Park Hill Gets Public Feedback
District Asks Patrons for Input on Key Decisions

One of the reasons the Park Hill School District is always earning awards and getting recognized for excellence is that we don’t rest on our laurels – we always work to improve.

The key is listening to the students we serve, as well as parents, staff, community members, employers and colleges. Here are just a few ways we use feedback to make Park Hill even better.

Surveys
Each year, we survey students, parents and staff members to see how we are doing and what we can do better.

We also conduct a phone survey of residents across our community to make sure we are meeting taxpayers’ needs. We use the survey results to drive our decisions.

Committees
We engage stakeholders in important discussions. For example, we invited community members to participate in our Efficiency Task Force to help us identify ways to use our resources more effectively.

And we reach out to local businesses and universities to help us develop experiences that prepare students for college and careers.

Public Input
When we need to make major decisions, we reach out to the people who will be affected.

For example, when we started thinking ahead about our future facility needs, we held public meetings and launched an online site called Engage Park Hill to get input about our plans for meeting future facility needs, and we will continue to seek feedback as ideas for a facility plan emerge.

Watch for opportunities to give us your opinion this school year!
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, Instagram account or Google+ page. The links are on our website, www.parkhill.k12.mo.us.

FIRST HAND E-MAIL NEWSLETTER
Get 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.

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.

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. You can see our videos on the district website at www.parkhill.k12.mo.us, on YouTube and on Time Warner Cable’s channel 18.

PARK HILL SCHOOL DISTRICT WEBSITE 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.

Union Chapel Needs Your Help to Celebrate 40 Years of Learning

Union Chapel Elementary is excited to celebrate its 40th anniversary.

There are a number of events scheduled through the year, with a culminating celebration in May.

If you are a former student, staff member or family member and have memorabilia to share with the school, please contact Alice Trager at tragera@parkhill.k12.mo.us.

This fall, we will ask for your funny stories or memories of being part of the Union Chapel community. Look for a link on our school website.
Since the community approved a bond issue in 2011, the Park Hill School District has completed most of the projects slated to come from the bond funds.

Bond projects included renovations and repairs across the district, upkeep of our computer network, upgrades to school security features, additional classroom space and the construction of Tiffany Ridge Elementary.

**Completed Bond Projects:**

- Restroom remodels
- Classroom upgrades and improvements
- New carpet in hallways and classrooms
- Roof work and replacements
- New gym floors
- Safer front entrances
- Parking lot additions and reconfigurations
- Updated HVAC
- Stadium improvements
- Kitchen and cafeteria remodels
- Health room remodels
- Staircase improvements
- Remodeled media centers
- New furniture
- Additional classrooms
- Brand new elementary school
- Electrical and mechanical upgrades
- More storage space
- Removal of mobile learning units
- Cafeteria expansions and upgrades

Without you, we would not have these much-needed updates. Thank you for supporting the Park Hill School District and its students!
Park Hill South Student Council Wins Award
Park Hill South’s student council received the Missouri Association of Student Councils’ Gold award from the Honor Council Committee for its involvement at the local and state level. This is the second year in a row South’s student council received the Gold award.

High School Graduates Named Scholar Athletes
PHHS graduate John Erneste and Park Hill South graduate Ashton Anderson are Kansas City Star Scholar Athletes for the 2013-2014 school year. The Star selects two scholar athletes each year from each of the participating Kansas-City area high schools for their athletic and academic excellence as well as their community impact.

Elementary School Earns Bronze Level Recognition
Union Chapel Elementary earned the Bronze recognition from the Missouri Schoolwide Positive Behavior Supports organization. Union Chapel earned this award for its dedication to providing high-quality supports for students.

District Broadcast Students Win National Awards
Broadcast journalism students from both high schools earned top national awards from the Student Television Network and from the Mid-America chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts. Pictured from left to right: South senior Connor Hills, South senior Shafer Schuetz, PHHS senior Kara Strickland, PHHS junior Jordan Elder and broadcast teacher Justin Ford.

