

NEW SCHOOL YEAR  
2024-25 SCHOOL CALENDAR P.18

EMPLOYEE AWARDS  
CELEBRATING SUCCESS P.8

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT  
KRISTIE BROWN P.6



A PUBLICATION OF USD 230 | Fall 2024

# SPRING HILL

## SCHOOLS MAGAZINE

# A LEGACY OF LEARNING P.10

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## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Spring Hill Schools welcomes a new school year that includes all the annual traditions, such as the first day of school and the first Friday night game. It's also a time for meeting new people while forming treasured memories that will be etched in one's mind for years to come.

In this edition of Spring Hill Schools Magazine, our theme is on generational service which has a profound and enduring impact, leaving a legacy that resonates through communities and across time. When individuals or families dedicate themselves to any organization over successive generations, they create a continuous thread of support, enrichment, and tradition from which countless others benefit.

One significant way this legacy manifests is through the accumulation of knowledge and experience. Veteran educators and community members who have long-standing ties to an organization bring invaluable insights and stability. Their deep understanding of the school's culture, history, and needs allows them to mentor others, which in turn helps foster a collaborative and nurturing environment. USD 230 has benefitted through many years of service provided by the Meek family, and I thoroughly believe you will enjoy that feature story.

Our enrollment growth continues and it is imperative that we manage our growth successfully at each of our campuses during the next five to ten years. Enrollment projections indicate that USD 230's student enrollment may increase an additional 1,000 students by 2028 and 1,500 students by 2033. Conversations will begin in earnest this fall as we explore our next possible ballot question, which could occur in 2025. In the coming weeks and months, there will be community engagement meetings where you can actively participate in the development of a plan that will hopefully appeal to our entire school community and gain patron support. Your voice is important.

As always, feel free to reach out to me at any time with questions or thoughts. If you ever see me at any USD 230 Spring Hill School or attending a community event, please say hello.

Educationally,

Link W. Luttrell, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

## WHAT'S INSIDE

- 3 From the Superintendent
- 4 #Learn230 Social Media Roundup
- 7 Alumni Spotlight: Kristie Brown
- 8 Celebrating Success
- 10 A Legacy of Learning
- 14 Spring Hill Education Foundation Zone
- 15 Board Corner
- 18 2024-25 Academic Calendar

# FALL 2024

**VOL. 11, NO. 1**

*Cover Photo:*

*A student raises the American flag and the Kansas state flag. Photo from the 1970 Spring Hill High School Yearbook..*

*Spring Hill Schools Magazine is a publication of Spring Hill School District. All content and images were curated by the district's Communication Department, and the magazine is published by NPG Newspapers. The printing of this publication is funded by local advertisers at minimal cost to the district.*



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# #LEARN230

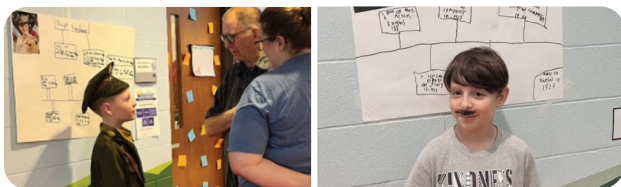
## SOCIAL MEDIA ROUNDUP



**Spring Hill Early Learning Academy @SHEarlyLearningAcademy**  
 "Can't believe May is here! I'll miss all my SHELA friends, but I cherish the wonderful memories with our precious 'littles.' Humbly, Stephanie Barnhill"  
[#Learn230](#)



**Dayton Creek Elementary @DCESCavaliers**  
 Our 4th Graders hosted a successful Famous Kansans Wax Museum, transforming our hallway into a vibrant showcase of historical figures from our state which fully captured and engaged our participants. [#Learn230](#)



**Prairie Creek Elementary @PCESMustangs**  
 Families and friends of our fifth grade students honored their hard work in an assembly this morning. Students treated the audience to a fun musical performance. [#Learn230](#)



**Spring Hill Elementary @SHESColts**  
 EXCITING NEWS ALERT! A new playground is coming to Spring Hill Elementary! [#Learn230](#)



**Timber Sage Elementary @TSESRangers**  
 5th graders had a memorable last day at TSE! [#Learn230](#)



**Wolf Creek Elementary @WCESWranglers**  
 When 5th graders leave elementary school they all leave behind their mark and wonderful memories. Some 5th graders leave behind a Lego masterpiece to be enjoyed by all! [#Learn230](#)



