WARRIOR WAY NEWS

Vol. 2 Issue 4 - October 2026

A Newsletter for the Jennings School District and Community

Message from the Superintendent

Celebrating a Change of Season



Homecoming 2026 was a great success as our community came out to celebrate and support us throughout the weekend. This year, our Board of Education and alumni brought back the traditional bonfire by popular demand! Despite the early drizzle, the fire cast a nostalgic light on the football field where the **Jennings Warriors** bested McClure by a score of 30-12 on Friday, Oct. 16. *(Highlights of the game are available via video recap at MaxPreps.com.)*

Our coaches and football team were riding high on Saturday morning — literally! Many rode atop cars to greet spectators lining the **parade** route to enjoy the band, cheerleaders, classic cars, motorcycles and more excitement.
(Please click and watch the video below.)







In his debut performance, our **new mascot** stole the show! I want to congratulate Athletic Director **Marlos Reynolds** for taking the Warrior logo from paper to production and creating a quality mascot costume — something we have never had before that has already boosted school spirit.

Every Homecoming is special because it represents a **change in season**. I'm referring not only to October's changing autumn leaves, but also to the changes we start to see among our seniors as they approach graduation. You can see and feel the shift as their thoughts turn to preparing for new possibilities. I thank everyone who helped make spirit week and our homecoming weekend memorable for our students.



This vibrant school spirit naturally extends into our classrooms, where our teachers and staff coordinate with community partners to offer unique experiences. Through our collaborations with the **St. Louis Symphony Orchestra**, **World Wide Technology**, **St. Louis CITY SC**, **Little Bit Foundation, Black Girls Do STEM, City Blossoms Inc.** and **Special School District of St. Louis**, all being featured this month, plus so many more, our students are exposed to incredible opportunities. Additionally, our daily transportation concerns have been eased thanks to two grants from our longtime friends at **Enterprise Mobility**. At every opportunity, our students are earning the skills they will need to excel in whatever career they choose, including the trades highlighted through **"Real World Experiences"** in construction, gardening, engineering and more!



To learn more about how we support students and families, check our **Linktree**, follow us on **Facebook** or **Instagram** and read the **Warrior Way eNews** and print magazine. Highlights include:

- High school students earning college credits and degrees,
- A high school signature trip to Africa this spring,
- An indoor Stay 'n' Play playspace inspiring visitors, and
- Daily efforts to engage families throughout the district.

Please keep your contact information updated with your school's main office so we can continue to give you all the updates you need to ensure that **"Every day is a great day in the J!"**

In service together,
Dr. Paula D. Knight
Superintendent of Schools

St. Louis American Foundation Honors Dr. Knight





Superintendent Paula Knight received the ***2026 Stellar Performer in Education Award***, one of the top three honors presented during **The St. Louis American Foundation's 39th Annual Salute to Excellence in Education Gala** on Saturday, Oct. 17. The event recognizes educators and community leaders while raising funds for local scholarships.

Watch her interview video at stlamerican.com.

Happenings in the "J"

Boyd is the New Workplace Compliance Coordinator



Attorney Phillip C. Boyd has joined the Jennings School District as the part-time **workplace compliance coordinator** to lead and stabilize the human resources department during its current leadership transition while preparing for a seamless transition when the next chief HR officer is hired.

Superintendent Paula Knight is pleased to partner with Boyd. "Attorney Boyd has extensive experience in the realm of HR and strategic talent development. He has either served directly or supported all functions of HR and will provide a solid foundation for the continued development of HR services in our school district."

Boyd brings extensive experience, including serving as a principal attorney and human resources consultant at the St. Louis-based law firm Curtis, Heinz, Garrett and O'Keefe, P.C. He has also served as chief of human resources for the Ferguson-Florissant School District and the Special School District of St. Louis County. He is a member of the Society of Human Resource Management and the Society of Multicultural Professionals in Human Resources.

[Read the official release with more details](#).

Northview PRIDE is Showing!



Northview's PRIDE is Showing!



At Northview Elementary, the PRIDE value for October is ***Perseverance***. PRIDE emphasizes the school's five core values: **Perseverance, Respect**, **Integrity**, **Duty/responsibility** and **Excellence**. Recently, classes collaborated to tackle a challenge that showcased the significance of perseverance.



Principal **Dr. DeShonda Payton** explained that for this exercise, students were tasked with working together to construct a structurally sound tower that stands tall. They understood (and thoroughly enjoyed) the "Tower Challenge" assignment!

