

EDUCATION CONNECTION



NEWS FROM THE KANSAS CITY, KANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SUMMER 2018

BACK TO SCHOOL FOR KCKPS STUDENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE
SUPERINTENDENT

NEW STUDENT
INFORMATION SYSTEM –
INFINITE CAMPUS

KCKPS POINTS OF PRIDE



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2010 N. 59th St., Kansas City, KS 66104

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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

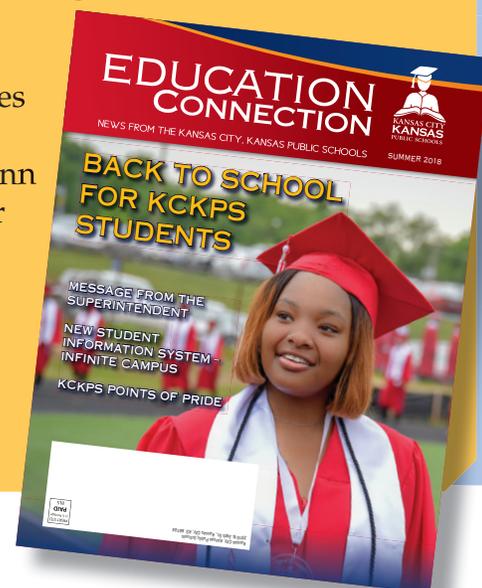
Education Connection is a quarterly newsmagazine of the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools (KCKPS). Editorial copy and photography are created by the KCKPS Communications Department and produced by NPG Newspapers. To receive a copy of the magazine, call (913) 279-2242. A Spanish translation of the stories included in *Education Connection* is available on the district's website at kckps.org.

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JOINING THE KCKPS TEAM!

We Are Hiring!



AVAILABLE POSITIONS INCLUDE:

General Education Teachers

Early Childhood, Elementary, Middle and High School

Special Education Teachers

All Specialties

Substitute Teachers

Food Service Workers
with Management Opportunities

School Nurses

Support Staff

Transportation
Bus Drivers and Diesel Mechanics

Paraprofessionals

All available positions are subject to change.

For further information, contact Director of Recruitment
Cynthia Fulks, cynthia.fulks@kckps.org or (913) 551-3200.

Our Essential Goal

KCKPS is looking for qualified individuals who want to change the lives of our students and have the opportunity to grow in their career. "We are not just looking for traditional staff members, but those who are innovative and dedicated to giving their best for our children every day," said Director of Recruitment Cynthia Fulks.

Opportunities are listed here and at kckps.org/careers.
Apply today!

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Charles Foust
Superintendent of Schools

Hello Kansas City, Kansas community!

It is truly an honor and a humbling privilege to be selected as the 15th superintendent of Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools (KCKPS). I would like to thank the Kansas City, Kansas Board of Education for the opportunity to serve

KCKPS and be part of the tremendous work happening for us to realize our vision of “Striving to become one of the Top 10 School Districts in the Nation.”

I also want to acknowledge and thank Dr. Cynthia Lane for her leadership to staff, students, parents and the community as well as her tireless voice in the work for funding education locally and statewide to ensure the best futures for students in the state of Kansas. Thank you, Dr. Julie Ford for serving as the interim superintendent of the school district until my arrival at the school district in early August.

I am proud to become part of KCKPS which is known for its long-standing history and rich cultural diversity. I have a wealth of classroom and leadership experience in education, which began in 1997. Early in my teaching career, I taught 4th and 5th grade and then moved on to become a high school curriculum facilitator for Guilford County Schools in North Carolina. I then went on to become an assistant principal at the elementary and middle school level before serving as an elementary school principal for a little over four years. During that time as a leader, our team worked together to help move the school to become an Honor School of Excellence. This meant that we had 93% of the students proficient (on grade level).

Providing access for all students has been a theme I have held firm my entire career. Working for the Houston (Texas) Independent School District was an opportunity to make this theme a vision and reality. Within one school year, we were the school to watch. Our third year, we became an authorized International Baccalaureate (IB) middle years program school. We worked on culture, best practice, goal setting and teaching with fidelity. For three years consecutively, we soared as the students progressed and the teachers became even better.

I was asked at the end of my third year as principal to become a school support officer (SSO). In this role, I was to coach, mentor and supervise principals to become better school leaders. As an SSO, each year our team became known for having the highest growth for secondary schools. Again, the opportunity to make students the best was the plan of success. The most memorable year was when our team worked specifically with five of the lowest performing schools in the district. Assisting those principals was most refreshing. All of the schools came out of low performing status and three of the schools received state distinctions.

I would later move on to become the chief school performance officer for Union County Public Schools in Monroe, N.C., charged with leading 53 schools (elementary, middle and high), nurses, guidance counselors, psycho-therapists, mental-health therapists, social workers, suicide intervention and student transfers. This position allowed for an opportunity to work closely with district partners, sponsors and the school board.

