To prepare students for successful college and career experiences, Park Hill is developing a menu of opportunities for real-world professional experiences.

The Professional Studies programs give students authentic learning experiences that help them explore their interests and talents.

Local colleges and business helped us identify the skills students will need to succeed, and local professionals are helping our students learn these skills.

**Professional mentors**
Local professionals will serve as screened volunteers who provide guidance and expertise to students in their career explorations.

**Internships**
Students will work in local workplaces, learning from professionals as they participate in authentic career experiences.

**Northland Center for Advanced Studies**
Students in Northland CAPS get immersion experience in workplaces, focusing on engineering and advanced manufacturing; technology solutions; medicine and healthcare; and global business and entrepreneurship. This is a partnership with several other Northland districts.

**College and career in the classroom**
Local professionals will serve as guest lecturers in the classroom and as curriculum resources to teachers. In this area, we will build our own immersion experiences like the ones in Northland CAPS. Our first offering is an education strand called Education 2020.

**Externships**
Teachers will get authentic professional experiences in the workplace, to help them provide relevant lessons in their classrooms.

**Northland Career Center**
Through this partnership with other Northland districts, students learn relevant career skills in agriculture, construction, culinary arts, diesel technology, health sciences, law enforcement, IT, welding, HVAC and early childhood.
We are getting ready for possible snow, ice and cold this winter.

**Clothing:** Please dress your children warmly for the weather.

**Cancellations:** Although it is important students be in school, safety is the most important concern of all. If conditions are unsafe, we will cancel school and add that day to the end of the school year. In order to keep students safe, we will not use late starts.

**Communication:** We will tell you about snow days through text alerts, our email newsletter, our websites, Facebook, Twitter, channel 18 and the local media.

**Child Care and District Programs:** If we cancel school, our school-age child care and tuition preschool programs would remain open for those families that are already signed up. However, our Community Education classes would be cancelled, and our Aquatic Center would be closed.
Park Hill High School alumnus and veteran Larry Shaver played "Taps" for the student body at the end of the assembly.

Commander John Hoffman from VFW Post 7356 presented three Park Hill South High School students with VFW Scholarship Awards.

Line Creek kindergarteners Harper Sollars and Hannah Haesemeyer held the flag for visiting veterans during the school's Pledge of Allegiance.

Where Does the District’s Money Go?

This chart shows the breakdown of expenditures in the 2014-2015 budget.

The most expensive part of operating a school district is paying the people who educate our children and support their education.
PHHS Yearbook Wins Highest Rating
The Park Hill High School yearbook staff received an All-Missouri rating for last year’s “Troyian” yearbook from the Missouri InterScholastic Press Association. Judges gave the yearbook high ratings, especially for photography. The PHHS yearbook teacher is Sally Beran.

District Has Three National Merit Semi-Finalists for ‘15
Three Park Hill School District seniors scored so high on their PSAT exams last year that they received semi-finalist recognition from the National Merit Scholarship program this year.

Our 2015 National Merit Semi-Finalists are Jake Mazeitis from Park Hill South and Annie Chen and Mrudula Gandham from PHHS. They are among approximately 16,000 semi-finalists.

Teacher Named in Papers’ “Best in Northland”
Hawthorn teacher Meagan Bradley, then a teaching assistant at Lakeview, appeared in the “Best of the Northland” listings in the Gladstone, Liberty and Kearney papers. Bradley’s students nominated her.

Gerner Earns Accreditation Renewal for Five Years
The Gerner Family Early Education Center achieved a new five-year term of accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

NAEYC commended Gener on its relationships, teaching, assessments, health, teachers, families, community relationships, physical environment, leadership and management.

Cheerleaders Win State
PHHS varsity cheerleaders received first place in the super large cheer squad division, and Park Hill South varsity cheerleaders received third place in the large varsity division at the Missouri Cheer Coaches Association state competition at the University of Missouri-Columbia. The cheer coaches for Park Hill High School are Chelsea Simon and Stephanie Baker, and Kristina Lubinski is the coach for Park Hill South.

Park Hill South cheerleaders Alyssa Jones and Amanda Kelly were named to the All-State cheerleading squad at the competition.

Communication Specialist Named to Top 35 Under 35
Amy Haynes, our district communication specialist, is one of the top 35 Under 35 school public relations professionals in the country. The National School Public Relations Association announced recently that Haynes is in this elite group of top young professionals.
Choir Students Make District and State Choirs
The Kansas City Metro Choir recently held its auditions for All-District Choir and Women’s Honor Choir. Both Park Hill South and PHHS students earned spots among the 571 singers.

The All-District Choir includes Park Hill South junior Connor Locke and senior Eric Norfleet; PHHS juniors Payton Dishman, Eric Mathis, Liam Redinger and Blair Walker; and PHHS seniors Peri Sturm and Victoria Handford.

The Women’s Honor Choir includes Park Hill South juniors Haley Stegeman and Olivia Vande Polder; Park Hill South seniors Janae Hammond, Mikala Petillo and Alyse Weatherford; and PHHS sophomores Kayla Decker, Kelly Decker, Sara Herdman and Eleanor Panico.

Several students also made the Missouri All-State choir, which includes Tori Handford, senior, and Blair Walker, junior from PHHS and Park Hill South junior Connor Locke made the All-State choir as an alternate.

The Park Hill South choir director is Elizabeth Brockhoff and the PHHS choir director is Dr. Keith Curington.

Broadcast Teacher from High Schools Named to STN Board of Directors
Justin Ford, broadcast teacher at both PHHS and Park Hill South, will represent the Midwest region on the Student Television Network Board of Directors. STN is the nation's largest organization for scholastic broadcast journalism and filmmaking.

