Schools in the Park Hill School District are getting crowded.

Many families move to our community just to send their children to our schools, and this means we need to keep up with our growing enrollment.

For several years, we have been planning ahead to deal with this growth. The community told us that it was important to have enough classroom space in our schools, to maintain our existing buildings, to keep class sizes low and to have simple feeder patterns.

The enrollment-based, long-range facility plan we created with all this feedback has enrollment targets. Since our enrollment continues to grow and hit those targets, we installed mobile classrooms at several schools this year. However, our community told us not to use these as long-term solutions to our crowding.

So, in keeping with the next step of our plan, the Board of Education decided to place a no-tax-increase bond issue on the April 4, 2017 ballot. Voters will decide whether to take on an additional $110 million in debt to pay for facilities to accommodate our growth.

It is possible to pay for these projects with no tax increase because of our Board’s careful money management and good financial stewardship of taxpayer dollars (See Superintendent Dr. Jeanette Cowherd’s letter on page 2 for more information).

When to vote:
Tuesday, April 4, 2017

What it means for your wallet:
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 economic conditions):
• A transportation facility
• Other maintenance projects

More info: www.parkhill.k12.mo.us
Land Purchase
Board President Matt Pepper announced that we purchased two properties. One property is a 6.21-acre parcel at 56th Street and N. Northwood Road, purchased for $136,500, next to the property we purchased in August. This will be the site of our future middle school, pending the results of the April no-tax-increase bond issue question. The other land purchase is 46 acres near NW Tiffany Springs Road and North Congress Avenue, and it cost $1.9 million. It will be the future site of our support services facility and possibly a transportation facility, depending on the results of the no-tax-increase bond issue. Both land purchases came from the proceeds of our 2011 no-tax-increase bond issue, as promised.

New Program for High-School Students
For some students in the Park Hill School District, high school will look very different next year. Students will experience a full-day program at the LEAD Innovation Studio in a leased space, where they will immerse themselves in a flexible, personalized learning environment, focused on problem-solving skills, project-based learning and professional experiences. Students will take an active role in their learning, while teachers will provide the support and mentoring all students need. Cutting-edge technology will allow students to work toward their individual goals with teachers facilitating their learning.

The program will start in the 2017-2018 school year with freshmen, while 11th and 12th graders will be able to enroll in a half-day program, including professional studies internships, fanning out across the community to learn directly from professionals in the fields that interest them. Over the next four years, the full-day program at the LEAD Innovation Studio will expand to include sophomores, then juniors and then seniors, with the upperclassmen continuing to experience professional studies internships.

While students will take all their classes at the LEAD Innovation Studio, they will still be Park Hill High School Trojans or Park Hill South High School Panthers, and they will be able to participate in activities at their home high schools. We invite all incoming freshmen to apply, as the school’s personalized approach will appeal to students of all backgrounds and with all kinds of interests and goals. Openings are limited, and the deadline to apply on the district website is Jan. 31. Incoming juniors and seniors can now enroll in the professional studies internships.

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 the back page for more information.
Professionalism Award
The principal of Park Hill South High School, Dr. Dale Longenecker, earned the Consummate Professional award from the Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals. The award recognizes Dr. Longenecker’s contributions to the school and community.

Band and Orchestra Honors
Visit www.parkhill.k12.mo.us to read the full list of band and orchestra members earning honors.

All-State Choir Honors
Park Hill High School juniors Sarah Storm and Deanna Eberhart earned all-state choir honors, and senior Kelly Decker is first alternate. Senior Sara Herdman received a perfect score on the sight reading portion of the audition and earned a spot in the Sight Reading Bee.

National Journalism Honors
Park Hill South High School journalism students earned national recognition at the JEA/NSPA Fall National High School Journalism Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. Visit www.parkhill.k12.mo.us to read the full list of journalism students earning honors.

Reading Instruction Award
Line Creek Elementary first-grade teacher Shannon Smith earned the Read to Achieve award and a $1,000 award from the Missouri NEA and KCTV 5 News. The parent of a student in Mrs. Smith’s class nominated her for the award.

Good Money Management
For the 10th year in a row, the Park Hill School District earned the Meritorious Budget Award from the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO International). The district received this award for its budget presentation.

Football Award
PHHS football athlete Chester Graves earned the Buck Buchanan Award, which recognizes him as the 2016 best big class high school defensive end in the Kansas City metro area.

Bully Prevention Contest
Plaza Middle School students placed first in the Olweus Bully Prevention Contest. Gracie Moran earned first place for her bookmark, Joey Chen earned first place for her comic strip and Elena McCaffrey earned first place for her digital media project.

Business Excellence Award
The Park Hill School District earned the 2017 Business Excellence Award from the Platte County Economic Development Council.

State Hall of Fame Induction
The Park Hill South girls soccer head coach, Joe Toigo, earned membership in the Missouri High School Soccer Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Toigo has coached boys and girls soccer teams in the district during the past 22 years, achieving a 339-142-23 boys record and a 315-172-36 girls record.
Calendar:

Jan. 12
Board of Education meeting

Jan. 16
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
(no school)

Jan. 17
Last day to file for the
Board of Education

Jan. 26
Board of Education meeting

Jan. 30
Park Hill Hall of Fame

Feb. 4
District Spelling Bee

Feb. 9
Board of Education meeting

Feb. 18
District Spelling Bee
(alternate date)

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.

Save the Date:
PTA Auction Feb. 25 to Benefit Safety Programs

The 19th annual 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 and student safety programs, including safe driving initiatives, Rachel’s Challenge and after-prom parties! Look for more information posted on the district’s website and distributed through your school communities.

To help organize the event or support our educational community through your sponsorship, please contact Sherri Scott at sherriscott@remax.net.