Summer school in Park Hill was bigger and better than ever.

Like last year, we offered a full-day program, with transportation and food service. And this summer, we increased the number of locations, so elementary students could attend their neighborhood schools.

And in spite of the larger program, which offered more summer learning opportunities for Park Hill students, we spent much less than last year.

We’re still calculating the amount of the savings, which came from running summer school internally instead of contracting with an outside company.

All of the improvements to summer school came from listening to feedback from parents and staff. We’ll continue to ask for input to help us continue to improve programs like summer school.

More Learning for Less Money

Incoming Union Chapel fourth graders Jayvius Smith (left) and Marshall Underwood (right) researched and reported on endangered animals in Kerri Hyatt’s summer school class.
**STRAIGHT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Dear Park Hill Community,

As we move into July, I would like to provide everyone with an overview of the Park Hill Summer School program. It was a great success and provided an entire day of learning and engaging activities for our students.

Based on feedback we received, summer school was expanded to a full day with food service and bus transportation. We also listened to your input and are offering summer school in the student’s home school with the same classrooms, teachers, staff and administrators from the regular school year.

This improvement enabled us to have a seamless transition from the regular school year to summer school and has provided more continuity for our students, families and staff members.

I am also pleased to share that the summer school program is being offered in a fiscally responsible manner. Previously, we partnered with an outside vendor to help us expand our program. This year, we incorporated lessons learned from this partnership to enhance our summer school program. These changes created a quality program and significant savings for the district.

Summer school is a great example of our commitment to continuous improvement to better meet the needs of our students and families while also serving our community as responsible stewards of taxpayer money.

Thank you for your continued support of the school district as we work together to Build Successful Futures – Each Student – Every Day!

Sincerely,
Jeanette Cowherd

**NEWS WORTH KNOWING**

**District Decisions That Could Affect Your Family**

**Board Approves $177 Million Budget**
The Board approved a $176,759,893 budget for the 2015-2016 school year. Assistant Superintendent Dr. Paul Kelly worked with schools and departments across the district to develop the budget. The Board also approved amendments and transfers for the current budget, as it does every year at this time.

**Park Hill to Bring in More Revenue Through Advertising**
Starting July 1, 2015, the Park Hill School District will centralize advertising. This change will bring in additional revenue to benefit students, it will provide greater accountability for advertising funds, it will make our advertising rates consistent, and it will minimize the flood of requests our supportive business community gets. There is more information about this program on the district website at www.parkhill.k12.mo.us.

**Board Approves Graden’s Request to Name Library after Velma Loncar**
The Board approved Graden Elementary’s request to name its media center the Loncar Library after Velma Loncar, who taught at the school when the building opened in 1935. Graden Principal Dr. LuAnn Halverstadt presented a letter about Mrs. Loncar’s history at the school.

*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.*
Foot Locker Scholar Athlete
Park Hill High School senior Nick Hibbeler is a 2015 Foot Locker Scholar Athlete. Hibbeler is one of twenty high school students named across the country.

Congress-Bundestag Scholar
Park Hill South High School sophomore Hannah Emerson is one of the 2015 Congress-Bundestag Scholars. This award for academic merit and drive includes a scholarship to spend a year abroad in Germany. She is the only student from the state of Missouri selected for this honor.

Bright Idea Award
English Landing Media Specialist Angela Van Batavia earned the Bright Idea Award from the Missouri Association of School Librarians for her Maker Space project. She is the recipient of one of two Bright Idea Awards given this year in Missouri.

Dell Scholar
PHHS senior Dreyton Smith is a 2015 Dell Scholar. Smith was one of only 300 students to receive the award this year. The program recognizes students for their grit, potential and ambition throughout high school. Smith is one of our PHHS AVID scholars.

Blue Ribbon Library Media Program
Congress Middle School Library Media Specialist Diana Gehrt won the Blue Ribbon Library Media Program Award from the Greater Kansas City Association of School Librarians.

WorldStrides Heritage Music Awards
The South symphonic orchestra and A Cappella choir both received Gold Awards, the top honor, in their categories at the WorldStrides Heritage Music Festival in Chicago, Ill.

Cappies Awards
PHHS sophomore Kelly Decker and freshman Aireanna Barnes received a Cappie Award for outstanding stage crew for “Once on this Island” at the Cappies gala. See the list of students nominated under “News” at www.parkhill.k12.mo.us.

Noetic Learning Math Contest
Several Park Hill School District elementary students recently received honors from the spring 2015 Noetic Learning Math Contest, a national competition for elementary students in second, third, fourth and fifth grades, designed to encourage interest in math and develop problem-solving skills. See the list of students under “News” at www.parkhill.k12.mo.us.

Broadcast Honors
Broadcast students at both high schools earned honors at the fall and spring Student Television Network (STN) National competitions, STN Convention, Journalism Educators of Metropolitan Kansas City (JEMKC) Awards and the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. See the list of students under “News” at www.parkhill.k12.mo.us.

State Music Festival
Band, orchestra and choir students from PHHS and South earned superior (I) and excellent (II) ratings from the State Music Festival. See the list of students under “News” at www.parkhill.k12.mo.us.

Scholar Bowl Honors
Students earned places on the all-district and all-state Scholar Bowl teams. Park Hill South senior Will Graff earned spots on both the all-state and all-district teams, and Park Hill South junior Adam Kriz earned a spot on the all-district team. PHHS senior Stephen Swett earned a spot on the all-district team.

And Much More!
We have so many exciting success stories, we could not fit all of them this month. Watch for more in the next issue!
Planning Ahead:
See the district website under “Parent Resources” for the registration schedule, back-to-school nights, parent orientations and open houses.

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.

Calendar:
August 13
First day of school

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!

Park Hill Celebrates Student Art at Festival

Park Hill’s 53rd annual Art Festival featured more than 2,500 original works of art from Park Hill students from kindergarten through 12th grade, including paintings, drawings, photography and ceramics.

See the list of students who won portfolio awards and Superintendent’s Awards under "News" at www.parkhill.k12.mo.us. Blue Cross Blue Shield of KC donated funds to help the district frame the Superintendent Award winners for display at the district office this year.