PATRICK MAHOMES SCORES A TOUCHDOWN FOR KCKPS
We achieved a number of accomplishments during the 2018-19 school year such as the percentage of students that increased their proficiency in reading and math in all grade levels. The growth in student performance has allowed several schools to earn recognition for meeting identified targets and this trajectory will remove KCKPS schools from the state's Targeted School for Improvement (TSI) and Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) lists.

If we continue this positive movement like we've done so far, nine schools will drop off the school improvement list. We have to carry this same focus and determination into the 2020 school year. I understand that this request is not an easy task, especially over a long-period of time. However, we must think outside of conventional wisdom, be consistent, seek accountability and focus on small measurable goals, because once again, failure is not an option for our students or community.

Since becoming your Superintendent of Schools, I have implemented a transformational school-level plan to improve student outcomes. In just one year, we are beginning to close the achievement gap. We've seen gains in English Language Arts, Math and Science, but there is still more work to be done. I have shared these academic outcomes with many of you over the past few months. We need your continued support as we build upon our recent success and engage our parents and community in this educational process like never before.

As we begin a new year, we are focusing on creating a Parent University. We have some awesome parents in our school district, and we want to embrace the concept of parent involvement in a way that enables them to be proactive in their child's learning and growth. We are currently working out the details, but my goal is to start with a Parent University in every elementary school. Academically achieving schools are created and maintained by good teachers, instructional leaders and parent and community involvement.

This city and county have been built on hard working and educated families like yours. I know we can do this together. I wish everyone a Happy New Year and want to thank all of you for supporting our awesome students and celebrating their growth with us. I look forward to the continued support in 2020.

Happy New Year to you all.

Sincerely,

Dr. Charles Foust,
Superintendent of Schools
Help Prevent Cyberbullying

- **Notice:** Recognize if there has been a change in mood or behavior and explore what the cause might be.
- **Talk:** Ask questions to learn what is happening, how it started, and who is involved.
- **Document:** Keep a record of what is happening and where. Take screenshots of harmful posts or content if possible.
- **Report:** Most social media platforms and schools have clear policies and reporting processes. If a classmate is cyberbullying, report it to the school. If a child has received physical threats, or if a potential crime or illegal behavior is occurring, report it to the police.
- **Support:** Reach out to both the child who is bullying and the target of the bullying to express your concern. If possible, try to determine if more help is needed for those involved, such as speaking with a guidance counselor or mental health professional.

For More Information, go to stopbullying.gov

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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

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**Superintendent of Schools**
Dr. Charles Foust

**Director of Communications & Marketing**
Sharita Hutton
Editor, Education Connection

**KCK Board of Education**
Maxine Drew (President)
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Website: kckps.org | Facebook: @kckschools
Twitter: @kckschools | Instagram: @kckschools
KCKPS-TV: Channel 18 (on Spectrum); Channel 145 (on Google Fiber)
When you walk the halls of many Kansas City Kansas Public Schools you will notice a very familiar face. It’s not that of a teacher, nurse, or even the principal. It is the face of the school’s police officer.

The Kansas City Kansas school district employees 35 full time officers that are assigned to every high school campus, all middle schools, including 3 additional educational campuses, and the district’s 4 public libraries. All the officers are trained by National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) so they may be of service to all building administrators, faculty, staff and students and their families supporting our buildings as school resource officers.

One thing to note—we don’t use the word officer loosely. All of the SRO’s in the district are actual police officers.

While the job role requires meeting with school principals every day, making sure that not only the inside of a school building is secure, but also that there are no external threats. In addition, officers also listen to students concerns when it comes to safety and bullying and works with the school’s staff to find a solution.

So the next time you stop into your child’s building, get to know the SRO—welcome us, get to know our faces, and yes… we like donuts.

IN THE WORDS OF CHIEF HENRY HORN

The Kansas City Kansas Public Schools District has a mission this school year: to make sure every student, teacher, parent, and members of the community are on track. By working together, the district understands the success of students is much brighter.

