

DISTRICT CALENDAR
2023-2024 CALENDAR P.8

SCHOOL FEATURE
DIFFERENT COURSEWORK P.14

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
CLASS OF 2018 P.18



A PUBLICATION OF USD 230 | FALL 2023

SPRING HILL SCHOOLS MAGAZINE



THE ROAD TO FOREST SPRING P.10

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FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Welcome to the new school year! It brings with it the excitement of new school supplies, new faces, and most of all, new memories that hopefully last a lifetime.

Every school year is unique, and Spring Hill Schools is continuously evolving to ensure student success. Over the past decade, our district has experienced both sudden and steady growth. As we plan for educational excellence at all levels, it remains our top priority.

In this edition of Spring Hill Schools Magazine, we proudly showcase the successful completion of projects following the 2018 bond election. With a total of approximately \$72,000,000 spent, all projects were finished on time and within budget. Thanks to the support of our patrons, Spring Hill facilities are now among the best in Kansas.

However, we cannot rest on our laurels. With continued growth expected, we must plan for the future of our school campuses in the next 5-10 years. Conversations will begin this school year to consider our next possible ballot question, which could occur in 2025.

Our school district is about much more than just facilities; programming at all levels is crucial to meet our students' needs. This issue of Spring Hill Schools Magazine highlights the increased offerings of advanced placement (AP) and Dual Credit (DC) courses



at Spring Hill High School. Acquiring post-secondary skills, credits, and credentials during high school gives our students a head start for life after graduation.

Throughout the school year, I plan to be present at as many events as possible. Witnessing our talented students and staff in action and seeing the smiles on their faces as they receive support from our community is truly inspiring.

Spring Hill Schools truly is a great place to learn, work, live, and thrive.

Best wishes for a great school year, and as always, feel free to reach out to me at any time with thoughts or questions. Do know that I truly am proud to represent Spring Hill Schools daily as Superintendent of Schools.

Talk to you again soon,

Link W. Luttrell, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Twitter: @usd230supt

WHAT'S INSIDE

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FALL 2023 VOL. 10, NO. 1

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Samantha Bishop, Creative Services Specialist,
featuring Rachel Henderson, Executive
Assistant.

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Spring Hill Early Learning Academy @SHEarlyLearningAcademy

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Dayton Creek Elementary @DCESCavaliers

A few of our friendly NEW faces are getting ready for another school year with our Cavaliers! #Learn230



Prairie Creek Elementary @PCESMustangs

Our staff has been working hard, and we can't wait to welcome students and families back to school! #Learn230



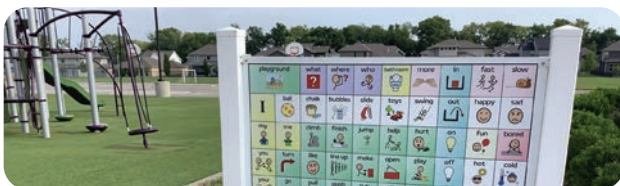
Spring Hill Elementary @SHESColts

Our staff is starting to get together to prepare for a great school year! #Learn230



Timber Sage Elementary @TSESRangers

There have been some exciting updates to the TSES playground! #Learn230



Wolf Creek Elementary @WCESWranglers

We are getting ready to DIVE IN to this new year of learning! Looking forward to seeing our students! #Learn230



Forest Spring Middle @FSMSChargers

Exciting news! The library is getting ready to welcome our Chargers for the first day of school. #Learn230



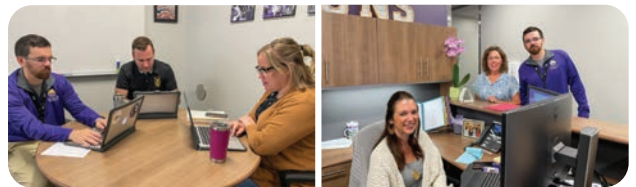
Spring Hill Middle @SHMSMavericks

The upgrades to our floors, doors, walls, & lighting are all coming together. Photos do NOT do it justice! #Learn230



Woodland Spring Middle @WSMSStallions

We are preparing for our Stallions arrival! We are looking forward to seeing everyone again. #Learn230



Spring Hill High @SHHS_Broncos

Our band is rocking it at camp, under the direction of our new band director, Mr. Tristan Bartley! #Learn230





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SCAN ME



KEEPING UP WITH THE Hendersons

With the school year off to a great start, the Henderson family finds themselves skillfully navigating the whirlwind of activities that comes with having three children in three different schools.

