Among the projects in the no-tax-increase bond issue on the April 4 ballot is a facility for high-school students. Meeting the needs of our high-school students and their class sizes is part of the long-range facility plan, which is based on our enrollment growth.

The first step of this plan is a leased space, which will be the first home of the LEAD Innovation Studio. Starting next school year, some Park Hill High School and Park Hill South High School students will learn at LEAD.

This will free up classroom space while giving these students a flexible, personalized learning environment, focused on problem-solving skills, project-based learning and professional experiences.

If approved, the no-tax-increase bond issue will pay to build a district-owned facility designed for the needs of the LEAD students. It would also be the first phase of a full high school, so that we could build onto it if we get enough enrollment.

Although our current projections show that our growth could slow, our patrons told us during the public-input stages of our long-range planning process that they preferred a new high school.

In keeping with that feedback, this is a conservative plan that allows us to wait and see whether we need an entire high school.

Please see page three for more projects included in the no-tax-increase bond.

If voters approve it, the no-tax-increase bond will pay for a facility to address high-school growth. Next year, some students from both high schools will attend the LEAD Innovation Studio, a personalized, flexible learning environment in a leased office space. The bond would build a LEAD facility, which we could add onto if we have enough growth for a third high school.

No-Tax-Increase Bond Would Address High-School Crowding

This month we spotlight some of the bond projects; watch for details on the elementary and middle schools next month

Voting day: April 4, 2017
Impact on your taxes: This requires no tax increase.
Project list:
• An elementary school
• A middle school
• A facility for high-school students
• A support services facility
Possible projects (depending on the economy):
• A transportation facility
• Other maintenance projects
More info: www.parkhill.k12.mo.us
Dear Park Hill Community,

In January, we received applications from eighth graders who want to attend the LEAD Innovation Studio next year for high school.

The students who attend LEAD will still be Park Hill High School Trojans or Park Hill South Panthers, but they will experience a full-day program at LEAD, where they will immerse themselves in a flexible, personalized learning environment, focused on problem-solving skills, project-based learning and professional experiences.

That experience will take place in a leased space. This professional learning environment is the first phase of the plan for our high schools from our enrollment-based, long-range facility plan.

The next step in the plan for LEAD and for our high-school students depends on the results of the no-tax-increase bond issue election on the April 4 ballot. If that election passes, we would build a facility for LEAD that would be the first phase of a full high school, so that we could build onto the structure if we get enough enrollment to need it.

Because our patrons told us they want us to consider a new high school but they want us to be careful with taxpayer resources, this plan allows us to wait and see whether we need all that space before we spend money on an entire new campus.

This is all part of our ongoing commitment to be good, careful stewards of your tax dollars as we work to meet the educational needs of our students and our community.

Thank you for your support of Park Hill and our classrooms.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Cowherd
Superintendent

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Park Hill Experience Gave Student Professional Advantage

Thanks to her Park Hill Professional Studies internship, Park Hill South High School graduate and Oklahoma State University freshman Lexi Cart has more veterinary clinic experience than many students studying for their doctorates in veterinary medicine.

Cart, class of 2016, interned at a BluePearl veterinary clinic through the Professional Studies program. Lexi logged hundreds of hours during her fall internship and throughout the following year. The clinic even offered her a job, she said.

"It puts you miles ahead of other people, and it gives you an insight into what you’d actually be doing," Lexi said.

Lexi’s mother, Staci, said Lexi would come home from the clinic excited to share her stories from the day.

“That's what you want for your kids,” Staci said. “You want it to propel them forward in what they love or make them recognize, ‘Hey, this isn’t what I want to spend my money on.’ It reassured her she was choosing the career she wanted, because she just loved it.”

Lexi was among the limited number of undergraduate students accepted early into Oklahoma State’s veterinary program, Staci said. The expert panel considered her experience along with her grades and interviews.

"It's a priceless opportunity," Staci said of Park Hill’s Professional Studies program.

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Park Hill School District • Building Su
No-Tax-Increase Bond Would Cover School Updates and Support Services and Could Include a Bus Facility

Continued from page one

The no-tax-increase bond issue on the April 4 ballot also includes school improvements, support services, busing and maintenance projects to accommodate the district’s steady enrollment growth.

School Improvements
In order to make sure all our classrooms and spaces are up to our same standards for educational excellence as the new schools, we would make improvements at our existing schools.

Support Services Facility
Our enrollment has grown by 2,815 students since 1997. We have also added a new high school, three new elementary schools, an early childhood center and a day school since 1997. However, we actually have less space for the services to support all those schools than we did in that year.

Our maintenance areas, receiving dock, food service storage, warehouse, carpentry shop, vehicle bays, and processing areas for instructional resources and equipment are crowded into a small, leased space in the underground at Park University.

These are essential functions to make sure our classrooms are safe, comfortable, efficient places to learn. The no-tax-increase bond issue would cover a facility with space for these services.

Bus Facility
If economic conditions leave enough in the proceeds from the no-tax-increase bond issue, we would add a transportation facility.

If economic conditions leave enough proceeds from the April 4 no-tax-increase bond issue, it would pay for more scheduled maintenance and a bus facility that would give the district flexibility to save money on student transportation.

Currently, we contract with First Student for our bus services, and First Student owns its own facility.

By building our own space for buses, we expect to get more competitive bids for our transportation services and give ourselves more flexibility to save money on this in the future.

Maintenance Projects
If the economy allows, we would be able to pay for some of the maintenance of our existing schools. This would put these projects on a consistent maintenance schedule, preventing problems like leaky roofs, broken air conditioners and potholes.
Calendar:

Feb. 9
Board of Education meeting

Feb. 15-16
High school conferences, 5-8 p.m.

Feb. 17
No school for high school students

Feb. 20
Presidents Day (no school)

Feb. 23
Board meeting

Feb. 25
PTA auction (see below for more information)

March 9
Board meeting

March 15
Night with the Stars

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.

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.

Around the District:

Register to attend the PTA auction on Feb. 25

Mark your calendar to attend an event to benefit this year’s safety programs for Park Hill students!

The 19th annual PTA auction, sponsored by the District Council PTA, will be on Saturday, Feb. 25, at the Argosy Casino Hotel & Spa in Riverside, Missouri, from 6-10 p.m.

Proceeds benefit both high schools’ student safety programs, including safe driving initiatives, Rachel’s Challenge and after-prom parties.

To register, visit the district’s website at www.parkhill.k12.mo.us. Find the PTA auction’s page under Parent Resources and complete the reservation form.

You can visit the event’s Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/ptaauction.

Assembly Required

Hailey Huebener and Chloe Flores learned science skills by building a roller coaster at Congress Middle School.