FLiP Changes Student Learning

Thanks to the Future Learner Project, or FLiP, Line Creek Elementary teacher Jami Domeny could tell last year’s students were more excited about learning than she had ever seen before.

Fifth graders from three schools participated in the FLiP pilot last year, including Domeny’s students. Students took ownership of their learning, because the FLiP teachers changed their instruction and each student received a laptop to use throughout the school year.

This year, FLiP rolled out to every fifth-grade classroom in the district, and if last year’s pilot is any indication, these students will also be more engaged in their learning.

For example, when Domeny taught her annual lesson about photosynthesis, students were surprised at the results. They didn’t expect to find that a plant in a sealed plastic bag grew so well.

Some of Domeny’s students were so curious about this outcome that they decided to create their own research project to explain the greenhouse effect to their classmates.

“I didn’t just provide the answers,” Domeny said. “I facilitated, and students were able to take initiative that I have never seen before in a traditional classroom.”

Another exciting moment came when a parent reported her daughter had rebuked her high-school sister about the importance of good digital citizenship.

“You posted this on Twitter?” she asked her sister. “You know Grandma can see this, right? When you try to get a job down the line, this could really hurt you.”

And the laptops made it easier to teach 21st-century skills like collaboration, which are important when students go on to college and careers.

One of Domeny’s students, who was shy and quiet, told his project team he preferred an online tool to make their presentation, because it would allow each student to contribute.

Domeny was proud to see this student, who often allowed other students to dominate the conversation, use technology to make his voice heard.
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 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.

Helping Each Other Learn

The first day of kindergarten can be a little bit scary and confusing. That’s why Graden Elementary third graders help out their younger classmates with new skills and learning school rules. Third grader Autumn Thummel helped kindergartner Annalyse Jourdan figure out where to go and how to behave during an all-school assembly.
Park Hill Asks for Public Input
District Turns to Parents, Staff and Community for Feedback when Making Decisions

When it’s time to make big, difficult decisions in the Park Hill School District, we turn to the public for input.

A key part of Park Hill’s process for decision-making is involving parents, students, employees and community members.

“It is so important for us to make sure our patrons have an opportunity to provide input,” Superintendent Dr. Scott Springston explained.

Over the last few years, there are several examples of major decisions that Park Hill made with the help of feedback from district stakeholders.

**Future Learner Project (FLiP):**
In addition to the reviews of educational research and consulting with experts in instructional technology, district leaders went to parents for their opinions.

Parents showed strong support for using technology to make our classrooms more student-centered and our learning more project-based.

This is why we moved forward with the plan for the Future Learner Project, or FLiP, which we are now rolling out to all fifth graders in the district. Eventually, this program will be district-wide.

**Budget Reduction:**
A few years ago, when the state last cut funding to the schools, Park Hill’s budget took a major hit. In order to make the difficult decisions about what to cut, the Board of Education turned to stakeholders.

We invited patrons to serve on a Budget Reduction Recommendation Committee, and that group identified opportunities for savings and efficiencies.

The Board went through the group’s recommendations and selected $1.57 million in cuts for the 2011-2012 school year.

**Long-Term Facilities Planning:**
This past year, we started working with a local architect firm to make long-term plans for our district facilities needs.

Through a committee of parents and community members, through public meetings, and through a new online engagement tool, we are working to get feedback from students, staff, parents and community members.

All of this input will go into a final, long-term facilities plan recommendation for the Board of Education to consider.

**Redistricting:**
Although opening a new school is mostly positive, redistricting the attendance boundaries can be a painful process.

So when we opened Tiffany Ridge Elementary last year, we asked for parents’ help and input with this decision.

We invited them to serve on the redistricting committee, we held public input meetings, and we provided a form on the website for people to give feedback.

This input made a major difference in the final outcome. By including parents in the process, we learned important information about neighborhoods that should not be split and the importance of offering an option for fifth graders to remain at their current school.

**Ongoing Feedback:**
We don’t just ask for input on the major decisions. Even in the smaller, day-to-day changes, Park Hill consults the public.

Often, we use electronic surveys, planning committees and focus groups to help us as we continually work to improve our district processes.

We conduct a telephone survey of the community each fall to tell us how we’re doing. And we have a form on the district website asking for comments and ideas.