**Forest Spring Middle @FSMSChargers**  
 FOAM PARTY! Our PTO organized a foam party for our students today as well as some ice cream! [#Learn230](#)



**Spring Hill Middle @SHMSMavericks**  
 The class of 2028 had a blast at their celebration last night! Here are few candids of the evening. [#Learn230](#)



**Woodland Spring Middle @WSMSStallions**  
 We would like to congratulate our 2023-24 Citizenship Award Recipients. You make us proud, Aubrey and Landon!. [#Learn230](#)



**Spring Hill High @SHHS\_Broncos**  
 Classmates became like family through advisory groups, classes, and extra-curricular activities. The class of 2024 gathered one last time before walking across the stage.. [#Learn230](#)





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# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT CLASS OF 2009



**KRISTIE  
BROWN**

I graduated in 2009 and I'm a Deputy Sheriff currently on patrol, but will be starting as a Spring Hill School District SRO. I've worked for the Sheriff's Office for a total of 12 years. I started as a Civilian Specialist, working in the booking lounge. I did that for a little over seven years. I then went to Sheriff Records for just under a year before becoming a deputy in 2020.

I went to Johnson County Community College and got three associates: Criminal Justice, General Science, and Liberal Arts. (I wasn't sure what I wanted to do). I then went to KU and got my Bachelor's in History with a Minor in Women's History.

I was in the Explorer's program through Spring Hill PD and I loved it. I applied at the Sheriff's Office thinking I would work through

college but ended up really loving the job so I stayed.

When I went to school in Spring Hill there were only four schools and the high school was brand new, I was actually the second graduating class from there. It was also in a corn field and I remember thinking "Why did they build this new high school in the middle of a corn field?" But now, of course, there are subdivisions all around and it's still growing.

I have so many good memories of school in Spring Hill. I can't pick just one. I remember always getting in trouble with Mr. Reinking for texting while in class, painting a house for the Volunteer Club and going to a football games with friends, dressed in our Bronco Gear. One of my favorite teachers is Mrs. Talcott, my sixth grade math teacher, who I still keep in touch with. She was an absolute joy as a teacher. I hated math and was not good at it, but she helped me through it and was very patient. She used to have colorful daisies in her classroom and to this day I always think of her when I see them at the store.

There were many other teachers I had that made an impact: Mr. Tatum, Mrs. Floyd, Mrs. Cotter, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Rodden, Mr. Young, Mr. Reinking, and I keep in touch with most. My SRO, Officer Debbie Rogers, is probably the one I speak to the most. I kept in touch with her all these years and actually got Maxine Rose (my dog) from her. She has been a friend, teacher and an unofficial therapist at times, helping me get through the awkward early twenties stage. Supporting me in my law enforcement career, and encouraging me through everything. I hope to be able to do that for at least one student while I'm here.



*Kristie and her loyal companion, Maxine Rose.*



*Kristie and her mom.*



*Kristie and Maxine in Colorado.*





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## Spring Hill Schools hosts end-of-year *Recognition Reception.*

As we concluded the 2023-2024 school year, Spring Hill Schools hosted a Recognition Reception for invited staff and their families. Held at Forest Spring Middle School, the event celebrated various accomplishments, including honoring retirees, acknowledging years of service, and presenting multiple levels of the Teacher of the Year and Horizon Award winners.



### CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR



**Janet Taylor** (Office Personnel), **Lisa Forck** (Paraprofessional)  
and **Gary Sutterby** (Facilities, Grounds,  
Nutrition, & Technology)

### DISTRICT TEACHERS OF THE YEAR



**Melanie Golubski** (Dayton Creek Elementary) and  
**Michelle Weltz** (Spring Hill High)

### YEARS OF SERVICE

#### 20 Years

**Darcy Sly** (Principal)  
**Gary Sutterby** (Custodian)  
**Gissel McDonald** (Teacher)  
**Kimberly Hanson** (Psychologist)  
**Ronda Bardwell** (Paraprofessional)

