As we approach Thanksgiving, we’re taking the time to recognize how fortunate we are to live and work in Park Hill. We are celebrating Achievement Week from Monday, Nov. 13 through Friday, Nov. 17, and we want to celebrate everyone who plays a role in our students’ accomplishments, including our community. We continue to succeed because of our strong relationships with our families and community members. Thanks to your support . . .

Our graduates are college and career ready. We can see from our top-ranking ACT results and our consistently high test scores that we are graduating students who are prepared for their future college and career paths.

Our teachers engage students and give them ownership of their learning experience. Students learn through doing with hands-on, active lessons that allow them to experience and apply their new knowledge. Students of all ages have a deeper understanding of their learning, thanks to innovative teaching, personalized instruction and professional experiences.

Some of our most important teaching happens outside the classrooms. While the knowledge our students learn in core subjects like math and English language arts is important, their experiences outside these classrooms are also key to preparing them for their futures. Our range of co-curricular and extracurricular activities, such as sports, fine arts and clubs, help students develop soft skills such as communication, collaboration, problem-solving and flexibility. Mentors and coaches play valuable roles in helping our students fulfill their potential.

Our community contributes to our success. We continue to succeed because our community trusts us with its children and supports us through partnering, volunteering and voting. Our strong relationships with families, parent groups, neighborhoods, community organizations and businesses provide a foundation for our students’ success.

Park Hill South High School students Ryan Perez, Asaad Middleton, Niccolo Leluga and Fletcher Burns worked to solve a science mystery using the claim, evidence and reasoning framework.
Dear Park Hill Community,

As you might know, our enrollment-based, long-range facilities plan includes building a fourth middle school and an 11th elementary school, which will open in fall 2019. Included in that process is a fun part — naming the new schools! We want everyone in the district to play a part in the brainstorming process, including you. The Board of Education set the criteria for the names, which you can find on our district website.

Throughout the month of November, we're asking for name suggestions. You can make name suggestions on our district website, and each elementary and middle school will collect students’ ideas and vote on a name suggestion.

Then a middle school name recommendation committee and an elementary name recommendation committee, which will both include community members, parents, students and staff members, will meet in December to review the suggestions and narrow the lists to 10 names each. The two committees will meet again in January to narrow their lists to three names each to share with the Board in February. The Board will select names for the two schools in March.

I look forward to receiving everyone’s suggestions and following our committees’ progress toward naming the schools that will soon be part of our vision of Building Successful Futures – Each Student – Every Day!

Sincerely,
Jeanette Cowherd
Superintendent

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**HELP NAME OUR NEW SCHOOLS**
Help us select names for our new middle school and our new elementary by filling out the suggestion forms on the district website, www.parkhill.k12.mo.us.

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**NEWS WORTH KNOWING**

**BOND SALE**
The Board of Education authorized the district to sell $87,715,000 of the $110 million April 2017 bonds that voters approved in the no-tax-increase bond issue. As promised, the money will pay for new schools, facilities and school improvements to address enrollment growth.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION BIDS**
The Board approved some bid packages with Universal Construction for the construction of the fourth middle school, which opens in fall 2019.

**STRATEGIC PLANS**
Planning for our 2018-2023 strategic plan is underway, and Dr. Mike Kimbrel, executive director for quality and evaluation, said we surveyed students, parents and stakeholders this spring to help us identify our stakeholders’ key requirements. Now the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan committee is working on reviewing those requirements, along with other data, to help develop our plan.
Six Park Hill School District seniors earned National Merit Commended recognition, joining the district’s five National Merit Semifinalists announced in the October edition of the Connection. Anthony Alfieri, Shannon Iverson, Zachary Mikuls and Lawrence Suba from Park Hill High School and Ethan Wissmann and Meghan Cashell from Park Hill South High School are National Merit Commended scholars.

The 2016-2017 Park Hill High School volleyball team earned the American Volleyball Coaches Association’s Team Academic Award. The honor recognizes the team for recording a 3.96 cumulative team grade-point average. PHHS is among 277 high school girls’ teams to receive the award. Lindsey Hood is the volleyball head coach.

What does it mean to be a good citizen? For first-grade students at Southeast Elementary like Amora Ruiz, Kolton Kane, Imani Hakim and Ace Bundy (left to right), it is helping those who have been affected by Hurricane Harvey in Houston. Students at Southeast collected money for the American Red Cross in September.
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.

Online Comment Portal
Share your comments, suggestions for improvement and even your compliments.

Building Successful Futures • Each Student • Every Day

Students and staff at the LEAD Innovation Studio hosted Park Hill Board of Education members and district administrators for a ceremonial ribbon cutting at the leased space. As part of our long-range facilities plan, we will build our own school for LEAD no sooner than 2020. Current district eighth graders and freshmen can enroll in next year’s LEAD program during their regular enrollment process. Space is limited.