



Olathe Public Schools USD 233

**SUMMER 2018** 

## POWER 50 MAXIWIZES OLATHE HIGH SCHOOL LUNCHTIME

14160 Black Bob Road



KANSAS TO THE MOON: TWO OLATHE Schools rise to the challenge

THE WONDERS OF WATER: A PREVIEW OF THE 2018 SUMMER SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

SMART TEAM ATTENDS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Shawnee Mission Health – Overland Park

### Exceptional health care. Closer to home.

Now, no matter where you are in Johnson County, the experts of Shawnee Mission Health are close by. Of course, there are many reasons why you and your family choose to call this wonderful area home. Now, no matter where you live or work, you'll have peace of mind knowing you're close to an Emergency Department staffed by the experts of Shawnee Mission Health.

Introducing Shawnee Mission Health - Overland Park, located in BluHawk at 159th & Antioch. The new facility features a state-of-the-art Emergency Department and Imaging Center. And NOW OPEN, a new Medical Office Building featuring Shawnee Mission Internal Medicine & Pediatrics, physical therapy, physician specialties and a dedicated women's imaging center.

Find out more at ShawneeMission.org/Overland Park.



Much more than medicine.



# Robert Brogden



## Proud Supporter of Olathe Public Schools

Robert BrogdenImage: Constant of the stateBuick | GMCBUICK1500 Santa Fe | Olathe, KS | 66061BUICKSales: (913) 712-9343 | Service: (913)712-9345Kansas City's #1<br/>Volume BuickIGMC Dealer

75092114





It is always awe-inspiring to look back on all that is accomplished in a school year. Our students and staff achieve great things on a daily basis in the Olathe Public Schools. Numerous athletic and activity groups earned state and national awards and championships.

As of press time in early April, we have had seven students earn perfect ACT scores. This is incredible because less than one-tenth of 1 percent of students earn this achievement and we had seven in this school year.

Chisholm Trail Middle School teacher Melissa Kinzer was named a Kansas Horizon Award winner, an honor that recognizes individuals new to the teaching profession.

Beyond these amazing recognitions, what I am most proud of is the work that is done on a daily basis in our schools. I am proud of the 30,000 students and 4,500 staff members who

commit to giving their all each and every day. Students are making great strides to achieve success. Staff members who come in before and after school to give kids what they need, and try new and innovative ways to reach students in their classroom. Success comes in all shapes and sizes and in the Olathe Public Schools, we have completed a year filled with every kind of success.

Personally, it has been an honor to lead the district this year. I want to thank you all for your support. Have a wonderful summer. We are already excited and ready for the next school year and every opportunity it will bring for students and staff.

John Allison, Superintendent

In This Issue...

- The Wonders of Water: A Preview of the 2018 Summer School Experience
- 6 Kansas to the Moon
- Smart Team Attends National Conference

Olathe Public Schools 14160 S Black Bob Road, Olathe, KS 66063 (913) 780-7000 • www.olatheschools.org

- 8 Everyone Benefits from **Volunteers Serving Schools Program**
- 9 Canyon Creek Elementary to **Open in August 2019**
- 10 Power 50 Maximizes Olathe High School Lunchtime

## THE WONDERS OF WATER: A PREVIEW OF THE 2018 SUMMER EXPERIENCE

**Each** year, the Olathe Public Schools offers summer school programming for elementary and middle school students with an indicated need of instruction. This year's summer school experience hopes to engage learners in a brand-new way, utilizing nationally-recognized, educational best practice, problem-based learning (PBL).

Students who attend the Wonders of Water learning experience, June 4-28, will be greeted by some of Olathe's most innovative PBL teachers.

"Problem-based learning is all about engagement and the educational journey," said Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning Gail Holder. "The experience starts with a question or a problem and students work to provide context for their learning through the experiential process which culminates with a presentation and personal reflection."

The sites for this year's summer school experience will be Millbrooke and Arbor Creek elementaries and Mission Trail Middle School.

The overarching theme, Wonders of Water, allows ageappropriate lessons to be driven from one source of inspiration.

"Regardless of grade level, each lesson ties back to the central theme of water," Holder said. "For instance, third-grade students may work on the process of water purification while middle school students may focus on the economic impact of a hurricane."