With Rachel working at the district office and Jayden, Brady, and Adelynn each pursuing their unique educational paths, the Hendersons demonstrate the art of balancing a hectic schedule with unwavering love and support within their family.

With Jayden, a junior at Spring Hill High School, Brady attending Woodland Spring Middle School, and Adelynn immersed in the world of Timber Sage Elementary, the Henderson household has become a hub of activity. Coordinating drop-offs and pick-ups, juggling activities and practices, and attending three separate school events have become part of the family's daily routine.

"We knew it was going to be busy, but it's been quite the juggling act," Rachel shared with a laugh. "There's never a dull moment, but we wouldn't trade it for anything."

For Rachel, her role at the district office has allowed her to gain valuable insights into each child's school experience. She emphasizes the importance of open communication and staying informed about their individual progress and activities.

The Hendersons' busy schedule also reinforces the importance of quality family time. Despite their commitments, they make a conscious effort to come

together over meals and participate in activities that strengthen their bond.

"Even with our chaotic schedule, family time remains a priority," Rachel affirmed. "We treasure these moments because we know how important it is to be there for each other."

As the school year continues, the Hendersons look forward to facing new adventures and challenges together. Their story serves as a reminder that while having siblings in three different schools can be hectic, the love and support of a close-knit family can turn any challenge into an opportunity for growth and unity.

"We take each day as it comes, and we're grateful for the unique experiences our children have in their respective schools," Rachel concluded. "Through it all, we cherish the special moments and the joy of watching our kids thrive."

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July 2023

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August 2023 (13)

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September 2023 (19)

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October 2023 (20)

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November 2023 (17)

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December 2023 (13)

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31						



**SPRING HILL
SCHOOLS**
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2023-2024 Calendar

August 4-8	New Teachers on Duty
August 10-14	No Classes - Professional Development
August 15	First Day of Classes (PK-9)
August 16	First Day of Classes (10-12)
September 4	No Classes - Labor Day
September 5	No Classes - Professional Development
October 18	Two-Hour Early Dismissal
October 19	No Classes - Professional Development
October 20	No Classes - Certified Off Duty
November 20	No Classes - Professional Development
November 21	No Classes - Professional Development Flex Day
November 22-24	No Classes - Thanksgiving Break
December 20 - January 1	No Classes - Winter Break
January 2	No Classes - Professional Development
January 3	Classes Resume
January 15	No Classes - MLK Day
February 14	Two-Hour Early Dismissal
February 15	No Classes - Professional Development
February 16	No Classes - Certified Off Duty
February 19	No Classes - Presidents Day
March 11-15	No Classes - Spring Break
March 18	Classes Resume
March 29	No Classes - Professional Development
April 5	No Kindergarten Classes - Kindergarten Round-Up
April 19	No Classes - Professional Development
May 23	Last Day for Students
May 24	Teacher Professional Development
May 27	Memorial Day
Various	PLC Days

Reporting Periods

1st Quarter: Aug. 15 - Oct. 18
2nd Quarter: Oct. 23 - Dec. 19
3rd Quarter: Jan. 4 - Mar. 8
4th Quarter: Mar. 20 - May 23

Total Student Days: 173

Teacher Contract Days

New Teachers: 190
Returning Teachers: 187

Conference Dates

October 18: Evening, All Grades
October 19: All Grades
February 14: Evening, All Grades
February 15: All Grades

January 2024 (20)

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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February 2024 (18)

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March 2024 (16)

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April 2024 (20)

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May 2024 (17)

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June 2024

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In less than 10 years, Spring Hill Schools has gone from “just” five schools to, with the opening of Forest Spring Middle School, ten schools focusing on Pre-K and beyond.

In reviewing previous issues of the *Spring Hill Schools Magazine* (previously *Learning Leader Magazine*), there is an article in the Spring 2014 issue on the five schools in the district (six including the Insight school of Kansas). Even back in 2014, Spring Hill Schools was focused on expanding and ensuring the future success of its students.

Since the 2010's, the district and school board have introduced at least two major bonds that concentrated on accommodating the explosion of future students. This year, with the opening of the new middle school, Forest Spring, the most recent bond initiative is complete.

In just 6 years, the district has built an athletic complex and an addition for the high school, a new building for Educational Support, and four new schools; Dayton Creek Elementary, Timber Sage Elementary, Woodland Spring Middle and Forest Spring Middle.



Staff members tour the new Forest Spring Middle School facilities.