Getting on track is different for every grade level—Early Childhood the focus is on sight words and being able to sound out all letters.

In Elementary and Middle School — the focus is on math and reading. High School — for all students to be on track to head to college and/or off to that first career out of school.

The Kansas City Kansas Public Schools District has a mission this school year: to make sure every student, teacher, parent, and members of the community are on track. By working together, the district understands the success of students is much brighter.

So, how do we all work together to get on track?

- **Parents**: do you know what your children are working on in class? Have you asked them if they need extra help?
- **Teachers**: are you finding interesting and motivating ways to teach your students?
- **Students**: are you showing up to class? Working hard? Finishing all of your work?
- **Members of the community**: are you offering internships to students in the district? Are you supporting area schools?

As part of the mission, the school district has also launched a social media challenge with monthly winners. You are asked to show off how you are working to get on track by taking a picture or shoot a video and upload it to your social media page using #kckpsontrack.

Monthly winners will be announced.

One of those lucky winners: Noble Prentis 5th grader: Marissa Purvis and her mom Ashley for getting on social media and showing off their picture of how they are on track. Their prize: a football signed by Chiefs player Travis Kelce.
Roughly 175 young women from eleven different Kansas City, Kansas public schools (KCKPS) participated in the sixth annual International Day of the Girl. Among these schools, were KCKPS Middle and High School classes. This event was hosted by a local nonprofit organization known as Young Women on the Move, an association that prides themselves on focusing to build positivity in social, emotional and physical aspects for young women.

In 2005, the nonprofit Young Women on the Move (YWOM) was established by a woman named Mary Beth Gentry. Fourteen years later, Gentry is still serving the Kansas City, Kansas community. Gentry chose KCKPS because of their enthusiasm and welcoming perspective to new opportunities for their youth.

During the 2019 conference, the theme UNLEASHED AND UNSTOPPABLE was hand selected with a purpose. These two words when put together enforce a powerful message in order to represent how a woman should live her life every day. UNLEASHED AND UNSTOPPABLE helps young women learn how to UNLEASH different setbacks that they have faced every day in order to become UNSTOPPABLE in the future.

The 2019 Keynote Speaker, Dr. Lynett Hookfin, (Deputy Superintendent of the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools) proved that when an individual finds themselves UNLEASHED AND UNSTOPPABLE, they will lay the groundwork for their future. Dr. Hookfin upheld this statement as she discussed three things that individuals are unable to take back in life. The first being words, followed by time and opportunity. Opportunity was focused on heavily during the speech as Dr. Hookfin expressed, “Being unstoppable and unleashed means taking every single opportunity that you can to be successful and not be stopped.”

During the speech, Dr. Hookfin made sure to include all the young women on multiple instances. Interrupting her own speech to have the participants answer questions such as “What do you see when you look in the mirror?” This question was verified when Dr. Hookfin asked the young girls “What is in your bag?” The conversations created during the question and answer portion allowed the young women to break barriers while sharing with the entire group what they believed were their strengths and weaknesses.

Overall, Gentry has started an amazing opportunity for young women surrounding Wyandotte County. This program has made large strides in many key areas that will affect far more than just these 175 young woman. Many studies have shown that the investment in young women will one day pay off. Gentry speaks of a book known as Drawdown in reference to success of empowering these women.

“Drawdown, a new and extraordinary book, lists 100 of the best and most innovative solutions to global warming. Two of the top ten strategies listed in the book are focused on educating girls!”

Young Women on the Move is doing incredible things every day and Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools is proud to be a part of that. KCKPS would like to thank YWOM for allowing our students to participate in the growth of building strong and empowered women that are UNLEASHED AND UNSTOPPABLE in everyday life!
A big honor for the Kansas City Kansas Public Schools Parents as Teachers program. The program completed the Parents as Teachers Quality Endorsement and Improvement Process and earned the highest designation: Blue Ribbon Affiliate status. Families in the Kansas City Kansas community are positively impacted by the services delivered by this program.

