New Beginnings

NKC Schools celebrates the start of a new year... Pages 4-5
Choosing Meritas Health means you’ll likely rave about your doctor, too. How are we so sure? Last year, 94 percent of our patients rated our doctors with the highest levels of satisfaction possible. That’s more than 15,000 happy people. **Here, you get more of what you love.**

**That happens here.**
It's an amazing time to be a school leader! As I write this message, the district has just spent a morning celebrating the start of another school year with our more than 3,000 employees. The very next day, we opened our doors to more than 20,000 students and were greeted with radiant smiles and warm hugs. The positive energy coming from North Kansas City Schools is truly extraordinary.

Over the summer, the Board of Education and district leadership have been hard at work planning for the coming year. Our goal is to continue improvement efforts that have elevated NKC Schools to a district of choice in the Northland. We are one of the largest districts in the state and have earned a reputation for high achievement.

An initiative that came out of our community-led strategic planning process was to improve district equity and inclusion efforts. This work will continue for the 2019-20 school year. As educators, we need to ensure we are providing equitable opportunities for all students. As an employer, we need to make sure our workforce is reflective of our student body and the community in which they live. And as leaders, we need to live our mission to embrace inclusion, forge a unified community and prepare students for an ever-changing world.

I’m thrilled this is a charge our community has given us. I thank our Board of Education for supporting this work and commend everyone who has embraced our efforts to be Champions for All Students.

The district will also begin to reimagine how high school education looks for our students. I’m incredibly excited by this opportunity! We know we must prepare our students for jobs that haven’t even been created yet. As automation and artificial intelligence begin to impact certain industries, it is crucial that we adapt to the world around us. Through real-world, hands-on programs that provide students practical experience, we will innovate to better provide students market value assets that make them competitive whether they choose college or join the workforce.

Last but certainly not least, NKC Schools has been working to develop a long-range facility plan to help us manage our growing student population and better guide new construction needs, as well as maintenance and upkeep of existing buildings. You’ll read more about this on page 7. This is important work that will provide a solid foundation for the district moving forward.

Again, it is an exciting time for NKC Schools and I’m thankful for the opportunity to lead our district through these endeavors. I’m grateful for the continued support of our community. Please continue to follow our story throughout the coming year and help us share our many successes!

Dan Clemens, Ed.D.
Superintendent – North Kansas City Schools
superintendent@nkcschools.org
Antioch Teacher Recognized as a Top Teacher in Missouri

As an outstanding representative in the NKC Schools Culture of Excellence Teaching Honor Cadre, Antioch’s Jennifer Spiegel was nominated for consideration as a top teacher in the Kansas City area. She recently learned she is one of six Regional Teachers of the Year and a semifinalist for Missouri Teacher of the Year!

2019 Northtown Graduate Earns 5th in the Nation for Expository Speaking

As the culmination of an amazing speech and debate season, Northtown’s Marion Johnson claimed a top spot at the National Speech and Debate Tournament in Dallas in June. A finalist in Expository Speaking, she earned 5th place out of 290 entries.

School Board Honored with MSBA Governance Award

Congratulations to our outstanding Board of Education for earning the Missouri School Boards’ Association Governance Award! Dixie Youngers’ hard work was also honored with a Distinguished certification. We thank these elected officials for their commitment to serve the NKC Schools community.

Theatre Programs Celebrate Blue Star, Cappies Awards

This spring, our high school theater programs were nominated for recognition in Starlight’s Blue Star Awards as well as the Kansas City Cappies. We are thrilled to announce the following winners:

Oak Park

Blue Star:
- Outstanding Orchestra: IN THE HEIGHTS
- Outstanding Actress in a Featured Role: Cierra Gonzales as Daniela

KC Cappies:
- Outstanding Achievement in Special Effects & Technology: Tatiana Rizek for projections from IN THE HEIGHTS
- Outstanding Actress in a Featured Role: Lindsey Jones as “Carla” from IN THE HEIGHTS
- Outstanding Performance of a Musical: IN THE HEIGHTS

Winnetonka

KC Cappies:
- Best Choreography – Chicago: Rosie Rodriguez/ Jaellee Pittel
- Best Female Dancer – Chicago: Rosie Rodriguez
- Best Lighting Design – Chicago: Katie Marshall
- Best Supporting Actress in a Musical – Chicago: Julia Madison as Velma Kelly
- Best Lead Actress in a Musical – Chicago: Lana Moerer
- Best Play: DAVID and LISA
BY THE NUMBERS 2018-19

Enrollment 20,588

APR Score 97.4%

Graduation Rate 95.5%

Graduates Enrolled in a Degree Program – 4 YEAR 36%

Graduates Enrolled in a Degree Program – 2 YEAR 31%

ACT Composite Score 19.5

FAST FACTS

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We Are NKC Schools

Just north of Kansas City's vibrant downtown, North Kansas City Schools is a district of more than 20,000 learners who engage in extraordinary educational experiences through an academically demanding curriculum. NKC Schools has earned both state and national accreditation and is recognized throughout Missouri as a leader in instructional innovation.

