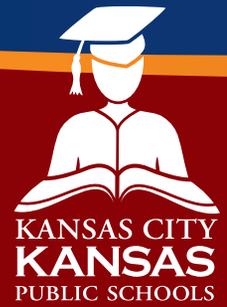


# EDUCATION CONNECTION



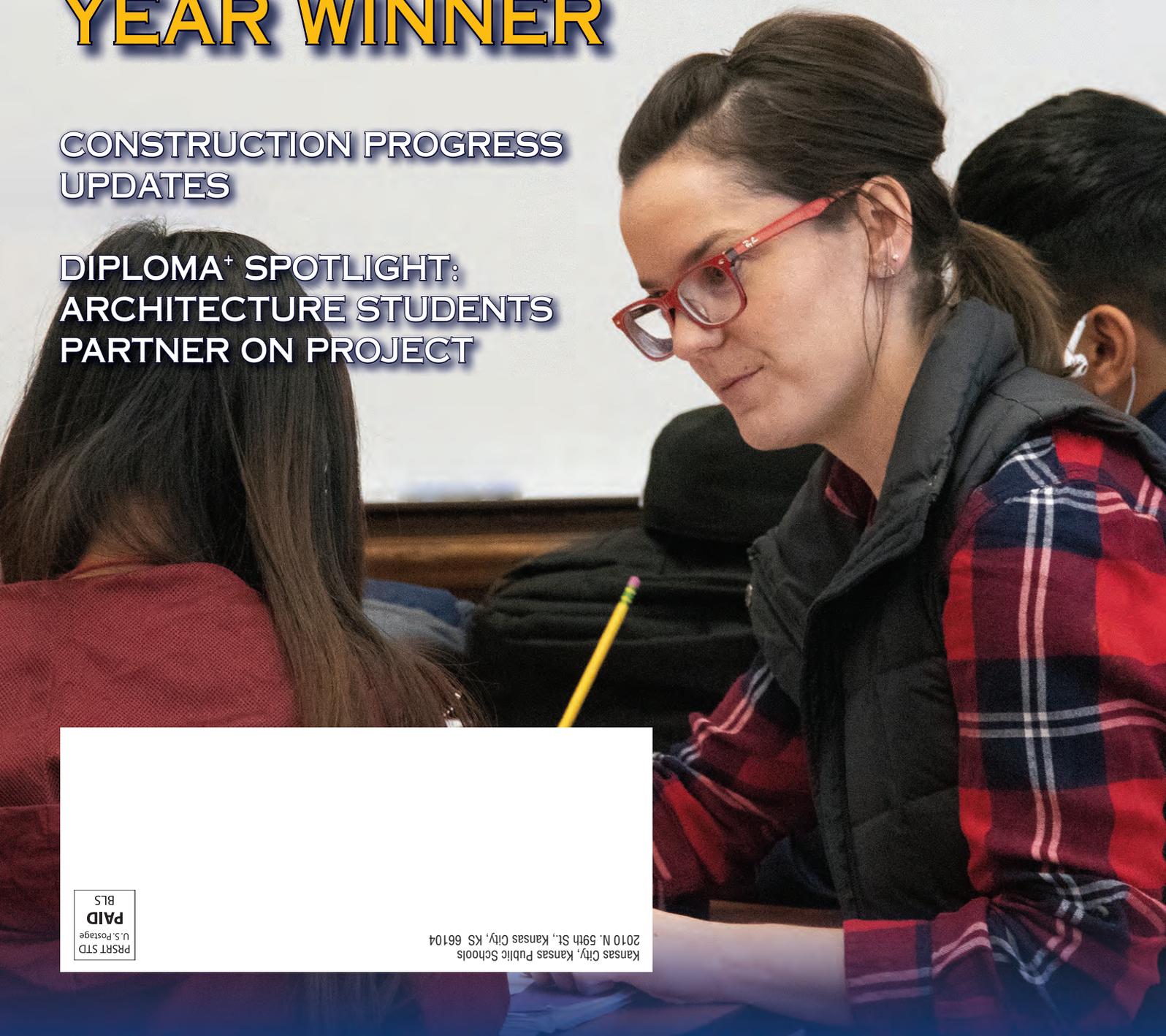
NEWS FROM THE KANSAS CITY, KANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WINTER 2019

