



Park Hill School District

# CONNECTION

Formerly the *Park Hill Progress*

WINTER EDITION 2012

## Fifth Graders in FLiP Pilot Get Excited About Learning

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When a student goes home from school and decides she wants to do further research on the day's lesson, it is clear her teacher ignited a love of learning in her.

The teachers who are piloting the Park Hill School District's Future Learner Project, or FLiP, report that this kind of excitement about learning is the new norm in their classrooms. FLiP is creating more student-centered classrooms, where teachers act as facilitators and students take ownership of their learning.

In addition to core skills like language arts and mathematics, teachers are also focusing on 21st-century skills like critical thinking, communication, collaboration, problem solving, creativity and research. They are giving students a deeper understanding of the curriculum than ever before. The tool that allows them to do this is technology, which is why the fifth-grade classrooms at Line Creek, Renner and Southeast elementaries now have laptop computers for every student. The students take their laptops home at night to do homework and extend their learning.

This fifth-grade pilot program is one of the first stages in a four-year implementation of FLiP, which will end with the student-centered, technology-fueled instruction in every classroom across the school district.



*Renner fifth grade teacher Lindsay Koerner helps a student with his critical thinking skills using his assigned laptop. Renner is part of the FLiP pilot.*

There are also pilot classrooms in the middle schools and high schools, where teachers are using technology tools to change their instruction.

For FLiP to succeed, not only will Park Hill need to find funding for all the technology, but it will need to provide technical support.

Most importantly, Park Hill will need to provide ongoing training for teachers. This will help them teach students the 21st-century skills that employers demand.

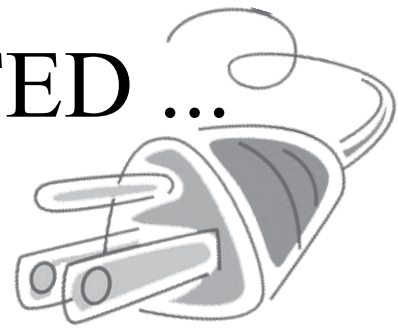
**Park Hill**

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### MISSION:

Through the expertise of a motivated staff, the Park Hill School District provides a meaningful education in a safe, caring environment to prepare each student for success in life.

# GET CONNECTED ...



## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Be one of the first to know what's going on in Park Hill. Follow the Park Hill School District's Facebook page, Twitter feed or Google+ page. The links are on our website, [www.parkhill.k12.mo.us](http://www.parkhill.k12.mo.us).

## **FIRST HAND E-MAIL NEWSLETTER**

Get weekly updates on what is happening in the district and highlights from the Board of Education meetings. Sign up for the First Hand e-mail newsletter at [www.parkhill.k12.mo.us](http://www.parkhill.k12.mo.us).

## **FIRST HAND MOBILE**

"First Hand Mobile" sends text message alerts about weather closings, emergency information or important news alerts directly to your text-messaging enabled mobile phone. To sign up, go to the district website at [www.parkhill.k12.mo.us](http://www.parkhill.k12.mo.us).

## **PARK HILL TV-CHANNEL 18**

For an inside look at what is going on in the Park Hill School District, tune in to Park Hill TV-Channel 18 (for Time Warner Cable subscribers). Videos of the programs are also on the district website at [www.parkhill.k12.mo.us](http://www.parkhill.k12.mo.us).

## **PARK HILL SCHOOL DISTRICT WEB SITE COMMENT FORM**

Park Hill is always looking for ways to improve. With that in mind, we have a comment form on the district website. Please check it out under "Quick Links" and share your comments, suggestions for improvement and even your compliments.

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## IMPORTANT DATES: Highlights You Should Know ...

**Christmas On the River:** *Dec. 7*

**First day to file for Park Hill School District Board of Education:** *Dec. 18*

**Half day for all students, end of first semester:** *Dec. 21*

**No school, winter break:** *Dec. 24-Jan. 1*

**No school for students:** *Jan. 2*

**Last day to file for Park Hill School District Board of Education:** *Jan. 15*

**No school, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day:** *Jan. 21*

**Park Hill School District Alumni Hall of Fame induction dinner:** *Jan. 28, 6 p.m.*

**No school for students, Presidents Day:** *Feb. 18*

**County spelling bee:** *Feb. 19*

**After Prom PTA auction:** *Feb. 23*



*Park Hill School District teachers collaborated recently to align Park Hill's curriculum with the national Common Core standards. Their work will prepare us for coming changes.*

## To Prepare Students for Future, Park Hill Aligns Curriculum with Common Core

In the Park Hill School District, "building successful futures" is not just a catch phrase.

