Getting students invested in their learning helps us prepare them for college, career and life. One way we do this in classrooms across our district is through inquiry, where students deepen their understanding through engaging activities, driven by a compelling question. We empower them to seek out information, support their ideas and solve problems. For example, at Congress Middle School, students learned about physics concepts by building a model roller coaster, testing theories and answering questions (left photo). Students at Walden Middle School learned about the design process by creating a model of an ankle-foot brace for people with cerebral palsy (right photo).
Dear Park Hill Family,

The 2019-2020 school year is off to a great start! We opened our brand-new schools, Hopewell Elementary and Walden Middle School, and all of our schools across the district are busy preparing each student for success in life. It’s early in the year, and our staff members and students are already making us proud with their accomplishments. Here are just a few of our many highlights so far:

1. We have nine 2020 National Merit honorees.

2. An elementary student artist earned national recognition in the PTA Reflections competition.

3. One of our volleyball teams earned national recognition for its high team grade-point average.

4. Three schools earned the National PTA School of Excellence award for strong partnerships with families.

5. We earned recognition for protecting student data.

6. Our early childhood education program earned national accreditation.

You can see more of our success stories on the next page. I am so proud of our achievements, and I look forward to celebrating more throughout the year!

Sincerely,

Jeanette Cowherd
Superintendent

---

TAX RATE
After holding a public hearing, our Board of Education voted to maintain our total tax rate at the same amount.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE
We are making progress on our 2018-2023 strategic plan. We are on track with the plan’s two goals: that each student will graduate ready for college, career and life; and that we will ensure success for all students, regardless of background.

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION
The Gerner Family Early Education Center earned a new five-year term of accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The school received a rating score of more than 90% of the requirements on every standard, and Gerner earned 100% on nine out of ten standards. The school got high marks for relationships, curriculum, teaching, assessments, health, teachers, families, community engagement, physical environment and leadership management.
NATIONAL MERIT HONOREES
Our 2020 National Merit Semifinalists are Sam Andersen and Keilen Danielsen from Park Hill South High School and Jerra Creason from Park Hill High School (pictured). Liliana Tasler and Raj Thaker from Park Hill South and Elizabeth Appel, Chloe Hughlett, Wasila Sun and Frances Swayne from PHHS received Commended Student recognition.

FCCLA HONORS
Recent PHHS graduates Abigail Bidwell and Katelyn Modlin earned first place in their region in interpersonal communications at the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) competition. Alexis Gillom attended the national conference to learn more about leadership.

PTA AWARDS
Chinn, Hawthorn and Union Chapel elementary schools earned the National PTA School of Excellence award for their strong partnerships with families.

BLUE KC SPORTING SAMARITAN AWARD
Tiffany Peeler from Walden Middle School received the Blue KC Sporting Samaritan award from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City and Sporting KC for helping students to recognize the importance of protecting the environment. Photo courtesy of Sporting KC.

DATA SECURITY AWARD
Our technology department again received the Consortium for School Networking’s highest commendation for strict student data security standards, the Trusted Learning Environment Seal.

WIFI GRANT
We received a grant from the 1 Million Project Foundation through Sprint to provide free WiFi hotspots to our students in need. We currently provide hotspots to students through the Sprint ConnectEd grant, so this new grant will allow us to provide even more hotspots to our students.

PTA COMPETITION HONOR
Chuck Williams II from English Landing Elementary received an Award of Merit for his entry in film production in the National PTA Reflections art competition.

Visit our website at www.parkhill.k12.mo.us for more information on these and other success stories.
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!

**CALENDAR:**

**Education Foundation Breakfast**

The Park Hill Education Foundation’s Oct. 29 Community Breakfast is from 7:30-9 a.m. at the Hilton KCI, 8801 NW 112th St. The Foundation will bring our schools, families and community groups together to celebrate the Foundation and district’s achievements. Dr. Jeanette Cowherd, superintendent, will share her report to the community. Register to attend the event on the Foundation’s website, [www.parkhillfoundation.org](http://www.parkhillfoundation.org).

**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 Spectrum Cable channel 18.

- **Park Hill Listens**
  Share your comments, suggestions for improvement and even your compliments.

---

During math class at Walden Middle School, sixth graders Jada Briedwell and Anna Box discussed the least common multiple.