In addition, Oct. 23 was Northview's inaugural **Family Day**. If you missed out on this event, you're invited to join us for the Nov. 20 event during Morning Mastery Minutes.

Great Things Happen When "Black Girls Do STEM"



A rocket construction project and an exciting launch taught 30 Jennings Junior High School students that the sky is the limit when "Black Girls Do STEM!"



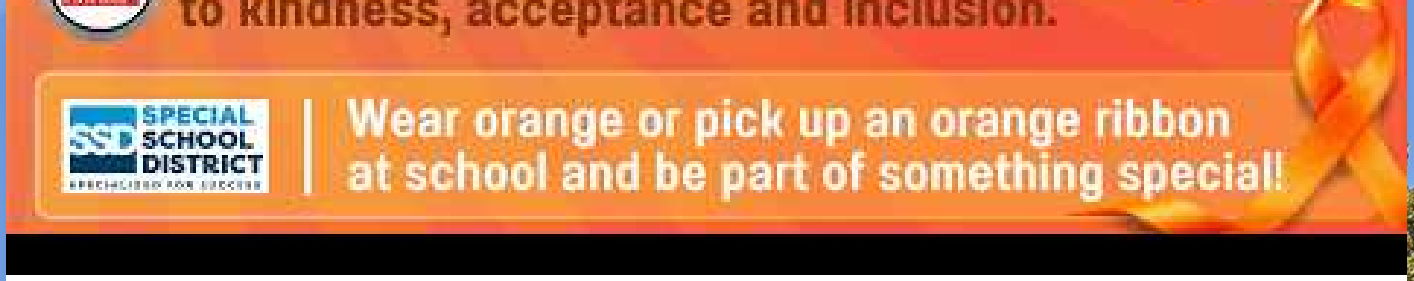
Coordinated by school counselor **Lisa Banks**, the Oct. 14 event kicked off a new community partnership designed to introduce the young ladies to high-powered career paths in science, technology, engineering and math. **Dr. Kim Townsend**, program director for **Black Girls Do STEM**, spoke to the students about representation in fields where women and minorities are traditionally underrepresented.



True to the organization's interactive mission, the students spent a portion of the event building their own rockets before a live launch at the end of class. Black Girls Do STEM is dedicated to closing the representation gap by unlocking the spirit of innovation within Black girls through hands-on workshops, mentorship and community outreach. By fostering spaces where curiosity thrives and confidence grows, the partnership helps local students visualize themselves as the scientists, engineers and leaders who will transform the future of technology.

JSD Wears Orange to Show they Stand Against Bullying





Unity Day 2026 was celebrated across the District on Wednesday, Oct. 21, as JSD teamed up with the **Special School District of St. Louis County** for **National Bullying Awareness Month**. This special day was all about celebrating differences and reaffirming a commitment to kindness, acceptance and inclusion by wearing the nationally observed color orange.

"I would just like to say thank you to all who wore the orange today (Oct. 21), as well as to others who learned more about the importance of normalizing inclusion and appreciating our differences," SSD Liaison **Jody Romeo** said. "It's those differences that help to make up the unique and wonderful community that we have here in Jennings!"

Fairview Welcomes E-gaming Inflatables During Spirit Week



Students across the District celebrated **Homecoming Spirit Week** alongside the high school.



At **Fairview Elementary School**, young children enjoyed visiting and interacting with their favorite characters, including **Roblox Piggy** and **Axolotl Salamander**, brought to life by their school teachers.

JSD Students Help Solve Symphony Musical Mystery





On Oct. 21, a group of 800 Jennings School District students, teachers, staff, administrators and school board members rode 18 buses to **Powell Symphony Hall** to attend an educational field trip performance of "**The Composer Is Dead**" performed by the **St. Louis Symphony Orchestra**. Led by conductor **Samuel Hollister**, the 45-minute interactive musical whodunit mystery was created in partnership with the **Metro Theater Company**. The production invites students to use their detective skills to play along, learn about orchestral instruments and discover how musicians keep music alive.

St. Louis CITY SC: From Tech to Turf



On Oct. 2, about 100 Jennings students attended a **Career Day at Energizer Park**, sponsored by the **St. Louis CITY SC** (soccer club) in partnership with **World Wide Technology**.

Students spoke with and learned from leaders in the fields of artificial intelligence, graphic design, security, public relations and field management. Two group sessions were led by WWT and CITY SC's sports performance team. The experience also included a tour on the field and interviews with



media professionals that were captured and posted to social media by their media teams. Check out photos from the day on CITY SC's and WWT's Facebook pages.

