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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JHS Students to Resume Regular Class Schedules April 23

(JENNINGS, MO, April 21, 2026) – Exactly four months after a devastating flood forced administrators to institute a hybrid schedule (alternating virtual and in-class), Jennings Senior High School (JHS) students are set to return en masse on **Thursday, April 23**.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Paula Knight said that the renovation is at a point where the school building can once again accommodate all 700 students. “I’m so proud of our students and teachers for their resilience and support throughout this process. 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.”

Students have been excited to see the changes. Here’s what visitors will notice:

- **New red, white and black floor tiles** have been waxed to perfection, making the hallways and adjoining classrooms look refreshed and welcoming.
- **The Commons was also re-tiled**, and the formerly underground **sprinkler system has been rerouted** to the ceiling, giving the space a modern, industrial look.
- **The restoration of the kitchen and adjoining serving area** are nearly finished. For the time being, we will continue to transport food from the middle school.
- **The A-gym floor is now state-of-the-art**, completely rebuilt with three layers of protection under the hardwood for comfort and support.

She added, “Throughout the process, First Onsite and our operations team have maintained aggressive schedules to limit the inconvenience to students, staff and families. We worked hard to be able to make this return to the classroom to ensure the fidelity of the testing process, which starts next week.”

Dr. Knight explained that back in December, they knew the situation was dire but had no idea how long it would take. “Our First Onsite restoration team and District Operations staff worked very hard to meet aggressive goals and deadlines despite shipping and supply delays. In fact, we are grateful to all of the community service partners who helped us get to this point.”

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On April 13, Dr. Knight and the Jennings Board of Education publicly recognized **Officer JohnPaul Werner** of the St. Louis County Police Department, who received a standing ovation for his quick thinking while on patrol the night of the flood.

Portrait of a JSD Warrior



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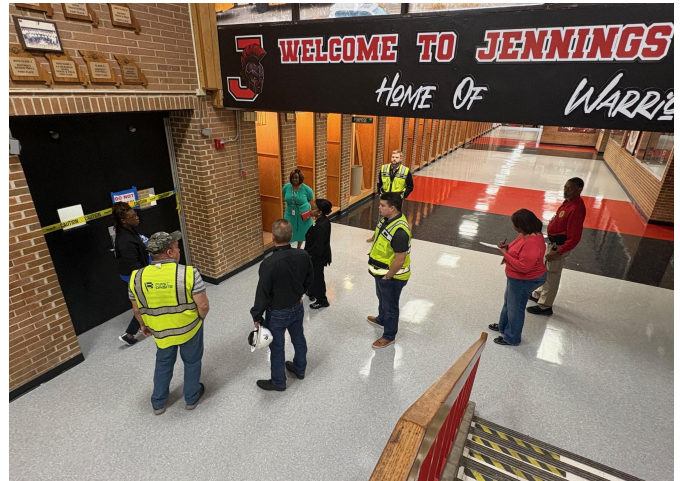
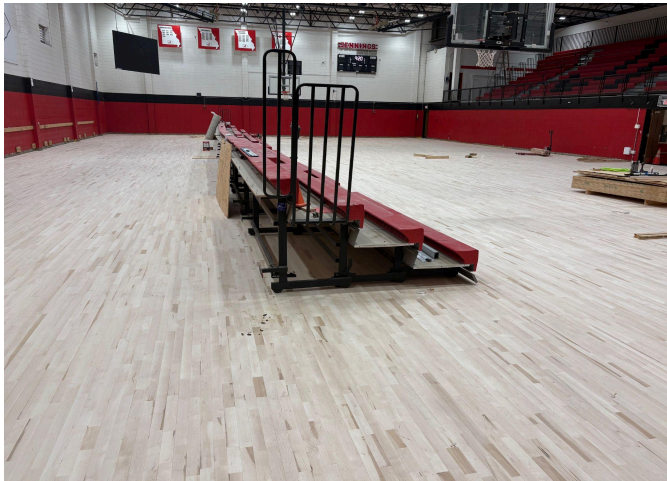
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In addressing the crowd, Superintendent Knight said to Werner, “Although we are still dealing with the aftermath of the flood, it could have been 10 times worse had you not been as observant and vigilant as you were.” She added, “Some people would 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.”

The standing ovation for Officer Werner was an indication of how much the District community appreciated the efforts of all who were involved in the process.

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Photos from April 10, 2026, Walk Through with Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kyle Kruse:



Photos from March 27, 2026, Walk Through:

Portrait of a JSD Warrior





Photos from April 13, 2026, Board Meeting with Officer JohnPaul Werner, St. Louis County Police Department.





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 Junior High 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>.