#### 25 Years

**Elizabeth Moore McDonald** (Teacher)  
**Georann Whitman** (Teacher)

#### 30 Years

**Shawn Jones** (Paraprofessional)

## CLASSIFIED RETIREES



**Vicki Cunningham**  
(Admin Secretary)  
(12 Years of Service)



**Jerri Decker**  
(Paraprofessional)  
(8.5 Years of Service)



**Shawn Jones**  
(Paraprofessional)  
(30 Years of Service)



**Cindy Squire**  
(Paraprofessional)  
(26 Years of Service)

## CERTIFIED RETIREES



**Stephanie Barnhill**  
(Principal)  
(17 Years of Service)



**Tracy Manbeck**  
(Teacher)  
(16 Years of Service)



**Cescile Smith**  
(Speech Pathologist)  
(18 Years of Service)



**Georann Whitman**  
(Teacher)  
(25 Years of Service)



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# A LEGACY OF LEARNING

By Cory Crable, for Spring Hill Schools



Mark Meek, Principal at Spring Hill Middle, and Tim Meek, Director of Construction and Safety.

## GENERATIONS OF MEEK FAMILY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO USD 230'S SUCCESS.

Spring Hill Schools' history includes a host of traditions – excellence in the classroom, excellence on the field, a small-town school district with ever-increasing growth and deep roots in the community that go back generations.

As far back as the 1880s, the Meek family can trace their own roots in Spring Hill to the same farm. Over the following decades, it seemed like it was difficult to pinpoint a school year when a Meek didn't either work at or attend one of the district's schools.

Mark and Tim Meek are just two of those family members ensuring the school's buildings and the students in them are in well prepared for the next generation.

Mark has served as the principal of Spring Hill Middle School for the past three years and his uncle, Tim, has served in various positions with the district, the most recent as the Director of Construction and Safety.

Both Mark and Tim say many of their family members live in town, and even those who do move out of town stay close to Spring Hill. Inevitably, they miss the town so much that they move back.

"It's kind of a family tradition. We're a family of educators," says Mark, whose father, Bill, served on the school board for 28 years, whose mother Diana was a staunch and enthusiastic supporter of the district, and whose brother and sister are both educators.

## "WE LOVE WORKING AND LIVING IN THE SAME COMMUNITY."

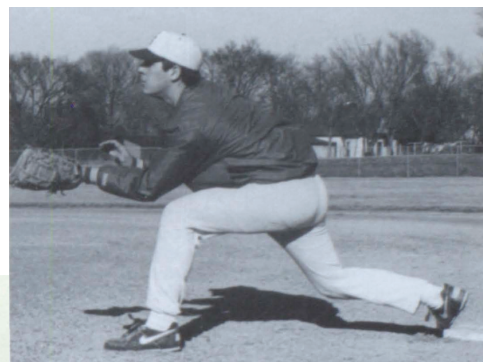
Tim's father Bud was the buildings and grounds supervisor and Tim filled that position when his dad retired in 1994, while his mother, Marlys, worked as foodservice director, regularly providing hungry students with her famous homemade cinnamon rolls, which were always in demand.

Both Tim and Mark met and married their high school sweethearts, Mark met his wife, Stephanie, and Tim met his wife, Sharon, while going to school in Spring Hill.

"Our music teacher, Mrs. Mohn, paired us up to do a duet," Tim chuckles, recalling how he first fell for Sharon. "She paired us up to sing a duet from 'Fiddler on the Roof,' and from that day on, she always considered herself as the matchmaker."

For Mark, meanwhile, being the son of a long-serving school board official in the district where he attended school never posed any problems or awkwardness. But, like any small town, on those rare occasions when Mark might have a bit of good-natured but harmless fun, you can bet word traveled quickly.

"My parents always knew about anything before I even got home for the day," Mark recalls, smiling.



(Above) Mark Meek plays first base at a baseball game during his senior year in 1998.



(Left) Tim Meek participates in the shot put during his senior year in 1978.



Through rain, sleet, snow and even fog--our bus drivers drive on!! Mr. Meek, Mr. Sullivan, Mrs. Scarlett, Mrs. Spencer, Mrs. Chesney, Mr. Hanna.

*In the 1970 yearbook, a Meek was a bus driver for the district.*

And now, being the father of two USD 230 students as well as a school administrator, Mark says he sees that continuation of tradition as more humorous than anything else.

"It's funny, but it's not weird. I see it as fun," he says of being both father and principal.

