Thanks to our community’s support, we opened two new schools, Hopewell Elementary (left) and Walden Middle School (right), in time for the new school year. Earlier this summer, students from both schools visited the construction sites for a sneak peek. We are proud to continue investing in our mission of preparing each student for success in life.
Dear Park Hill Family,

The 2019-2020 school year has started, and we look forward to another year of preparing each of our students for success in life! This is always an exciting time of year as familiar faces return and new families join us.

Construction was one of the projects that kept us busy this summer as we prepared to welcome all of our students and staff. We maintained our existing buildings to protect our community’s investment in Park Hill, and we finished up our new schools, Hopewell Elementary and Walden Middle School. We worked on our support services and transportation center, which will open in December, and our own building for the LEAD Innovation Studio, which we will open in fall 2020. Your strong support made these construction projects possible, allowing us to address our steady enrollment growth and to continue providing the best educational experience in the region.

I look forward to sharing updates and success stories with you throughout this year!

Sincerely,

Jeanette Cowherd
Superintendent

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**STAFFING UPDATE**

We hired 130 of the best teachers to keep up with our growing enrollment.

There are 30 first-year teachers.

They average more than **7** years of experience.

**86** hold advanced degrees.

**BUDGET UPDATE**

The Board approved a $245,620,817 budget for the 2019-2020 school year. This includes $60,498,113 from bond proceeds for projects like building new schools and maintaining existing schools.

With expected revenues of $179,636,787, we will use our reserves, as planned, to cover expenses. Dr. Paul Kelly, assistant superintendent for business and technology, clarified that the term “deficit budget” does not mean taking on additional debt. Rather, we increased our reserves over the last few years to allow us to cover planned expenses.
GLOBAL DESIGN AWARD
Twenty-nine students in the Professional Studies class at Lakeview Middle School placed second in the world in the SchoolsNEXT Design Competition for their design of a fictional school building that conserves resources. The students partnered with local architects from Hollis+Miller.

NATIONAL DEBATE HONORS
Elizabeth Appel from Park Hill High School earned honors at the National Speech and Debate Tournament. Appel reached the ninth round in Lincoln-Douglas debate, receiving recognition as one of the top 40 debaters in the country. Tyler Unsell, debate teacher from PHHS, earned Three Diamond membership in NSDA’s Honor Society.

NATIONAL SKILLSUSA HONORS
Two recent graduates earned recognition at the national SkillsUSA competition, which helps students develop personal, workplace and technical skills. Garrett Raynor from PHHS placed ninth in the community service team category, and Ryan King from Park Hill South High School placed 16th in the criminal justice category.

VOLLEYBALL TEAM AWARD
The 2018-2019 PHHS volleyball team earned the American Volleyball Coaches Association’s Team Academic Award. The national honor recognizes the team for earning a 3.95 cumulative team grade-point average.

CHOIR HONOR
The Park Hill South A Cappella Choir will perform at the Missouri Music Educators Association conference in January 2020. Singing for the MMEA conference is one of the highest honors a school music ensemble can receive in Missouri.

FINE ARTS ACADEMY HONORS
Eight students from across the district earned spots in the Missouri Fine Arts Academy, which recognizes top artists from across the state in visual arts, theater, dance, creative writing and music. PHHS and the LEAD Innovation Studio sent Skyler Messina, and Park Hill South sent Jesus Barragan, Amber Bracken, Delaney Ferguson, Amelia Lee, Ethan McWilliams, Julian Mikaelian-Marbelt and Elena Smith.

COMMUNICATIONS AWARD
The district’s communication services program received the Gold Medallion Award for overall excellence from the National School Public Relations Association.

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!

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 Spectrum Cable channel 18.

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

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During Park Hill and Park Hill South high schools’ summer school, Carly Means drew a portrait in Design and Draw class.