



Park Hill School District

CONNECTION

www.parkhill.k12.mo.us

FEBRUARY-MARCH EDITION

Park Hill Students Learn Professional Skills as Local Workforce Seeks More Skilled Workers

We started our Professional Studies initiative here in Park Hill to prepare students for their future college and career experiences.

We developed programs that teach students the skills that businesses and colleges tell us they'll need to succeed, and we help them explore their interests to find the best fit.

But it turns out that doing what is best for our students is also important for the Kansas City economy.

The Mid-America Regional Council recently conducted research about the local workforce, and they discovered that the demand for educated workers in our region exceeds the supply.

"The economy has changed, and we need a more highly skilled, adaptable workforce for the jobs that are in demand," said MARC Senior Researcher Jeff Pinkerton.

Park Hill is developing a menu of real-world professional experiences, which will put students on the path to filling those in-demand jobs.

Professional mentors

Local professionals serve as screened volunteers who provide guidance and expertise to students in their career explorations.

Internships

Students work in local workplaces, learning from professionals as they participate in authentic career experiences.

Northland CAPS

Northland Center for Advanced Professional Studies students get immersion experience in workplaces, focusing on engineering; technology; healthcare; and business. This is a partnership with several other Northland districts.

College and career in the classroom

Local professionals serve as guest lecturers and as curriculum resources to

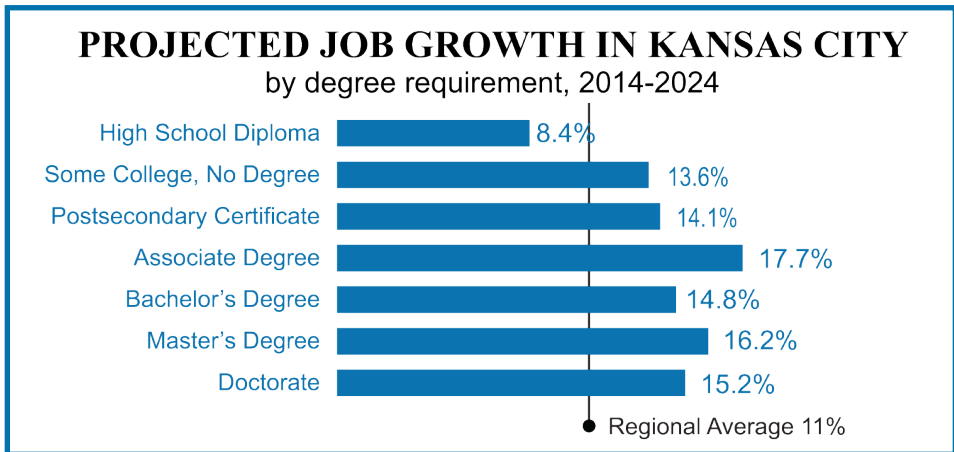
teachers. In this area, we will build our own immersion experiences like the ones in Northland CAPS. Our first offering is an education strand called Education 2020.

Externships

Teachers get authentic professional experiences in the workplace to help with relevant lessons in their classrooms.

Northland Career Center

Through this partnership with other Northland districts, students learn career skills in agriculture, construction, culinary arts, diesel technology, health sciences, law enforcement, IT, welding, HVAC and early childhood.



Park Hill's Professional Studies initiative teaches students skills to prepare them for college and career. According to research from the Mid-America Regional Council, job growth in the Kansas City region will be in areas that require this kind of preparation. (Graphic courtesy of the Mid-America Regional Council)

STRAIGHT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Park Hill Community,

When we developed our Professional Studies initiative, we worked with local businesses and talked to colleges about the skills students need to succeed after they graduate from the Park Hill School District.

But even though we knew that our programs were tied to the needs of the local business community, it was still a nice surprise to see the data from the Mid-America Regional Council's recent study of the workforce in the Kansas City area (see page 1).

The research clearly showed that the skills we're teaching Park Hill students will prepare them well to fill the jobs that are growing fastest in Kansas City.

This is one reason our local community is stepping up to support all the programs in our Professional Studies initiative. Businesses are partnering with us to provide mentoring, internships and more for our students. And our Park Hill Education Foundation not only pledged \$25,000 to get these programs off the ground, it also secured a \$55,000 donation from a local family.

The data and the community's support show that we are not only doing what's best for Park Hill students, we're doing what's best for the entire community.

If you would like to get involved with our Professional Studies initiative, please contact Stephanie Amaya, our coordinator for professional studies, at (816) 359-4034 or amayass@parkhill.k12.mo.us.

Sincerely,
Scott Springston



Dr. Scott Springston
Park Hill Superintendent

NEWS WORTH KNOWING

District Decisions That Could Affect Your Family

Budgeting Process for '15-'16 Begins

At the beginning of the budgeting process for the 2015-2016 school year, the district is exploring all the factors that could affect the budget. The district is considering ideas for possible cuts to keep the budget balanced in the face of revenue that isn't keeping pace with increasing costs.

District Saves Almost \$50,000 By Using Missouri Purchasing Card

The Missouri School Boards Association presented the district with a \$49,973 rebate from our participation in the state purchasing card program. Since we began using the program, the district has received \$182,460 in rebates. Finding efficiencies like this to save taxpayer dollars is one of the district's goals in our strategic plan.

Board Approves '15-'16 Calendar

The academic calendar for the 2015-2016 school year, approved by the Board as suggested by the calendar committee, is based on feedback from a survey of parents and staff. The calendar has the first day of school on August 13, and the last day of school will be May 25, if there are no snow days.

