Two thousand plastic bags is just a mess to most people, but LEAD Innovation Studio student Katherine Etheridge sees them as a solution for two societal problems: lack of bedding for people who are homeless, and excessive plastic waste.

Etheridge, who runs a crochet business, learned she can tear the bags into strips, crochet them into warm, bug-proof mats, and stuff pillows with the scraps.

LEAD's Emerging Leaders course, which gives students authentic service-learning opportunities through helping nonprofits, inspired Etheridge. Starting in this course, she developed the process for creating the mats, including streamlining her method and collaborating on production and distribution with local professionals, volunteers and a nonprofit.

“Emerging Leaders helps kids to be a better part in their community,” Etheridge said.
Dear Park Hill Family,

As part of preparing students for successful futures, we make service learning an important part of our curriculum. In addition to doing good for our community, it gives students hands-on opportunities to apply their knowledge, exercise thinking skills, work on collaboration and build resilience. The story on the front page is just one example of our students having a positive impact on our community.

Across the district, students are engaging in service-learning activities, including organizing events to donate resources to nonprofits, preparing gift baskets for patients with cancer, cleaning up our community, and creating holiday cards for our nation’s service members overseas.

Our vision for teaching seeks to make our students well-rounded, and service learning provides countless opportunities for students' development and growth. As one of the best school districts in the region, we are proud to help students make a difference while working to make sure each student graduates ready for college, career and life.

Sincerely,
Jeanette Cowherd
Superintendent

STRAIGHT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

NEWS TO KNOW

HIGH ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
We earned the highest ACT composite scores in the Kansas City, Missouri, region, according to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The district-wide ACT composite score was 22.2, which came out ahead of the 20.6 Missouri public school average composite score, according to DESE, as well as the 20.7 national score, according to ACT. Also, our schools outperformed the state of Missouri in every measurable category on the state's annual performance report.

ENROLLMENT
Our 2019-2020 enrollment is 11,709 students, which is a 0.79% increase from last school year. Our K-12 enrollment has increased for 36 consecutive years.

ANNUAL AUDIT
We received our 2018-2019 audit results from an independent auditor, who gave us the highest possible result.

START TIMES
We approved new school start times, starting with the 2020-2021 school year, after a process that started in April and included a study of scientific research. After listening to thousands of comments from the public, both online and in person, the Start Times Advisory Committee chose its final recommendation, and our Board of Education approved it.
NATIONALLY RANKED STEM EDUCATION

Park Hill and Park Hill South high schools earned spots in Newsweek’s Top STEM High Schools 2020 list as two of the top high schools in the nation for developing students’ science, technology, engineering and math skills.

TEAM ACADEMIC AWARD

Park Hill High School’s 2018-2019 boys soccer team earned the Academic Award from the United Soccer Coaches Association for maintaining at least a 3.25 grade-point average. The boys team earned a 3.9 GPA. Nationwide, 112 high school boys teams earned the honor.

NATIONAL JOURNALISM AWARD

Current PHHS student Trey Crawford and 2019 graduate Davis Suppes earned honorable mention for National Scholastic Press Association’s sports story of the year.

STATE JOURNALISM AWARD

Debra King, Soon Jen Pak, Reiden Ogden and Malyssa Christian from PHHS earned third place in the state for making a video for the Annual Public Service Announcement Challenge through the Missouri Interscholastic Press Association.

GOOD CITIZEN AWARD

Aleksandra Kalisz from PHHS and Tyler Unrath from Park Hill South High School received the Daughters of the American Revolution’s 2020 Good Citizen Award on the school level.

TEACHER AWARD

For emphasizing inclusion, focusing on families’ well-being, working with community partners and preparing students for successful transitions after high school, Park Hill South special education teacher Sarah McDaniels received the Friend of MACDDS Award from the Missouri Association of County Developmental Disability Services.

FIELD OF THE YEAR AWARD

Eric Jones, maintenance turf specialist, won his second Field of the Year award from the Sports Turf Managers Association for his work on the Park Hill South High School baseball field. The honor promotes safety and professionalism in sports field management.

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!

POSTAL CUSTOMER

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.

During interest areas time at the Gerner Family Early Education Center, pre-K students Oliver Schilling and Grace Milner worked on sorting numbers and colors.