Like everything else in the world, the district experienced some setbacks in the timeline due to the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic. But good things come to those who wait! On August 8, 2023, the Spring Hill School District commemorated the opening of Forest Spring Middle and the final phase of the 2018 bond. FSMS officially opened and began educating students on August 16, 2023.

With Darcy Sly as the Principal, Lindsey Bales as the Assistant Principal, and the help of all of the people who work and live in Spring Hill, the new middle school is sure to be the start of a brand new road for Spring Hill Schools.



2018 Bond Initiative
presented to the public.

Spring Hill High School
Athletic Complex completed.

NOVEMBER

2017



JULY
2018

Timber Sage Elementary
School completed.

Spring Hill High School
addition completed.

JULY
2018



JUNE
2019

Woodland Spring Middle
School completed.

Educational Support
Center completed.

NOVEMBER
2020



MARCH
2021

Dayton Creek Elementary
School completed.

Forest Spring Middle
School completed.

2023



AUGUST 15
2023

First day of school at Forest
Spring Middle School.

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As the Spring Hill USD 230 family gets settled into the 2023-24 school year, one significant change in the city should have a positive effect on all of us — faster Internet speeds.

Comcast recently announced that it is 50 percent finished building its new smart, fast and reliable fiber-rich network in the city. This \$9 million expansion, slated for completion in early 2024, brings residential broadband speeds faster than 1 gigabit per second (Gbps) and business speeds up to 100 Gbps to 3,400 additional homes and businesses in Spring Hill.

"Spring Hill welcomes Comcast's investment in our community. A broadband expansion project like this strengthens work-force development, education and employment," said Spring Hill Mayor Joe Berkey.

Here's what the Xfinity 10G Network means for thousands in Spring Hill USD 230:

- **Ultimate Capacity:** Xfinity customers connect nearly 1 billion devices across the company's network annually. The Xfinity 10G Network with the next-generation Xfinity gateways deliver the most advanced WiFi technology carrying three times more bandwidth to power streaming, gaming, videoconferencing, and more, simultaneously.
- **Unprecedented Coverage:** The latest Xfinity Gateway provides a more reliable connection throughout the home. Customers can get wall-to-wall WiFi coverage with a powerful Xfinity WiFi Boost Pod that extends coverage to hard-to-reach areas, with plans for an offering of increased support for in-home WiFi through a "boost guarantee" later this year.
- **Most Reliable Connection:** Comcast is scaling the nation's largest and most reliable network — the Xfinity 10G Network — that passes 60 million homes and businesses and counting. The company plans to launch a new device that is "storm ready" with cellular and battery backup to help keep customers connected even when the power goes out.
- **Ultra-Low Latency:** The Xfinity 10G Network and the latest Xfinity Gateway are a powerful combination that deliver ultra-low latency for those moments when response times matter most like video games, a fast-growing category with Xfinity households averaging more than one gaming console per home.

Residential customers will also be able to take advantage of the company's Internet Essentials program that provides low-cost, high-speed broadband for income-constrained households. Since its inception in 2011, the program has connected more than 6,400 Kansas residents. Comcast also participates in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which provides qualifying households with a \$30 monthly credit.

Comcast has invested nearly \$40.3 million in the state in the last three years, with more than \$11.4 million in technology and infrastructure, including upgrades to their network to deliver innovative, reliable and affordable broadband service.

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DIFFERENT COURSEWORK

Story by Faye Dent, SHHS Student Journalist



Image Via UnSplash

Spring Hill High School has introduced a new course. Advanced Placement (or AP) European History is a new course being offered. Hailey Bachura, history teacher, has begun teaching the class to sophomores, juniors and seniors.

AP European History is the advanced course version to World History, the history class that all sophomores take at the high school. One of the good things about AP courses is that college credit can be achieved from passing the AP exam at the end of the school year.

"We had talked as a Social Studies department about expanding our course selections for students, and we knew it was time to add additional AP courses for students looking to challenge themselves," Bachura said.

All AP classes can build on each other. For example, as juniors, it's smart to take both AP Language and APUSH (AP US History) together, as they can both increase writing skills.

"We decided to add not only AP European History, but AP



Students working in Hailey Bachura's classroom at Spring Hill High School

Government for second semester senior students.”

Many students were excited about the news. More history classes ensure that all kids, regardless of learning styles, get the education they deserve.

“I think that this will be one of the most difficult and rigorous classes the sophomores will be exposed to, this is also my first year teaching it, so it will be constantly changing and evolving as I work out the growing pains.”

