



Park Hill School District

# CONNECTION

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

SUMMER EDITION



Park Hill has one of the lowest tax levies in the area, while district students achieve more than those in other area districts. Students like Graden Elementary second graders Molly Moran (left) and Addison Boor enjoy Park Hill's excellent education and caring learning environment.

## Park Hill's Value: Reaching Greater Heights with Less Even with Low Tax Rates, Student Achievement Soars Above Similar Districts

If value is getting the most for your investment, the Park Hill School District is one of the best deals in our area.

We received the Missouri Quality Award for the second time since 2009, making us the only school district to receive the prestigious award twice.

Our high schools also earned recognition from the U.S. News & World Report and The Washington Post, ranking in the top 20 for best and most challenging high schools in Missouri.

**“With one of the lowest tax rates in the Kansas City area, Park Hill is truly an incredible deal.”**

**- Kyla Yamada, district parent**

We're building brighter futures for our students using a tax levy that's lower than all but one of the 12 local school districts in our comparison group. We also have the lowest debt service levy, and we're the only one with a lower tax levy than we had 10 years ago.

“With one of the lowest tax rates in the Kansas City area, Park Hill is truly an incredible deal,” district parent Kyla Yamada said. “But don't let our low tax rate fool you — our students receive a first-class education. You only have to look at the accolades the district students and staff receive year after year to see proof of the fantastic job Park Hill does.”

### 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 KC	\$6.4333
Liberty	\$6.4550
Center	\$6.7869

# STRAIGHT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Park Hill Community,

Another school year is in the books, and I am proud to say it was successful in so many ways.

- We received the Missouri Quality Award again this year. 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.
- Park Hill and Park Hill South high schools earned national recognition from the US News & World Report and the Washington Post, ranking among Missouri's best and most challenging high schools.
- Our staff members earned awards for their excellence, including the Missouri Exemplary New Principal Award, the Collaborative Teachers of the Year Award, the Missouri Star of the Classroom Award and the Northland Chamber's Christa McAuliffe Pioneer in Classroom Teaching Award.
- Our students demonstrated their learning by earning titles like U.S. Presidential Scholar, National Merit Scholar, Student Readiness Award winner and Missouri Scholars 100 honorees.

And we achieved all this while maintaining one of the lowest tax levies in the region. In fact, our levy is the only one in our comparison group of districts that is lower than it was 10 years ago.

This is why our community constantly gives us such high ratings for value. In Park Hill, the community gets so much back for its investment in our schools, in the form of a highly educated workforce and children who are well prepared for their future college and career plans.

I am proud to be able to continue delivering on this promise here in Park Hill, and to keep *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*

#### **Mobile Classrooms**

The Board approved a plan to lease six temporary mobile classrooms to accommodate student enrollment growth at Congress Middle School, Tiffany Ridge Elementary, Park Hill High School, Chinn Elementary and Plaza Middle School. These units will add 12 classrooms for the 2016-2017 school year.

#### **Budget Update**

The Board considered projections for revenue and expenditures for the 2016-2017 school year. Assistant Superintendent for Business and Technology Dr. Paul Kelly reported that our increased enrollment will increase both revenue and expenses. He said we expect the tax levy to remain the same. Our expenses per student have increased 29 percent during the last decade.

*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

## National ACT Award

The national ACT College and Career Readiness Campaign recognized Park Hill South High School senior Shaelyn Kessler as one of four semifinalists nationwide.

## Journalism Awards

Park Hill High school senior Jordan Elder earned the Student Pillar of Excellence for craft talent award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, which also gives out the Emmy Award.

She received the Mike Wallace Memorial Scholarship award, which includes a \$10,000 scholarship, to honor the career of the late journalist Mike Wallace. Elder was also named the Student Television Network's 2015-2016 Student of the Year.

Journalism students from Park Hill High School and Park Hill South High School earned awards from the annual Journalism Educators of Metropolitan Kansas City Awards.

Journalism students on the newspaper, yearbook and broadcast staffs at both high schools also brought home awards from the Missouri Interscholastic Press Association's Journalism Day 2016 at the University of Missouri.

Visit [www.parkhill.k12.mo.us](http://www.parkhill.k12.mo.us) to read the full list of journalism students who earned honors.

## Youth with Vision Award

Park Hill High school senior Jordan Elder received the Outstanding Youth Prevention Award from Missouri's Association of Community Task Forces (ACT Missouri) for her work to reduce substance abuse in the community.

## Student Musicians Excel at State

Visit [www.parkhill.k12.mo.us](http://www.parkhill.k12.mo.us) to read the full list of band, orchestra and choir members earning state honors.



**EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION:** (from left) Park Hill South High School teacher Cheryl Chaput celebrates with Superintendent Dr. Jeanette Cowherd after receiving the Christa McAuliffe Pioneer in Education Award at the Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce's Excellence in Education Banquet. The chamber honored Chaput for her dedication to teaching, highlighting the way she took extra time outside of her normal schedule while receiving cancer treatments to teach two students calculus because they needed the course to help them pursue their engineering ambitions.

## Pole Vault Record

Park Hill High School senior Chris Nilsen pole vaulted 18 feet and 4-3/4 inches at the Missouri Class 5 Section 4 meet, breaking the national men's high school record for the event. Nilsen earned the Missouri Class 5 pole vault state championship at the state meet.

## Yearbook Award

The Park Hill South High School yearbook, "The South Paw," received the Gallery of Excellence award from the Walsworth Publishing Company.

## DECA Awards

Visit [www.parkhill.k12.mo.us](http://www.parkhill.k12.mo.us) to read the full list of DECA students earning honors at their international competition.

## District Art Festival Awards

Visit [www.parkhill.k12.mo.us](http://www.parkhill.k12.mo.us) to read the full list of winners at Park Hill's 54th annual Art Festival.

## Top Employee Awards

The Park Hill School District's service awards banquet on May 5 recognized employees and supporters. Marcy Schumacher, English as a second language teacher at Renner Elementary, and Janet Culver, special education teacher at Gerner Family Early Education Center, received the Teacher of the Year awards. AnnMarie Mikulich, Tiffany Ridge Elementary nurse, was named the Support Employee of the Year. Larry Mead, district office custodian, was recognized as the 2016 Randy Martin Memorial Employee Booster, and Bobbi Woodward, president of the district council PTA and the Hawthorn Elementary PTA, was chosen as the Super Booster.

## Excellence in Education Award

Lakeview Middle School teacher Terry Beasley received Missouri Alpha Delta Kappa's 2016 Excellence in Education Award.



**PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR:** Park Hill South High School senior Grant Pace was one of 160 nationwide students named as a 2016 U.S. Presidential Scholar. Pace is one of two Missouri students who earned the honor. He earned it for his academic successes, artistic abilities, essays, school evaluations and other accomplishments.

# Calendar:

**August 11**

First day of school

## Planning Ahead:

See the district website under "Parent Resources" for the registration schedule, back-to-school nights, parent orientations and open houses.

## 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!

## Around the District:



*Park Hill South High School home maintenance class students Caden Smith and Collis Lee worked together to build ottomans for Adirondack chairs.*



*Southeast Elementary's third-grade book club members met with Principal Diane Simpson during lunch time to discuss the book "Deep and Dark and Dangerous."*



*Graden Elementary students Mackenzie Wright and Caroline Wengler practiced running a 5K on the track.*