CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS UPDATES

TEACH IN KCKPS WHILE EARNING YOUR MASTER’S IN EDUCATION

KCKPS TEACHERS OF THE YEAR HONORED AT ANNUAL KSDE BANQUET
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Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools Central Office and Training Center 2010 N. 59th St. Kansas City, KS 66104 (913) 551-3200 www.kckps.org

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Charles Foust

Director of Communications & Marketing Melissa Fears
Editor, Education Connection

KCK Board of Education Wanda Brownlee Paige
Harold Brown
Maxine Drew
Janey Humphries
Brenda C. Jones
Dr. Valdenia Winn
Dr. Stacy Yeager

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Greetings
KCKPS community!

I have spent the first months in my new role as your superintendent visiting schools, developing relationships, and meeting the hard working students and staff of Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools. Through these interactions, I experienced great things happening within the school system. As with any great organization, I have also discovered some opportunities for us to grow and work together.

We are all focused on providing the very best education to our students at KCKPS so they have the tools and the skills to compete in a global society. As you know, the district passed a $235 million bond project in 2016. A portion of that funding has been used to build academy spaces in our high schools. These spaces provide a real-world setting equipped with the best technology, tools and learning experiences to help jumpstart the future of our students.

Diploma+ students are our future workforce professionals in health care, information technology, media, construction, architecture and many other high-pay, high-demand industries. There are pictures of some of these spaces on page 8 of this publication.

Innovation is happening in classrooms throughout the district. I had the opportunity to visit a co-working space that is under development by students in an Applied Business Development class at Wyandotte High School. Problem solving, working in teams and making decisions faced by entrepreneurs are the focus of these students. When I visited the class, the students worked on marketing, set up computers and assembled furniture donated for their space. I look forward to returning once the space is completed to witness first-hand our students’ progress.

Throughout the year, I will highlight more incredible work happening in our buildings to continue spreading the good news about our school district.

As you can tell I am proud of the work we are doing, but there is so much more yet to accomplish together.

Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools wants to hear from you about this future work. This is why the Listening and Learning Tours were held in September and October at our high schools. It was a time to learn about successes at the district and to identify opportunities to accomplish more achievements in the future. Thank you to everyone able to attend. We will have more opportunities like this in the future.

Our greatest role at the school district is continuing to move forward with the work of educating our students. We will do this work with accountability. We will do this work with fidelity. This is the work of all of us at KCKPS.

Dr. Charles Foust
Superintendent of Schools
STUDENTS ARE BACK IN CLASSROOMS AND
STUDENTS ARE BACK IN CLASSROOMS AND READY FOR A FULL DAY OF LEARNING.
STUDENTS HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO EARN A DEGREE IN 3 YEARS AT THE KU EDWARDS CAMPUS

Degree in 3 is an accelerated undergraduate program for high school students. Participants can earn college credits while in high school, complete an associate’s degree one year after graduating and complete a KU Edwards Campus bachelor’s degree two years later.

The entities that are part of this program are Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools, Blue Valley School District, Lee’s Summit R-7 School District, Olathe Public Schools, Raytown Quality Schools, Shawnee Mission School District, Johnson County Community College, Kansas City Kansas Community College, Metropolitan Community College, and the University of Kansas Edwards Campus.

The degrees available for Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools students are the following:

**BAS Biotechnology:** This program will equip students with diverse career options in the fields of:
- Medical education or similar professions
- Food science
- Animal health
- Environmental and agricultural sciences
- Pharmaceuticals

**BS Exercise Science:** The program offers a blend of medical, rehabilitation, sports, wellness and research coursework to prepare the participants for a variety of careers and further education in the following areas:
- Physical therapy
- Cardiac rehabilitation
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Chiropractic
- Occupational therapy
- Corporate fitness/wellness

The impact of this program is tremendous in terms of exposing our students to college, reducing higher education costs for families and increasing the number of qualified, workforce-ready individuals in a shorter span of time. Additionally, this is another outstanding educational partnership that will allow our students to graduate Diploma+.

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**What is Diploma+?**

This initiative begins in preschool, building a strong foundation in academic and social emotional skills. Continuing through elementary and middle school, the program relies on project-based, hands-on learning, as well as career exploration and visits to various industries and college campuses. In high school, students choose from a variety of different Diploma+ Academies that focus on specific career interests, providing students with a number of real-world experiences.

The goal is for every student in KCKPS to graduate with a high school diploma and at least one of the following Diploma+ endorsements:
- Completion of at least one full year of college (18 - 30 hours)
- Completion of an Industry-Recognized Certificate or Credential
- At least a 21 on the ACT or 1060 on the SAT
- Completion of the IB Diploma Programme or Career-Related Programme
- Acceptance into the Military
- Completion of a Qualified Internship or Industry-Approved Project
- An Approved Plan for Post-Secondary Transition

KCKPS students can complete one or more of the endorsements at no cost to them or their families. Learn more about Diploma+ at kckps.org/diplomaplus or by talking to your child’s school.