Marching Bands Shine at Competitions
PHHS marching band took second place in the grand championship at the Carrollton Band Day festival. The band took first place in the parade competition and in the guard competition, and the students won the Best Percussion Award. The twirlers and drumline also placed at the competition, and the band took third in the field competition. The PHHS band director is Ky Hascall.

The Park Hill South marching band took first place in the class 3A division and third place overall at the Missouri Western Tournament of Champions. Sixteen bands participated in the competition. The Park Hill South band director is Dr. Craig Miller.

Grad Places Second in Writing Contest
Park Hill South graduate Kendra Allen placed second in the sustainability journalism contest sponsored by the Earth Day network. She wrote a piece for “The View,” Park Hill South’s newspaper, on the environmental movement.

Media Center Specialist Nominated for Award
Greater Kansas City Association of School Librarians recognizes one exemplary school library program each year. Chinn Elementary Library Media Specialist Eve Orf was a nominee for the award.

Highlights from the Community Breakfast
Superintendent Dr. Scott Springston gave a report to the community about the Park Hill School District's growth, progress and programs.

Foundation Chair Bob Weidt presented $20,000 to the Professional Studies program. Park Hill South seniors Nicki Wagner and Erin Stump accepted it.

Park Hill High School junior Jordan Elder and Park Hill South senior Shaefer Schuetz were masters of ceremonies for the event.

The Renner fifth-grade choir, led by music teacher Tracy Cox, sang “The Power of One” at the end of the program.
District Considers Cuts to Keep Budget Balanced
As we work to keep the Park Hill School District in the solid financial shape we have come to expect, we are doing some planning and belt-tightening.

Revenue coming into the Park Hill School District is not keeping up with costs. We’re getting hurt by a downturn in assessed valuation of existing properties in our district, along with the state not fully funding the formula for schools. At the same time, our costs are increasing. Increased enrollment costs us more money, as do the increasing prices of supplies, materials and health care.

In the next few years, this pattern will lead to problems if something doesn’t change. We’re tightening our belts and prioritizing expenditures in order to ensure a balanced budget. To help with these decisions, we invited the public to participate in an efficiency task force. This group will make recommendations to the Board of Education for its decision.

Student Achievement Remains High
According to student performance on several different assessments, Park Hill’s achievement is high and students’ learning is growing. The district outscores averages and comparison districts at the local, state and national levels. By carefully studying our results, we continue to find ways to improve outcomes for students.

Student Enrollment Up by 2 Percent
The official student enrollment count for this school year is 10,713, which is an increase of 209 students from last year.

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 page 2 for more information.

Fund Classrooms, InvestNOW

Make a difference in Park Hill in an area that is meaningful to you. Through the Park Hill Education Foundation’s InvestNOW program, you can now choose one of several teacher requests to help fund.

This online grant program allows you to help meet the educational needs of students by funding a specific classroom request from a teacher. Recent grant requests include funding for photography equipment, science equipment, outdoor classroom items and interactive white boards. Search the needs online and fund your chosen grant at www.parkhillfoundation.org.

Community Ed Winter Catalog

Look for the winter brochure in your mailbox on December 15 and check out our new Special Needs section. Winter classes include taekwondo, pottery on the wheel, money in real life, and music and movement for fun and health.

If you would like to teach a course, contact Community Education at (816) 359-4060. Visit us online at www.parkhill.k12.mo.us.
Congress' BBQ Society member seventh grader Mark Foster seasoned barbecue chicken wings while classmates Vincent Lewis and Nikkia Brager observed.

Park Hill High School senior Joseph Eaton (left) and junior Sam Meachum (right) talked with students at lunch about the app they created, Trojan Schedule Plus, in their computer programming class.

Tiffany Ridge first grader Wyatt Ward invented his own robot suit using cardboard during the school's Global Cardboard Challenge day. Teacher Rachel Evans helped him put it on.

Photos from Around the District:

Renner kindergarteners in Kelsey Pulkrabek’s class previewed books at the Renner book fair.

Line Creek first grader Hamza Said got help from his fourth grade buddy, Mustafa Suraj, on his letter to the Royals wishing them luck in the World Series.

Congress' BBQ Society member seventh grader Mark Foster seasoned barbecue chicken wings while classmates Vincent Lewis and Nikkia Brager observed.

Park Hill High School senior Joseph Eaton (left) and junior Sam Meachum (right) talked with students at lunch about the app they created, Trojan Schedule Plus, in their computer programming class.

Jones Center Principal Dr. Lance Miller and teaching assistants Brett Hughes and Nick Tegtmeier dressed up as mustard, relish and ketchup and raced each other during the school’s Royals spirit week.

The Park Hill Education Foundation provided Lakeview seventh grade science teachers Kari Rich, Chris Wright and Jessica McCullough an InvestNOW grant for cow eyes to dissect in their visible light unit.

Union Chapel students participated in a Rocktober Fall Fun Run, and third graders began strong at the start line.

Tiffany Ridge first grader Wyatt Ward invented his own robot suit using cardboard during the school’s Global Cardboard Challenge day. Teacher Rachel Evans helped him put it on.
Graden third grader Katie Hawkins, who is in Stacy Miles’ class, shared her leadership notebook with visitor Kaysi Rinks.

Rinks was one of the guests from an educational services agency called Great Circle that wanted to learn more about the Park Hill School District’s use of quality tools, continuous improvement and the Baldrige framework for excellence.

Because of Park Hill’s leadership in using quality tools for continuous improvement, other districts frequently visit our schools to learn from our experience.

Park Hill is the only district ever to earn the Missouri Quality Award.

Sharing Our Continuous Improvement Efforts

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!