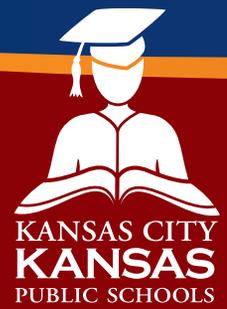


EDUCATION CONNECTION



NEWS FROM THE KANSAS CITY, KANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FALL 2018

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS UPDATES

TEACH IN KCKPS
WHILE EARNING YOUR
MASTER'S IN EDUCATION

KCKPS TEACHERS
OF THE YEAR
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IN THIS ISSUE

- 3** Superintendent's Message
- 4-5** Welcome Back Students
- 6** Students Have an Opportunity to Earn a Degree in 3 Years at the KU Edwards Campus
- 7** Diploma+
- 8-9** Construction Progress Updates
- 10** KCKPS Honored as a Best Company to Work For
- 10** Budget Approved for 2018-2019 School Year
- 11** Congratulations to Our Teachers
- 12** District Calendar
- 12** Teach in KCKPS While Earning Your Master's in Education
- 13** Stay in the Know

COMMUNICATIONS RESOURCES

Website: kckps.org

Facebook: facebook.com/kckschools

Twitter: twitter.com/kckschools

Instagram: instagram.com/kckschools

KCKPS-TV:

Channel 18 (on Spectrum)

Channel 145 (on Google Fiber)

YouTube: youtube.com/KCKPSTV

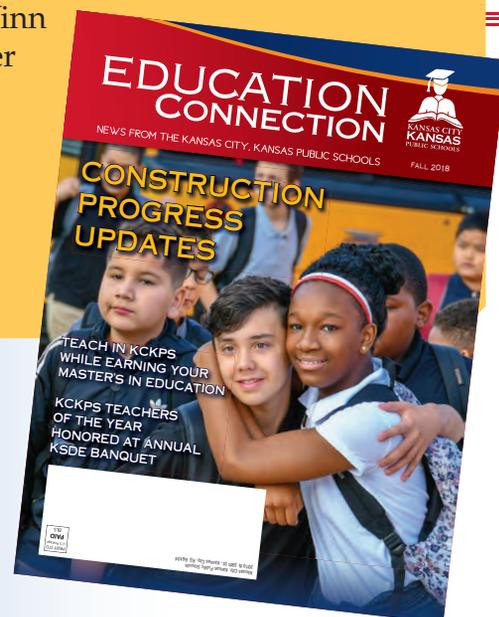
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MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Charles Foust
Superintendent of Schools

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.



Wyandotte High School Principal Mary Stewart speaks to Superintendent Dr. Charles Foust about the history of the school.

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



Dr. Charles Foust greets students at Banneker Elementary School on the first day of school.

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+.



What is

KANSAS CITY, KANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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.

KANSAS CITY, KANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DIPLOMA⁺

WALKING THE PATH 

Wondering how Diploma⁺ works in practice?

Read the following to learn how Diploma⁺ works for your student.

PRE-K THROUGH 5th GRADE

Foundational Skills for Middle School Success
(This includes core classes, physical education/lifetime fitness, music, and the arts.)

Critical Thinking
Literacy Skills
Career Awareness
Project-Based Learning *(elementary grade level)*
Social/Emotional Development

6TH - 8TH GRADE

Foundational Skills for High School Success
(This includes core classes, physical education/lifetime fitness, music and the arts.)
Career Exploration

College Exploration
Critical Thinking
Project-Based Learning
Social/Emotional Development

9TH GRADE

The Freshman Core:
Math
English
Science
Social Studies

Elective Options:
Speech
Art
Music/Performing Arts
Physical Education

Freshman 101
Students participate in an orientation to high school.

10TH GRADE

The Sophomore Core:
Math
English
Science
Social Studies

Elective Options
Speech
Art
Music/Performing Arts
Physical Education

Business/Vocational
(Course Required for Graduation)

Diploma⁺ Academy Elective
Based on your student's Diploma+ Academy choice, your student can take courses every year to reach his/her college and career goals.

11TH GRADE

The Junior Core:
Math
English
Science
American History
(college credit available)

Elective Options:
Speech
Art
Music/Performing Arts
Physical Education

Business/Vocational
(Course Required for Graduation)

Diploma⁺ Academy Elective

12TH GRADE

The Senior Core:
Math
English
Science
American Government
(college credit available)

Elective Options:
Speech
Art
Music/Performing Arts
Physical Education

Economics
(Course Required for Graduation)

Diploma⁺ Academy Elective

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

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

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:

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.



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.



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.



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.



Summer Academy of Arts & Science received upgrades to its science lab and office space as a result of the bond.

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.



These are some of the new classrooms enjoyed by students at Claude Huyck.



These are some of the new classrooms enjoyed by students at Stony Point North.



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.

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.

KCKPS HONORED AS A BEST COMPANY TO WORK FOR

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/.

BUDGET APPROVED FOR 2018–2019 SCHOOL YEAR

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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TEACHERS



2018 KCKPS Teachers of the Year Honored at Annual KSDE Banquet

Congratulations to Emily Dennis and Whitney Morgan (pictured left to right) on being honored at the Region III Awards Banquet for the 2019 Teacher of the Year ceremony which was held at the Marriott Hotel in Overland Park, Kansas.

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.

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.

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.

Whitney Morgan

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.

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.

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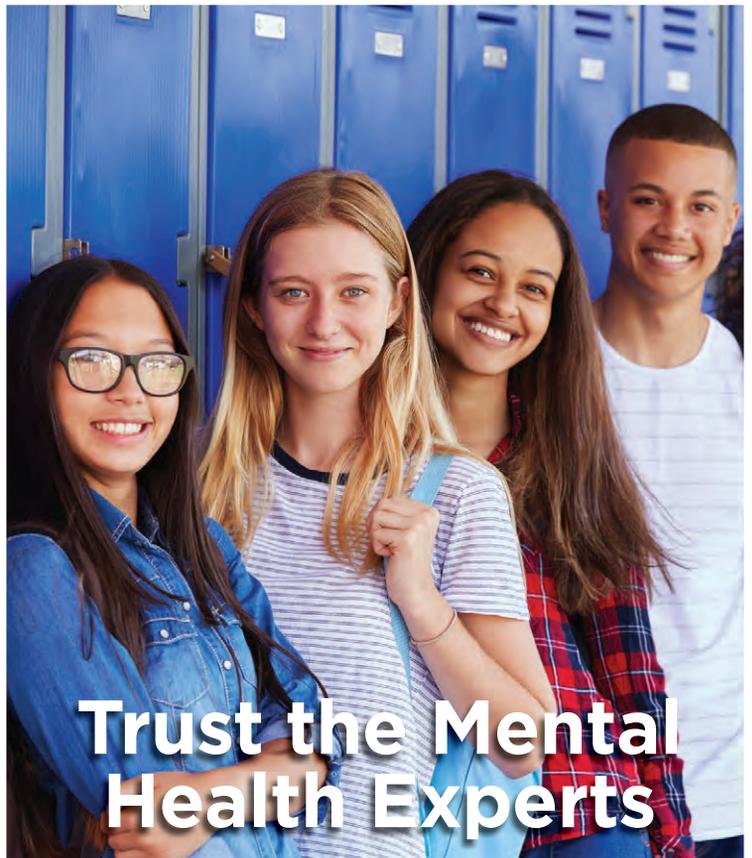


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