Bridges Students Place at Current Events Contest
Park Hill School District students in the Bridges gifted program competed in the National Current Events League contest. Park Hill had the first-place fourth grade team in the nation and the second-place fifth grade team in the nation.

PHHS Named MSHSAA Leadership School
Park Hill High School is a 2013-2014 Missouri State High School Activities Association Leadership School. It is now in the running to become a MSHSAA 5-Star Leadership School.

South Girls Swim Team Coach Earns Award
Park Hill South Coach Tim Busenhart received the Missouri Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association Girls Swim Coach of the Year award.

PHHS Senior Selected for Leadership Program
PHHS senior Margot Robison is one of 32 students from around the country who were chosen for the Foundation for Teaching Economics’ Boulder Economics for Leaders program.
Social Worker Honored with Memorial Award
School Social Worker Jill Hazell, who works at Park Hill South and Plaza, received the Sara Andrasek Memorial Award for her work with victims of child abuse here in Park Hill and in her former job with Synergy Services.

PHHS Students Win Local Theater Awards
Several theater students from PHHS won awards at the recent Cappies gala. Graduate Jade Miller, senior Victoria Handford, senior Michael Weaver and junior Payton Dishman earned individual awards.

South Grad is Presidential Scholar Semifinalist
Park Hill South graduate Emerson Lee is a semifinalist in the 2014 U.S. Presidential Scholars program. He is one of only eight semifinalists in Missouri and 565 semifinalists from across the country picked for this honor.

Student takes First in National Art Contest
Seventh grader Stele Gjoni placed first in the Dialogue Institute of the Southwest Art Contest in the middle school category with her piece, “Light and Dark.” More than 500 students participated in the contest, which centered around the theme, “I dream of a world.”

Students Named to State Scholars 100 Program
PHHS graduates Hannah Conner and Sarah Hogan are a part of the 2014 Missouri Scholars 100, a statewide program honoring 100 of Missouri’s top academic students in the graduating class of 2014.

Porter named PH Support Employee of the Year
Gerner Center head custodian Gregg Porter is the 2014 Support Employee of the Year.

Student Places at FCCLA
PHHS graduate Kaylin Lake took gold in the Focus on Children event at the Missouri Family, Career and Community Leaders of America State Leadership Conference.

Students Named to the Duke TIP Program
Several seventh grade students earned recognition from the Duke University Talent Identification Program. These middle school students took the ACT or the SAT, which are intended for college-bound high school students. Duke honored the students at a state recognition ceremony.

Teacher Receives Advisor of the Year Award
South student council advisor Sarah Mathews received the Missouri High School Advisor of the Year award at the Missouri Association of Student Councils’ state convention.

Student Artists Win State, National PTA Contest
Union Chapel second grader Madelyn Morrow took first in the visual arts category at the state contest and South sophomore Grant Pace took first in the visual arts category at the state contest and won the award of excellence in the visual arts category at the National PTA Reflections contest.

NFL Honors Teachers with Diamond Awards
The National Forensics League gave Park Hill South teacher Jennifer Holden her third diamond award and PHHS teacher Tyler Unsell with his second diamond award.

Teacher Named Assistant Coach of the Year
PHHS girls soccer Assistant Coach Sarah Haferkamp is the Missouri Assistant Coach of the Year for 2014.

Counselor Wins Award
Hawthorn Elementary counselor Bianca Mayfield Miller received the Joshua Center Teacher of the Year award. Hawthorn third grader Ryan Deakins nominated Ms. Mayfield Miller for the award.

Grads Named to Soccer All-Academic Team
PHHS graduates Regina Bolin, Lyndi Plattner and Karra Kennedy were named to the Girls Soccer All-Academic Team this past spring.

Graden Earns Leader in Me Program Award
Graden Elementary received the Lighthouse School award from Franklin Covey’s Leader in Me program during an all-school assembly.