As with all instruction, all priority standards are met – math, language arts, social studies and science. With a focus on PBL, students are thrust into the work of solving a question or problem and work with their peers to determine the appropriate steps in solving the problem. Critical thinking and presentation skills will be sharpened throughout the four weeks. "In a project-based learning environment, students are encouraged to think globally and act locally," Dr. Jessica Dain, assistant superintendent of teaching and learning, added. "Students are challenged to apply the content in which they are learning in the classroom to real-world problems and then work collaboratively in groups to find a solution." At the conclusion of the summer school experience, students will present their findings to their parents and facilitators during a presentation fair that will allow students to benchmark and reflect on their work.

"We have the most innovative, critically-thinking staff working this summer," Holder said. "They are integration masters and are able to weave teaching standards into daily education."

Peer modeling remains an important process for learners and in an effort to promote lifelong learning, students enrolled at select 21st Century Academies will be involved in certain areas of the learning experience. "Working Happily as a Mentor (WHAM) Wednesdays" allow for students in the Future Educators Academy to hone their future craft as well as create positive relationships. To help further understanding of the ageappropriate material, the Geoscience Academy will be visiting students and discussing various lessons pertaining to the water theme. Students in the e-Communication Academy will help students with their presentation skills for the final presentation. Students and staff will work together to provide support and various methods of instruction.

"We are excited about engaging our learners in a new way at summer school led by our experienced teachers who will make learning come to life for our students," Executive Director of General Administration – Elementary Programs Dr. Brent Yeager said.

# KANSAS TO THE MOON

**What** if you could redesign the school day? If you had to keep start and end times the same and still achieve Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) standards without adding additional funds, facilities or technology, what would you make different? Most importantly, how would these changes make a positive impact on your students?

These were the questions asked of educators and administrators in the summer of 2017 as the KSDE challenged districts across the state to think differently and design schools in a rapidly changing world that fit their individual communities while advancing student success for an ever-changing workforce. The state had also determined five outcomes to be measured, applicable to their school level – social-emotional growth; kindergarten readiness; individualized plan of study focused on career interest; high school graduation rates; and post-secondary completion/attendance.

In the end, 14 schools across seven school districts were selected after a rigid application process. Two schools selected were in the Olathe School District – Westview Elementary and Santa Fe Trail Middle School. In order to be selected, each school needed at least an 80 percent buy-in from their staff, Olathe National Education Association support and Board of Education approval, and, if chosen, no additional funds or equipment would be added to the school.

"We had 100 percent buy-in from staff," Westview Principal Jon Bell said. "It was empowering to our staff to develop a model for the needs of our school."

The first semester was set as a drawing board, a blank canvas to build a foundation for changes to come. School resumed as normal but staff spent time after hours planning and putting together ideas for implementation. Staff spent a great deal of time researching what each of their school communities would like to see implemented or changed. Students and their parents were asked for their input and helped lead the direction for the staff.

Úpon return from winter break, the months of planning and coordination were set in motion. Each morning at Westview started with a community breakfast. Groups of students and staff, which spanned all grades, would eat breakfast together and for 15 minutes would chat about what was going on in their lives. The "Family Breakfast" pilot has paid dividends for students and staff. "The staff has worked tirelessly to evaluate current educational practices and design unique programs to meet the needs of their student population," Executive Director of General Administration – Elementary Programs Dr. Brent Yeager said.



Each morning students at Westview Elementary begin their day with a Family Breakfast.

Similarly, at Santa Fe Trail, "Cyclone Start-Up" offered an opportunity for students to start their mornings with breakfast and a soft start to the school day. Changing how students began their day decreased morning tardiness at Santa Fe Trail by 83 percent. "Cyclone Wrap-Up" ends each school day at Santa Fe Trail where students meet in the same room with the same teacher and decompress, discuss each day and their goals moving forward.

"We had very positive results from our Cyclone Start-Up and Wrap-Up pilot," Santa Fe Trail Middle School Principal J.J. Libal said. "Students and staff enjoyed the soft-start to the school day."

Another pilot coined "Exploration Days" at Santa Fe Trail allowed students to explore classes of interest not tied to specific curriculum. Classes included animal behavior, Arabic language and culture, fitness and nutrition, and science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) challenges. Students were offered the opportunity to enroll in three different two-hour blocks throughout a school day and explore interests that aren't available through classes. More than 40 options were available for students.



Exploration Days at Santa Fe Trail Middle School provide additional opportunities for students to learn.

"Our Exploration Days have been a success," Libal said. "Students were able to explore areas of interest and participate in field trips."

The KSDE named the inaugural participating school districts "Mercury 7," after the Mercury 7 astronauts. Next year additional districts will accept this same challenge while Westview and Santa Fe Trail will be considered model programs. Eventually, KSDE will roll out the redesign initiative across the state. As this challenge is a shot for the moon, two Olathe school communities have made touchdown with positive school improvements.

