Welcome Home!
Traditions bring alumni, students and supporters back together for Homecoming . . . . . . . . . Pages 2-3
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This fall has been a season full of celebrations in North Kansas City Schools! As we welcome alumni back for Homecoming, I am always reminded of what makes our district so strong – our community. Over the past few months, students and families have come together for feeder pattern movie nights, school picnics, and showcases of student learning.

We are celebrating several points of pride throughout NKC Schools. Fourteen seniors earned recognition from the National Merit program this year, and several members of the Class of 2023 have already earned full academic and athletic scholarships to pursue their future goals. In addition to our incredible students, our staff continues to be recognized for their top-tier work. We celebrated Rachael Michael, Missouri Regional Teacher of the Year, earlier this fall in Jefferson City. We also thanked twenty-four of our school cafeteria teams that earned the top Food Safety Excellence Award for their expertise and commitment.

Our schools have had many visitors lately! Educators and government officials from across the state and country have been witnessing the good work happening in North Kansas City Schools. Our Early Education Center now serves as a national model, earning the Missouri School Board Association’s FutureBuilder’s Early Childhood Education Program of the Year, demonstrating the power of reinvestment in the community to benefit families. Development in Prospect Plaza continues with the completion of our Technology Center, additional space for staff learning, and a new home for our Adult Education and transition programs.

As we plan for the bright future ahead in North Kansas City Schools, our top priority is ensuring continuity and a strong organization that can serve our community well. I am grateful to the Board of Education for the opportunity to serve as NKC Schools’ superintendent for the past seven years. As I plan to retire at the end of the 2023-2024 school year, the Board of Education has agreed on a purposeful, gradual transition to our next superintendent. Thank you to all who have participated in focus groups and town halls to gather input on what is important as a new leader is hired for our school district. Look for further updates to come. Your input and involvement is what makes NKC Schools such a wonderful place to serve!

From all of North Kansas City Schools, we wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season.

Dan Clemens, Ed.D.
Superintendent – North Kansas City Schools
superintendent@nkcschools.org
A day of celebrations at Winnetonka kicked off with an all-school assembly on Friday, September 23, followed by a neighborhood parade in the afternoon with Future Griffins cheering from the sidewalks. The Homecoming football game featured an exciting matchup with Kearney and a full house at Griffin Stadium. At halftime, Homecoming royalty were crowned. Congratulations to Homecoming King Nicholas McConnaughey and Queen Makhia Jones, Homecoming Prince Jayden Marshall and Princess Luiza Wakeman.

Hornets of all ages gathered to celebrate Homecoming at North Kansas City High School this year! Alen Kovac, the 2022 Homecoming King, was crowned during a special schoolwide assembly on Friday morning. The traditional parade through the city of North Kansas City was the highlight of the afternoon before kickoff against Truman. Aisatu Nakoulima was named Homecoming Queen at halftime, and alumni and neighbors cheered the Hornets on to victory.
Each fall, Homecoming celebrations welcome back our four high school communities. Traditions return and memories are made, from pep assemblies and parades to Friday night lights and Homecoming royalty.

*Staley* Nation kicked off Homecoming Week with their annual parade and pep rally on Wednesday afternoon, featuring clubs, sports, and plenty of Future Falcons. After a day of fun activities on Friday, Falcon football fans packed the stands for an exciting home win over Park Hill South. *Caroline Ray* was crowned 2022 Homecoming Queen at halftime.

Northmen students, staff, alumni, neighbors and Future Oakies came together for a Homecoming to remember at *Oak Park*! 2022 Homecoming King *Sharo Madhi* was crowned during an all-school assembly. The annual neighborhood parade followed, cheered on by neighbors and Clardy and Gashland students as they passed by. Fans packed the stadium for Friday night under the lights as the Northmen earned a big win against St. Joseph Central. Senior *Kira Cherry* was named 2022 Homecoming Queen.
Each fall, high schools celebrate Homecoming as an opportunity to welcome past graduates back to their alma maters. As a part of this tradition, district high schools have established Alumni Halls of Fame and annually induct deserving individuals who have represented our schools well.

The North Kansas City, Oak Park and Winnetonka High School Halls of Fame classes of 2022 are yet another extraordinary group of graduates. Staley High School, which opened 15 years ago, will start its own Hall of Fame within the next several years.

We are proud of these graduates and thank them for their continued support and commitment to the high schools they represent.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>NKCHS 2022 Hall of Fame Inductees</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Russell Baughman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class of 1964</td>
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<td>Terry Myers</td>
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<td>Class of 1971</td>
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<td>(deceased)</td>
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<td>Dr. Dan Wartick</td>
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<td>Class of 1972</td>
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<td>Pamela Miller</td>
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<td>Class of 1976</td>
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<th>OPHS 2022 Hall of Fame Inductees</th>
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<td>Stephen L. Regas, M.D.</td>
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<td>Class of 1976</td>
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<td>Academics &amp; Community Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Todd Warner</td>
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<td>Class of 1981</td>
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<td>Athletics &amp; Public Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heather Williams</td>
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<td>Class of 1991</td>
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<td>Public Service</td>
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<th>WHS 2022 Hall of Fame Inductees</th>
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<td>Left to Right:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Adrian Singletary, Class of 2004</td>
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<td>Larry DeShon, Class of 1977</td>
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<td>Tyler Grayson, Class of 2005</td>
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Every five years, North Kansas City Schools develops a long-range Strategic Plan to define goals for organizational improvement.

Each plan is built through conversations with students, families, staff members, Board members, business partners and the community. Throughout the 2021-2022 school year, more than 600 individuals provided input and collaborated to develop our next iteration to guide us from 2022 through 2027.

