

Dear NEHS Families,

Congratulations and commendations to the Class of 2022 on this remarkable achievement of graduation from Northeast High School! You have worked hard during your four years and now you are ready and prepared to receive a diploma and to move on to the world of college and work. We are very proud of your accomplishments and of the outstanding leadership you have provided for our school. COVID times have been difficult, but your resilience, courage and engagement have brought you to Graduation time and the many joys and possibilities that await you in future years!

We have reached the end of a school year like no other. Despite all the many changes, our students and staff have persevered together and grown stronger as a result. Teachers have been challenged to adapt lesson delivery approaches to keep students engaged. Support staff have all taken on additional roles and responsibilities to assist students with various parts of their day. Students have also supported one another both socially and emotionally. And parents have been there every step along the way to support their children and the school staff. It has been a team approach that has allowed the school community at Northeast High School to maintain focus during this unprecedented pandemic.

As we wind down the year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish our graduating seniors a fond farewell and success as they move on to academic and extra-curricular opportunities post high school. I would also like to acknowledge staff who will be leaving us at the end of the school year. I wish you best of luck and thank you for the lasting impact you've had on the staff and students at Northeast High School. I would also like to extend best wishes to all students and families who will be moving away and leaving our school community.

As we prepare for next school year, we are excited to welcome our incoming students. In addition to our returning staff, there will also be new faces on staff next year. Our hope is that we can get back to the level of normalcy that we've grown accustomed to in years past that will allow us to thrive together in the 2022-2023 school year.

With that, I would like to wish students, parents, and school staff a safe, restful, and rewarding summer. Hopefully we will all get the opportunity to spend quality time with family and friends and come back to school with a sense of rejuvenation in the Fall.

Respectfully and with gratitude,

Dr. Waymond Ervin Principal



NORTHEAST HIGH SCHOOL Ølking Øoyager



NORTHEAST HIGH SCHOOL 415 S. Van Brunt Boulevard Kansas City, Missouri 64124 Office: (816) 418-3300 Fax: (816) 418-3335 northeast.kcpublicschools.org

> EDITOR IN CHIEF Dr. Waymond Ervin

PUBLISHER Mr. Melvin L. Brown



Northeast students engage with Lebanon High School students at Nelson Adkins Museum of Art

On Saturday, April 2nd, Northeast High students had an opportunity to connect with Lebanon High, a rural school in Missouri at the Nelson Art Museum to build relationships, increase empathy and awareness of students' common and diverse experiences, and gain deeper understanding.

Both schools were divided into groups of four and partnered with students from the opposite school to explore a variety of activities that deepened student awareness of art and their perspective of the art observed as it pertains to their personal life.

The vehicle for this exploration focuses on visual arts, literary arts and food and the culminating project will be the publication of student selected recipes with accompanying stories and images which share the individual's relationship with that food and its connection to their sense of identity, culture, family and/or community.

NEHS students will have two additional experiences with Lebanon High in which they will collaborate virtually on Lebanon's experience in an urban setting, as well as traveling to Lebanon, MO to gain first-hand knowledge on what it's like in a rural setting to better understand the rich traditions and culture of Lebanon.

Principal Ervin says "Thank you, Ms. Joneisha Williams and Ms. Katharine Bruns, for undertaking this project and engaging our district's vision by increasing our students' understanding of diverse cultures and fostering significant relationships with our rural counterparts."



Seal of Biliteracy students participate in National Service Conference

The Seal of Biliteracy is a program for students who speak more than one language. This program is promoted by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and is recognized by the colleges/universities in the state of Missouri as well as by businesses that require bilingual workers. Northeast High School adopted this program in November 2020.

The SBL candidates are required to take an exam mastering the four skills in the second language and complete service hours for the social and cultural component. When the Viking Seal of Biliteracy team was invited to participate in the PODER en SALUD project, we recognized it was a great opportunity for students to complete this component. Northeast received a grant of \$1,150 from the National Youth Leadership Council. The goal of this grant is to create products that will reach different sectors of the Latino population by providing awareness about COVID-19 vaccination and prevention.

The Viking SBL team following all the guidelines and processes recommended by PODER en SALUD has created videos and digital posters in the Spanish language. For that reason, they were invited to present at the 2022 National Service – Learning Virtual Conference.

