EDUCATION CONNECTION

KANSAS CITY KANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NEWS FROM THE KANSAS CITY, KANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SUMMER 2017

BACK TO SCHOOL FOR KCKPS STUDENTS

FIRST SCHOOL BOND PROJECTS COMPLETED DURING THE SUMMER

SEVERAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR KCKPS

DISTRICT MOBILE FOOD TRUCK SERVES SUMMER MEALS

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IN THIS ISSUE

5 Superintendent's Message

6 Back To School For KCKPS Students

7 First School Bond Projects Completed During the Summer

10 Congratulations 2017 Teachers Of The Year!

District Mobile Food Truck Serves Summer Meals

11 Several Accomplishments For KCKPS

12 Summer School Program Spotlight: Migrant Leadership Academy Prepares Students For Higher Education And Career Goals

13 Annual Golf Outing Provides Scholarship Support For Students

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Website: kckps.org

Facebook: KansasCityKansasPublicSchools

Twitter: twitter.com/kckschools

Superintendent's Blog, "It's Up to Us." blog.kckps.org

KCKPS-TV: Channel 18 (on Time Warner Cable) Channel 145 (on Google Fiber)

YouTube: www.youtube.com/KCKPSTV

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Cynthia Lane
Superintendent of Schools

Excitement can be felt throughout the school district as we prepare for the upcoming school year!

Staff have been working hard to prepare our schools to welcome 23,000 students to a new and exciting year.

This year, we look forward to building on the successes of our past. During the 2016-17 school-year, our students and teachers received numerous recognitions and awards for their achievements. Our debate and forensics teams received state and national honors. Athletic teams competed in state competitions. Our musicians received numerous honors at regional and state festivals. The successes culminated with our high school graduates earning more than $80 million in scholarships! In addition, a record number of awards and honors were achieved by students and district staff! We look forward to building on our successes as we work to graduate each student Diploma+.

More and more students are graduating Diploma+!

Each year the number of KCKPS students earning their high school diploma plus one or more endorsements is increasing. These important endorsements include:

- 18-24 college credit hours completed,
- A technical or industry-recognized credential,
- A least a 21 on the ACT, or equivalent SAT score,
- Successful entry into military service,
- Completion of a qualified internship or industry-approved project,
- Completion of the International Baccalaureate Diploma or International Baccalaureate Career Diploma.

Achieving the Diploma+ endorsements is important. We also recognize that learning in real world situations is critical to help students prepare for their futures. To provide students more opportunities to learn in real-world contexts, our high schools are evolving to be organized into College and Career Academies.

The 2017-18 school year will be the first class organized into 9th Grade Academies. These students will graduate in 2021. The focus of the 9th Grade Academy is to provide students opportunities to explore careers in the areas of Health Sciences, Advanced Manufacturing, Transportation and Logistics, Architecture, Engineering and Construction, Information Technology, Business and Finance, Human and Public Service, and International Baccalaureate and International Baccalaureate Career Programs (**kckps.org/diplomaplus).** Students will also spend time closely examining their interests, setting goals, and developing Individual Plans of Study.

As the class of 2021 becomes sophomores, each student will select a College and Career Academy of interest that focuses on the career themes previously mentioned. The College and Career Academies make meaningful connections between school and careers.

Supporting our students to be prepared for the College and Career Academies starts as early as preschool.

Looking to the new school year, you can expect field trips at all grade levels to become opportunities for career exploration. Lectures and research about careers will include interviews of professionals, visits to work sites, and opportunities for students to complete career interest surveys. Over time, Family Advocacy conferences will incorporate students sharing what they have learned, areas of strength, opportunities for growth, talents, and plans for the future.

Facility improvements are underway and will support Diploma+.

Renovations approved by the zero-tax increase bond referendum are underway. From playgrounds to plumbing, science labs to new schools, improvements will positively impact our learning environments. The next five years, we will be in the midst of construction zones. We will have periods of dirt and dust, and detours within and around our schools. These temporary periods of inconvenience will result in improved educational facilities throughout the district. I encourage you to visit our website or **kckps.jedunnbuilds.com** for regular updates on construction and renovation projects.