"This project is the most exciting thing I have ever been a part of," Bell said. "We are finally taking a look at what skills our students need in order to be successful in the 21st century and designing a system that will help support them."

"I am so proud of the work and dedication by the Santa Fe Trail staff through this process," Libal said. "Change is not easy, however, we stay focused on what is best for students. We are proud to be SFT and are excited to begin full implementation of the best ideas next year and build on the great things that are already happening here."

"We are very proud of Principal Libal and his incredible staff for their participation," Executive Director of General Administration – Secondary Programs Dr. Jim McMullen said. "Santa Fe Trail has made many positive, innovative changes as they explore how to best educate middle school students in the 21st century."

"It has been powerful to see the high level of engagement by all staff. It is obvious they care about students and want what is best for them academically and social emotionally," said Yeager. "Next year, students will have more choice in learning, be engaged in meaningful projects, be supported with social-emotional needs, and continue to learn foundational skills, but in new formats designed by expert teachers and staff at Westview."



During an Exploration Day, Santa Fe Trail Middle School students visited with seniors at a local retirement community.

# SKART TEAN ATTENDS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Olathe students preparing molecular protein models to be 3-D printed at the Milwaukee School of Engineering.

**Olathe** Public Schools students often receive unique, enriching educational experiences that rival very few across the country. A group of 14 students in the Medical Professions Academy, located at Olathe North High School, have the opportunity to present at a national medical conference in which less than a handful of high schools across the nation participate.

ARALI

Three Olathe North teams have been selected to present at the annual meeting of Experimental Biology in San Diego, California. This annual conference is the meeting of five societies comprised of more than 14,000 scientists and 25 guest societies whose primary focus areas include anatomy, biochemistry and molecular biology, investigative pathology, nutrition, pharmacology and physiology.

Students will present their research in what is called a poster session. During this session, Medical Professions Academy students will be presenting research along with undergraduate and graduate students from all over the globe to active scientists interested in current research happening within the various life science-related disciplines.

These Olathe students participate in an extracurricular club

called the Students Modeling A Research Topic (SMART) Team. Students had to apply and interview in order to participate.

SMART Team students worked with a research scientist and created a scientific poster and a 3-D printed model of a protein. The models were printed at the Milwaukee School of Engineering while the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology sponsors students submitting their extracts.

At an early age, students are making real-world professional connections and presenting university-level research.

"SMART Team has been a truly enlightening experience for me in terms of exploring science and what it has to offer," added senior Rhea Mahesh. "As I was able to understand the effort needed to succeed in the field, it has also given me experience working toward a long-term goal with a group of individuals."

"I was given an opportunity to be a leader," senior Diana Langat said. "I have learned how to lead with consideration of other perspectives while utilizing my past experiences to help my team produce." "Mrs. G does anything and everything," teacher Heather Williams said. "She helps kids with math, independent work, independent reading, writing, you name it. They love her, count on her, and she is part of our classroom."

## **EVERYONE BENEFITS FROM VOLUNTEERS SERVING SCHOOLS PROGRAM**

**When** Joan Giannola began volunteering in her grandson's classroom eight years ago, she had no idea that she would receive a President's Volunteer Service Award for giving more than 500 hours of her time to students in the 2016-17 school year.

"When I retired I wanted to do something out of the house," Giannola said. "When my grandson started first grade, I learned about Seniors Serving Schools volunteers. I thought it was something I could do because I'd worked with children most of my life."

These days Giannola spends more than three hours each day in Heather Williams' third-grade classroom or Allyson Atchity's first-grade classroom at Clearwater Creek Elementary.

"It started with a couple hours once a week and by year two evolved into a daily schedule," said Williams, who taught Giannola's grandson many years ago. "She stayed each year and tries to talk me into spending more time in my room." Both Williams and Atchity consider the award-winning volunteer to be a key element of their classrooms.

Atchity, whose students call Giannola "Grandma G," says the dedicated volunteer is "the heartbeat of our classroom."

"She is an essential part of our Daily 5 reading time," Atchity said. "She helps students strengthen their time management skills and develop their responsibility and independence. She works with struggling readers and students who struggle with math."

Giannola, a grandmother of seven and former paraeducator, easily builds relationships with students.

"Some children need one-to-one instruction to help them understand the material," she said. "When I work with a child I ask if they understand. I find some are afraid to say they don't know how to do the lesson.