Thank you for helping make us better!
MO Scholars 100 Program

Four Park Hill School District graduates are a part of the 2013 Missouri Scholars 100, a statewide program honoring 100 of Missouri’s top academic students in the graduating class of 2013. Daniel Chen and Caroline Tran from Park Hill High School and Thomas Nick Smith and Joshua Ryan Hunt from Park Hill South High School earned spots in the program.

Broadcast Students Win National Awards

Broadcast students from both high schools won national and regional broadcast journalism awards at the fall Student Television Network competition, the Journalism Educators of Metropolitan Kansas City Awards and the spring STN competition.

Park Hill South Students Earn Perfect Scores

Park Hill South senior Joe Philpot scored a perfect 36 on his ACT this past year, and fellow senior Emerson Lee scored a perfect 2400 on his SAT.

PHHS Physical Education Teacher Earns Top Honor

PHHS physical education teacher Tari Garner was the 2013 Central District High School Physical Education Teacher of the Year through the National Association for Sports and Physical Education. The central district represents nine states, from Colorado to Minnesota.

PHHS Students Earn Honors at State FCCLA

Two PHHS students went to the Missouri Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) State Leadership Conference. Sophomore Daniela Lopez Romero took gold in the career investigation event, and senior Taylor Cofield took silver in the entrepreneurship event. Both Lopez Romero and Cofield placed first in the regional competition, qualifying them to compete at the state level.

Principals Take Regional Leadership Awards

The Greater Kansas City Missouri Principals Association gave Plaza Middle School Principal Dr. Lezlee Ivy the Middle School Principal of the Year award and PHHS Assistant Principal Dr. Deborah Miller the Assistant Principal of the Year award for 2012-2013.
Students Win State Reflections Contest
Two students won top honors at the Missouri PTA Reflections contest and will continue on to the national Reflections contest. Prairie Point Elementary third grader Kamree Davis took first place in the video production category, and Park Hill South senior Shannon Brouk took first place in visual arts.

Students Selected for Scholars Academy
The Missouri Scholars Academy selected six Park Hill School District juniors to attend its three-week academic program at the University of Missouri, Columbia: Jacque Aguirre, Annie Chen, Grace Lackey and Stephen Swett from PHHS and Nicholas Eischens and Camden Moffet from Park Hill South.

Teacher Earns Beginning Teaching Award
Sara Boen, first grade teacher at Chinn Elementary, is one of Missouri’s Outstanding Beginning Teachers for 2013, according to the Missouri Association of Colleges for Teacher Education.

Graduate Wins Student Production Award
PHHS graduate Otto Gaiser learned that he will receive a Student Production Award from the Mid-America chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

PH South Student Council Wins Gold Award
Park Hill South’s student council received the Missouri Association of Student Councils Gold award from the Honor Council Committee of Missouri Association of Student Councils.

Bridges Students Place in Current Events Contest
Park Hill Bridges students competed in the National Current Events League contest. Fifth grader Jordan Austin from Tiffany Ridge Elementary placed third in the nation and sixth grader Brandon Cuda from Plaza Middle School tied for fourth place in the nation.

DECA Students Go to International Competition
Twelve PHHS students qualified for the International Career Development Conference including Ben Shinogle, graduate, Bailey Warlen, graduate, Olivia Meyer, graduate, Abby Peoples, senior, Katie Hibbeler, graduate, Delaney Stevenson, graduate, Jill Kallenberger, graduate, Brianna Donahue, graduate, Davon Thomas, graduate, Paxton DiBlasi, graduate, and Joyce Liu, graduate.

PHHS Senior Wins Theater Lighting Award
PHHS senior Simon Huntley received the Blue Star Award for outstanding lighting design for the Park Hill High School production of “Sweeney Todd.” Several other PHHS students received nominations in the program, which is sponsored by Starlight Theatre.

PHHS Students Win Cappies Award
Several PHHS theater students won awards at the recent Cappies gala, which honors student productions in the Kansas City region: Chloe Nelson, senior, and Eva Ohman, senior, make-up for “Sweeney Todd;” Michael Bidwell, graduate, and Katie Wasicko, senior, sets for “Sweeney Todd;” Simon Huntley, senior, special effects for “Sweeney Todd;” Tia Hernandez, graduate, comic actress in a musical for “Sweeney Todd” and lead actress in a play for “The Matchmaker;” Daniel Lewis, graduate, lead actor in a musical for “Sweeney Todd;” Dannel Capers, graduate, Cassie Dailey, graduate, Kara Jahal, junior, Alexandria Mabrey, senior, Eric Mathis, sophomore, Jade Miller, senior, Savannah Nokes, senior, Cooper Slater, senior, Hannah Smith, graduate, Maggie Sobbing, senior, Peri Sturm, junior, Cody Van Hooser, senior, and Mel Young, graduate, ensemble in a musical for “Sweeney Todd.”