It is a privilege to serve our community as superintendent. I am excited to be part of the innovative work happening in classrooms across the district. I want to encourage you to engage and be part of this exciting time in KCKPS. Join in to *"Inspire Excellence: Every Grownup, Every Child, Every Day!"*

Check out Dr. Cynthia Lane's blog, "It's Up to Us" at **blog.kckps.org**

BACK TO SCHOOL FOR KCKPS STUDENTS

First Day of School

Each year, there are two official start days for students in the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools. Friday, August 11 will be the first full day of classes for K-5 (except New Stanley), plus 6th grade students at all middle schools (except Northwest), and 9th grade students at Washington, Wyandotte, Schlagle and Harmon high schools. At Sumner Academy of Arts and Science, 8th graders plus students new to Sumner Academy will also begin classes on August 11. **There will be a full day of classes for students at all grade levels on Monday, August 14.** New Stanley Elementary School and Northwest Middle School follow a different school schedule. Here is their start schedule:

New Stanley Elementary School

- **July 28, – Students Report/Early Dismissal**
- **July 28,31 – Early Dismissal/Home Visits**
- **August 1 – Regular Schedule for Students**

Northwest Middle School

- **August 1 – First Day of School for Grade 6**
- **August 2 – First Day of School for Grade 7**
- **August 3 – First Day of School for All Students**

For PreK students, Friday, August 11 will be Family Advocacy, and the first full day of school for students will be Monday, August 21.

Enrollment Information

Elementary students new to the district should contact the school they will attend for information about enrollment. To find out which elementary school your child should attend, contact Student Services at (913) 279-2248. Middle and high school students who are new to the district must enroll during the Centralized Enrollment at the Central Office and Training Center, 2010 N. 59th Street, on one of the following dates/times:

- **Wednesday, August 2** **10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.**
- **Thursday, August 3** **8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**
- **Friday, August 4** **8:30 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.**
- **Monday, August 7** **10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.**
- **Tuesday, August 8** **8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

Parents are asked to bring the following with them when they enroll their student:

- **Current immunization records**
- **Birth certificate**
- **Transcript**
- **Proof of residency** (one of the following: mortgage/lease agreement, utility bill or mail with the parent's name and current address; or driver's license with current address. Mail addressed to "resident" is not acceptable.)
- **Proof of guardianship** through court records

Immunizations

The Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools follows state regulations regarding immunizations for students. All students MUST comply with these regulations to attend school.

All students returning to school for the 2017-2018 school year must be current on their immunizations.

Parents have been notified by letter about returning students in need of additional immunizations before the fall. Please make plans to have your children immunized before the new school year begins.

Details about immunizations are posted on the district website at **kckps.org** under "parent info" and "student health."

Early Release Wednesdays

Each Wednesday during the school year, building staff come together in professional development sessions in order to strengthen their skills, practices, values and expectations, in order to improve student achievement.

To allow for this professional development time, students at all grade levels are released two hours early each Wednesday. (The exception is half-day preschool students, who do not attend school on Wednesdays).

Parent and Student Handbook

The Student Services Department of the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools has updated the Parent and Student Handbook to serve as a resource for families.

The handbook includes information about enrollment, student health and safety, district policies, student support programs and services, and much more.

The handbook will be provided to all families at the beginning of the school year. It also is available online in both English and Spanish by visiting **kckps.org.**

FIRST SCHOOL BOND PROJECTS COMPLETED DURING THE SUMMER

In November, 2016, KCKPS passed a $235 million no tax increase bond referendum, and the first projects being paid out of the bond were completed this spring and summer. Additional construction projects are underway while other projects are scheduled for coming years. In total, there will be more than 80 projects during the next five years that will touch every school building in the school district.