**Diploma+ Shows Positive Results**

The percentage of seniors completing at least one of the Diploma+ endorsements:

- 2017-18: 31%
- 2016-17: 26%
- 2015-16: 21%

The numbers continue to increase annually even though the program is not at full scale yet.
WONDERING how Diploma+ works in practice?

_**PRE-K THROUGH 5TH GRADE**_

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundational Skills for Middle School Success</th>
<th>Critical Thinking</th>
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<td><em>(This includes core classes, physical education/lifetime fitness, music, and the arts.)</em></td>
<td>Literacy Skills</td>
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<td>Career Exploration</td>
<td>Career Awareness</td>
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<td>Project-Based Learning <em>(elementary grade level)</em></td>
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<td>Social/Emotional Development</td>
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**6TH - 8TH GRADE**

<table>
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<th>Foundational Skills for High School Success</th>
<th>College Exploration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>(This includes core classes, physical education/lifetime fitness, music and the arts.)</em></td>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
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<tr>
<td>Career Exploration</td>
<td>Project-Based Learning</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Social/Emotional Development</td>
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</tbody>
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**9TH GRADE**

| The Freshman Core:                             | Elective Options:                             | Freshman 101 |
| Math                                         | Speech                                         | Students participate in an orientation to high school. |
| English                                      | Art                                            | |
| Science                                      | Music/Performing Arts                          | |
| Social Studies                               | Physical Education                             | |

**10TH GRADE**

| The Sophomore Core:                            | Elective Options:                             | Business/Vocational |
| Math                                         | Speech                                         | *(Course Required* |
| English                                      | Art                                            | *for Graduation)* |
| Science                                      | Music/Performing Arts                          | |
| Social Studies                               | Physical Education                             | *

**11TH GRADE**

| The Junior Core:                               | Elective Options:                             | Business/Vocational |
| Math                                         | Speech                                         | *(Course Required* |
| English                                      | Art                                            | *for Graduation)* |
| Science                                      | Music/Performing Arts                          | |
| American History *(college credit available)*| Physical Education                             | |

**12TH GRADE**

| The Senior Core:                               | Elective Options:                             | Economics |
| Math                                         | Speech                                         | *(Course Required* |
| English                                      | Art                                            | *for Graduation)* |
| Science                                      | Music/Performing Arts                          | |
| American Government *(college credit available)*| Physical Education                             | |
|                                             |                                                | Diploma+ Academy Elective |

Students may be eligible for more than one endorsement by graduation!

*For more information, visit our website at kckps.org/diplomaplus.*
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:

Upgraded High School Classrooms to Meet 21st Century Learning Needs

The creation of 21st century learning spaces at all high schools have either been built or are nearing completion. The spaces accommodate the new College and Career Academies identified in collaboration with business leaders to ensure that KCKPS offers robust experiences, tied to the most in-demand career opportunities in the metropolitan area. Other upgrades include two new and modern science labs per high school building, and faculty planning centers for team collaboration.

Wyandotte High School received upgraded spaces for the Information Technology Academy, Human and Public Services Academy, Health Sciences Academy and Architecture, Construction and Engineering Academy.

F.L. Schlagle High School received an upgrade to classrooms and work spaces for their Health Sciences, Human and Public Services Academy and their Architecture, Construction and Engineering Academy.

J.C. Harmon High School received upgraded spaces to serve and enable all of the school’s different academies, which include Business, Finance and Information Technology and Health Sciences, Human and Public Services Academy.

Washington High School’s new academy spaces provide students with a modern and usable learning environment. Their academies include the Business and Finance Academy and Information Technology, Advanced Manufacturing, Transportation and Logistics Academy.

Sumner Academy of Arts & Science received upgrades to its science lab and office space as a result of the bond.
Gloria Willis Middle School

The new middle school, under construction on the land of the existing campus of the current Coronado Middle School, is taking shape. As you may already know, the building will accommodate the population of students from both Coronado and West middle schools. The structure will be approximately 127,000 square feet and will have a capacity for 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 and a media center, just to name a few. Construction will be completed for the 2019-2020 school year. Coronado will be razed after the new middle school is built. The project architect is Hollis + Miller Architects.

Stony Point North Elementary and Claude Huyck Elementary School

have received new classrooms and security upgrades. These improvements include an upgraded entrance adjacent to the office. The project architect is HTK Architects.

Welborn Elementary School

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 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 have the capacity for 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.

In the next issue, there will be an update on the remodeling of kitchens, creation of new kitchen spaces and the career exploration spaces in buildings.

See all the bond construction updates at bond.kckps.org.
Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools (KCKPS) was named one of the best companies to work for in Kansas City, Kansas by Zippia. KCKPS was ranked 11th on the list of the 20 best companies to work for in Kansas City, Kansas. Zippia is a three-year-old, web-based company that is working to create a resource that provides information on potential career paths and employment opportunities for job seekers.