Now, Mark's two sons are among the younger generations to walk through the halls of the district's schools. His oldest having just graduated from Spring Hill High School and is planning to study at Hutchinson Community College to become a firefighter. Mark's younger son wants to work as an electrical lineman.

"They're both kind of hands-on," Mark explains. "Go get your hands dirty, work hard, and help people. That's their mentality."

Tim, who has an adult son, an adult daughter, and five grandchildren (three of whom are still in school), says he's been impressed with the town and school district's growth in recent years. USD 230 finds itself always able to adapt to the growth in the community, Tim says, but he's confident in the leaders who will help usher in that change.

"And now our high school is nearing capacity. So how do you manage that?" Tim says, "you just have to do what's best for the community, the district, and the kids. It comes down to wanting to make a community decision."

Mark says one of the things he enjoys is the variety of extracurriculars available to all students, regardless of their abilities or talents.

"I think that Spring Hill is still at that level where kids can be involved in almost anything," he says. "Everyone gets to go out for the team. ... Even if they're not a starter, they still want to be a part of a team."

Tim and Mark say they're proud that, in a community full of change, generations of their family members have been a constant, unwavering presence in Spring Hill's school district, carrying on a myriad of traditions and preserving history. Those traditions, both big and small, include not only the Meeks' presence in classrooms and administrative offices, but also things like participating in holiday celebrations, portraying Santa and Mrs. Claus and handing out candy canes to students.

"By people knowing you and your family, you're building trust over the years," Mark says.

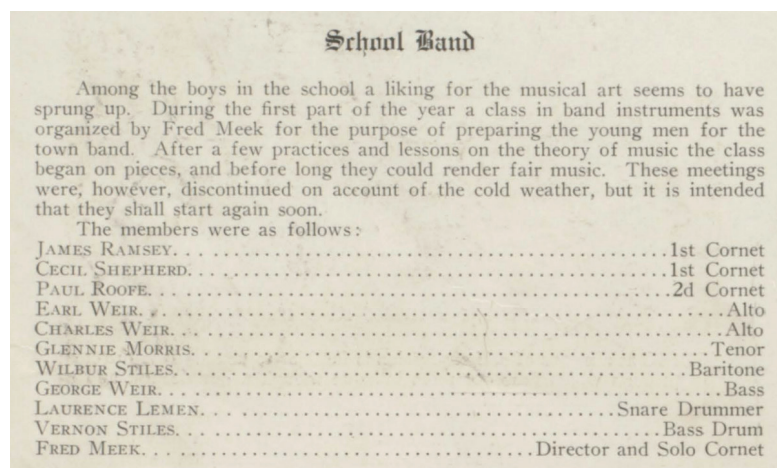
## **"TRADITION ISN'T JUST ABOUT ME, IT'S ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN HERE OVER TIME."**

As its population swells and generations come and go from the schools' hallways, USD 230 continues to embrace and embody small-town values, notably, the giving nature of those who attend, patronize, and work at its schools.

"I love when I get to go out and see our students, the pride you get when they get together. For me, there's still a small community feel," Tim says. "People are still there to help each other out. They're there for the right reasons. It's about the kids. Everything we do is for the kids."

And though the word "legacy" might be spoken in sentences alongside the Meek family name, Mark says he wants to be remembered simply.

"I don't know that I need a legacy," he says. "I want people to know someone came, cared, and helped."



*Way back in the 1917 yearbook, a Meek was mentioned as starting the districts' band.*



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# SHEF ZONE

## FROM THE FOUNDATION



*2023-24 SHEF Grant Recipients*

The mission of the Spring Hill Education Foundation (SHEF) is to enhance excellence in the classroom and beyond. Through community and corporate support, SHEF is able to provide scholarships, grants, and direct funding of projects and initiatives, otherwise not funded through traditional means.

During the 2023-2024 school year, SHEF awarded \$22,000 in scholarships to college bound Spring Hill Schools Seniors. Additionally, SHEF funded over \$30,000 in grants, which go directly to teachers and classroom initiatives.