To begin the work, we gathered input from students, families, community and staff members in the fall of 2021 through an online survey and community meetings. A Steering Team then came together in December to outline the framework of our plan, including beliefs, mission, parameters, objectives and strategies.

This work was then taken on by four teams (pictured right) made up of more than one hundred staff members, students, parents, administrators and community members. Each team dedicated several months to developing action plans that will move our goals from concept to action. After review by all, this labor of love to many was approved by the Board of Education in May of 2022.

Thank you to all those who provided input or joined us for this important work! Incorporating the voices of all we serve is critically important as we look toward the future. We look forward to continued growth and improvement in service of our more than 21,000 students.

We invite you to read more and view the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan in full

As the new Strategic Plan affirms, our mission statement is:

As relentless champions for all students, North Kansas City Schools’ mission is to develop self-aware, authentically empowered, future-ready learners through a rich array of purposeful learning opportunities in collaborative communities of belonging that are:

• culturally affirming • academically challenging • experiential and exploratory for each student.
Beyond the Classroom

Our students and staff members do extraordinary things each day at school, but how do they spend their time outside of class? Learn more about five members of our NKC Schools community and their incredible accomplishments beyond the classroom.

Ava Donegan

While driving in Excelsior Springs in early October, police attempted to pull over the car in front of Oak Park senior Ava Donegan. The driver began shooting and hit an Excelsior Springs police officer in his shoulder and wrist. When the officer asked for help, Ava jumped into action, helping tie his tourniquet. She did not hesitate to offer assistance and used the officer’s radio to call it in. The officer made a full recovery.

When interviewed by the local news, Ava said that she had simply done “what I hope anyone would do in that situation.” We are incredibly proud of Ava for her quick thinking and selfless response. She is also an exceptional student at Oak Park and a 2022 National Merit Semifinalist. Ava hopes to study medicine after high school graduation.

David Flynn

Serving others is not only a lesson in Mr. Flynn’s classroom at Winnetonka – it’s how he lives his life. Outside the classroom, Command Sergeant Major Retired Flynn dedicated 35 years of service to the United States Army Reserves. During his career, he served as a communications officer and was deployed to Iraq.

At Winnetonka, Mr. Flynn is known as an exceptional social studies teacher and outstanding coach. He is also a member of the NKCHS Alumni Hall of Fame. Earlier this fall, Tonka students held an assembly to celebrate his retirement. In attendance were representatives from the Army, who awarded Flynn one of the Army’s highest honors, the Meritorious Service Medal.
Calissa Minatee

Northtown senior **Calissa Minatee** is a leader on and off the volleyball court. Over the course of her four-year career with the Hornets, she has shattered records and earned national attention for her skills. Calissa is the new school record holder in career aces and earned her 1,000th kill this fall. Beyond Northtown, she is ranked as one of the nation’s top players. She was selected as an Under Armour All-American, one of only 24 in the country, and was selected to the USA National Development Team in 2021.

Calissa is also an outstanding student leader, earning all-state academic honors several years in a row. She will graduate from North Kansas City High School early, in December 2022, to pursue her postsecondary goals. Calissa enjoys reading and plans to study architecture. She has committed to play NCAA Division I volleyball at the University of Minnesota. We’ll be cheering on the Gophers from Kansas City!

Nick Pettit

**Mr. Nicholas Pettit** is the proud principal of Maplewood Elementary, but he is also an avid marathon runner! You might find Mr. Pettit hitting the trails early in the morning or taking a run through downtown Kansas City after school. He says that long runs are the perfect time to reflect and connect, especially with other educators. Fellow principals and teachers often join him on the trail for miles to discuss teaching and learning.

Mr. Pettit often talks to students about running, sharing the importance of a growth mindset and never giving up on your goals. Students cheer him on for every race, creating surprise good luck videos before starts and handmade signs to welcome him back to Maplewood. After getting into running ten years ago, Pettit now has an impressive goal – to run all six major marathons. He’s completed Chicago and Berlin. Boston and New York are up next in 2023!

Brooks Crockett

Step into the choir room at **Gateway Sixth Grade Center**, and you might notice something unusual. The accompanist is in sixth grade, too! **Brooks Crockett** is a talented student-musician at Gateway who started playing for his school choir this year. His passion for music began at a young age, when he began learning piano in kindergarten. His mom, Melanie, taught lessons and invited him to fill in when the family’s church needed an accompanist. Brooks jumped at the opportunity!

Now at Gateway, he loves to both sing and accompany his classmates in Ms. Holland’s choir class. His newest role began when he brought home the choir’s sheet music and tested out the accompaniment part. When his mom suggested that he offer to play at school, Brooks said he was nervous at first, but that “it’s really fun to play with friends.” He accompanied the Gateway choir at their concert this fall.
The future is bright!

Thanks to the tremendous support of sponsors and over 500 guests, the Education Foundation Fall Breakfast held on October 20 at the KCI Expo Center raised nearly $150,000 in support of extraordinary educational experiences at NKC Schools. Attendees enjoyed a Student Showcase of district programs and Education Foundation grants, and special recognition of outstanding staff and student achievements. We featured Normandy Academy, an immersive experience bringing the lessons of World War II to life for students through a scholarship program created by ’76 Oak Park alumnae, Linda Holwick Bond and the late Michele Evenson Lindsay.

Capitol Federal Foundation, McCownGordon Construction, and UAW Local 249 were recognized as top event sponsors. In addition, Capitol Federal was recognized with the 2022 Cornerstone Award in honor of their impact grant launching a new science program for all 6-8 grade students. Superintendent Dr. Dan Clemens’ state of the district address featured students from all four high schools sharing their accomplishments, resiliency, and commitment to excellence in academics, athletics, and extra-curricular activities.

To see all Fall Breakfast sponsors, photos, and videos, visit https://nkcschoolsfoundation.org/events/fall-breakfast.

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