Among the largest districts in the Kansas City metro area, North Kansas City Schools has 22 elementary schools, two sixth grade centers, four middle schools and four high schools. In addition, the school district offers optional Pre-Kindergarten and before/after school programs, expansive gifted/honors opportunities, career and professional academies, and A+ certified high schools, as well as nationally recognized adult and community education programs for learners of all ages.
North Kansas City School spent two mornings celebrating the start of a new school year. On Tuesday, Aug. 13, more than 3,000 district employees gathered at Hy-Vee Arena to officially kick off the start of school. This is the only time each year that everyone is together in one place, allowing time for comradery and the sharing of a single united vision for the year ahead. The focus then shifted to welcoming more than 20,000 young learners back to school. Doors opened for students on Wednesday, Aug. 14, and it was a day filled with smiles, hugs and excitement.
Sixth grade students navigated the halls at Gateway for the first time with the help of Assistant Principal Katie Lawson.

Proud to be a part of their new classroom community, students at West Englewood discussed their hopes for the upcoming year.

The Bell Prairie café was buzzing with excitement as students enjoyed catching up with friends after summer break.

It was all smiles at Fox Hill as students picked out their lunches on the first day.

North Kansas City High School students wasted no time testing out the brand-new music spaces in the new performing arts wing, getting right to work with warm-ups and rehearsal.
These funds have enabled NKC Schools to construct two new elementary schools (Northview and Rising Hill) and repurpose two existing buildings into 6th grade centers (Eastgate and Gateway). Most notably, the district was able to completely renovate and rebuild the nearly 100-year-old North Kansas City High School. The elementary and 6th grade centers opened for the 2018-19 school year, while NKC High School began the year with two new wings of the building and continuing construction. The classroom wing and the new fieldhouse welcomed students last year, and the eagerly anticipated Performing Arts Center is ready for 2019-20. Designed by BNIM, the same architects who created Kansas City’s Kauffman Center, the new performing arts space includes a state-of-the-art auditorium and stage complete with orchestra pit, ticket office and concession area. Additionally, large spaces have been provided for band, choir and orchestra rooms, rehearsal space and classrooms for industrial arts and Project Lead the Way. The three new buildings at Northtown are connected by a link that will extend into Old Main. A new entrance to the high school allows students and visitors one primary access point, creating a more safe and secure environment for the school community.

Completion of the renovation of Old Main will wrap up the work at North Kansas City High School, making the new campus whole. Opened in 1926, Old Main has undergone extensive changes to create a two-story library media center out of the former auditorium. The building will also house classrooms and administrative offices. Anticipated to be done in early 2020, the re-opening of Old Main will mean all students will be housed on one campus for the first time since 1965. Norclay will eventually transition to become the home of the district’s Community Services team. These employees oversee Adult Basic Education, Adult English Language Learners, Community Education, School Aged Child Care and Partners in Education. Daytime community education classes will now be possible, as well as increasing the number of Adult Basic Education and Adult ELL offerings.

These exciting developments ensure that North Kansas City Schools continues to be Champions for All Students!
Long-Range Facility Plan Nearing Completion

For the past year, North Kansas City Schools has worked with incite Design to develop a long-range facility plan to aid the district as it continues to grow. The plan will be presented to the NKC Schools Board of Education in October. Upon Board approval, the facility plan will be used to guide construction projects in the district and clearly identify when new buildings will likely be needed.

The planning process has involved hundreds of district staff, students and community members as input was gathered from stakeholders to help develop priorities. More information on final recommendations will be available later this fall.

Near Completion

View from third floor of new North Kansas City High School entrance.

Industrial arts classroom space at North Kansas City High School.

NKC Rolls Back Operating Levy

There has been a lot of conversation surrounding property assessment lately. Many residents of Clay County and surrounding areas have seen fairly significant increases in the assessed valuation of their real estate and personal property. NKC Schools will be “rolling back” approximately 22 cents of the operating levy and maintaining our debt service levy as promised with our last bond issuance. The NKC Board of Education and administration works very hard to efficiently run the district without asking patrons for more funds than currently needed.

Those of you who own property that was reassessed this year to a higher valuation will see your school district levy rate decrease. Those of you with property that was not reassessed this year will also see a reduced school district levy rate and may see a lower tax bill overall. It is the school district’s goal to remain transparent with our community members and we wanted to make certain that we relayed this information to you. Thank you for your support of NKC Schools and for being a Champion for All Students.
Welcome Bags for New Teachers!

Every July, the Gladstone Area Chamber of Commerce collects items for welcome bags given to new teachers starting in NKC Schools this fall. Chamber members use this as an opportunity to promote their businesses or services by providing an item, coupon, or flyer displaying their logo or a snack or school supply a teacher might appreciate.