Park Hill educators work every day to prepare students to succeed at college and in their careers.

In order to prepare students to be successful in their lives after graduation, Park Hill works to make sure that the lessons taught in our classrooms are rigorous and relevant to students' futures.

For many years, Park Hill educators have fine-tuned our district curriculum.

Now, in an effort to better prepare students for the future, our teachers are working hard to make sure our district curriculum is aligned with the Common Core State Standards.

"Common Core provides us with consistent, national standards that have the rigor and the focus on college and career readiness that we are looking for here in Park Hill," said Dr. Jennifer Corum, director of curriculum.

These standards were developed as a partnership between states, so although they do not come from the federal government, 48 states have adopted them.

As soon as the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education announced that it would adopt the Common Core standards, Park Hill got to work aligning our curriculum.

We are also providing training to teachers to prepare them for the transition. Teachers are learning about Common Core at regional meetings with other school districts and at local sessions in their own schools.

If the Board of Education approves the new, aligned curriculum in December, students will see the changes in the classroom in the 2013-2014 school year.

The curriculum will change for every grade level, from kindergarten through 12th grade, in math and English language arts. There will be some impact on science and social studies as well.

In the spring of 2015, the state assessment that Park Hill students take will cover the Common Core standards.

Dr. Jeff Klein, Park Hill's assistant superintendent for academic services, said aligning our standards with Common Core allows Park Hill to make sure that the learning in each grade level builds on the learning from the year before.

The national standards will encourage more collaboration and knowledge sharing across states, and there will be more research and development in resources to support the standards.

Along with our Future Learner Project, or FLIP (see page 1), aligning our curriculum with the Common Core will prepare students for successful futures by teaching creativity, cooperation, innovation and problem-solving.

Success Stories

Park Hill

Success Stories



**Teacher Named Marketing Teacher Of The Year**  
Park Hill High School marketing teacher **Matt Magnuson** received the Missouri Marketing and Cooperative Education Association Teacher of the Year award at the MO-ACTE conference this past summer.

**Sophie's Run A Big Success**  
Sophie's Run, a 5K run and walk around Lake Waukomis on Aug. 18, honored the memory of student Sophie Edwards and benefited the assistive technology program. The run raised \$5,000, which will purchase new devices to help Park Hill students.

HONORS & AWARDS



**Principal Honored With National PTA Award**  
At the Missouri PTA Convention, Park Hill High School Principal **Dr. Brad Kincheloe** received the National PTA Life Achievement Award for his efforts to improve the lives of youth and for passionately advocating for the education and well-being of children. This is the highest recognition bestowed by the PTA.

**Park Hill South Student Marches In Macy's Parade**  
Park Hill South band student **Jamie Venzian** represented Missouri in the Great American Marching Band in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City.

**PHHS Students Serve As Youth Delegates**  
Park Hill High School seniors **Kyle Branton** and **Elizabeth Peoples** were chosen to be national youth delegates to the George Mason University Environmental Summit this past June. While at the summit, Branton and Peoples met Missouri Representative Sam Graves.

**Park Hill Students Score High On AP Exams**  
More than 100 students from the Park Hill School District received AP Scholar Awards for demonstrating college-level achievement through Advanced Placement courses and exams.





### Park Hill South Senior Wins Philanthropy Award

Connor Blinzler received the Virjean Burton Youth Philanthropy award for 2012 at the Northland Community Foundation annual brunch, along with a \$1,000 grant to present to the charity of his choice, Synergy Services. Connor was also selected to attend Missouri Boys State this past June, and he will be attending the National Youth Leadership Forum on National Security in Washington DC.

