In order to provide space to maintain class sizes, a new elementary school and middle school are among the projects in the no-tax-increase bond issue on the April 4 ballot.

Other projects, which include facilities for high-school students and support services, and plans for school improvements and maintenance, were spotlighted in earlier “Connection” issues. The full plan is online at www.parkhill.k12.mo.us.

New Elementary School
As our enrollment grew, we had to add mobile classrooms at Tiffany Ridge and Chinn elementary schools. In anticipation of this growth, our enrollment-based long-range planning calls for an eleventh elementary school, which would open in 2019 if the no-tax-increase bond issue passes. We are in the process of buying land for this school, using funds from the 2011 no-tax-increase bond issue, as promised.

See MIDDLE SCHOOL PLANS, page three
Dear Park Hill Community,

As we prepared for our growing schools by developing an enrollment-based, long-range facility plan, we talked to community members like you.

You and your neighbors told us that it is important for us to have enough space to prevent crowded classrooms, that we must take care of our existing facilities, and that we should not put students into mobile classrooms for longer than necessary. You also told us that we must take care of these things while spending no more tax dollars than absolutely necessary.

Our long-range facility plan reflects this community feedback, which you can see in the projects highlighted in this month’s “Connection” newsletter.

The new elementary school and the new middle school in our plan provide much-needed classroom space for our students. In addition, our conservative timeline means that we are waiting until we know for sure we have the additional elementary and middle-school students before we build. This is why we have students in mobile classrooms right now.

If you need any more information about our long-range plans or the no-tax-increase bond issue on the ballot that would pay for these projects, please look on our district website, www.parkhill.k12.mo.us, or feel free to call us at the district office, (816) 359-4000.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Cowherd
Superintendent
MIDDLE SCHOOL PLANS

New Middle School
Middle-school enrollment continues to grow, with all three current schools above their designed capacity. And next year, we expect our sixth-grade class to be 100 students larger than this year’s. We had to put mobile classrooms at Congress and Plaza middle schools to ease the crowding.

Our enrollment-based long-range planning calls for a fourth middle school, to open in 2019, and a change in the grade configurations, so that all four middle schools would have sixth through eighth grades. This limits the number of transitions students have to experience between schools. The plan also calls for the four middle schools to feed cleanly into the two high schools.

These plans were the result of years of studies of best practices and public feedback. Using funds from the 2011 no-tax-increase bond issue as promised, we purchased land for the new middle school around 56th Street and Northwood.

No-Tax-Increase
Thanks to good financial management by the district, Park Hill is in a position to ask for a bond without raising your taxes. This is a result of aggressively paying off existing debts and refinancing for better rates.

Local commercial and residential growth has also helped by expanding the local tax base. Because of these factors, we have room in our state-set debt limit to take on additional debt with no tax increase.

We will continue to carefully monitor our debt and interest rates in order to save taxpayer dollars.
In an effort to keep the community informed, each edition of the “Park Hill Connection” goes to every home in the Park Hill School District, even those without students in our schools.

Calendar:

March 9
Board of Education meeting

March 15
Education Foundation’s Night with the Stars event

March 17
Teacher work day, no school

March 20-24
Spring break, no school

March 29
PTA's School Board Candidate Forum, 6:30 p.m. in Park Hill High School’s media center

March 30
Board of Education meeting

April 1
Northland Ethnic Festival, from 11 a.m.-3:330 p.m. at Park Hill South High School

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.

Family Services:

Families with children entering kindergarten in the Park Hill School District in August 2017 may enroll now by visiting their local elementary schools between 7:45 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Children who turn five on or before July 31 are eligible for kindergarten for the 2017-2018 school year.

Parents will need to bring their children’s certified, state-issued birth certificate, immunization records and two proofs of residency to enroll. One proof of residency must be a current paid real estate tax receipt, a lease or mortgage agreement, or a new construction contract. The other should be an original and current gas, electric or water bill on which the name and address are provided.

If you do not know which school your child will attend, please check the district website at www.parkhill.k12.mo.us, and look for the school boundary locator tool under “district information.” Download the enrollment packet under “parent resources.”

After you enroll, mark your calendar for the Kindergarten Roundup event at your elementary school on Monday, May 1. Call your school for the time. Parents and students will get a sneak peak of the school, tour the building, ask questions and get to know the staff.

Enroll Your Kindergartner Today, Then Mark Your Calendar for the Kindergarten Roundup Event