Here are some of those recently completed projects:

Playground equipment was installed at nine elementary schools throughout the school district. Many of the schools had little to no equipment for students to play on during recess. So far, that has changed for Grant, Lindbergh, Claude Huyck, John Fiske, Stony Point South, Eugene Ware, ME Pearson, Whittier and Caruthers. Some of the equipment was installed at a few locations before the school year ended for the summer – just in time for swinging, jumping, sliding and playing.

Grant Elementary School students got to try out their new playground equipment as part of the school's annual Field Day event.

Youth at Lindbergh Elementary School could not resist smiling at recess while trying out their new playground equipment.

John Fiske

Stony Point South

To see images of all the playgrounds, please check the district website at **kckps.org.**

Eugene Ware

Claude Huyck

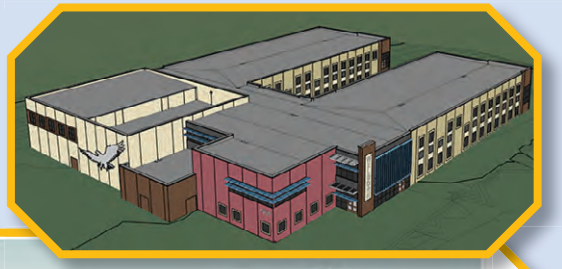
Schematic Drawings of Two New Schools

The two existing Welborn Elementary School buildings, located at 5200 Leavenworth Road, will be razed after the completion of the new building. Until the new Welborn Elementary School is built, students will continue to attend classes at the current location. The new facility will be approximately 68,000 square feet and will house about 550 students.

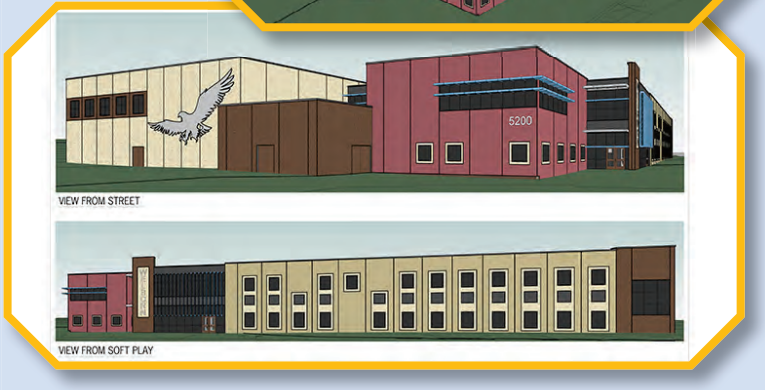
Among the standout features of the new two-story facility are 26 classrooms, as well as an art room, music room, multipurpose room, gymnasium, media center and a flex/makerspace. These upgrades are scheduled for completion for the 2019-2020 school year. The designer of the new school is HTK Architects and the construction company is JE Dunn Construction.

A new middle school will be housed on land of the existing campus of the current Coronado Middle School, located at 1735 N. 64th Terrace. Coronado will be razed after the new middle school is completed. The new facility, which has not been named, will be built to accommodate the population of students from both Coronado and West middle schools. The structure will be approximately 127,000 square feet and will house about 750 students.

Among the standout features of the new two-story facility are 30 classrooms, including a science room and prep area; flex and open collaboration space in each wing; art room; vocal and instrumental, computer science and special education classrooms as well as a media center, auditorium, gymnasium, and cafeteria. Construction will begin in the spring of 2018 with completion scheduled for the 2019-2020 school year. The designer of the new school is Hollis and Miller Architects and the construction company is JE Dunn Construction.



New Welborn Elementary School



New Middle School

Interior and Exterior Renovations

Check out the images of the work underway at Eisenhower Middle School to restore the brick and metal areas of the building's exterior. Similar work was underway to the exterior of Sumner Academy of Arts & Science, Wyandotte High School and Washington High School. Grant, Douglass, and John Fiske elementary schools received new roofs. There are also new security entrances installed at some of the early childhood centers, as well as new plumbing and new fire alarms installed at several schools.