Serving the greater Gladstone areas since 1966, the Gladstone Area Chamber of Commerce has supplied new teachers with welcome bags for the past 10+ years. Thanks to President Amy Harlin and Chairman of the Board Barry McCullough of the Gladstone Chamber of Commerce for their support of our staff and school district!

Community Helps Stuff Bus Full of School Supplies

Thank you to everyone who supported the annual Stuff the Bus event! Due to the generosity of our fantastic community, our bus was stuffed with 207 boxes of school supplies. All donations were directly distributed to NKC Schools students at their schools, ensuring they are ready for an amazing year of learning. A very special thank you to the Gladstone Walmart for its partnership in allowing NKC Schools to host the event at the store once again.

Oak Park Gives Back #ForTheFamily

For the second consecutive year, Oak Park High School came together as a school community to collect backpacks filled with school supplies for Future Oakies in need of assistance. Donations rolled in from current students and families, community members and young learners eager to support the Oak Park family. More than one hundred backpacks were collected, providing many students the resources needed to start the school year off right.
We’ve Got the Beat

During the summer, several elementary music teachers learned how to incorporate world drumming into their curriculum for the new school year. Three Education Foundation grants totaling $8,600 purchased 46 drums that will reach more than 3,000 students and teach them about rhythm, beat, improvisation, meter and timbre. In addition, the drums will provide culturally diverse experiences and expose students to lessons about respecting and valuing differences.

Studies have shown a strong connection between participation in music and achievement in math. Music teachers who won the grants are Ashley Porter of Crestview Elementary, Mallory McCoy of Topping Elementary and April Wilson of West Englewood Elementary.

Be a Champion for North Kansas City Schools by attending the Education Foundation’s Fall Breakfast!

Join Supt. Dan Clemens as we celebrate our outstanding students, staff and schools! Sponsorships start at $100, and individual tickets cost $35. Last year’s event raised $110,000 and attracted 500 guests.

7-7:30 a.m. Student Showcase
7:30 a.m. Breakfast
7:45 a.m. Program

KCI Expo Center
11730 NW Ambassador Drive
Kansas City, MO 64153

To register and pay online, visit www.nkcschoolsfoundation.org/events/fall-breakfast.

For more information, contact Jan Lewis at jan.lewis@nkcschools.org or 816-321-5550.

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New Administrators – 2019-20

**ELEMENTARY**

- **Crestview**
  - Jake Hartley
  - Assistant Principal

- **Davidson**
  - Andrea Stauch
  - Principal

- **Gracemor**
  - Dr. Matthew Wheeler
  - Principal

- **Gracemor**
  - Leah Chamberlin
  - Assistant Principal

- **Lakewood**
  - Margaret Helwig
  - Principal

- **Maplewood**
  - Nick Pettit
  - Principal

- **Oakwood Manor**
  - Jose Verduzco
  - Principal

**6TH GRADE CENTER**

- **Eastgate**
  - Lacey Watson
  - Assistant Principal

- **Gateway**
  - Dr. Tanya Donnelly
  - Assistant Principal

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

- **Maple Park**
  - Dr. Stacie Syler
  - Assistant Principal

- **New Mark**
  - Ramona Dunn
  - Principal

- **Northgate**
  - Vincent Potts
  - Assistant Principal

**HIGH SCHOOL**

- **North Kansas City**
  - Dr. Drew White
  - Associate Principal

- **Winnetonka**
  - Joelle Hendrick
  - Assistant Principal

**CENTRAL OFFICE**

- **Dr. Christopher Shanks**
  - Director, Data & Accountability

- **Stacy Swenson**
  - Director, Purchasing

- **Melissa Bardwell**
  - Coordinator, Data Management

- **Shannon Tilsworth**
  - Coordinator, Health Services
Come Back to Your Alma Mater for Homecoming

Plans for Homecoming are well underway. North Kansas City Schools invites you to join your classmates and school community as we celebrate this fall classic at each of our four high schools.

Celebrations traditionally include an assembly during the school day followed by a parade, then the Friday night football game festivities. As an exception to the typical calendar of events, Staley will hold their Homecoming parade on Wednesday, September 18 at 5:30 p.m.

Staley High School
Friday, September 20
Football Game
Falcons v. Park Hill South – 7 p.m.
AT DISTRICT ACTIVITIES COMPLEX AT STALEY

NKC High School
Friday, September 27
Football Game
Hornets v. Belton – 7 p.m.
AT DISTRICT FOOTBALL STADIUM IN NKC

Oak Park High School
Friday, October 4
Football Game
Northmen v. Grandview – 7 p.m.
AT OAK PARK FOOTBALL FIELD

Winnetonka High School
Friday, October 4
Football Game
Griffins v. Van Horn – 7 p.m.
AT DISTRICT FOOTBALL STADIUM IN NKC
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