



2009

MISSOURI QUALITY AWARD RECIPIENT

Park Hill School District

The Park Hill School District, formally organized in 1951, encompasses 71 square miles located in the southern third of Platte County, located just north of downtown Kansas City, Missouri. The Park Hill School District is a public school district with pre-kindergarten programs through grade 12, including nine elementary schools, three middle schools, two high schools, a day treatment school, and an Early Childhood Education Center. Other support facilities include a district aquatic center, underground support services, and the district office. Predominantly rural when the district was formed, the Park Hill School District has steadily changed to a more suburban district, blending both residential and commercial growth.

The Park Hill School District maintains a reputation for educational excellence in the region and throughout the state of Missouri. As a result, realtors commonly reference the Park Hill School District as a selling point in the Kansas City metro area. The Park Hill School District serves 10,159 kindergarten through twelfth grade students and approximately 500 pre-kindergarten students. The Park Hill School District has experienced sustained, stable growth for more than twenty-five years. In fact, the Park Hill School District witnessed an increase in student enrollment every year for the past 26 years. During the last ten years, student enrollment in the district increased, on average, by 145 students each year.

The Park Hill School District's culture of high expectations and continuous improvement is guided by the tenets of a professional learning community with a shared vision, mission, and values.

Key stakeholder groups of the Park Hill School District include students, parents, and taxpayers. The Park Hill School District's performance management system includes the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan, Building School Improvement Plans, district balanced scorecard, and building balanced scorecards, and allows the district to monitor the key requirements of students, parents, and taxpayers:

- Accreditation
- High student achievement
- Preparing students for college or career
- Interesting, engaging instruction
- Focus on individual student needs
- Parent involvement
- Financial responsibility and integrity
- Quality teachers
- Safe and orderly environment
- Respectful, caring environment
- Extracurricular opportunities
- Good food
- Small class sizes
- Competitive teacher compensation



The Park Hill School District maintains a focus upon identified Strategic Focus Areas and articulated goals within the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan that are aligned with student and stakeholder requirements and expectations. Staff members use collective inquiry, collaborative teams, and an action orientation to accomplish the district's goals. The development of evaluation and improvement plans and the improvement of processes throughout the district are guided by ADDIE, a five-step process improvement

VISION
Building Successful Futures • Each Student • Every Day
MISSION
Through the expertise of a motivated staff, the Park Hill School District provides a meaningful education in a safe, caring environment to prepare each student for success in life.
VALUES
Student Focus Integrity High Expectations Continuous Improvement Visionary Leadership

model (analysis, design, development, implementation, and evaluation).

The Park Hill School District is committed to maintaining a knowledgeable staff as evidenced by the high level of educational attainment. For example, more than 91% of Park Hill School District administrators have earned advanced degrees. The Park Hill School District maintains one of the most knowledgeable teacher workforces in the state of Missouri with more than 80% of teachers possessing advanced degrees, compared to 51% of teachers in Missouri. In addition, 36 district teachers have earned National Board Teacher Certification, the highest measure of professional teaching excellence.



The Park Hill School District supports employees through a variety of means, including a wellness and employee assistance program to support staff and families in maintaining physical, social, and emotional balance in their lives. By helping employees lead healthy, balanced lives, the district not only supports the people who make the district a success, but also increases performance, decreases absenteeism, and manages health costs for employees and the district.

Major technologies include a fiber-optic network connecting all facilities that allows centralization and integration of data systems. The network allows for the management of data, telephony networks, security, online coursework, human resources, and media centers. In addition, the Park Hill School District provides each teacher with a laptop computer for use at work and at home. To support learning, the Park Hill School District provides students access to computer hardware and software via computer labs and mobile laptop computer labs as well as learning resources from home.

The district's key mechanisms for communicating and managing relationships with suppliers, students, and stakeholders are varied. Supplier representatives are active members of Focus Area Collaborative Teams to understand the Park Hill School District's requirements and expectations and to provide input regarding organizational strategy. For students and stakeholders, the Park Hill School District communicates and manages relationships through the provision of transition activities for students and parents as they begin and end their educational experiences at each building.

Communication mechanisms include regular face-to-face discussion, telephone, email, and web sites. Students and parents access PowerSchool, an online portal, to obtain relevant information such as daily grades, attendance, and teacher comments. In addition, the district publishes and distributes a quarterly newsletter, *Park Hill Progress*, to keep all district residents informed of organizational activities. Channel 18, Park Hill School District's cable television station, broadcasts district information throughout the community 24 hours per day. Individuals with internet and mobile telephone access may also register to receive the district's First Hand email newsletter and mobile text alerts.

The district continues to expand its use of continuous improvement classrooms, where students become further engaged in their own education through:

- Classroom mission statements
- Measurable goals
- Student data notebooks
- Quality tools
- Defining quality
- Ground rules
- Classroom data centers
- Class meetings

The Park Hill School District is a community of learners focused on continuous improvement to ensure that each student is prepared to succeed in life. This commitment has led to improved organizational performance, and most importantly, student growth exceeding that of other districts serving a similar student population.

For more information, contact:
Mark Miles, Asst. Supt. for School Improvement
Park Hill School District
7703 NW Barry Road
Kansas City, MO 64153
(816) 359-6217
milesm@parkhill.k12.mo.us
www.parkhill.k12.mo.us



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