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pipe Break Delays Return to Classes at Jennings Senior High School
High School Students are to Retrieve Tech Devices at the School on Monday, January 5

(JENNINGS, MO, Jan. 3, 2026) – Due to ongoing repairs stemming from a pipe break at the start of winter break, Jennings Senior High School (JHS) students will NOT be able to return to classrooms as planned on Jan. 6, 2026. The building can be navigated safely but workers want to limit traffic until restoration is complete.

Instead, students are to retrieve their technology devices through an on-site distribution on Monday, Jan. 5, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. in preparation for four days of AMI (Alternate Method of Instruction) Jan. 6-9. Students will return to in-person class on Jan. 12. High school staff will return for J-Readiness Day (readiness for 2nd semester) as scheduled on Monday, January 5.

This is an isolated incident that applies only to JHS. All other Jennings schools will return as scheduled on Tuesday, Jan. 6.

"Our high school students and staff are familiar with AMI and, while we sincerely regret the inconvenience, it is very important that they retrieve their devices from the school and prepare to teach and learn virtually at this time," Superintendent of Schools Paula D. Knight, Ed.D., said. "Certainly this is not how we wanted to start the new year, but I am grateful because, given the age of the building, the damage would have been worse if not for the diligence of all involved in the discovery and cleanup."

In the early morning hours of Dec. 22, a Jennings police officer on patrol noticed water flowing outside of the building and alerted district staff. The Jennings Fire Department and American Water were among the first on scene. Restoration teams from First Onsite began removing standing water immediately. Despite their best efforts, including around-the-clock drainage, the damage to the floors, particularly in the cafeteria, is extensive. Additionally, four classrooms, including the band room, were also affected, resulting in the loss of some uniforms and backup instruments.

Formal acknowledgment of our partners' efforts will occur at the regularly scheduled Jan.12 meeting of the Jennings Board of Education (2425 Dorwood Dr., 63136).

-30-

About Jennings School District: Founded in 1871, the [Jennings School District](https://linktr.ee/JenningsK12) serves 2,320 students Pre-K-12 across four elementary schools, Hanrahan, Woodland, Northview and Fairview (Primary and Intermediate), Rose Mary Johnson Jennings Middle School and Jennings Senior High School. JSD spans three communities, Jennings, Country Club Hills and Flordell Hills. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Links are available at <https://linktr.ee/JenningsK12>.

Portrait of a JSD Warrior