Their best companies ranking list is based on data from sources like the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Federal Election Commission, the Zippia job and resume database and more. When ranking companies, Zippia looks at the following three criteria:

- Financial health of the organization (including number of years in operation, total revenue and number of employees)
- Salaries (relative to similar positions in the area)
- Diversity (including education, race, gender, political affiliation)

This is the first year Zippia has created the best companies ranking list for Kansas City, Kansas. KCKPS is proud to be named among the top employers in our area. We also congratulate all of the other companies on the list. Being a part of this prestigious group shows that KCKPS “excels at creating a work environment that appeals to job seekers,” according to Drew Walters, Zippia’s marketing strategist.

To learn more about the Best Companies to work for in Kansas City, Kansas, please visit zippia.com/company/best-companies-in-kansas-city-ks/.

The approved budget has a General Fund of $160.2 million and the supplemental general fund (Local Option Budget) of $51.3 million. A Local Option Budget is money raised through locally approved taxes to go to a local school district where those taxes are collected.

The Kansas City, Kansas Board of Education unanimously approved the 2018-19 budget, which will cover all of the school district’s costs for this fiscal year, which began on July 1, 2018 and will end on June 30, 2019. The board also voted not to increase the mill levy for the citizens of the community.

Here are some highlights of this year’s budget:

- The addition of 41 social workers to address bettering the lives and conditions of our students. Ten of these positions are being funded by the Mental Health Program Pilot which was part of Kansas Senate Bill 423. The school district will have to prepare for the possibility that the Mental Health Pilot may not be continued in future years. This would mean that the district would need to determine a permanent way of funding 10 social workers and a coordinator position in the future, approximately $840,000. The $1,890,000 used this year to pay for 31 of the total number of positions is a one-time transfer from the Contingency Fund.
- The addition of the internal management of a substitute program.
- The expansion of the Fairfax Learning Center to provide for improved educational opportunities for the students served at the building.

To learn more about the budget, visit the website at kckps.org.
Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools 2018 Teachers of the Year

Emily Dennis and Whitney Morgan were honored at the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) Annual Region III Banquet for the 2019 Kansas Teacher of the Year. The ceremony was held at the Marriott Hotel in Overland Park, Kansas.

Whitney Morgan is an English/language arts teacher at Wyandotte High School and has moved to the finalist stage in the running for 2019 Kansas Teacher of the Year. Morgan said, “I am proud to be a teacher in the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools and am so honored to represent the educational communities of our region. Thank you to all who have come alongside me and been a part of my story. I look forward to continuing my learning and growth through the Kansas Teacher of the Year Program. What an incredible honor and responsibility. I am grateful for the opportunity to give back to the state that has given me so much as both a student and an educator.” Morgan is one of eight finalists for 2019 Kansas Teacher of the Year.

Emily Dennis is a 4th grade teacher at White Church Elementary School and was honored as an elementary nominee for the 2019 Kansas Teacher of the Year. Dennis said, “Over the years I have found that what seems to make an educator effective is consistency. Not just with classroom management or preparing lesson plans, but with showing up and being a reliable adult that students can always count on. I am a product of KCKPS and it has been my complete privilege to serve the students and families of USD 500 for almost two decades. It is an incredible honor to represent our district in the teacher of the year program.”

Both Dennis and Morgan have “the opportunity to become an active member of the Kansas Exemplary Educators Network” according to the Kansas State Department of Education. This will allow them to expand their influence and become even bigger advocates for students, as well as provide them with the opportunity to work with state policymakers in shaping the future direction of education in Kansas.

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Whitney Morgan

I am grateful for the opportunity to give back to the state that has given me so much as both a student and an educator.

Emily Dennis

To read more about the Kansas Teacher of the Year finalists, please visit ksde.org.
2018–2019 DISTRICT CALENDAR

October
11  Last day of 1st quarter
12  .5 records prep/.5 Inservice
17  Early Release/Family Advocacy
18  Family Advocacy Day/No School
19  Teacher Non-Duty Day/No School
23  Board of Education Meeting at 5 p.m., Central Office
30  Special Board of Education Meeting at 1 p.m. Central Office

November
13  Board of Education Meeting at 8:30 a.m., Central Middle School
21 – 23  Holiday/Administrative Offices Closed
27  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.

December
11  Board of Education Meeting at 5 p.m., Central Office
20  Last day of 2nd quarter
21  .5 records prep/.5 inservice
22 – 31  Winter Break
24 – 28  Administrative Offices Closed
31  Administrative Offices Closed

January, 2019
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
22  Board of Education Meeting at 5 p.m., Central Office

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 has 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. All information sessions are held at the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools Central Office and Training Center, 2010 N. 59th Street, Kansas City, KS in room 131 at 6:30 p.m. Thursdays on the following dates:

November 8, 2018
January 10, 2019
January 24, 2019
February 21, 2019
March 7, 2019

More information about the Teaching Fellows program is available at kckps.org/teachingfellows or contact Alternative Certification Program Advisor Dr. Tracey Nix at 913-279-2380.
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STAY IN THE KNOW!

- View the board meetings at 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.

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STUDENTS LOVE KC-AREA

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Blue Valley North HS

Colton Russell
Blue Valley North HS

Isabelle Macy
St. James Academy

Kyle Kopecky
Blue Valley North HS

Kiah Nesbit
Olathe East

Alexandria Lamb
Blue Valley North HS
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