SHEF was built upon our annual golf tournament, now in its 28th year and the 2024 event was our best ever! Save the date for 2025 and plan to tee up on May 5, 2025 at the Sycamore Ridge golf course in Spring Hill. It's "SHEFtember" and we are launching our annual corporate partner campaign. SHEF also hosts other annual fundraising events: State of the District Breakfast, Tuesday, October 15 at the Meadowlark in Spring Hill and Chicken and Pickle Tournament, Saturday, December 14

For more information about how you or your corporation can support students and teachers visit [USD230.org/SHEF](https://USD230.org/SHEF). It is an honor to work alongside devoted staff and we are grateful for the support of the community.

BJ Harris  
Foundation Coordinator  
[shef@usd230.org](mailto:shef@usd230.org)



*Author Julia Cook, visits Wolf Creek Elementary, courtesy of SHEF.*



*The 2023-24 State of the District Breakfast took place in the Meadowlark in Spring Hill.*



# BOARD CORNER



**Nicole Melius**

*Board of Education President*



**Doug Hull**

*Board of Education Vice President*



**April Horne**

*Position 2 - Area 2*



**Jon Chitwood**

*Position 3 - Area 3*



**Sharon Mitchell**

*Position 5 - Area 2*



**Keith Ewing**

*Position 6 - Area 3*



**Anna Baker**

*Position 7 - Area At-Large*

## FROM THE BOARD

To guide the school district, seven unpaid local citizens are elected to the Spring Hill Board of Education by patrons within the district, split into three areas, the board consists of two representatives from each area plus one at-large member.

Board of Education members help set the policy to guide the district's operations as well as oversee the hiring of administration and faculty. Board members receive training through the Kansas Association of School Boards to become educated about key issues, policies, and legislation involving education. Board members and administrators are also encouraged to be active in educational groups at the state and national levels. This ensures that education's best practices and ideas are leveraged in the district. Community members are encouraged to participate in the governing process by attending Board of Education meetings.



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## The Vault Fall Hours

Monday	3:00-7:00pm
Tuesday	3:00-7:00pm
Wednesday	3:00-7:00pm
Thursday	3:00-7:00pm
Friday	3:00-7:00pm



## YOUTH BASKETBALL 2024-2025

Ages: 1st - 6th Grade

Early Bird Deadline: October 4th  
Early Bird Fee: \$75

Final Deadline: November 1st  
Fee: \$85

Register by visiting  
[www.springhillrec.org](http://www.springhillrec.org)

Photo by Todd Riggins



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Early Bird Deadline:  
September 20th

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## July 2024

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## August 2024 (14)

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## September 2024 (19)

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

## October 2024 (21)

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## November 2024 (16)

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## December 2024 (15)

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



# 2024-2025 Calendar

August 2-6	New Teachers on Duty
August 8-12	No Classes - Professional Development
August 13	First Day of Classes (PK-9)
August 14	First Day of Classes (10-12)
September 2	No Classes - Labor Day
September 3	No Classes - Professional Development
October 16	Two-Hour Early Dismissal
October 17	No Classes - Professional Development
October 18	No Classes - Certified Off Duty
November 25	No Classes - Professional Development
November 26	No Classes - Professional Development Flex Day
November 27-29	No Classes - Thanksgiving Break
December 23 - January 2	No Classes - Winter Break
January 3	No Classes - Professional Development
January 6	Classes Resume
January 20	No Classes - MLK Day
February 12	Two-Hour Early Dismissal
February 13	No Classes - Professional Development
February 14	No Classes - Certified Off Duty
February 17	No Classes - Presidents Day
March 17-21	No Classes - Spring Break
March 24	No Classes - Professional Development
March 25	Classes Resume
April 4	No Kindergarten Classes - Kindergarten Round-up
April 18	No Classes - Professional Development
May 22	Last Day for Students
May 23	No Classes - Professional Development
May 26	Memorial Day
Various	PLC Days

### Reporting Periods

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter: Aug. 14 - Oct. 16  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter: Oct. 21 - Dec. 20  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter: Jan. 7 - Mar. 14  
 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter: Mar. 26 - May 22

Total Student Days: 173

### Teacher Contract Days

New Teachers: 190  
 Returning Teachers: 187

### Conference Dates

October 16: Evening, All Grades  
 October 17: All Grades  
 February 12: Evening, All Grades  
 February 13: All Grades

## January 2025 (19)

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## February 2025 (17)

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

## March 2025 (15)

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## April 2025 (21)

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

## May 2025 (16)

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## June 2025

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

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