With our successful no-tax-increase bond issue vote behind us, many of you are eager to know the details about our next steps. The timeline above outlines the stages of our four major projects, including design and construction phases and the opening target dates.

Community members like you helped us in our preparations for the future. From the beginning, we used public feedback to develop our enrollment-based, long-range facilities plan. It influenced our decision-making process and the options we presented to the Board of Education. Then 84 percent of voters approved our bond issue to pay for the projects in this plan. We will continue to get student, parent, employee and community member feedback in the design process for our new middle school and elementary school.

For more information on the enrollment-based, long-range facilities plan, see page two for a letter from Superintendent Dr. Jeanette Cowherd.
Dear Park Hill Community,

We’ve had a great start to the new school year, and we’re already taking steps to continue our success in the future.

I’m visiting each of our school’s PTA groups and staff to give everyone an update about our enrollment-based, long-range facilities plan, and I’d like to give you this update as well.

The plan is in full swing after your strong support passed our no-tax-increase bond issue in April. Fortunately, Platte County’s assessment of existing property increased and interest rates are favorable, which means we will be able to fund the entire $110 million long-range facility plan. We can address the consistent enrollment growth we’ve experienced for more than 30 years. As part of our commitment to remain good financial stewards of your tax dollars, you might remember that we promised that we would build our own transportation facility and increase school improvements if economic conditions allowed. I am excited to report that our financial situation will allow us to do these projects.

As we promised, we will remove the mobile classrooms from Chinn Elementary, Line Creek Elementary, Renner Elementary, Tiffany Ridge Elementary, Union Chapel Elementary, Plaza Middle School, Congress Middle School and Park Hill High School.

In fall of 2018, the Board will set the criteria for our redistricting process, and then we will ask for your input before the Board makes a final decision in March 2019.

I want to thank you for your trust as we follow our vision of Building Successful Futures – Each Student – Every Day. Your support and feedback help us make sure we prepare all of our students for success in life.

Sincerely,
Jeanette Cowherd
Superintendent

LOWER TAXES

After holding a public hearing, the Board approved lowering the district’s tax rate by 12.5 cents. This is the 13th consecutive year the Board set the tax rate lower than voters approved in April 2002.

EVENT SECURITY

In order to keep everyone safe after a student fight that got out of hand, officials ended the Park Hill High School vs. Park Hill South High School football game on Sept. 1 ten minutes early with a score of 42 to 0.

“The overwhelming majority of the students and parents at the game, including the players, handled themselves beautifully and we are very proud of their behavior,” Superintendent Dr. Jeanette Cowherd said. “Keeping our schools and our school activities safe is the most important thing we do, because our students need a safe, caring environment.”

Dr. Cowherd shared that we partnered with local law enforcement to increase the number of officers at our games and to patrol the parking lots, and we added district staff to provide more supervision. We added portable restrooms and concessions on the visitors’ side, so the fans could be kept separate. We communicated with families of students in kindergarten through eighth grade that these younger students must be supervised by an adult.

We are investigating possible long-term changes to our facilities to increase security and make supervision easier. We will also continue to work on our staffing of the games and to coordinate with local law enforcement.

Building Successful Futures • Each Student • Every Day
ACT SCORES
Our class of 2018 had an ACT composite score of 22.3, topping the state composite score of 20.4 and the national composite score of 21.0. We appear to have the highest composite score in the Kansas City, Missouri, area, based on the results other districts shared with us.

NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS
Our 2018 National Merit Semifinalists are Liam Dai, Marti Heit and Trent Neutgens from Park Hill South and Jessica Mast and Jackson Turner from Park Hill High School. We will publish the National Merit Commended students’ names in the next issue.

DATA SECURITY AWARD
We earned the Trusted Learning Environment Seal from the Consortium for School Networking (CoSN) for our dedication to protecting student data. Park Hill is among five districts nationwide to receive the honor, which recognizes strict data privacy and security standards. Specifically, CoSN awarded the seal for our leadership, business services, data security, professional development and classroom procedures.

NATIONAL DEBATE HONORS
Six students from Park Hill High School earned honors at the National Speech and Debate Tournament. The team received recognition as one of the top 20 debate schools in the country, earning the School of Excellence award for the first time. Graduates Jake McFee and Matt Hayes earned third place overall in public forum debate. Jackson Elder, senior; Lauren Szala, senior; Ben Tuimauga, senior; and Ethan Simon, junior, also earned recognition.

CHOIR HONOR
Park Hill High School senior Deanna Eberhart earned recognition from the National Association for Music Education, joining NAFME’s All-National Mixed Honor Choir.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS RECOGNITION
A Park Hill South High School senior received recognition as a unified partner for the Team Missouri Special Olympics. Trey Toliver will compete in the Special Olympics’ USA Games in Seattle in June 2018 as a unified partner, who is a student who does not have intellectual disabilities. Trey will serve as a bowling partner and mentor to athletes. Trey was chosen with his sister, Alaina (Park Hill South class of 2016), who was in the essential skills program. Pictured: Trey with Alaina in 2015.

NATIONAL SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE
Chinn Elementary earned the 2017-2019 School of Excellence award from the National PTA. Chinn is one of two schools in Missouri to receive the honor, which highlights schools that demonstrate strong relationships with families.

NATIONAL WRESTLING HALL OF FAME
Bill Erneste, Park Hill High School athletic director and former wrestling coach, will join the Missouri chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in October.
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!

Southeast Elementary students Douglas Good and Faith Flournoy worked with Ms. Erica Crainshaw to read books from their classroom library.