"I tell them to be honest with me and we can keep trying. I'm happy to see them do well on a test of material we worked on together."

Williams noted that Giannola's role has changed over the



"Our classroom could not run efficiently without Grandma G," firstgrade teacher Allyson Atchity said. "Students look forward to seeing her each day. They know they can go to her with any questions or problems they have. They absolutely love her."

past eight years as the volunteer spent more time in the classroom.

"She's almost like a staff member here," Williams said. "She has taken on more subjects as her time increased. She just loves learning with the students. Joan also tells me all the time 'I can just see it in their faces when they get it.' I love to hear that!"

Giannola is one of more than 650 people who donate their time through the district's Volunteers Serving Schools



"Volunteers Serving Schools is a fantastic program for everyone involved!" third-grade teacher Heather Williams said. "Joan is dedicated, loves children, loves to see them grow and change, she loves a new challenge each day! I want to be like her when I grow up!"

program (successor to the Seniors Serving Schools and Youth Mentor programs).

"Be a volunteer! The kids need us," Giannola said. "The little time we give them means so much to them. They need to have someone our age to see we care about them. You will get more out of it than you give."

Anyone interested in joining Volunteers Serving Schools is encouraged to contact Pam Wolfe at pjwolfe@olatheschools.org or (913) 780-8233.

## **CANYON CREEK ELEMENTARY TO OPEN IN AUGUST 2019**

**Auticipation** is building in the Olathe Public Schools for the opening of the district's 36th elementary school, Canyon Creek Elementary, in August 2019. The district will open Summit Trail Middle in August 2018.

Canyon Creek is located at 24001 W. 97th Terrace in Lenexa. Work on boundaries for the school will begin in fall 2018.

Canyon Creek will be the first building prototype at the elementary level focused on problem- and project-based

learning, Executive Director of General Administration and Elementary Programs Dr. Brent Yeager said. It will be built with dedicated collaborative spaces for students and a makerspace room.

"We will be utilizing new concepts in teaching and learning around best-practice that can be replicated in other buildings," Yeager said. "We are excited to develop a building structure that strengthens the opportunities for students learning academics, but also life skills such as collaboration and teamwork."

## POWER 50 MAXIMIZES OLATHE HIGH SCHOOL UNCHTIME

**The** look of lunchtime at the high schools in Olathe has changed. No longer are kids spending 25 minutes grabbing food and then running to their next class. Now, all five high schools in Olathe are participating in a Power 50 lunch hour.

That means that students have 50 minutes during which they can eat lunch, work on school assignments, work collaboratively with classmates on projects, or most importantly, meet with a teacher for help in a particular subject area.

"When surveyed, the No. 1 concern of our graduating seniors was that they felt they didn't have enough access to teachers outside the school day," said Executive Director of General Administration and Secondary Programs Dr. Jim McMullen. "Power 50 has added a minimum of 125 and up to 250 minutes a week of access to teachers for every student."

At Olathe South High School, students know exactly how they want to use their time during "Falcon 50" and they get to work. They set up their spots around the building. Some in the commons at tables, others in hallways or in empty classrooms.

"The feedback from students is that they love the ability to see their teachers and complete work during the day," Olathe South Principal Clint Albers said. "The added opportunity and access to staff is a resource that was much needed and is heavily utilized by our students. Students who work after school or are involved in school activities appreciate the opportunity to get homework done, seek help, and make up missed assignments which helps to alleviate that time crunch after school."

At Olathe East High School, Principal Kerry Lane said they are hoping to see current grades improve due to the time being built into the school day.

"Students are starting to count on this time to meet with teachers, access study sessions and review content with peers and/or teachers," Lane said. "I love to see students interacting with teachers and see students building relationships with other students, as well as having time during the school day to knock out assignments or get extra help."

Albers said he sees the benefits going beyond just academics.

"The mental health benefits of Falcon 50 have also been very beneficial for students and it has been impressive to see some of the valuable and supportive relationships that have been cultivated during this time," he said. "Our teachers have used this time as a way to really get to know their students, form those strong relationships, and become another one of those trusted adults that students feel comfortable coming to in times of need."



Getting more opportunities to meet with teachers is one of the most valuable benefits of Power 50.



Olathe South Principal Clint Albers connects with a student during "Falcon 50."



Student groups also have chances to meet during Power 50.