## KANSAS TEACHER OF THE YEAR WINNER

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS UPDATES

DIPLOMA+ SPOTLIGHT: ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS PARTNER ON PROJECT



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## COMMUNICATIONS RESOURCES

Website: [kckps.org](http://kckps.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/kckschools](https://facebook.com/kckschools)

Twitter: [twitter.com/kckschools](https://twitter.com/kckschools)

Instagram: [instagram.com/kckschools](https://instagram.com/kckschools)

KCKPS-TV:

**Channel 18** (on Spectrum)

**Channel 145** (on Google Fiber)

YouTube: [youtube.com/KCKPSTV](https://youtube.com/KCKPSTV)



# MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Charles Foust**  
Superintendent of Schools

## Greetings KCKPS community,

Our team is engaged and focused on helping our students at Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools become and remain successful. This quarter's message provides an update on the work toward these efforts underway since the beginning of the school year.

First, I want to congratulate Whitney Morgan on being named

the 2019 Kansas Teacher of the Year. Read more about her and this prestigious honor inside this issue.

### Data Meetings

Our team has reviewed and analyzed student academic performance and achievement gap data for each of our schools in the subject areas of reading, math, English language arts, science and social studies. This data has been disaggregated by ethnicity, gender, subject matter and grade level. As a result of this information, data meetings were held in September with some of our school principals to discuss results and identify additional resources needed to improve academic performance and achievement. These meetings were necessary for us to understand where we are, where we need to go, and how we get there. Representatives from the departments of Student Services, Special Education, English Language Learners, Operations and the Superintendent's Office were present at these meetings to talk about their services and how support can be utilized further. These meetings led to the development of a District-wide In-service professional development and the placement of resources back into the schools full-time that had been housed at the Central Office & Training Center.

### District-wide In-service

The clusters for Wyandotte High School, Sumner Academy of Arts & Science, Schlagle High School, Washington High School and Harmon High School met for district-wide learning in mid-October. The school district believes this was one of the first times, in a long time, for this simultaneous learning involving the feeder schools for each of the high schools. Our educators "focused on the focus" by learning from each other, mastering current and new techniques, reviewing policies, procedures and growing together as schools, clusters and a district. Learning and teaching excellence does not get any better than the work that took place that day to help us improve as a school district.

### Placing Resources in Schools

To further help with coaching and instruction, general education, special education and English as a second language instructional coaches, as well as special education coordinators are now housed full-time in schools. The greatest benefit of this occurring is that our

teachers have even better access to these individuals who provide instructional services.

### Listening and Learning

In order to become better, it is important for us to listen and learn from each other.

Those primary audiences for Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools are students, parents, staff and the community. For first-hand knowledge from these audiences, the school district held Listening and Learning Tours at our five high schools in September and October. These sessions were an opportunity for the community to meet the members of the cabinet who are considered the district's leadership team. During these sessions, we heard what we are doing well as a school district and areas in need of growth. We would like to thank those who attended these events to share their inquiries and thoughts. Visit [kckps.org](http://kckps.org) to read those comments, questions and the answers provided by school district staff. This is valuable work that will continue.

In November, I met with the newly formed Superintendent's Student Advisory Board (SSAB) to hear directly from our students. Five students from each of our high schools have been invited to participate in SSAB. In the coming months, I will introduce you to these students and inform you of our progress.

### Attention on Learning

Ultimately, all of this work will make us a better school district for those we serve from students and parents to staff and the community. Focusing on the learning will also keep us on track to accomplish the state's curriculum standards\* and our district stretch goals of the following:

- 90% of kindergarten students are reading on grade level
- 10% increase overall in the proficiency of middle school students
- Increase the number of students graduating

I will continue to stress as we move forward the importance of this work and that we accomplish it with accountability and fidelity. This is our work at KCKPS.

\*The state's curriculum standards can be found in the Revised State Template for the Consolidated State Plan: The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act.

**Dr. Charles Foust**  
Superintendent of Schools



District-wide professional development sessions included teachers in the J.C. Harmon cluster.



Dr. Foust and members of the newly selected Superintendent's Student Advisory Board participate in an exercise to get to know each other.