Douglass Elementary School

Sumner Academy of Arts & Science

Sumner Academy of Arts & Science

CONGRATULATIONS 2017 TEACHERS OF THE YEAR!

Kansas City, Kansas Public School's 2017 Teachers of Year are Angelica Soto of McKinley Elementary School and Eli Jones of Eisenhower Middle School. Both teachers are examples of the exemplary teaching excellence in the school district.

Angelica Soto, a 3rd grade teacher at McKinley since 2014, is known for using a variety of methods to teach her students, such as using the student's native language to teach vocabulary concepts and hand gestures to facilitate understanding in science and social studies. Through her curriculum, she instills acceptance, diversity and cultural pride as her third-grade teacher had done for her during her elementary education.

"Every night, no matter how long and strenuous my day has been, I turn off the light to my classroom knowing I am making a difference in the lives of my students, children who will someday make an impact in their own community, country and the world," she said. Previously, she was a teacher at Grant Elementary from 2012 – 2014.

Eli Jones has been the vocal music teacher for 6th, 7th and 8th graders at Eisenhower Middle School since 2011. His career experience taught him that his strongest and most important skill as a teacher is building and maintaining positive relationships. "True learning – the transformational kind that gets students excited to go to school each day and really impacts their lives – only occurs when trusting relationships exist between teacher and students. This is the foundation for everything I do as an educator. Relationships and people first. Music and content second."

Each year, staff in the district's schools nominate one educator for the Kansas Teacher of the Year program. These names are compiled into a list of "Star Teachers." In April 2017, 48 district teachers were honored for their exceptional work in the classroom and their dedication to the district at the Star Teacher Celebration.

The list of "Star Teachers" is then reviewed by a committee consisting of teachers, administrators and a representative from the National Education Association – Kansas City, Kansas. The committee selects one elementary and one secondary nomination to honor as KCKPS Teachers of the Year. These two teachers' nominations are then forwarded on to the Kansas Teacher of the Year program.

DISTRICT MOBILE FOOD TRUCK SERVES SUMMER MEALS

On June 5, 2017, the Nutritional Services Department introduced a mobile food truck, which has since delivered hundreds of healthy meals to youth and adults during the summer months.

Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools provides over 8,000 meals per day during the summer months to the community. Some of those meals are distributed via the mobile food truck, while other food is served at schools and community center sites. All children ages 1-18, and adults accompanying participating children, could participate in the Summer Food Service Program.

"With food insecurity in Wyandotte County being 18.1 percent, it is extremely important that we are able provide healthy, nutritious meals to our children and the adults that accompany them," said the school district's Director of Nutritional Services Josh Mathiasmeier.

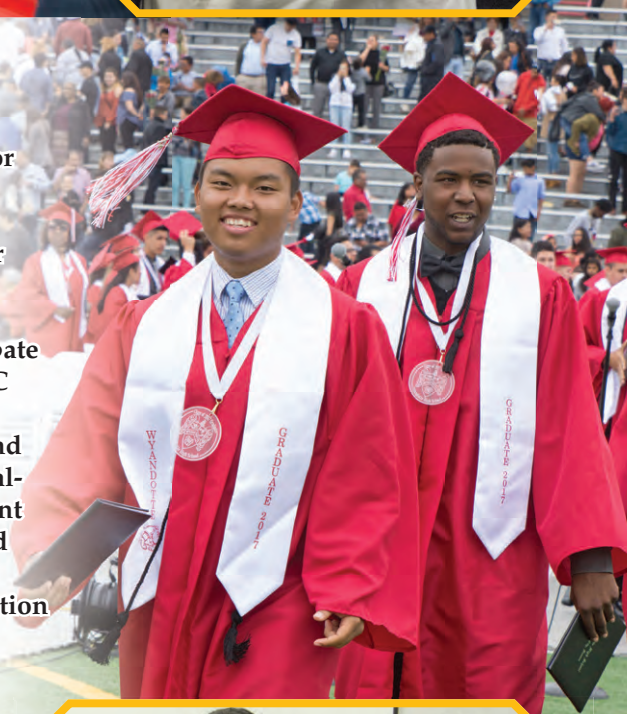
Did you know?