Jennings administrator **Dr. Leslie Thomas Washington,** who helped organize the event, said, "We are grateful to have been able to offer our students such a unique and well-formed opportunity. Our students are fortunate that St. Louis is home to the global headquarters of World Wide Technology and an exciting new professional soccer club. Learning about these programs and working directly with partners who care about students helps build pride in our community."



Little Bit Foundation Celebrates 25 Years



As **The Little Bit Foundation** celebrates its 25th anniversary, students and families in the **Jennings School District** are expressing gratitude for years of critical support. The foundation, under the guidance of CEO Miranda Walker-Jones (who also serves as president of the Jennings Board of Education), has helped remove barriers to learning for Jennings students through several targeted initiatives:



- **In-school boutiques:** On-site closets provide students with clothes, shoes, coats, toiletries and emergency food kits to ensure they have the essentials required to attend class.
- **Food and produce relief:** Collaborative community distributions deliver fresh produce and food boxes packed with meals and healthy snacks directly to local families.
- **EdZone lockers:** These secure, discreet and student-accessible units are stocked with age-appropriate hygiene products, allowing students to advocate for their basic needs, build confidence and stay in the classroom.

Learn more at thelittlebitfoundation.org.

KMOV Came to Stay 'n Play!



Rain or Shine: New Indoor Playspace Ensures Recess



Report by First Alert 4, the Fairview indoor playground ensures prekindergarten students in JSD never have recess canceled due to rain, snow or extreme heat. The Stay 'n' Play facility serves pre-K students across all three JSD elementary schools and accommodates up to 60 children at a time. The former office space features a central jungle gym and color-coded developmental zones dedicated to tumbling, running, creating and sensory activities.

“We live in Missouri, and so we know that the weather is up and down,” said Superintendent Dr. Paula Knight. “They (preschool students) need the ability to stretch, to get out of that space. And know how to get acclimated from one space to the next.”

Watch the KMOV news story featured Oct. 21, 2026 at bit.ly/102126Ch4.

J-Town Market Offers Holiday Food Support to Families

Looking for quality, nutritious food to help supplement your groceries *(or do you know a local family who is)*? The **J-Town Market** is ready to support families with **free food items**, including fresh produce, meat, dry goods and canned items. Our next distribution is scheduled for **1 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13,** at the **Gary Gore Community Center**, 2545 Dorwood Dr. (63136).

*Supplies are distributed on a **first-come, first-served** basis, so we encourage you to arrive early. Food selections vary from month to month, so there is always something new to bring home to your kitchen.*



JSD Athletics News

Bella Ali Named JHS Athlete of the Month

As a dedicated multi-sport athlete, Bella Ali represents the Warriors on both the volleyball and basketball courts with outstanding teamwork and determination.



Off the court, this high school junior maintains an impressive 3.9 GPA in the Early College and College Prep program, is a member of the National Honor Society and serves as vice president of the Jennings Youth Initiative.

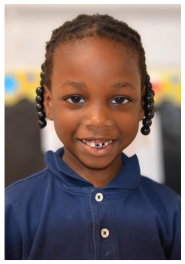
Keep up with the JHS Athletic news at JenningsK12.org/Athletics.



Jennings School Board Recognitions

Every month throughout the school year, the Jennings Board of Education proudly celebrates excellence across our district. Please join us in celebrating our latest award recipients.

