The district’s long-term plan includes placing mobile classrooms at Plaza Middle School (left) and Park Hill High School (right - last year) to provide temporary learning spaces as student enrollment reaches record levels district-wide. Tiffany Ridge Elementary, Chinn Elementary and Congress Middle School are also using mobile classrooms to handle enrollment growth.

Ongoing Growth Shapes Park Hill’s Long-Term Plan

- 22 new classrooms needed to hold last year’s enrollment growth
- 398 new students enrolled in the district last year
- 5 schools have mobile classrooms this school year

District Enrollment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>’91-’92</td>
<td>7,332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>’95-’96</td>
<td>8,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>’01-’02</td>
<td>9,171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>’05-’06</td>
<td>9,648</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>’11-’12</td>
<td>10,299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>’15-’16</td>
<td>11,111</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Straight from the Superintendent

Dear Park Hill Community,

For the past 32 years — even during economic downturns — our district has experienced steady 1.5 to 2 percent growth. In the 2015-2016 school year, the district grew by 398 students, the largest increase in our history. We now face all-time high enrollments in the elementary, middle school and high school levels.

Our long-range plan anticipated this growth, and the installation of mobile classrooms provides temporary classroom space. Mobile classrooms were added to the following schools: Park Hill High School, Congress Middle School, Tiffany Ridge Elementary, Chinn Elementary and Plaza Middle School. New housing starts and area birth rate data indicate continued growth. Over the next few years, we expect about 2,000 new students in our district. Planning experts tell us that our enrollment will continue to grow to about 13,000 students.

The district dedicated extensive time and resources to gathering feedback from students, staff, families and community members about how to address the issue of growth. In March 2015, the Board approved the enrollment-based, long-range facilities plan. It calls for adding two elementary schools, as enrollment grows in the lower grades. The plan also calls for educating sixth, seventh and eighth grades in four middle schools.

Our high school students will feel the impact — enrollment is projected to reach 4,000 students within the next five to 10 years. A four-phase, enrollment-based proposal offers additional space and innovative programs that would expand our offerings and ease crowding at both high schools. Because we have outgrown our warehouse, we also need a new support services facility, and building our own school bus facility would save us money.

Continuing growth affects everyone in the Park Hill family. It is important we are informed and prepared to address the realities of providing a quality education in a growing district. Thank you for your support as we plan ahead to continue to Build Successful Futures ~ Each Student ~ Every Day!

Sincerely,

Jeanette Cowherd
Superintendent

News Worth Knowing

District Info That Could Affect Your Family

Lower Tax Levy
After holding a public hearing, the Board approved lowering the district’s operating levy by 3.6 cents, as required by Missouri statute. An increase in the district’s assessed valuation triggered a provision in the Hancock Amendment, lowering the tax rate. This is the 12th consecutive year the operating levy has been set at a lower rate than voters approved in April 2002.

Construction Management Services
The Board authorized Dr. Jeanette Cowherd, superintendent, to negotiate a contract with Universal Construction Company Inc. for construction management services. Growing enrollment means the district will need the services to support the district’s long-range facilities plan, even if the plan’s timeline changes in the future. The Board will review the contract later.

General Counsel Appointment
The Board appointed Clay Fulghum as the district’s new general counsel. Fulghum was an associate at Lathrop & Gage LLP in Kansas City, Missouri, and he has worked as lead counsel for disputes, including for schools and other educational institutions.

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.
Following the state’s change in requirements, the class of 2016 is the first class in which all students took the ACT at least once during their junior year.

Park Hill School District students earned a 22.3 composite score — one of the highest scores in the state (final comparative scores are not yet available).

The score is significant because the district had 97.4 percent of 2016 graduates (820 students) take the test. This is the highest percentage and number of district students to take the ACT.

The increased number of students taking the test contributed to a 1.6 drop in scores from the district’s all-time high score of 23.9 in 2015 (see graph below).

Requiring all students to take the ACT set a new baseline for the test because it brings in students who otherwise weren’t preparing to take the test and who tend to score lower.

Fortunately, it also provides a more accurate assessment of district performance and an opportunity for every student to take a college readiness assessment like the ACT.
Calendar:

PHHS Homecoming Dates
Sept. 16 - Parade/game
Sept. 17 - Dance

PHS Homecoming Dates
Sept. 17 - Parade
Sept. 23 - Game
Sept. 24 - Dance

Sept. 22
Board meeting

Sept. 28-29
High school conferences

Sept. 30
No school for high school students

Oct. 13
Board work session

Oct. 14
No school for students

Oct. 25
Education Foundation
Community Breakfast

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.

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!

Save the Date:

PTA Auction - Oct. 29

The 19th annual Auction sponsored by the District Council PTA will be on Saturday, Oct. 29, 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.