Despite the fact that the majority of the class is sophomores, several seniors and juniors signed up for the class.

“Since this is the first year of it being offered, I think it’s important to make sure that juniors and seniors who didn’t get the opportunity to take it before get the chance to get college credit.”

AP European History, or AP Euro, is covering everything that sophomores need to know from missing World History. Just like AP Government for seniors, or APUSH for juniors, the course material teaches the student everything they need to know to be successful. The AP classes are just more rigorous, and go at a much faster pace.

“I have grown very passionate about World History over my teaching career.” Said Bachura.

Students are embarking on higher education, as this AP class is their stepping stone. Every class is important, and AP classes help students get a higher enrichment level from their coursework while also preparing them for college-level classes.

“We also knew that by adding an AP course for sophomores, it would ultimately elevate APUSH and other AP courses for students that they will take [in] their junior year.”

Bachura is very excited to teach AP Euro this year. She already teaches World History, so this will be an enjoyable experience, while also being challenging enough. Since AP Euro is a new course offered at the high school, Bachura gets to set the pace.

“World history is American history, and America wouldn’t be here without the rest of the world setting the foundation first.”



Hailey Bachura, history teacher at Spring Hill High School



ABOUT THE JOURNALIST

My name is Faye Dent and I'm a junior at SHHS. In addition to SPUB, I do backstage for the shows at the high school, I was in Scholars Bowl, and I work at Panda Express. While I enjoy writing for SPUB, I also really enjoy writing basically anything in my free time. I am currently working on improving my poetry.



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Photo by Todd Riggins

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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT CLASS OF 2018



"I think it means a lot for our district. There is something in the bond for everyone... A lot of people's first impression of a school district is when they come to some type of sporting event and when they come out and see [the new stadium], it gives them an impression of the district. and shows that we care about our facilities."

*Dr. Wayne Burke, 2018 superintendent
Excerpt from the 2018 volume of **The Bronco** yearbook.*



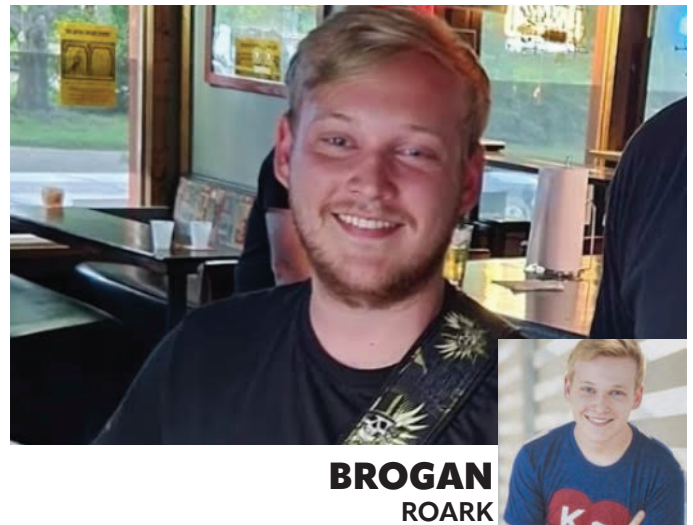
**BROCK
LAPLANTE**

After I graduated in 2018, I went to the University of Saint Mary and majored in Biology with a minor in Education. I've now returned to Spring Hill and am getting ready to start my first year teaching as the biology teacher at Spring Hill High School.

Since I graduated, the district has grown tremendously. It's been really exciting and interesting to come back and see what they've added and plan to add to the high school in the future.

Graduating from Spring Hill, one of my core memories is from high school. I remember all the connections that I was able to make with my teachers and the memories I created with my friends throughout the four years. Many of those friends I still talk to today.

In my senior year, I specifically remember in the class "History Through Film". I was an amazing class taught by Mr. Allen. The class exposed me to some of my favorite movies to this day such as "What We Do in the Shadows" and "Casablanca".



**BROGAN
ROARK**

I graduated from Kansas State University, studying Spanish and Secondary Education. Then I became a long-term sub in the Wamego, Kansas school district. This next school year, I've returned to Spring Hill to be a Foreign Languages teacher at Woodland Spring Middle School.

When I graduated high school in 2018, the district was just really beginning to expand. I'm excited to see just how much it's changed!

I have so many great memories from Spring Hill. One that sticks out to me is pretty simple; every morning some buddies and I (including Brock LaPlante, shoutout to my buddy featured next to me) would get together before the day started.

For me, the companionship and my friends are the best memories I have for Spring Hill.

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