



Park Hill School District

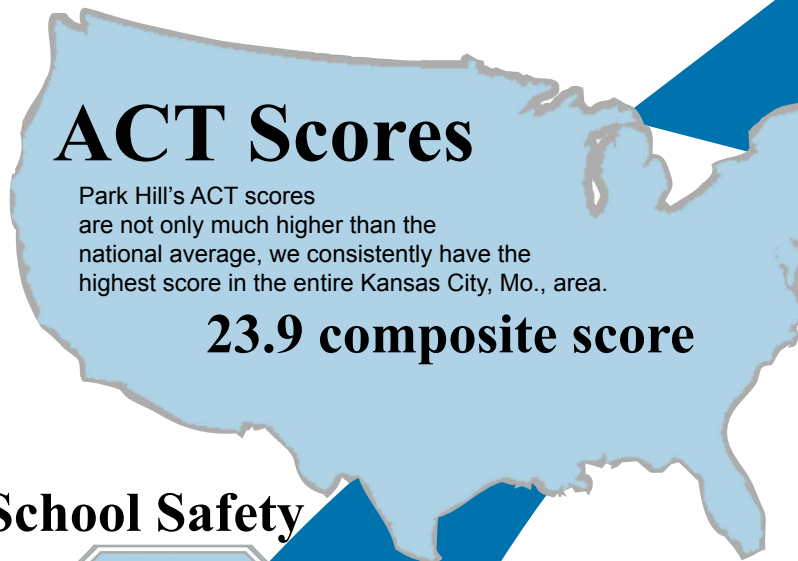
# CONNECTION

[www.parkhill.k12.mo.us](http://www.parkhill.k12.mo.us)

MARCH EDITION

## Park Hill By the Numbers: Smart, Safe, Efficient

### State MAP Scores



Park Hill scored in the top 10 percent of all Missouri districts in every content area of the MAP test.

### Tax Rate by District (per \$100 of Assessed Valuation)

Platte Co.	\$5.0439
<b>Park Hill</b>	<b>\$5.5650</b>
Fort Osage	\$5.7000
Blue Springs	\$5.7286
Grandview	\$5.7856
Independence	\$5.9130
Lee's Summit	\$5.9813
Raytown	\$6.3200
Hickman Mills	\$6.4217
North Kansas City	\$6.4333
Liberty	\$6.4550
Center	\$6.7869

### School Safety

**85 percent**

of 2015-2016 Park Hill students said they feel safe, compared to 74 percent of students in 2009-2010.

### Energy Savings

We saved \$4,588,373 from January 2010 through January 2016 by reducing our energy use.



# STRAIGHT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Park Hill Community,

When I speak to community members or when I review the results of our community phone survey, you make it very clear: you expect Park Hill to provide a quality education and keep our class sizes low.

In order to meet those expectations, we are keeping a close eye on our growing enrollment.

Park Hill has a long history of slow and steady increases of student enrollment. Despite the economic downturn in 2008, Park Hill continues to see a very stable pattern of enrollment growth. While growth is a positive sign for the district, it also comes with the need for additional facilities. To meet our needs, the Board of Education adopted an enrollment-based, long-range facility plan.

The plan is completely based on future student enrollment, which the state requires us to calculate on the last Wednesday of September. As of September 30, 2015, Park Hill's student enrollment was 11,111, which was up from 10,713 the year before. If our trend of growth continues in September 2016, the Board will consider next steps to address this issue over the coming years.

Watch the next issue of the "Park Hill Connection" for an enrollment update, and check out the district website for more information about the long-range facilities plan: [www.parkhill.12.mo.us](http://www.parkhill.12.mo.us).

Thank you for your support as we plan ahead to continue *Building Successful Futures ~ Each Student ~ Every Day*.

Sincerely,  
Jeanette Cowherd



**Dr. Jeanette Cowherd**  
Park Hill Superintendent

Park  
Hill

## NEWS WORTH KNOWING

### *District Decisions That Could Affect Your Family*

#### **District Saves Money By Owning Fiber-Optic Network**

The Board of Education approved a bid from Lan-Tel Communications for Park Hill to build a fiber-optic network, increasing bandwidth and enabling easier expansion. The 20-year contract will cost \$1.2 million, while continuing to lease would have cost between \$2.7 million and \$9 million over the next 20 years. Taking advantage of new federal E-rate funding regulations and partnering with the city of Kansas City, Mo., reduced the cost.