# KCKPS AND K-STATE ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS PARTNER ON PROJECT

Students at J.C. Harmon High School and Sumner Academy of Arts and Science recently partnered with fifth-year students from the Kansas State University College of Architecture. Together they worked on a project involving the redesigning of parts of their school buildings and drilling down into the nuances of architecture and construction.

J.C. Harmon students were tasked with reimagining the functionality and layout of their school and to create a new design that optimized the space. Sumner Academy students were asked to rework their school's courtyard and to make it into a functional space. These projects are designed to help students develop skills that will benefit them throughout their lives and careers. These skills include creativity, critical thinking and persuasion. Additionally, they have learned how to research, analyze and present on a variety of subjects.

The goal of this five-year partnership is to inspire KCKPS students to pursue careers in architecture and construction. This is the first year that students from Sumner Academy have participated and the second year for students at J.C. Harmon. Their final projects and models were presented at the end of the fall semester.

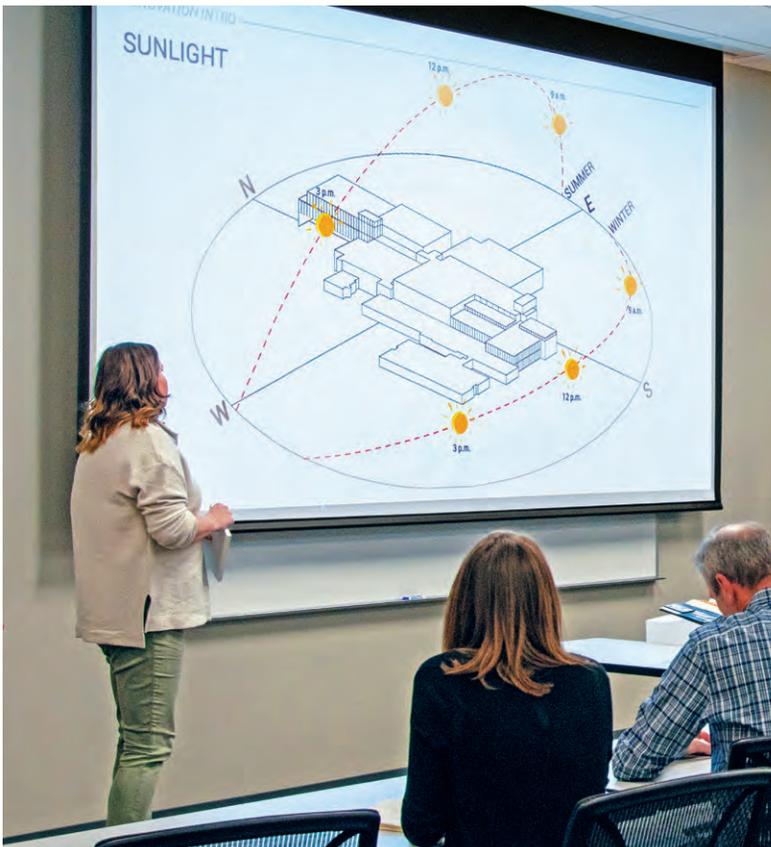
To learn more about Diploma+, please visit [kckps.org/diplomaplus](http://kckps.org/diplomaplus).



*Above and below: Students participating in discussions about design ideas.*



*Left: KCKPS and K-State students exploring possible building and layout design upgrades.*



*K-State students presenting their projects to KCKP students.*



# CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS UPDATES

The passage of the 2016 bond initiative has allowed us to make several improvements to buildings that will give our students the opportunity to learn in the highest quality settings to prepare them for college and careers in a global society. The following images showcases the great construction progress that has taken place at the school district:

As part of the continued progress, several schools in the district will have newly remodeled kitchen facilities. These schools include Douglass Elementary, Eugene Ware Elementary, Grant Elementary, John Fiske Elementary, Noble Prentis Elementary and Rosedale Middle. These kitchen remodels have been completed at Eugene Ware Elementary and Grant Elementary, as pictured.

Progress continues at the building sites for the new Gloria Willis Middle School and Welborn Elementary School. Both projects are scheduled for completion for the 2019-2020 school year. Gloria Willis Middle School was designed by Hollis + Miller Architects and Welborn Elementary School was designed by HTK Architects.