District Gets Public Feedback for Long-Range Facilities Plan

For more than a year, we have been getting public feedback and working on the details of our long-range facilities plan. Our experts used the feedback to develop several options for our long-range facilities plan. With help from staff and parents, district leaders will narrow them down to the ones that best meet our criteria, and then we'll ask for more community input on them before the Board votes.

For the latest, most up-to-date news about the Park Hill School District, subscribe to our email newsletter, follow us online or watch our TV broadcasts. See page 4 for more information.

DISTRICT SUCCESS STORIES

State Swimming Champions, Missouri Swim Coach of the Year

Several PHHS students won state in swimming. Junior **Marcin Glebocki**, took first in the 50-meter freestyle, and senior **Barry Chang**, sophomore **Danny Jones**, junior **Jered Weger** and Glebocki, took first in the 200-meter freestyle relay. Coach **Karl Haley** received the Missouri Coach of the Year award.

Students Earn Top Journalism Awards

At the JEA-NSPA National High School Journalism Convention, South's "The View" placed ninth in Best in Show for newsmagazines, and "South Side Scoop" was a finalist for the Pacemaker Award for best daily newscast. PHHS graduate **Cody Van Hooser** placed fourth in the sports category. South students **Vivian Brockman** and **Aliza Russell** received superior ratings.

2015 National Merit Honorees

Jake Mazeitis from South and **Annie Chen** and **Mrudula Gandham** from PHHS are National Merit Semi-Finalists. Our National Merit Commended Scholars are **Cecilia Cain** and **Stephen Swett** from PHHS, and our National Achievement Scholar is **Ke-Shawn Hayes** from PHHS.



PLAZA BULLYING PREVENTION CONTEST: Several Plaza students won their school contest for creating a display sharing the bully prevention rules. This year's winners include **Ben Goodin**, first place in the video category; **Josh Garza**, second place in the bookmark category; **Morgan Cox**, first place in the comic category; **Tess Phillips**, first place in the bookmark category; **Freddie Penrod**, second place in the comic category; and **Yana Aldana**, second place in the video category.

STUDENT STORY: Motivation and Intervention Program Help Park Hill South Student Succeed

When he looks back now, Park Hill South junior Alex Bosch just wishes he had made a change sooner.

His grade point average at the beginning of the school year was 1.625, thanks to his absences and constant struggling to catch up. But he turned his education around last fall.



Park Hill South junior Alex Bosch turned his grades around this year, thanks in part to the support of teacher Clayton Lenhart and the Response to Intervention program.

His GPA for this last semester was a 3.0, and he was at school 95 percent of the time. He attributed the change to a new sense of motivation.

"Over the summer, I came to a breaking point," Alex said. "My grades weren't going anywhere, and if I wanted to have the most options for my life, I had to do something."

He also credits his teacher, Mr. Clayton Lenhart, who works in the Response to Intervention program with students who need some support to succeed. In Alex's tutorial class, Mr. Lenhart pushed him constantly. He used to beg Alex to complete his assignments.

"I definitely appreciate the role he played," Alex said of his teacher. "It's nice to see Park Hill doing something like this for students."

This semester, Mr. Lenhart found that Alex had a new sense of confidence and drive. He kept track of his own grades and knew what he needed to work on to succeed.

"This year, I didn't have to harp on him," Mr. Lenhart said. "He just did it. It was all him; it was his internal motivation."

Alex's father could see the difference at home as well.

"He does his homework without being asked," Brandon Bosch said. "He's motivated, and he wasn't before."

Calendar:

Feb. 13

No school for high school teachers and students

Feb. 16

Presidents Day,
no school for students

March 7

PTA After-Prom Dinner and Auction

March 13

No school for students

March 16-20

Spring Break, no school

March 28

Northland Ethnic Festival
11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at South

Get Connected:

Our website has lots of ways for you to engage with Park Hill schools. Find them all at www.parkhill.k12.mo.us.

Social Media

Follow the District's Facebook page, Twitter feed, Instagram account and Google+ page.

First Hand E-mail News

Get district news and highlights from Board meetings.

First Hand Mobile

Get text message alerts about weather and emergencies.

Park Hill TV

See our videos on YouTube and Time Warner Cable channel 18.

Website Comment Form

Share your comments, suggestions for improvement and even your compliments.



Park Hill School District

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In an effort to keep the community informed, the "Park Hill Connection" goes to every home in the Park Hill School District, even those without students in our schools. Thank you for your support of your community's schools!

Is Your Child About to Enter Kindergarten?



Families with children entering Park Hill School District kindergarten in August 2015 may enroll now by visiting their local elementary schools between 7:45 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Children who turn five on or before July 31 are eligible for kindergarten for the 2015-2016 school year. Parents will need to bring their children's certified, state-issued birth certificate,

immunization records and two proofs of residency to enroll. One proof of residency must be a lease or mortgage agreement. The other should be an original and current gas, electric or water bill that shows the name and address.

If you do not know which school your child will attend, please check the district website at www.parkhill.k12.mo.us or go to the Park Hill district office, 7703 NW Barry Road, Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to get the enrollment packet and locate your school. Feel free to call us at (816) 359-4000.

After you enroll, mark your calendar for the Kindergarten Roundup event at your elementary school on Monday, May 4 from 5:30 - 7 p.m. Parents and students will get a sneak peek of the school, tour the building, ask questions and get to know the staff.