



Knob Noster R-VIII School District

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Proud Past – Bright Future

Dear Knob Noster Community:

As 2016 comes to a close, we want to take this special opportunity to thank each of you for your support of Knob Noster Public Schools, our students, and our team. Through your support and partnership, 2016 has been a standout year for our school and our community. Provided below is a year-in-review “Top 10 List” of accomplishments of Knob Noster Public Schools. Our students, teachers, and Board of Education continue to prove that KNPS is the pacesetter in Central Missouri when it comes to education, and we are very proud of the following accomplishments that you have helped us achieve!

10. Knob Noster Public Schools earned its **highest-ever Annual Performance Report** from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. This score ranks KNPS at the top of all school districts in the Missouri River Valley Conference and all K-12 Districts in Johnson, Henry, Pettis, and Lafayette counties.
9. The National Math and Science Initiative provided an initial **grant in the amount of \$400,000** to provide seven new Advanced Placement courses for Knob Noster High School students. In the first year, we have enrolled students in over 150 AP courses.
8. **Tax Rates dropped significantly for the second consecutive year in KNPS** providing more tax relief for local taxpayers, as a result of new revenues from the utilities pipeline. This results in KNPS having the lowest local school tax rate in five years and among the lowest of all school districts in the region.
7. **Knob Noster Public School’s unique partnership and friendship with Whiteman Air Force Base continues to strengthen.** WAFB hosted all KNHS students and staff for the NMSI grant announcement in September. WAFB was instrumental in bringing VEX and FIRST Robotics to KNHS! WAFB also provided two full-time Military Family Life Counselors to better serve KNPS students. On a daily basis, **WAFB continues to contribute in countless ways to enhance Knob Noster Public Schools** for students and staff!
6. KNPS accomplished another **sound fiscal year, ending with the highest total reserve balances in nearly a decade**, as a result of ongoing, strong Impact Aid funding. As a result, the district **increased compensation for all employees and maintained 100% Board Paid Health Insurance.**
5. **Climate, Culture, and Character Education in KNSD are trending upward!** A ratified **Collective Bargaining Agreement** and meet and confer sessions with the Knob Noster Association of Teachers exemplifies positive relationships with faculty. A **Day of Giving to the Knob Noster Community** on November 11, 2016 illustrates the culture of servant leadership which exists throughout our team. This year, KNSD initiated a **new K-12 Character Education Program, Panthers R.O.C.K.**, to recognize students for excellence in personal character. Already, over two dozen local businesses have endorsed the program to demonstrate active support for Character Education within our school and community!
4. **Strategic Planning and Evaluation has been completed or is underway** in a number of key areas, including: District Academic Assessment Plan, Long Range Facility Plan, Staffing Plan, Technology Plan, Transportation Plan, and Food Service Programing. These plans will provide a clear roadmap for the future.
3. The KNHS American College Test (ACT) composite score for 2016 was 21.1. This score placed **Knob Noster High School as the top-scoring High School** in the Missouri River Valley Conference as well as the top-scoring high school in Johnson, Henry, Pettis, and Lafayette counties.
2. The Board of Education approved the purchase of over 1000 student devices (laptop computers) in 2016 which establishes **Knob Noster Public Schools as one of the few K-12 school districts in the state offering a 1:1 program for ALL students.** This rollout will begin in January 2017.

1. Last and most importantly, Knob Noster Public Schools partnered with the community to raise **over \$10,000 to support Knob Noster families during the Twelve Days of Christmas to Wrap Up Cancer fundraiser!** This event of giving exemplifies the amazing people and the fantastic partnership that is Knob Noster!! Our Community....Our Schools....Our Family...Knob Noster is indeed a very special place like no other!

As highlighted in this Top 10 List, the students and teachers of Knob Noster Public School have helped set our school and our community apart from the rest. As we look ahead to 2017 and beyond, the future looks very bright and we are excited about what's in store! Again, we thank each of you for your ongoing support, involvement, and partnership. We wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a healthy, safe, and prosperous New Year! Go Panthers!

Sincerely,

Jerrod Wheeler, Ed. D.