The food truck's beautiful exterior design is the work of Esperanca Santoyo. When she created the design for the mobile food truck, she was a 7th grade student at Central Middle School. Esperanca was presented with a certificate of appreciation for her design work by Commissioner Brian McKiernan and congratulated by the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Cynthia Lane and Nutritional Services Director Josh Mathiasmeier.

SEVERAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR KCKPS

There is much to be proud of in Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools, from the accomplishments of our students to our teaching excellence. Here are a few of those standout achievements showcasing why KCKPS is quite simply the best:

- **Sumner Academy is No. 1 in Kansas on the Washington Post's List of Top High Schools in America**
- **Frances Willard named a Dav Pilkey Summer Reading Educator contest winner**
- **64 high school students selected as KC Scholars ($10,000 a year, renewable for 5 years in college scholarships!)**
- **283 Students were celebrated in the Superintendent's Honor Roll for academic excellence**
- **230+ students in 4th & 5th grade received a certificate of excellence for Young Leaders of Tomorrow participation**
- **Numerous business and industry leaders are investing in Diploma+ by serving on the Steering Committee, and/or Academy Advisory Boards**
- **Jodie Lin, district fine arts coordinator, was named KMEA's Honored Administrator for 2017**
- **Parents As Teachers served 385 infants and toddlers and their families, and Lauren Ware was named National Parent Educator of the Year**
- **USA Football, partnered with ESPN to provide training to our coaches and support our high school teams**
- **William Brame was named Debate Coach of the Year by Debate KC**
- **Schlagle Men's and Women's basketball teams won league and regional titles, and competed valiantly in the State 5A tournament**
- **Harmon's Robotics Team placed 7th in FIRST Robotics, and competed in the World competition**



SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

MIGRANT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY PREPARES STUDENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER GOALS

Through the Migrant Leadership Academy, 16-year-old Bikash Kalikote is learning a lot about himself and how to attain higher education and career goals. That is the thrust of the Migrant Leadership Academy, a two-week summer program aimed at empowering students to take an active role in their education by developing skills necessary to successfully transition from high school to higher education.

"The program helps us to communicate better, to be open-minded, and to ask questions," said Bikash. This is particularly important, Bikash said, "because when you speak with an accent you may not be as comfortable speaking in group settings or talking out loud."

It is something that he has experienced. Bikash and his family are originally from Nepal, where the language spoken is Nepali. They moved to the United States about seven-and-a-half years ago. For the last three-and-a-half years, they have lived in Kansas City, Kansas.

Nepali is one of about 68 languages spoken in the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools. The school district seeks innovative ways to connect with students for engagement and academic success. The Migrant Leadership Program is one way in which this happens for students with English as a second language.

Bikash, a junior at Sumner Academy of Arts and Science, is one of 22 students in the first-year program. "The Migrant Leadership Academy is comprised of 8th through 12th grade migrant students who are excelling academically and are the perfect candidates to further explore their career interests and develop self-advocacy," said B. Yamel Camacho Clay, a program coordinator and Middle School Migrant Service advocate.

Throughout the two-week course, the students worked on a variety of skills, including team building, time management, business etiquette, networking, goal setting, college preparation and career exploration.

They worked on a variety of group activities as well. One activity helped them understand strengths and opportunities for improvement. "We took a personality assessment and I found out that I am a logical person and not driven by emotions. I see things pretty much in black and white and deal with facts," Bikash said. He also discovered he works best alone, but admits that this is an area to work on.

Another activity gave Bikash and his peers an opportunity to put their communications skills to the test. During a Career Luncheon, students used their networking skills to talk with professionals in the medical, law enforcement, design, education, and legal fields.

