Extraordinary Educational Experiences

December 13, 2022

Students

Calissa Minatee Selected to All-American Game

Over the course of her four-year career with the Hornets, Northtown senior Calissa Minatee has shattered the school record for aces and earned more than 1,000 kills. She is also one of the top volleyball players in the nation, recently selected as an Under Armour All-American, one of only 24 in the country. She was also named to the USA National Development Team in 2021. Calissa will graduate from North Kansas City High School early in December and plans to study architecture at the University of Minnesota, where she will play Division I volleyball for the Gophers.
Staley Senior Medals at State Golf Championship

Congratulations to Staley senior Jaylee Castro on her state golf championship finish! In an incredibly competitive field of athletes, Jaylee won a state medal with 8th place, earning her spot on the Class 4 All-State Team. She finished with an overall score of 159 for two rounds, averaging only 7 over par each day. Jaylee plans to continue her education and play golf at Arkansas Tech University.

Senior Swimmer Earns Podium Spot at State Swim Championship

We are also proud to recognize Staley senior Jase Callaway, a state medalist in the 100m backstroke! He earned sixth place in the Class 2 State Championship. This podium win caps off an impressive high school swim career for Jase. Congratulations!

Winnetonka Wrestler Earns 100th Career Win

Madison Leverknight is making history at Winnetonka. The senior wrestler recently earned her 100th career win, earning that victory in only five seconds! Madison has been an integral part of Winnetonka’s teams for several years and earned second at state last year as the first girl in school history to make the state final. She is ranked 28th in the nation in her weight class. We wish you best of luck on your senior season, Madison!
Lakewood Student Wins KC Water Competition

This year, KC Water asked first, second and third graders across the city to imagine what the world would be like without water. Lakewood first grader Miriam Guinn’s imaginative entry won her first place! During a circle discussion in Ms. Cardello’s class, Miriam realized that a world without water would mean a world without rainbows. Congratulations, and thank you, Miriam, for reminding us to look for the rainbows!

Schools & Staff

Red Division Boys' Soccer Coach of the Year

Congratulations to the Conference Red Division Soccer Coach of the Year, Josh Howard! Coach Howard led the Oak Park boys’ soccer team to an impressive record this year, capping off the season with an overtime win against Fort Osage to win the Red Division. We are grateful for Coach Howard’s leadership and commitment to our student-athletes.
Celebrating the Retirement of David Flynn

Winnetonka recently held an all-school assembly to honor Mr. David Flynn for his retirement from the Army Reserves. We are proud to recognize him here this evening. After retiring with 35 years of service, Command Sergeant Major Retired Flynn was awarded one of the Army’s highest honors, the Meritorious Service Medal. At Winnetonka, students know Mr. Flynn as an exceptional social studies teacher and coach. Thank you to Mr. Flynn for your service and congratulations on your retirement.

Youth Crisis Intervention Officer of the Year

Cpl. Bear McCulley, a longtime member of our School Resource Deputy unit with the Clay County Sheriff’s Office, has been named the Youth Crisis Intervention Officer of the Year. Bear began his career at Winnetonka, where he created the Law Enforcement Career Path program to provide students with hands-on experience in the field. For the past few years, he has served elementary schools throughout the district.

Bear recently accepted a new role with Strategos as a project manager. He will lead the team of safety agents assigned to NKC Schools to provide an additional layer of security at many sites. We look forward to the continued opportunity to work with Bear. Congratulations!
Community

Shop with a Cop & Shop with a Sheriff

Throughout the month of December, 117 North Kansas City Schools students had the opportunity to participate in the Shop with a Cop and Shop with a Sheriff programs. Each student spent time shopping with their law enforcement partner. Students had a great time and were able to make lasting memories with members of law enforcement who volunteered their time for these events.

We sincerely appreciate our partners at Pleasant Valley, Kansas City, and Gladstone Police Departments and the Clay County Sheriff’s Department who made these events happen. Multiple donors contributed to the programs, including Northland Neighborhoods Inc., Kelly Education Services, Target, and Wal-Mart. Representatives from the organizations behind these extraordinary experiences are here with us this evening.