Viking Seniors Benedith Rios, Anthony Perez-Estrada and sponsor, Mrs. Carmen Truax, represented the SBL team at the Conference. The presentation was about the products created by the team. The video and digital posters encourage Latinx high schoolers and hopefully the larger Latino community in the northeast area to get vaccinated and stay informed about COVID-19 prevention. *Great job Vikings!*



NEHS Activities & Athletics Recognition 2022

On Tuesday, April 5, Northeast High School recognized scholars for their achievement and dedication in their school activities, clubs/organizations and athletics. Each sponsor were called upon to award their students with a certificate, plaque and/or trophy. Family members of students filled the auditorium to witness this auspicious occasion. We were favored by a liturgical dance by Anthony Riddle, an alumnus of Northeast High School, followed by the keynote speaker, Anthony J. Butler, Founder and President of Violence "I" Prevent (VIP) Movement. Afterwards, families were invited to join their student inside the Viking Media Center for a celebratory brunch. Congratulations Vikings!

Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA)



Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)



Seal of Biliteracy



Viking Band



Viking Voices Choir



Boys Basketball





Volleyball



Baseball



Football



Girls Basketball



Girls Soccer



Cross Country



Track



Tennis





Deaf, partially blind Northeast student-athlete finds success in sports and academics

Shalmar'e Wade is deaf and blind in one eye, but those disabilities do not stop the Northeast High School student-athlete from excelling in sports or his studies.

"Deaf people can do anything hearing can do, and just treat us like anybody else," said Wade, who plays multiple sports including basketball, track and field and football, his favorite. "I'm just more confident, it's more fun. I love the workout part. I love the practices. I love every part of it."

Wade says he's found sports to be an equalizer.

"I feel like it's a level playing field whenever I'm playing," Shalmar'e said.

The 18-year-old has had to make some adjustments such as wearing a shield in his face mask to protect his eye. He also has an interpreter on the sideline to help communicate.

"If they do an audible, I just look over and pick it up. It's pretty easy," Wade said.

Sports have come easily to the teen, and he has performed so well his coach nicknamed him "Money."

"He made a heck of a catch one time, and that's how he got the nickname and we rolled with it ever since," explained Roger Franks, head football coach and athletic director at Northeast High School.

He says it's easy to forget Wade's disabilities because he performs like every other student.

"Athletics is one of those happy mediums for everything. It doesn't have a certain race or gender," Franks said. "It's kind of a melting pot to get all kinds of things taken care of."

Franks attributes a higher level of play to Wade's positive impact on his teammates.

"It's really elevated our team to get to the level we're playing at because now the excuses are gone," Franks said. "When they see him running just as hard, now that next kid is going to run just as hard. He comes to practice every day. That kid comes to practice every day. It's like a ripple effect. In addition to excelling at sports, Wade's achievements extend to the classroom. The teen has already racked up a number of scholarships.

"The one I'm most proud of is the Dean's Prestigious Merit Scholarship that I got for my grades on my ACT score," Wade said.

After high school, the 18-year-old plans to major in physical education at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C.

"I was mind blown. It's just a whole new world at Gallaudet, and everyone was signing everyone. It was very inspiring," he said.

Wade aspires to be a coach one day and hopes other people living with a disability turn their dreams into reality.

"You need to focus on what you can do and don't listen to the haters. You can do it," Wade said.









The audience is captivated by the speaker



Anthony Riddle presents a liturgical dance



"We are better together"



Pictured from L to R: Anthony Riddle, Artist in Residence and Northeast High School alumnus; Coach Roger Franks, Northeast Athletics Director; Anthony J. Butler (Keynote Speaker).



NEHS FBLA attended State Leadership Conference

On Sunday, April 10th thru Tuesday, April 12th, Northeast Senior *Future Business Leaders of America* (FBLA) was afforded the opportunity to attend their first *State Leadership Conference* (SLC) at Missouri State University in Springfield, MO with Mr. Corrao, DECA Adviser/Business Teacher, Ms. Donahue, CTE Coordinator and Ms. Williams, FBLA Adviser/Business Teacher.

The SLC's allowed students to compete against all registered FBLA high schools in Missouri in various business competitions for awards, recognition, and scholarships. Of the 12 students that attended the SLC's, two students placed at the state level, and one exceled to the *National Leadership Conference* (NLC) that will be held in Chicago, Illinois June 24-27th.

Darion Brown (10th) competed in Management Information Systems and won 9th place and Michael Stivers (12th) competed in Electronic Career Portfolio and won 3rd place. Both students walked the stage to receive medals and an award for their hard-work and dedication for persevering through the many challenges they faced.

Non-competitors attended leadership development and college career readiness workshops to deepen their understanding on how to effectively lead their school chapters as well as gain insight on how to prepare for their post-secondary plans. In addition, students attended the College Career Expo where they received a wealth of information on various colleges, technical schools, and military options.

Future Business Leaders of America would like to send a sincere thank you to ALL that made this possible. Students are extremely excited about leading their schools and community and look forward to attending the *National Leadership Conference* (NLC) in Chicago this summer.