Bikash said the experience was eye-opening and one that will be helpful to his future. "I learned just finishing high school isn't good enough. You need at least a bachelor's degree. He also learned, "it's important to have good connections and to work with counselors and teachers to learn about scholarships and internships."

If you are interested in learning more about the Migrant Leadership Program call Clay at 913.279.2144.

Bikash Kalikote

Migrant Leadership Academy students, program coordinators and participants at the Career Luncheon pose for a group picture.

2017–2018 DISTRICT CALENDAR *(FIRST QUARTER)*

August

2, 3, 4	New Teacher In-service
7	Teachers Report / Classroom Prep
8	District In-service / Bldg. In-service
9	Convocation / Bldg. In-service
10	Building In-service
11	First day of school (K-5, 6, 9)
14	First day of school – all students
21	First day of school (PreK)

September

4	Holiday / Admin. offices closed
20	Student Count Day

October

12	Last day of 1st quarter
13	.5 records prep / .5 in-service
18	Early Release / Family Advocacy
19	Family Advocacy Day / No school
20	Teacher Non-Duty Day / No school

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING PROVIDES SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

Each year local businesses and organizations "tee off" to provide educational opportunities for students in the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools.

On June 14, the KCK School Foundation for Excellence hosted its 27th annual Scholarship Golf Tournament at Sunflower Hills Golf Course in Bonner Springs, Kansas.

There were two flights, morning and afternoon, which were followed by lunch/dinner and an awards ceremony. Thank you to all of our 2017 tournament sponsors. Top level sponsors received advertisements in the golf program, corporate recognition, gift bags and more. There were also sign and hole sponsors.

More than 250 students have received scholarship assistance for their post-secondary education from the proceeds received through the golf tournament. These scholarships provide students with not only monetary support, but also a sense of community support.

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Now, more than ever, KCKCC Continuing Education Programs are as diverse as the community we serve.

You Belong Here.

Community Education classes and workshops are designed for individuals with special interests. Options include programs in the areas of driver safety (both vehicle and motorcycle), personal wellness, hobbies, music, business, finance, day trips, and personal growth.

KCKCC ADULT EDUCATION – YOU BELONG HERE

KCKCC's Adult Education Program is designed to help adults meet their educational goals with these four components: Pre-GED, GED, College Preparation, and ESL. Each component is customized to meet students' needs and increase employment skills in preparation for a future career.

ACE Professionals

ACE Professional offerings include Career Certificate Programs, Online Courses, Business Development, and Specialized Career Training. These programs currently include: Real Estate, Medical Coding and Billing, Pharmacy Technician, and Phlebotomy.

KIDS on campus KCKCC

The Kids on Campus program offers year-round activities for children ages 8-13. These activities include Spring Break and Summer Camps as well as fun and creative STEM, art, and life skill programs.

KCKCC TEEN scene

New opportunites will soon be available for teens ages 14-17. Our Teen Scene program will offer a huge variety of activities including: Driver's Ed, Music Composition and Technology, Retail & Hospitality Training, College Prep, Essay Writing, STEM Boot Camps , Cooking, Intro to Career Pathways and more!

ACE VIP KCKCC

Beginning July 1, 2017 you can become a member in the Adult & Continuing Education Department's VIP Club! This new club will replace the Prime Time Club, and offer even more opportunities for discounts, events, and exclusive ACE VIP gear! With 2 membership tiers to choose from, you'll always feel like a VIP.

Kansas City Kansas Community College is committed to promoting and sustaining a campus community which identifies and values the individuality of every community member and is dedicated to maintaining a positive environment where diversity is encouraged and fostered throughout the college.

KCKCC strongly believes that diversity generates a positive image and awareness and community strength that encourages active involvement and helps enhance organizational effectiveness and culture. KCKCC prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, and sexual orientation), parental status, national origin, age, disability, family medical history or genetic information, political affiliation, military service, or other non-merit based factors. All college actions and policies comply with all state, federal and local laws and regulations.

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