The program in its 30th year includes: home visits, child screenings, playgroups, group connections and connections to community resources. It equips parents with knowledge and resources to prepare their children for a stronger start in life and greater success in school.

If you are interested in learning more about the Parents as Teachers program you can call 913-627-4361 or email jacki.himpel@kckps.org.

The Learning Club is an in-school, after-school, and summer tutoring/mentoring program for children in Kansas City. Learning Club supports the most disadvantaged children, meeting in high-poverty areas so that even students who lack transportation and family resources can attend. At the Learning Club, caring staff, interns, and volunteers help about 250 students each week through one-on-one tutoring and life skills development, providing the keys to a better future.

The Learning Club Teaching Internship involves students from all six KCKPS high schools with about 80 interns tutoring at four Learning Club sites. For their service with the Learning Club, interns receive a monthly stipend, hands-on job experience, and training in education and child development. Transportation is provided for high school interns to and from the sites, so all students are welcome.

KCKPS high school students can apply by completing an online application at LearningClubKCK.org/apply. The application includes questions about transportation, a 500-word essay, and the submission of a teacher’s email address for a recommendation. Applicants who are accepted to the program are required to attend a brief orientation before beginning tutoring. Interns make a difference in the KCKPS community!

Thanks to the hard work from the Parents as Teachers program, more pregnant and parenting teens are graduating then in years past. The Teen Parent support group works directly with KCK high schools every week to ensure that students who are becoming parents or are parents, have a strong support system at school. The Teen Parent Support Group has been established in KCK high schools for quite some time now. Currently, PAT has support groups in three of the five high schools including, J.C. Harmon, Washington, Schlage, and Wyandotte.

The curriculum gives parents an understanding of what to expect from pregnancy, to birth, and beyond. Teen parents learn about safe sleep habits, nutrition, and more importantly how to balance parenthood and school. Those in the program also receive help signing up for daycare assistance, aid in signing up for WIC, and access to community resources.

Students who want to learn more about the Teen Parent Support Group can visit with their school nurse or counselor.
Kansas City Chiefs Quarterback Patrick Mahomes has become a household name since gracing the football field as a leader and then off the field with his endless work to improve the lives for so many in the Kansas City area through his volunteer work.

So, with no surprise, in 2019 the NFL MVP launched his next project: the 15 and Mahomies Foundation, which focuses on community, health, and so much more. Part of that program, 15 for 15 (of course the 15 being Mahomes football number), centers around: classrooms, children with disabilities, after school programs and now the Kansas City Kansas Public Schools District.

KCKPS was just one of two school districts to be picked as the first 15 organizations to receive grant funding from the Foundation.

“This is an exciting time for the Kansas City Kansas Public Schools district,” said Superintendent Dr. Charles Foust. “The support from this great organization is exactly what being ON TRACK is all about. It’s about parents, students, and especially the COMMUNITY understanding that by working together we can all better the future of our students.”

That is why KCKPS has decided to spend the $15,000 awarded by the foundation to furthering the educational goals for its students.

“We are happy to announce that $7,000 will go to Quindaro Elementary School, the other $8,000 will go to our district seniors who have plans to head off to college,” said Dr. Foust.

**Quindaro Elementary:**

Over the past two years, Quindaro Elementary has made great strides. Test scores at the school are improving and the overall learning atmosphere has changed. “We make data public by displaying it in the hallway and classrooms to show that it’s a part of this journey,” said Stacey Chatmon, Principal at Quindaro.

“I want Quindaro to be known for the school which closed achievement gaps,” said Chatmon. “I want my scholars to believe and know that nothing is impossible, and contributing to their futures requires excellence. I want them to care about their education and know that it will lead to greater things in life.”

That is why the school has been chosen to receive $7,000 to go to assisting in that drive for excellence.
High School Seniors with plans of going off to college are asked to now apply for one of the 8- $1,000 scholarships.

- Go to the district’s website: kckps.org. You will find the scholarship information on the home page
- Application requirements: write a 500, double spaced, essay in MLA style explaining the following:
  - Describe areas in your life where you demonstrated leadership and overcame obstacles either through school, social, or family life.