### Park Hill Announces 14 National Merit Honorees

Five Park Hill School District seniors are 2013 National Merit semi-finalists: Daniel Chen, Nathaniel Conway and Madeleine Hemphill from Park Hill High School and Aditya Joshi and Stephanie Allred from Park Hill South. They now have the opportunity to compete for 8,300 National Merit scholarships worth more than \$34 million next spring. The five seniors are among approximately 16,000 semi-finalists in the 58th annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

The Park Hill School District's National Merit Commended Scholars are Kaitlyn Kneib, Alisa Rippee, Camille Smith, Vincent Tutorino, Kainen Utt, William Vonhausen and Miriam Bouallegue from Park Hill High School and Thomas Smith from Park Hill South.

The National Achievement Scholar from Park Hill South is Mariah Haley.

### Park Hill South Band To March in London

A former Lord Mayor of Westminster from London, England presented the Park Hill South Marching Band with its official invitation to perform in the 2014

London New Year's Day Parade during an assembly at the school.

### PHHS Teacher Earns Top State Honor

Park Hill High School PE teacher Tari Garner is the Missouri High School Physical Education Teacher of the Year for 2012. She received the honor from the Missouri Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. Garner received the 2012 Kansas City High School Physical Educator of the Year award back in June and was honored at the state convention awards banquet in November.

### Park Hill South Yearbook Featured in Publication

The 2012 Park Hill South Yearbook was featured in the 2012 "Possibilities" book, published by Walsworth Publishing Company. Walsworth sends this book to all of its customers nationwide. Two student-life spreads and several photos by former and current South yearbook staff members are featured in the book. Students from last year's staff include Karlie Bischoff, senior; Sara Parolin, junior; Lindsey Gile, senior; Emily Jackson, senior; Shelby Cooper, junior; Hannah Franklin, senior; Lauren Powers, junior and Amber Garrett, graduate.

### Southeast Principal Receives National Award

Diane Simpson, principal at Southeast Elementary, was recently honored at the National Association of Elementary School Principals banquet in Washington, D.C., because she is Missouri's 2012 National Distinguished Principal of the Year.



### Park Hill South High School Receives 2012 National Blue Ribbon Award

Park Hill South High School is one of 269 schools in the nation to earn the 2012 National Blue Ribbon Award.

US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced the winners this fall, and South is the only school in the Kansas City area to earn this award and one of only five schools in the state of Missouri.

South was eligible for this award because it received the Missouri Gold Star School award earlier this year.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools award honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools where students perform at very high levels or where significant improvements are made in student achievement.

Park Hill South High School was chosen in the exemplary high performing category because its achievement scores are among the highest in the state.

"This is a fantastic recognition of the collaborative efforts of our school team to make Park Hill South a great place for our kids," Principal Dr. Dale Longenecker said.

# NEWS WORTH KNOWING

## *Important Information from the Park Hill District*



*Kansas City Mayor Sly James visited Southeast Elementary as part of his Turn the Page KC initiative and read to Mrs. Groomes' third-grade students.*

### **Board Appoints Todd Burr to Fill Vacancy:**

The Park Hill Board of Education appointed Todd Burr to fill the vacant seat on the Board left by the resignation of Fred Sanchez. Burr will serve on the Board until April, when the community will elect someone to fill the remaining two years of Sanchez's term.

### **Board Hears Progress Report on Projects from 2011 Bond Issue:**

Many of the projects from the April 2011 bond issue are already complete, including the construction of Tiffany Ridge Elementary. The projects are under budget and ahead of schedule.

Construction of classroom additions and renovations at Park Hill High School and Congress Middle School is underway. Construction will wrap up this summer on safety entrances and other needed improvements at English Landing and Union Chapel elementary schools and Lakeview Middle School. Classroom additions and renovations at Park Hill South will also take place this summer, as will the addition of a canopy to the entrance of Renner and improvements to the parking lot at Southeast.

While the city of Kansas City closes 72nd Street next to Plaza Middle School in the summer to widen it, the district will reconfigure the parking lot to try to lessen traffic headaches.

### **District Partners with Turn the Page KC:**

Park Hill School District is one of four districts in Kansas City, Mo. that are partnering with Mayor Sly James' office to implement the *Turn the Page KC* initiative to increase reading proficiency city-wide. With some assistance from this project, Park Hill is working on a new after-school tutoring program. If you would like to volunteer as a YouthFriend to help with the tutoring sessions, contact Britney Compton, (816) 359-6062.