I have truly been fortunate to have a range of educational experience, both at the elementary and secondary levels. As I transition to the new role as superintendent of schools for KCKPS, I plan to spend the first three months visiting all of our campuses and meeting with our school and community leaders. This will be a listening and learning tour for me to get to know the district, the work underway and those individuals responsible for these school district strides. I also want to meet with our district partners to continue creating avenues of success for all students in particular those involved with the exciting Diploma⁺ initiative. Additionally, I want to have roundtable discussions with our local universities and colleges to discuss teacher and leadership preparation programs.

As superintendent, I will be giving our elementary, middle and high schools stretch goals. One goal will be to have 90% of the kindergarten students reading on grade level by the end of the 2018-19 school year. We also want to increase our middle school students' math proficiency rates by 10 percentage points overall by the end of the 2018-19 school year. Increasing the number of students graduating Diploma⁺ will be a goal for high school students. By working together, these goals can become a reality.

I, along with my wife, Sherelle, and daughters, Kennedi and Brooklin, look forward to establishing new roots in Kansas City, Kansas, building new friendships and becoming part of this wonderful community. Thank you again for the opportunity to serve beside you to continue KCKPS on the course to becoming one of the Top 10 School Districts in the Nation.

Dr. Charles Foust
Superintendent of Schools

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 10 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 Summer Academy of Arts and Science, 8th graders plus students new to Summer Academy will also begin classes on Monday, August 13. There will be a full day of classes for students at all grade levels on Monday, August 13. New Stanley Elementary School and Northwest Middle School follow a different school schedule. Here is their start schedule:

New Stanley Elementary School

- Friday, July 27 - Students Report/Early Dismissal
- Friday, July 27 and Monday, July 30 - Early Dismissal/Home Visits
- Tuesday, July 31 - Regular Schedule Begins

Northwest Middle School

- Wednesday, August 1 – First Day of School for Grade 6
- Thursday, August 2 – First Day of School for Grade 7
- Friday, August 3 – First Day of School for All Students

For PreK students, Friday, August 10 will be Family Advocacy, and the first full day of school for students will be Monday, August 20.

Enrollment Information

All students who are new to the district must enroll at the Welcome Center at the Central Office and Training Center, 2010 N. 59th Street. The Welcome Center reopens on Monday, August 6, 2018 and will be open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Welcome Center is on the same calendar schedule as the schools and closes when schools close. All returning students will re-enroll on the Infinite Campus system. For more information on enrollment and Infinite Campus, please visit kckps.org/enrollment.

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

- Current immunization records (Students may not enroll without shots being up-to-date)
- 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

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 2018-2019 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 to strengthen their skills, practices, values and expectations and 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 has updated the Parent and Student Handbook to serve as a resource for families. The handbook includes information about enrollment, student health and safety, school 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.

English version: http://kckps.org/images/departments/student_services/code.pdf

Version en español (spanish version): http://kckps.org/images/departments/student_services/code_span.pdf



NEW STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

INFINITE CAMPUS

Parents have a new way to deliver and receive important school information. That is thanks to the new student information system – Infinite Campus. The new system gives parents and/or guardians online access to their student’s information through a ‘parent portal’ that is accessible on any computer or mobile device with an internet connection.

Among the dynamic features of Infinite Campus is access to the following student information:

- **Re-enrollment** – Sign your student up for next school year and upload documents like a utility bill, shot records or birth certificate.
- **Schedules** – Look at your student’s class schedule and teachers for the entire school year.
- **Grades and Assignments** – See your student’s current grades as well as their report card grades and see if there are any late or missing assignments.
- **Attendance** – Review when your student missed school or was late to class.

- **Fee** – Pay school fees, such as field trip fees or fees for sports, clubs and other activities.
- **Calendar** – Check the calendar for a monthly view of assignments and attendance events (missed school or late to class) for all of your students in the district.



Update contact information – Quickly update your address, phone number, household information and emergency contacts without having to contact the school.

Receive Messages – Get communications from schools and the district

- **Decide how to receive messages** – via text, email, phone or all three (This is the replacement for School Loop which lets the district know what types of messages you want to receive such as emergency, attendance, teacher, etc.).

Communicate directly with teachers – Send messages directly to your student’s teacher and receive notifications and messages back.

For more information about Infinite Campus, contact your child’s school. Visit kckps.org for answers to *Frequently Asked Questions*.

KCKPS POINTS OF PRIDE

THERE ARE MANY REASONS TO CELEBRATE AT KCKPS.