Additionally, spaces are set to be remodeled in all KCKPS middle schools to better facilitate career exploration. Career exploration gives students the opportunity to be exposed to and explore a variety of industries, allowing them to see how their school work is relevant to their future career choices. These new spaces will give them a real-world environment in which they can display work and present projects to their peers and industry partners.



*Eugene Ware's Kitchen*



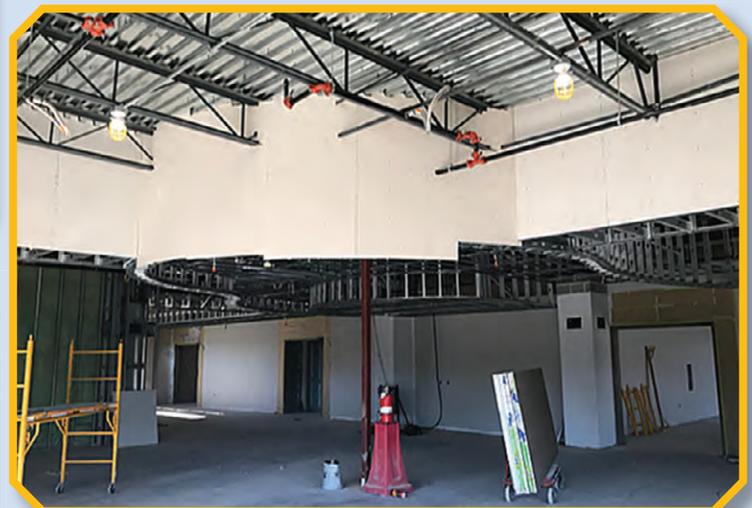
*Grant's Kitchen*



*External view of Gloria Willis Middle School.*



*The external view of the new Welborn Elementary School.*



*The construction progress of the library at the new Welborn Elementary School.*

To learn more about the bond project, visit [bond.kckps.org](http://bond.kckps.org).

# KCKPS TEACHER WHITNEY MORGAN NAMED 2019 KANSAS TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Whitney Morgan

Congratulations to Whitney Morgan, honored by the Kansas Department of Education (KSDE) as 2019 Kansas Teacher of the Year! Morgan, an English language arts and English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) teacher at Wyandotte High School was honored at a special ceremony on Saturday, November 17.

The announcement was made by Kansas Commissioner of Education Dr. Randy Watson at the Kansas Teacher of the Year Banquet. Morgan was selected from a pool of eight finalists and will move on to compete on the national level.

"It's a huge honor and an incredibly humbling experience to be recognized in this way," said Whitney Morgan. "I want to especially thank the KCKPS and Wyandotte High School families for giving me this opportunity; I love Kansas City, Kansas and am so grateful for the continued support and love that I have found here," she said. Morgan began her teaching career in 2013 after receiving her bachelor's degree from Kansas State University in 2012. She is currently working on obtaining her master's degree in English from Middlebury Bread Loaf School of English in Middlebury, Vermont.

As part of her role as Kansas Teacher of the Year, Morgan will be traveling across the state advocating for education and teaching. "I look forward to learning from so many teachers across the state of Kansas and being an advocate for students and the teaching profession; it's an honor to represent Kansas teachers."

To learn more about Whitney Morgan, please visit <https://www.ksde.org/Home/Quick-Links/News-Room/wyandotte-high-school-educator-named-2019-kansas-teacher-of-the-year>.



# KCKPS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO BENEFIT FROM SPRINT'S MAJOR EXPANSION OF THE 1 MILLION PROJECT FOUNDATION



*Sprint CEO Michel Combes announcing new, significant investments with the 1 Million Project Foundation to support area high school students who lack home internet access.*

The Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools is part of Sprint's major expansion of the 1 Million Project Foundation to help close the homework gap in the area by providing metropolitan area high school students with wireless hotspot devices and anytime internet access to those who do not have reliable broadband services at home.

So far, about 1,478 hotspot devices are being awarded to KCKPS for distribution to eligible students. The school district surveyed students to determine who will need the hotspot devices.