#### **Board Reviews Strategic Plan**

The Board received an update on the district's strategic plan, known as the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan. The CSIP has detailed goals and objectives to direct the district's improvement efforts, and we are making progress toward our financial, academic, climate and employee goals. See the CSIP on our website, [www.parkhill.k12.mo.us](http://www.parkhill.k12.mo.us), under "district information."

#### **Board Approves Calendar for 2016-2017**

The Board approved the academic calendar for the 2016-2017 school year, as suggested by the teachers, support staff and parents on the calendar committee. The committee used feedback from a survey of parents and staff to develop the calendar. Aug. 11 will be the first day of the 2016-2017 school year, and May 23, 2017, will be the last day, depending on snow days.

*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.*



*The three alumni we inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame were Brett Elder, class of 1983; Carrie Huke Hibbeler, class of 1984; and Richard Carrizzo, class of 1984.*

## Alumni Hall of Fame Honors Excellence

The Park Hill School District inducted three alumni into its Hall of Fame this year. Brett Elder, class of 1983; Carrie Huke Hibbeler, class of 1984; and Richard Carrizzo, class of 1984, joined the Alumni Hall of Fame at a ceremony in January.

Elder is a communication arts teacher at Lakeview Middle School. Elder has taught dance in the community for more than 30 years, and he is a leader in the national dance community, serving as an adjudicator for the Contest of Champions National.

Hibbeler is the community affairs director and executive producer for WDAF-TV FOX 4. She is also a founder and board member for Band of Angels, which benefits youth musicians. In addition, Hibbeler serves as FOX 4's liaison and board member for the FOX 4 Love Fund, which has raised more than \$100,000 for worthy local causes. After her son,

Nick, survived testicular cancer, Hibbeler also devoted herself to fighting cancer.

Carrizzo is the fire chief of the Southern Platte Fire District. He is a leader in the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and he serves on several local boards, including the Mid-America Regional Council's Public Safety Communications Board.

In addition to the alumni inductions, we honored several others at the January ceremony. We gave the Park Hill Business of the Year award to The Eye Center of Parkville and the Partner of the Year award to Restore Community Church.

We also honored the students who received national awards in 2015, from National Merit semifinalists to a perfect ACT score to elementary math contest winners.



*Line Creek Elementary student Josh Minder and his mom, Jody Minder, took a photo together at the Line Creek leadership luncheon. Students who demonstrated the school's leadership habit of the month could invite a guest to join them for lunch.*



*Tiffany Ridge Elementary student Naomi Watts worked on her math with WatchDog Chris Willhoite. WatchDogs are fathers and other male family members who volunteer to spend a day at the school helping with academics, activities and lunch.*

# Calendar:

## March 10

Board of Education meeting

## March 16

Education Foundation's Night with the Stars event

## March 18

Teacher work day, no school

## March 21-25

Spring break, no school

## March 29

PTA's School Board Candidate Forum, 6:30 p.m. at district office

## March 31

Board of Education meeting

## April 9

Northland Ethnic Festival, from 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Park Hill South High School

## 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](http://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!

## Enroll Your Kindergartner Today, Then Mark Your Calendar for the Kindergarten Roundup Event



Enroll your incoming kindergartner now, and mark your calendar for the Kindergarten Roundup event at your child's school on May 9.

Families with children entering kindergarten in the Park Hill School District in August 2016 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 2016-2017 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 on which the name and address are provided.

If you do not know which school your child will attend, please check the district website at [www.parkhill.k12.mo.us](http://www.parkhill.k12.mo.us), and look for the school boundary locator tool under "district information." Download the enrollment packet under "parent resources."

After you enroll, mark your calendar for the Kindergarten Roundup event at your elementary school on Monday, May 9. Call your school for the time. Parents and students will get a sneak peak of the school, tour the building, ask questions and get to know the staff.