



Park Hill School District

CONNECTION

www.parkhill.k12.mo.us

JANUARY-FEBRUARY EDITION



Teachers and staff across the Park Hill School District celebrated when we found out we received the Missouri Quality Award again. Park Hill was the first school district to earn this distinction when we received it in 2009, and we are now the only district to earn it twice. Melanie Anderson, a third-grade teacher at Southeast Elementary, is one of the employees who made this award possible.

Park Hill Earns Quality Award

Superintendent Dr. Jeanette Cowherd announced recently that the Park Hill School District received the Missouri Quality Award for the second time.

Park Hill was the first school district to earn this distinction when we received it in 2009, and we are now the only district in the history of this award to earn it twice.

The Missouri Quality Award recognizes an organization's commitment to meeting its customers' needs and to using the best-available processes for everything it does.

This award is aligned with the exacting standards of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

Park Hill's processes align with these standards, which the Excellence in Missouri Foundation determined by carefully reviewing our district application and conducting a thorough site visit of our schools.

The Missouri Quality Award demonstrates to the Park Hill community the world-class level of excellence that our schools are achieving.

It also comes with a detailed report from the site-visit team, which will identify both strengths and opportunities for improvement. As we did last time, Park Hill will take that report and use it in our continuous improvement efforts.



Board Names Dr. Cowherd as Park Hill's New Superintendent

The new superintendent of the Park Hill School District is Dr. Jeanette Cowherd.

Dr. Cowherd, who was Park Hill's interim superintendent, is now officially the superintendent, thanks to a unanimous vote of the Park Hill Board of Education.

"Dr. Cowherd will not only keep us on track but will bring her own touch to take us to the next level," Board President Boon Lee said. "In addition to her strong leadership of key district initiatives in the past, we are confident in her vision, passion, student focus and dedication to continuous improvement."

STRAIGHT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Park Hill Community,

It is an honor and a thrill to be the superintendent of the Park Hill School District. I am so grateful for the confidence the Board of Education showed in me when it selected me for this dream job.

The Board understood that this community expects excellence, so it did its due diligence by conducting an exhaustive national superintendent search. I appreciate how seriously the Board took its responsibility to our students, so I was glad to go through the tough, rigorous application process.

Now, as I move forward without the “interim” in front of my title, there will be no sharp turns in direction. We are still guided by the strategic plan our stakeholders helped us develop. We still have the same focus on continuous improvement that keeps lifting Park Hill to even greater heights of student achievement, financial efficiency, caring learning environments and employee engagement.

This is evidenced by our recent Missouri Quality Award, which is a proud moment for all the teachers, administrators and support staff who work so hard every day to keep improving what we do for our students and their families.

As superintendent, I will continue to work on our relationships with those students, families, staff members and community members who make us what we are. I look forward to serving all of you for years to come.

Together, we will build on Park Hill’s legacy of excellence, and we will continue our drive toward Building Successful Futures – Each Student – Every Day!

Sincerely,

Jeanette Cowherd
Superintendent



Dr. Jeanette Cowherd
Park Hill Superintendent

NEWS WORTH KNOWING

District Info That Could Affect Your Family

Savings of \$57,348 for Park Hill

By using a purchasing card through the Missouri School Boards Association, Park Hill received a \$57,348 rebate this year. Since the district started using this program, we have earned \$239,808.

Student Achievement Higher Than Ever

Park Hill’s test scores are higher than most comparable districts, and we have our best-ever rating from the state on our annual performance review, at 98.2 percent. Our student achievement is growing, reported Dr. Mike Kimbrel, director of research, evaluation and assessment, in our annual academic achievement report. District ACT scores are at the top of the Kansas City, Mo., area, and our end-of-course exams rank above state averages. Assistant Superintendent Dr. Jeff Klein said we are using our results to guide our improvement efforts, particularly in closing the achievement gap.

Community Survey Results

The district’s annual telephone survey of the community showed high marks this year for our quality of education, school facilities, school safety and teachers. Survey respondents said the district has strong academics and communication.

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 the back page for more information.