"We are extremely grateful and thankful for this opportunity for our students," said Dr. Charles Foust, superintendent of Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools. "We have been able to provide our students with 1:1 devices, which was perfect. Unfortunately, we did not have the finances to provide the access points at home. The partnership between Sprint and the 1 Million Project Foundation is providing us equity and giving students a level playing field to be

able to do homework and to succeed," said Dr. Foust.

KCKPS is among the latest districts to become part of this program to help one million high school students who do not have reliable Internet access at home. During the 2017-18 school year, the 1 Million Project Foundation worked with four Kansas City-area districts to provide free mobile devices and Internet access to 3,400 high school students. The program is expanding from four districts to 17 in the area, nearly doubling the number of high school students to a total of 6,500.

Additionally, Sprint and the 1 Million Project Foundation will team with Best Buy and the Clubhouse Network to develop Kansas City's first Best Buy Teen Tech Center. These are places where teens can develop critical skills through hands-on activities that explore their interests in programming, film-making, music production and design. "It's a really amazing place," said Andrea Wood, head of social impact, executive director of the Best Buy Foundation.

# CONGRATULATIONS

## REASONS TO BELIEVE HONOREES

Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools is pleased to announce the honorees for the 2018 Reasons to Believe recognition. These are individuals whose accomplishments showcase their incredible skills and life stories, highlighting their perseverance, hard work and dedication. Their qualities exemplify to all of us why they are Reasons to Believe and inspirations to many.

The following honorees were celebrated at the Central Office and Training Center on Thursday, November 15 during a reception and program. Learn more about the Reasons to Believe honorees by visiting, [kckps.org](http://kckps.org).



### Front Row L-R:

**Timothy Johnson:** educator at Basehor-Linwood High School in Basehor, Kan., and former chief of police in Lindsborg, Kansas (1970 graduate, Wyandotte High School)

**Jeannie Brown:** certified public accountant, Hallmark Cards Inc. (1989 graduate, Wyandotte High School)

**Neil Harris:** president of Harris Data Storage in Lincoln, Nebraska, and chief executive officer of Harris Security and Protective Services in Scottsdale, Arizona (1980 graduate, J.C. Harmon High School)

**Janie Gaunce:** president and chief executive officer of Grapevine Designs, LLC (1976 graduate, Washington High School)

**Dr. Kathryn Lee Maddox-Ridley:** retired educator with the Kansas City, Missouri School District and co-owner and educational consultant with Pathways to Learning, LLC (1972 graduate, Sumner High School)

**Dr. James Lindesay:** professor of physics at Howard University in Washington, D.C. (1972 graduate, Sumner High School)

**Bishop Ervin Sims, Jr.:** pastor of Mount Carmel Church of God in Christ (1965 graduate, Sumner High School.)

### Back Row L-R:

**Linsey Lindberg:** owner of Artisan Oddities and Entertainment, LLC in San Antonio, Texas (1998 graduate, Sumner Academy of Arts and Science)

**Betty Maddox:** educator with Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools, and former local, state and national officer with the American Postal Workers Union (1962 graduate, Sumner High School)

**Lyle Gibson:** division chair, Social Sciences at Metropolitan Community College (1984 graduate, F.L. Schlagle High School.)

**James Heggie:** retired college administrator, University of Texas' MD Andersen Cancer Center in Houston, Texas (1968 graduate, Sumner High School)

**Robert L. Milan, Sr.:** president of the Northeast Economic Development Corporation (1952 graduate, Sumner High School)

# PHOTOS FROM THE *REASONS TO BELIEVE* RECEPTION WITH HONOREES, FAMILY, FRIENDS AND KCKPS STAFF.



Interested in nominating someone for Reasons to Believe?

Nomination forms for the 2019 Reasons to Believe Alumni Honor Roll as well as the criteria will be available in January 2019 online at [kckps.org/recognition/alumni](http://kckps.org/recognition/alumni).



## Inclement Weather Information

### **When will the decision be made to close school due to snow, ice, or extreme cold?**

The decision to close schools because of inclement weather is made by the superintendent of schools. All major radio and television stations will be notified by 6 a.m. and all other venues will be updated. To learn more, visit [kckps.org/weather](http://kckps.org/weather).