*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 2 for more information.*

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## Community Education:

Watch for the Park Hill Community Education Winter 2013 class brochure, which is coming this January!

In addition, Community Education is looking for people to share their talents with the community. Do you have an interesting craft or hobby? Do you have skills or knowledge the community would benefit from learning?

If you would like to propose an innovative new class to add to our

current lineup of classes we would love to hear from you! We are looking ahead to 2013 for something new and exciting.

For more information about Community Education classes or to contact us about new class ideas, call (816) 359-4060 or go online at [www.parkhill.k12.mo.us/Pages/InstructorTools.aspx](http://www.parkhill.k12.mo.us/Pages/InstructorTools.aspx) to request an instructor packet.

To view all classes and register, visit [www.parkhill.k12.mo.us](http://www.parkhill.k12.mo.us).

# Photos from Around the District:



Plaza teacher Scott Morrison dressed up as relish to compete in the condiment fun run during half time at the students vs. staff annual basketball fundraiser game.



The Prairie Point Gardening Club introduces students to different types of gardening, healthy living and taking care of the environment.



Park Hill School District hosted its first Marching Band Festival, where 20 bands competed and performed.



Union Chapel students raced around their school's new fitness track after the grand opening ribbon cutting ceremony.



Congress Middle School students rehearsed for their fall play, Sunrise Boulevard.



Gerner Center students dressed up in Halloween costumes and walked through the school to gather treats.



Park Hill South senior Allyssa Brubeck earned national media attention when she was crowned Homecoming Queen.



Education Foundation council member Nancy Gower, Graden Principal Dr. LuAnn Halverstadt and Foundation employee Julie Kloeppel enjoyed the Foundation's annual Community Breakfast.



Chinn Elementary Principal Lee Heinerikson and Assistant Principal Gina Brooks helped grill hot dogs for the Chinn family cookout.

# Calendar:

**DEC. 7**

Christmas on the River

**DEC. 21**

Half day, end of first semester

**DEC. 24-Jan. 1**

Winter break, no school

**JAN. 2**

No school for students

**JAN. 21**

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day,  
no school

**JAN. 28**

Hall of Fame induction dinner

**FEB. 15**

No school for high school  
teachers and students

**FEB. 18**

Presidents Day,  
no school for students

**FEB. 23**

After Prom PTA auction

**MARCH 7**

End of third quarter

**MARCH 8**

No school for students

**MARCH 11-15**

No school, spring break

**MARCH 23**

Northland Ethnic Festival

**(816) 359-4000**

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



**Park Hill School District**

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## Hall of Fame Induction Dinner 2013

The Park Hill School District will induct several graduates into the Alumni Hall of Fame, and we will recognize a Business of the Year and a Partner of the Year.

**Jan. 28, 2013, 6 p.m.**

*Call Communication Services for more information, (816) 359-4070.*

**Mark Your Calendars**

## Putting Our Youth First by Investing in Their Future

In this holiday season we have a lot to be thankful for in our Park Hill community. The programs of the Park Hill Education Foundation continue to grow and prosper. We look forward to the future of providing support for additional innovative educational opportunities.

It is a pleasure to work and live in our district, with such committed and generous families and friends who are dedicated to our children. Please consider the Park Hill Education Foundation in your year-end giving.



**Please contact Susan Van Hooser at 816-359-4071 or visit our website at [www.parkhillfoundation.org](http://www.parkhillfoundation.org)**

### LEADERSHIP

Dr. Scott Springston, Superintendent  
Dr. Jeanette Cowherd, Asst. Sup. for School Improvement  
Dr. Jeff Klein, Asst. Sup. for Academic Services  
Dr. Bill Redinger, Asst. Sup. for HR Services  
Dr. Paul Kelly, Asst. Sup. for Business and Tech.

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

Todd Fane, President  
Susan Newburger, Vice President  
Janice Bolin, Treasurer  
Todd Burr  
Boon Lee  
Chris Seufert  
Allison Wurst

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Nicole Kirby or Amy Haynes, Communication Services Department, (816) 359-4070