The link will stay live from now through March 12nd, with the winners being announced by March 31st.

Don't forget to include your first and last name, school you are attending, phone number, email address, and the first and last name of at least one guardian.

**DISTRICT CALENDAR**

**January**
- 20 No School for Students

**February**
- 20 Family Advocacy Day
- 14 Family Advocacy Day- No Students
- 17 Presidents Day- No School for Students

**March**
- 12 Last Day of 3rd Quarter
- 13 No School for Students
- 16- 20 Spring Break No School

**April**
- 16 Kindergarten Roundup

**May**
- 21 Last Day of School
- 25 Memorial Day- Admin offices closed

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.
For some, the idea of picking a college or a future career seems so hard to imagine. But with the help of Diploma+ College and Career Readiness students are getting tangible skills to be able to succeed in college and/or their chosen career after high school. Program directors do not want students to graduate from high school and think, “Now what am I going to do?” That is why the goal of Diploma+ is to make sure students have their high school diploma, plus work-based experience, college credit, and/or industry certification to ensure students have post-secondary options. The Diploma+ College and Career Readiness Department leads the district’s Career and Technical Education Department, along with Dual and Concurrent Classes, Internships, Scholarships, and College and Career Awareness at all school levels.

VISION FOR THE NEW YEAR

The Diploma+ College and Career Readiness vision is to flood students in KCKPS with access to multiple college and career opportunities. “We are excited to launch a new college and career platform tool called Naviance in grades 6-12,” said Dr. LaShonda Bilbo-Ervin, Director of Diploma+. “This program will serve as a catalyst to equip student, parents, and teachers with information to help guide students in their quest for information about college and careers that are of interest. Lastly, we want everyone to be able to see our students in the future and know that we must prepare them for life after high school; that cannot happen without college and career planning,” said Bilbo-Ervin.

Thanks to KCKPS Diploma+ College Fair and Scholarship Initiative high school students were able to interact with 58 College and Universities; some students received acceptance letters on the spot! The College and Career Teams at each high school have completed a series of Financing College Nights; these events were a tremendous success for our families to be able to get assistance in filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA) to ensure funding is available for students to attend college. If you have questions about FASFA or scholarship—each high school has a dedicated staff member in the Lead College and Career Coordinator role that can assist students and families with these items. In addition, there is a College Advisor on each site that can serve as an additional resource to students for all thing College Readiness.

Check Us Out
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Facebook: @kckschools
Twitter: @kckschools
Instagram: @kckschools
KCKPS-TV:
Channel 18 (on Spectrum)
Channel 145 (on Google Fiber)
BECOME A KCKPS TEACHING FELLOWS

Here is an opportunity for you to join the notable teaching profession tasked with preparing future generations for success in a global society by applying to become part of the new class of the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools Teaching Fellows program.

Through this innovative program, the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools is recruiting high-performing individuals from other careers to be part of this highly successful program. Since the program’s inception in 2000, 200 individuals have graduated from the program and have gone on to teach in this school district.

There are a variety of teacher positions available in disciplines such as: science, math, English (English language arts), engineering, technology, information systems, and business. Through this program, there are two alternative pathways to becoming a teacher on one district’s classrooms.

◆ The KCKPS Certificate
◆ The Masters of Art in Teaching

Informational sessions will be held at Central Office and Training Center located at 2010 N. 59th Street on:

◆ Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020
◆ Monday, Feb. 3, 2020
◆ Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2020
◆ Tuesday, Mar 10, 2020

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 or Recruitment manager Cynthia Fulks at 913.279.2364.
#kckpsontrack

Use #kckpsontrack on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to share how you are staying on track!
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• Financial incentives for hard-to-fill positions
• Relocation support
• Tuition assistance for Master’s degree or para-to-teaching programs

Contact Director of Recruitment Cynthia Fulks at cynthia.fulks@kckps.org or by calling 913.627.2413 for more information