### **Where can I find out if school is closed?**

- KCKPS Website ([kckps.org](http://kckps.org))
- KCKPS Social Media Channels (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram)
- Major Television and Radio Stations
- Infinite Campus Message (sent to parents/guardians)

*Please check more than one source for school closing information.*

# KCKPS AND KVC HOSPITALS PARTNER TO PROVIDE DISTRICT STAFF WITH TRAUMA SENSITIVE TRAINING

## WYANDOTTE HEALTH FOUNDATION GRANT PROVIDES FUNDING FOR THE PROJECT

Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools (KCKPS) and KVC Hospitals are working together to provide training to the school district staff on how to support our students impacted by trauma. The training is made possible through a generous \$175,000 grant awarded to KCKPS by the Wyandotte Health Foundation.

The Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools Board of Education accepted the grant during its October 23 board meeting in the Central Office and Training Center.

We want to thank the Wyandotte Health Foundation for awarding the grant to the school district. This funding will make it possible for KCKPS to create a trauma sensitive school district with trauma informed schools," said Lisa Garcia Stewart, director of the Student Services Department for KCKPS. "I also want to acknowledge and thank our partner in this effort, KVC Hospitals. Their staff has expertise in trauma-informed care implementation, and our work with them on the impact of trauma on students dates back several years," said Garcia-Stewart.

The traumatic experiences that may impact children are also known as Adverse Childhood Experiences or ACEs. These negative childhood experiences may include issues such as physical and emotional abuse, families that experience alcohol, drug abuse or depression.

That's why creating a trauma sensitive school district and trauma-informed schools are vital for KCKPS. It will help our school district to:

- Recognize and respond to students who have been

impacted by trauma

- Provide training to staff to help students impacted by trauma
- Strengthen partnerships with KVC and PACEs to develop training modules that will lead to expanded training opportunities for employees

"Developing trauma sensitive schools has the opportunity to significantly improve overall health in the Kansas City, Kansas community" said James Roberson, vice president of Programs and Innovation for KVC Hospitals. "Building resilience buffers the negative impact of trauma and adversity. We know children build resilience every second of every day through nurturing and supportive interactions with adults. Schools play a major role in providing these types of interactions and are key to the long-term prosperity of our communities."

The training for school district staff will happen over a three-year period and will be implemented according to school clusters. The first trainings are set to begin in 2019. The second and third years of training will occur in the years 2020 and 2021, respectively. This project has the opportunity to become a three-year special initiative with the Wyandotte Health Foundation. Additionally, the school district and KVC are pursuing additional funding opportunities for this project.

**For more information about this initiative and the grant, visit [kckps.org](http://kckps.org).**

## INFINITE CAMPUS HELP FOR PARENTS



Need help logging into Infinite Campus? Visit [kckps.org/infinitecampusFAQ](http://kckps.org/infinitecampusFAQ) for help with logging into your account or to download these instructions, see [http://kckps.org/images/infinite\\_campus/IC.Parent.Portal.Directions.9.6.18.pdf](http://kckps.org/images/infinite_campus/IC.Parent.Portal.Directions.9.6.18.pdf).

If you would like to see the steps, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VLRcQteWRVE> for a video tutorial.

# KCKPS TEACHERS HONORED FOR EXCELLENCE BY KANSAS MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

Each year, the northeast district of the Kansas Music Educators Association (NEKMEA) honors music teachers from across the northeast district in the state of Kansas. This year, three Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools (KCKPS) teachers were recognized for excellence in teaching by NEKMEA.

Bronwyn Short, Cori Simmons and Michelle Sweeten were honored at a special ceremony on Saturday, December 1, 2018 in Topeka, Kansas. Bronwyn Short is a woodwind specialist who serves all of the KCKPS secondary level band programs.

Short received the award for Outstanding Young Music Educator. Cori Simmons was honored with the award for Outstanding Elementary Orchestra Teacher. Simmons teaches at J.C. Harmon High School and Frances Willard, Grant and Frank Rushton elementary schools. Michelle Sweeten is the orchestra director at Sumner Academy of Arts & Science. Sweeten was honored as the Outstanding Middle Level Orchestra Teacher by NEKMEA.

To learn more about KMEA awards, visit [nekmea.org](http://nekmea.org).