Renner Earns Silver Level Recognition
Renner Elementary earned recognition from the Missouri Schoolwide Positive Behavior Supports organization for its high quality supports for students. The PBS program helps students succeed at school by managing their behavior. Renner Principal Dr. Teresa Tulipana and Counselor Amanda Shanks accepted the award on the school’s behalf.

Students Named Boys and Girls State Governors
Both the Missouri Boys State and Girls State programs elected PHHS seniors as their governors this summer. Wisdom Nwike and Katherine Thompson will both serve during the 2013-2014 term.

English Landing Honored for Tutoring Program
The City of Riverside selected English Landing Elementary to receive the Missouri Municipal League’s Civic Leadership Award for its Beyond the Bell tutoring program. English Landing educators provide support for students in their neighborhood community center in Riverside.
Board Opposes Legislation That Would Mean $2-3 Million Loss for Park Hill
The Board approved a resolution opposing House Bill 253 from the Missouri Legislature, which would cut taxes in several areas over several years. Estimates of the loss to the annual state revenues range between $400 million and $1.2 billion. The bill passed in both houses of the Missouri legislature, but the governor vetoed it. A campaign began in July to lobby legislators to vote to override the veto this coming September, and the governor announced restrictions on the state budget that will take effect if legislature overrides the veto.

If the legislature overrides the veto, the Park Hill School District will lose at least $2.1 million and as much as $3.6 million annually. Park Hill has already seen reductions of $4,229,028 from the state, because the formula is underfunded.

Board members asked that the district continue to reach out to our local legislators.

Board Approves 2013-2014 Budget
After months of reviewing revenue and expenditure forecasts, the Board approved a $155.7 million budget for the 2013-2014 school year. The budget calls for the district to use some of its reserves to fund the Future Learner Project, or FLiP.

District Asks for Feedback in Long-Range Facilities Planning Process
As the district slowly grows, it is important to plan for the facilities we will need when our enrollment expands and our programs change with the times. That’s why Park Hill is working with a team from Hollis + Miller Architects to get feedback from students, staff, parents and community members. All of this input will go into a final, long-term facilities plan recommendation for the Board of Education to consider.

Law Requires Lunch Price Increase
The district was forced to increase the prices of school lunches in order to comply with a calculation from a federal law called the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act. Elementary lunches will go from $2 to $2.10, secondary lunches will go from $2.35 to $2.45, and secondary premium lunches will go from $2.65 to $2.75.

District Adopts New Online Learning Management System
A team of educators and technology staff members chose Desire2Learn as the district’s new learning management system to support online learning.

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.

Community Education:
The fall semester is right around the corner! Look for your fall class brochure in your mailbox around Labor Day.

To view all classes and register, visit www.parkhill.k12.mo.us.

Celebrating Our Past, Investing in Our Future
The Park Hill Education Foundation announced its new Invest NOW online grant program, which connects donors with specific needs in our schools and classrooms.

Save the date for the annual Community Breakfast on Oct. 29 (www.parkhillfoundation.org).
Gerner Center pre-kindergarten students brought their bikes and helmets from home and showed off their skills on the outdoor basketball court.

Line Creek Elementary kindergartners got right to work on their first day of school.

Fifth graders collaborated on a lesson about careers during summer school at Tiffany Ridge Elementary. They are part of the Future Learner Project, or FLiP.

Renner Elementary hosted a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Day, where students participated in activities like dissecting owl pellets and making liquids into solids.

Union Chapel Elementary fifth graders will create digital presentations as part of FLiP’s project-based learning.

Park Hill South High School class of 2013 celebrated its achievements by throwing caps in the air at the end of the graduation ceremony.

The community gathered for the annual Sophie’s Run, which benefits the assistive technology program in Park Hill.

Park Hill High School’s class of 2013 celebrated graduation in May.
As we prepare students to be successful in college or in a career, we need a rigorous curriculum that is relevant to the world students will live in after graduation.

This is why Park Hill teachers aligned our curriculum with the Common Core state standards.

Over the summer, teachers met to learn about the adjustments to the curriculum (pictured).