Here are some of those accomplishments of which we are proud:

- ✓ 56% of the Class of 2018 graduated with one or more of the Diploma+ endorsements
- ✓ 4,151 middle school students participated in unique college and career experiences
- ✓ \$61 million in scholarships earned by graduates in 2018
- ✓ 182 students earned industry-recognized technical certificates or credentials
- ✓ 281 students graduated with a combined total of 4,113 college credits
- ✓ 85 high school students selected as KC Scholars (\$10,000 annual scholarship, renewable for five years)
- ✓ 383 students were celebrated in the Superintendent’s Honor Roll for academic excellence
- ✓ J.C. Harmon High’s Robotics Team Competed at the national level in Fall 2017.
- ✓ F.L. Schlagle High School won third place in the national Lead2Feed Challenge competition for sponsoring two student-led events that brought free healthcare, job resources and immigration information to the KCK community.
- ✓ Sumner Academy 2018 senior scholarship awards totaled \$38,630,339
- ✓ Washington High School’s Air Force JROTC program was selected as the Outstanding Organization for 2018 by the United States Air Force.
- ✓ Wyandotte High completed their sixth year of partnership between KU Medical Center and Wyandotte High School’s Health Academy



to provide all Wyandotte students access to a School-Based Health Clinic at Wyandotte staffed by KU doctors, medical students and Wyandotte High School Health Academy interns.

- ✓ Toshiba America Foundation announced West Middle was one of 25 schools in the nation to receive a grant for an innovative STEM classroom. This grant will purchase a 3D printer and other supplies.
- ✓ Argentine Middle provided approximately 720 college experiences and 1,700 career experiences for students. These include college and industry visits, career days, and experiential learning opportunities.
- ✓ 180 students in 4th and 5th grade received a certificate of excellence for participation in the Young Leaders of Tomorrow program.
- ✓ KCKPS joined forces with other KC area educational institutions to provide students with the opportunity to earn a bachelor’s degree in three years at the KU Edwards Campus!
- ✓ KCKPS and the Kansas City Kansas Community College signed a memorandum of understanding paving the way for a concurrent/dual enrollment partnership which creates opportunities for students in Wyandotte County.
- ✓ Researchers from the University of Kansas secured an \$18 million grant that will allow them to provide support to more than 3,000 middle school students in Kansas City, Kansas via a program called Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP).



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DISTRICT CALENDAR

August

- 1, 2, 3 New Teacher Inservice
- 6 Teachers Report/Classroom Prep
- 7 District Inservice/Building Inservice
- 8 Convocation/Building Inservice
- 9 Building Inservice
- 10 First Day of School (K-5, 6, 9)
- 13 Full Day of School (K-12)
- 20 First Day of School for Pre-K

September

- 3 Holiday/Administrative Offices closed
- 20 Student Count Day

October

- 11 Last Day of First 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

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.

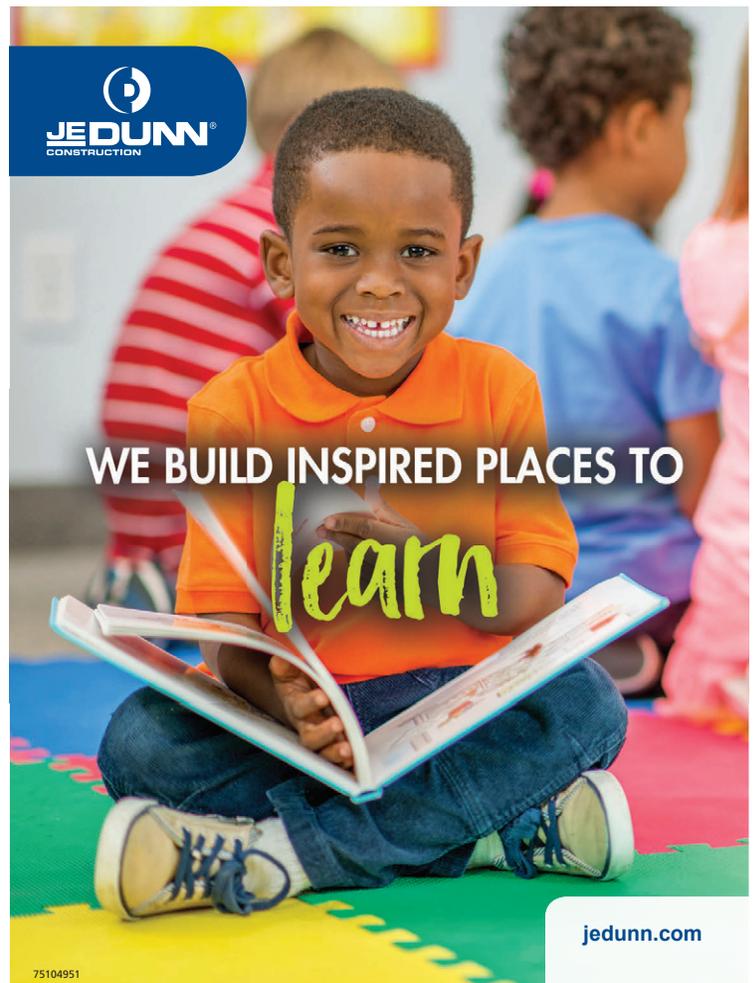
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- Converting space into active learning classrooms
- Consolidating our academic resource centers into one location
- Refacing the Student Center for improved access

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