Bronwyn Short



Cori Simmons



Michelle Sweeten

## SCHLAGLE HOSTS COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

F.L. Schlagle High School recently held their third annual Community Open House. This year students decided the theme for their open house would be Investing in Our Community. The goal of this open house was “to feature a variety of exhibits and activities that showcase our community building stronger relationships together,” said F.L. Schlagle Teacher Rebecca Brown.

This free event was attended by F.L. Schlagle families, KCKPS district staff, business leaders, community advocates and local religious leaders. Major partners included the Wyandotte County District Attorney’s Office, KC Care Clinic, Family Conservancy and JUNTOS from Kansas University Medical Center.



The Community Open House was attended by students, families, school district staff, business leaders and community advocates. Thank you for your support.

## STAY IN THE KNOW!

- View the board meetings at [YouTube.com/KCKPSTV](https://www.youtube.com/KCKPSTV).
- Watch the rebroadcast of board meetings on Spectrum Channel 18 and Google Fiber Channel 145 Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m. and Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 a.m.
- View Archived Board Meeting Highlights on the website.

# 2019 DISTRICT CALENDAR

## January

- 1 – 4 Winter Break
- 1 Administrative Offices Closed
- 7 Teachers Report/ .5 inservice only (8 a.m. to 12 p.m.)
- 8 Classes Resume for Students
- 8 Board of Education Meeting at 5 p.m., Central Office
- 21 Holiday/ Administrative Offices Closed
- 29 Board of Education Meeting at 5 p.m., Central Office

All of the district's calendars (Fine Arts, School Activities etc.) are accessible from the homepage of the website by clicking "calendars" at [kckps.org](http://kckps.org).

## February

- 12 Board of Education Meeting at 8:30 a.m., John Fiske Elementary
- 13 Early Release/Family Advocacy
- 15 Family Advocacy Day/No School
- 18 Holiday/ Admin. Offices closed
- 26 Board of Education Meeting at 5 p.m., Central Office

## March

- 7 Last day of 3rd quarter
- 8 .5 records prep/ .5 inservice
- 11-15 Spring Break
- 19 Board of Education Meeting at 5 p.m., Central Office

## 2019 KCKPS GRADUATION DATES

### SCHOOL

### DATE/TIME

### LOCATION

Wyandotte High School	May 18, 2019, 11 a.m.	Wyandotte High School, 2501 Minnesota Avenue, Kansas City, KS
F.L. Schlagle High School	May 20, 2019, 7 p.m.	Memorial Hall, 600 N. 7th Street Trafficway, Kansas City, KS
Washington High School	May 21, 2019, 7 p.m.	Memorial Hall, 600 N. 7th Street Trafficway, Kansas City, KS
J.C. Harmon High School	May 22, 2019, 7 p.m.	Memorial Hall, 600 N. 7th Street Trafficway, Kansas City, KS
Sumner Academy of Arts & Science	May 23, 2019, 7 p.m.	Memorial Hall, 600 N. 7th Street Trafficway, Kansas City, KS

## TEACH IN KCKPS WHILE EARNING YOUR MASTER'S IN EDUCATION

If you have a bachelor's degree in science, technology, business, engineering, math or English/language arts, you can develop the skills needed to make a difference in the lives of students. The Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools have a Teaching Fellows program which will allow you to teach full-time while earning your teaching certification or master's degree in education.

If you would like to learn more, please attend one of the information sessions listed below. All information sessions are held at the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools Central Office and Training Center, 2010 N. 59<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, KS in room 131

at 6:30 p.m. on the following dates:

- Thursday, Jan. 10, 2019
- Thursday, Jan. 24, 2019
- Thursday, Feb. 21, 2019
- Thursday, Mar. 7, 2019

More information about the Teaching Fellows program is available at [kckps.org/teachingfellows](http://kckps.org/teachingfellows) or contact Alternative Certification Program Advisor Dr. Tracey Nix at 913-279-2380.

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\*The Princeton Review's Best Regional Colleges, 2019. (c)2018 TPR Education IP Holdings, LLC. The Princeton Review is not affiliated with Princeton University.

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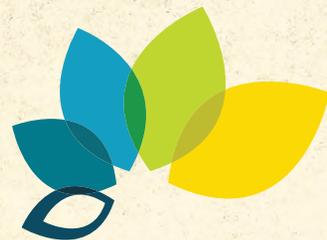
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