#### NOTIFICATION STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION.

The Olathe Public Schools prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion or disability in its programs, activities or employment, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups to its facilities as required by: Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and other relevant state and federal laws. Inquiries regarding compliance with applicable civil rights statutes related to ethnicity, gender, age discrimination or equal access may be directed to Staff Counsel, 14160 S. Black Bob Road, Olathe, KS 66063-2000, phone 913-780-7000. All inquiries regarding compliance with applicable statutes regarding Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act may be directed to the Assistant Superintendent General Administration, 14160 S. Black Bob Road, Olathe, KS 66063-2000, phone (913) 780-7000. Interested persons including those with impaired vision or hearing, can also obtain information as to the existence and location of services, activities and facilities that are accessible to and usable by disabled persons by calling the Assistant Superintendent General Administration. (12/17)

### EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY

### LIST OF DEGREE PROGRAMS

### Undergraduate

Accounting Business Administration Elementary Education

#### Graduate

Library Science School Counseling

# \$500 scholarships

available for first time graduate and undergraduate degree-seeking students



emporia.edu/ks-asc 913-338-4378 8400 W 110th St Suite 150, Overland Park, KS 66210



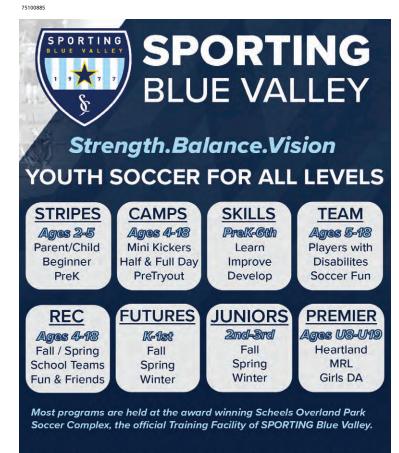
for your teen.

### Not alcohol.

The average boy takes his first drink at age 11, the average girl at 13. *Talk. It Matters.* 







913.685.2872 - 13700 SWITZER RD OP, KS 66221 WWW.SPORTINGBVSOCCER.ORG

# **TOMOR-**ROW WANTS YOU TO HAVEA TALK WITH US.



www.jccc.edu

75092325

## We want to put YOU driver's seat!

Now Hiring Bus Drivers \$16.40/ HR ■ Part-Time Paid CDL Training

FirstGroupCareers.com

First 🌈 Student

Caring for students today, tomorrow, together."

(913) 269 - 1041

Equal Opportunity Employer



### **Trust the Mental Health Experts**

#### We've cared for Kansas City's families for 120 years

As the region's leader in child and adolescent psychiatric and behavioral health, Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City's Crittenton Children's Center experts reach more than 6,000 young lives every year. Drugs. Anger. Depression. Our dedicated team helps children address serious adversity and achieve positive mental health, developing lifelong strategies for resilience and strength.

We are in this together, let us help your family.

Call us 816-765-6600 crittentonkc.org

Crittenton Children's Center SAINT LUKE'S HOSPITAL OF KANSAS CITY



### into a Better Home Loan or Refinance

### America's Favorite Home Lender

- Specializing in home loans since 1951
- Competitive rates, including no closing cost loans
- Quick loan approval with our mobile device options

## Contact us whether you are buying or refinancing to cash out - we can help you save.

816.531.2345 | jbnutter.com | jbnloans@jbnutter.com

Not a commitment to lend. Loans available to qualified buyers. © 2018 James B. Nutter & Company. All Rights Reserved. NMLS 2067





### PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OLATHE YOUTH TO PLAY SOCCER FOR OVER 35 YEARS







**Kansas Rush Competitive Teams** 

Pre-tryout CampCompetitive TryoutsJune 4-7thJune 8-10thregistration openreg opens late Spring

### REGISTER NOW AT WWW.KANSASRUSH.COM

**Olathe Rush Recreational Programs** 

Summer Camps U6-U13 (K-7th Grade) June 11-14th or July 16-19 choose morning or evening

Fall Rec Leagues U6-U18 Early Bird Registration Opens June 1st

Kansas Rush Soccer Club 1570A S, Mahaffie Circle Olathe, KS 66062 www.kansasrush.com IT'S FUN



### Our goal? Getting you ready for sports season.

#### With our large network of clinics, physicals are no sweat.

Check something off your spring and summer "to do" list. With 18 primary care clinics near you, we make sports and camp physicals easy. And with all our locations backed by the resources of Olathe Health, you always have the expertise you need, right where you need it.

Well. Connected.

Call to schedule a physical at any of our primary care clinics. 913-782-2224

olathehealth.org/clinics