Zamzow named Park Hill Teacher of the Year
Park Hill South math teacher Vanessa Zamzow is the Park Hill School District 2014 Teacher of the Year.
NEWS WORTH KNOWING
Important Information from the Park Hill District

Planning for Future Facilities Moves Forward, Using Public Feedback
Superintendent Dr. Scott Springston updated the Board about the process of planning for the district’s future facility needs, which started in late 2012. The district, with the help of Hollis+Miller architects, reached out to students, staff and the community through surveys, public meetings and an online public engagement site.

The next step will be for the Board to consider some planning criteria based on all the public feedback, and the public will get an opportunity to weigh in on the criteria. Then we will develop some ideas for addressing the district’s facilities needs for the future, based on the criteria. Once again, we will get public input on the ideas before the Board makes a final decision on a plan.

Board approves 2014-2015 Budget
The Board approved a $159 million budget for the 2014-2015 school year. Assistant Superintendent Dr. Paul Kelly reported that staff all over the district helped develop the new budget. He said the budget includes using reserves to cover some one-time costs, including expanding FLiP to sixth grade as planned, but that the reserves will still be in the preferred range. The Board amended the 2013-2014 budget to reflect actual revenues and expenditures, as it does at the end of each fiscal year.

Law Mandates Lunch Price Increase
The Board approved increases to school lunch prices. Director of Food Service Ronda McCullick reported that the national legislation known as the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act includes a formula for pricing lunches in the National School Lunch Program. As a result of this formula, the Park Hill School District is required to increase lunch prices. In Park Hill this coming school year, elementary lunches would go from $2.10 to $2.20, secondary lunches would go from $2.40 to $2.55, secondary premium lunches would go from $2.75 to $2.85, and adult lunches would go from $2.75 to $3.

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.

Fund Classrooms, InvestNOW

INVESTNOW
Make a difference in Park Hill in an area that is meaningful to you.
Through the Park Hill Education Foundation’s InvestNOW program, you can now choose one of several teacher requests to help fund.

This online grant program allows you to help meet the educational needs of students by funding a specific classroom request from a teacher. Examples of recent grant requests include funding for photography equipment, science equipment, outdoor classroom items and interactive white boards. Search the needs online and fund your chosen grant at www.parkhillfoundation.org.

Community Ed
Now Enrolling
Park Hill Community Education released the new fall course catalog. Enroll now for exciting opportunities to learn new skills, get some exercise or make new friends.

If you would like to teach a course, contact Community Education at (816) 359-4060. Visit us online at www.parkhill.k12.mo.us.
The Plaza student body teamed up to create a lip dub video last spring. They all dressed up in costumes, spread around the school, and sang along to pop tunes.

Fourth grade students in Sarah Harrison’s summer school class at Prairie Point Elementary used Legos as part of a physics lesson.

Southeast fourth grader Dusty Boyer practiced his brainstorming and descriptive writing skills in Amy Spillman’s Smart Start class at Renner.

Photos from Around the District:

English Landing Principal Dr. Kerry Roe (right) greeted first grader Max Still and his mom, Julie Still, on the first day.

Fourth grade students in Sarah Harrison’s summer school class at Prairie Point Elementary used Legos as part of a physics lesson.

Construction crews layed new carpet at Hawthorn Elementary over the summer.

Graduate Blake Youngdahl, Park Hill South student body president, spoke to his classmates during graduation last May.

Park Hill High School teachers congratulated graduating seniors as they took their seats for the ceremony.

Park Hill Friend Tad Kardis received recognition for his eight years of mentoring Park Hill student Zach Allen. Jordan Frazier from Turn the Page KC honored Kardis for his service.

Southeast fourth grader Dusty Boyer practiced his brainstorming and descriptive writing skills in Amy Spillman’s Smart Start class at Renner.
Thanks to our energy management program, the Park Hill School District avoided spending more than $3 million on utility costs over the last four years. This not only made us more efficient with taxpayer dollars, it also minimized our impact on the environment. Energy Manager Bridget Kellam monitors our energy usage to make sure we only use what we need.

Tiffany Ridge Elementary, built in 2012, was designed to conserve energy through efficient materials, geothermal heating and cooling, and natural lighting in classrooms. Tiffany Ridge earned LEED certification, and its energy use is lower than in our older schools.

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!