DISTRICT SUCCESS STORIES

Park Hill South Student Earns Perfect Score on ACT

Park Hill South High School senior Grant Pace scored a perfect 36 on his ACT this year, making him one of only 1,407 of the more than 1.8 million students who took the test to earn a perfect composite score. This is Park Hill South's fifth perfect ACT score since the school opened.

District Announces Nine National Merit Honorees

Nine Park Hill School District seniors scored so high on their PSAT exams last year that they received recognition from the National Merit Scholarship program this year. Our 2016 National Merit Semi-Finalists are Grace Heinerikson, Ellie Holder, Mohammed Jaffri, Keegan Justis, Shaelyn Kessler and Grant Pace from Park Hill South and Jacob Cogley from Park Hill High School. The district's National Merit Commended Scholars are Ian McBride and Christopher Winkie from Park Hill High School.

Park Hill Earns Meritorious Budget Award For Ninth Year in a Row

For the ninth year in a row, the Park Hill School District received the Meritorious Budget Award from the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO). The district received this award because our budget demonstrates effective use of taxpayer dollars in a user-friendly format.

Park Hill Broadcast Students Earn High Honors

Park Hill High School students Jordan Elder and Jordan Evans received honorable mentions in the Student Television Network Public Service Announcement Challenge for their public service announcement on cyberbullying, "Connect Respect Protect."



DRESS DOWN FOR DOWN SYNDROME: Lakeview students Abi Espinoza, Jordan Moore and Josef Kepus (left to right), along with Tiffany Ridge teacher Natalie Barner, presented a check for \$1,715 to the Down Syndrome Guild of Greater Kansas City. The district raised the money during the Dress Down for Down Syndrome campaign.



CLASSROOM STAR: The Kansas City Chiefs recognized Congress Middle School teacher Deb Still as a Missouri Lottery Star of the Classroom at the game on Nov. 29. Mrs. Still and her husband, Terry, got tickets and passes to be on the field during the Chiefs' warm-ups, and Congress received a visit from KC Wolf.

Park Hill Students Excel at National Journalism Competition

Visit www.parkhill.k12.mo.us to read the full list of the winners at the JEA-NSPA National High School Journalism Convention.

Park Hill Student Musicians Earn All-State and All-District Honors

Visit www.parkhill.k12.mo.us to read the full list of band, orchestra and choir members receiving all-state and all-district honors.

Park Hill South Students Win Cerner Biotechnology Competition

Park Hill South students Cydney Wuebben, Joy Yim, Alex Whorton, Nehal Sutariya, Mandy Fearday and Michael Panella placed first in a competition sponsored by the Cerner Health Foundations program. Their winning entry was a presentation and plan for treatment of a stroke victim.

Park Hill Students Earn Youth with Vision Award

Several Park Hill School District students won the Community Health in Action Award with their teammates from the Northland-wide Youth with Vision group. Anya Jeffries, Jordan Elder and Kennedeia Caldwell from Park Hill High School and Elif Barnhart and Madelyn Judah from Park Hill South High School received this "best new community wellness initiative" award from a collaboration of hospitals and health affiliates in the Northland for their Nicotine is Nicotine campaign.

District Earns Health Recognition

For its efforts focusing on employee health and wellness, the Park Hill School District recently earned the silver level of certification from Healthy KC. Healthy KC, an initiative of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, recognizes area organizations for innovation and excellence in promoting a culture of health in the workplace.

Calendar:

February 6

District Spelling Bee

February 10-11

High-school conferences

February 11

Board of Education meeting

February 12

No school for high school students or teachers

February 15

Presidents Day (no school)

February 25

Board of Education meeting

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 and Twitter feed.

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.

Online Comment Portal

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!

Around the District:



Above: Union Chapel third grader Jeffrey MacNeil worked with media specialist Kerri Hyatt on his presentation on the Kepler telescope.



Right: Park Hill Professional Studies students Lucky Brockman, PHHS junior, and Jalynn Sheehy, Park Hill South senior, worked with John Kreicbergs, president of Kid Rocket Studios, at the Sprint Accelerator downtown to solve a real problem a local business is experiencing. The students were participating in a MECA (Most Entrepreneurial City in America) challenge.

BUILDING SUCCESSFUL FUTURES • EACH STUDENT • EVERY DAY