Students of the Month



Lathan Mitchell-Goff
Prekindergarten
Fairview
Elementary School



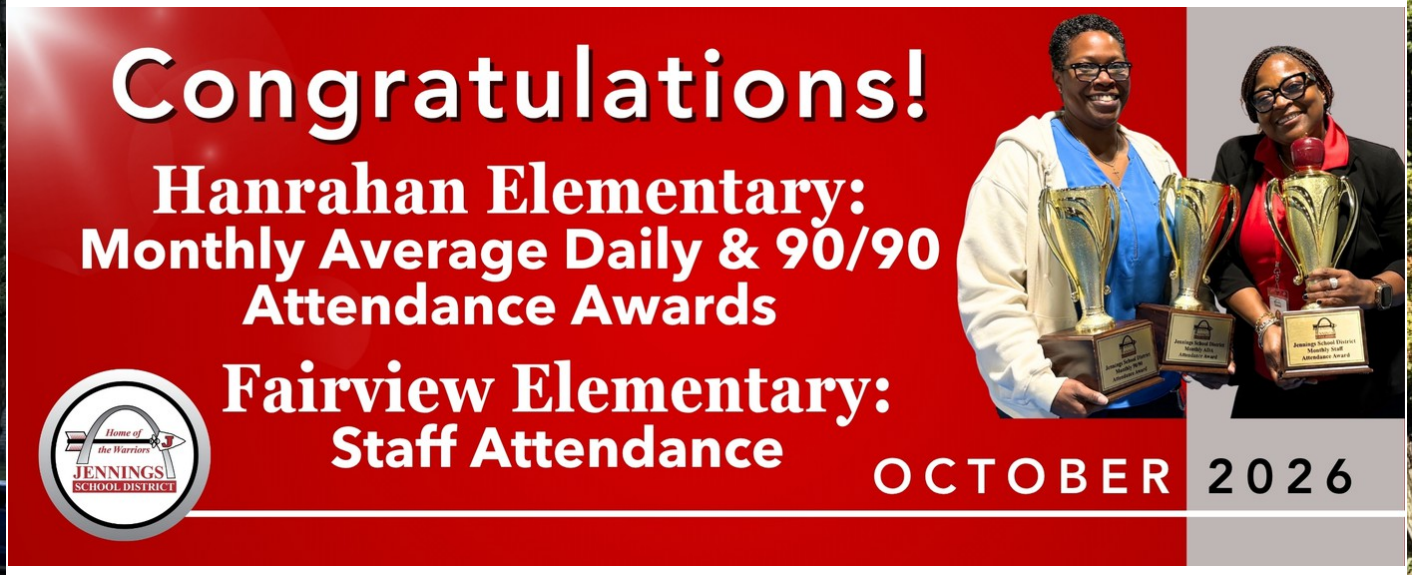
RylieAnn White
Kindergarten
Woodland
Elementary School



Deanté Long
Senior
Jennings
Senior High

On Oct. 12, 2026, the JSD Board of Education proudly recognized the District's October Students of the Month and September attendance awardees. Congratulations to **Lathan Mitchell-Goff** (pre-Kindergarten, Fairview Elementary School), **RylieAnn White** (kindergarten, Woodland Elementary School) and **Deanté Long** (senior, Jennings Senior High). Congratulations and thank you for bringing your "Warrior best" to school each day!

School Attendance Awards



At the Oct. 12 Board meeting, **Hanrahan Elementary School** was awarded the Average Daily and 90/90 Attendance Awards for September 2026. **Fairview Elementary School** received the September Staff Attendance Award!

✓ **93.51% ADA (Average Daily Attendance)**
✓ **77.95% 90/90 Attendance**
✓ **97.47% Staff Attendance**

Student success begins with consistent attendance. Thank you to our entire school community—staff and students alike—for prioritizing it every single day.

For MONTH of	STAFF ATTENDANCE	ADA ATTENDANCE	90/90 ATTENDANCE
OCTOBER	Fairview (97.47%)	Hanrahan (93.51%)	Hanrahan (77.95%)
SEPTEMBER	Hanrahan (99.07%)	Hanrahan (93.39%)	Hanrahan (72.99%)

Crossing Guards Still Needed



Upcoming Calendar Dates

Important 2026-2027 District Calendar Dates!

- Nov. 1: Daylight Saving Time (Fall Back)
- Nov. 3: Vote Election Day
- Nov. 9: Board of Education Regular Meeting
- **Nov. 13: Half Day for Students – Professional Learning (Building)**
- Nov. 13: J-Town Food Market @ Gore Center (1 p.m.)
- Nov. 19: MSIP6 Cafe @ Gore Center (5-6:30 p.m.) RSVP
- Nov 20: J-Town Food Market @ Gore Center (1 p.m.)
- **Nov. 23-27: District Closed – Thanksgiving Break**
- **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**

Click here for printable 2026-27 JSD District Calendar Below

Red Ribbon Week

Oct. 27-31



Let's continue to focus on our health and stay drug free!





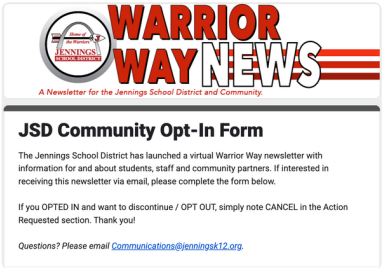
FALL BACK FOR DAYLIGHT SAVING

Set clocks back one hour on Sunday morning, Nov. 1, 2026.



The Gore Community Center and Fairview Elementary School are voting sites.

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**.


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.

To submit tips for upcoming news stories, email communications@JenningsK12.org. Thank you!

Jennings School District
www.jenningsk12.org

Find our social media and other important links via linktr.ee/JenningsK12