Big props to Ms. Joneisha Williams who lead these students to this victory!







After High School Graduation: Summer Strategy for Parents

By Nancy Berk, Ph.D., Clinical psychologist, comic and author

There's nothing quite like the thrill of high school graduation. For teens, it is a rush of relief and anticipation of independence. For many parents, it is a rush of relief, followed by anxiety related to that same independence. Still, the pride and excitement that floods commencement auditoriums and stadiums is palpable. The unremitting camera flashes reflect endless parental enthusiasm and the need to document something that, at times, seemed impossible or just a million miles away. I've done the pomp and circumstance twice as a parent and it never gets old. Celebrating a milestone, related accomplishments and bright futures is easy to embrace.

After the accolades, the tears of joy and reflection ("How can this chapter be over?" "As a parent, did I make the most of each moment?") and the punch and cookies, there is no rest for the happy, weary or weepy parent. Whether your teen is workforce - or college-bound, this is one of the most important summers in your parenting journey. It's often the last opportunity for what I call "big dose parenting," so make the most of those teaching moments before your child is launched toward independence.

Keep your eyes open.

It's easy to let your parenting guard down once high school is behind your child and college (or career) is on the horizon. The summer after high school graduation is marked with teen parties and adventure. Of course, there's reason to celebrate, but this is the time to reinforce the rules and review the importance of healthy behaviors including safe driving and the dangers of alcohol, drugs and unprotected sex.

Encourage summer experiences that will strength your teen's spirit, skills, and decision-making ability.

Whether jobs, internships, or hobbies, some of your teen's summer activities should focus on building his or her life skills. Even situations that highlight the need to choose a different path are valuable summer experiences.

Be proactive, but don't go overboard.

It's easy to get excited about your child's new apartment or dorm. Discuss the needs and wants for this new space but do the homework first. Identify unnecessary purchases and costeffective buying options. Universities have strict policies related to some items including lighting, furniture and appliances. Read the rules and regulations and refrain from overbuying.

Talk safety again.

We can't always be there to protect our children, but we can plant the seeds for safety. Before your child leaves home, talk about neighborhood and campus security and the power of traveling in numbers. Identify resources like campus and neighborhood watch programs and security shuttles. Discuss family's emergency evacuation plans. Note: Some teens will call you "neurotic," but these discussions can save lives. Don't be intimidated; outline your suggestions for them. Make sure your children have those necessities that are critical during an emergency including flashlights, extra batteries and fully charged portable phone chargers (great graduation gifts!). Remind them that it is never wise to wait until the last minute to refill an important medical prescription and that having a bit of extra cash on hand is always prudent.

Enjoy this special summer.

Whether your teen is moving out of your home or staying put with a new set of responsibilities, this summer will be filled with family memories and opportunities. Of course, there is the typical rush to see high school friends before everyone scatters, but there are likely to be family-focused times including requests for favorite meals, restaurant visits, new movies or other adventures. Sometimes, I think when you hold the credit card, you hold the power, but it's more than that. When you've been lucky enough to have great family moments, you can't help but want a few more.

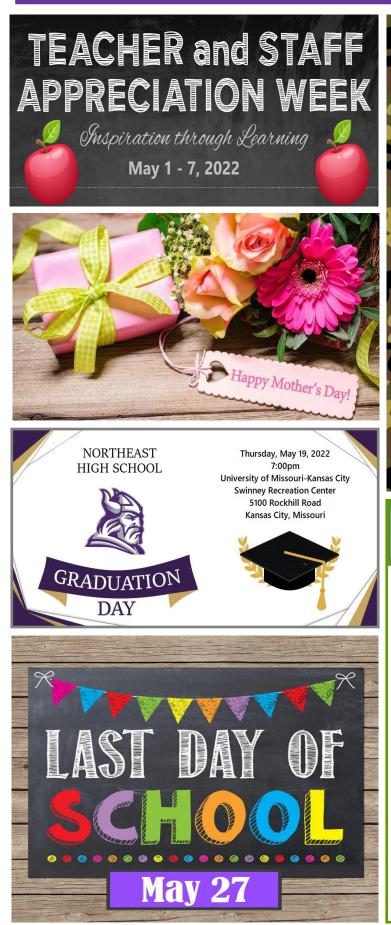




Club 42 presented by BlueKC honors the life of Jackie Robinson and his road to breaking barriers within Major League Baseball. Mr. Andrew Corrao and Mr. Andrew Kreiling's students from Northeast High School were able to hear from a diverse panel of Royals front office staff and their path to professional sports. In the picture, Viking Junior Nemo Rogers throwing out the first pitch at the Royals game on April 15th. **Great job Nemo, Mr. Corrao, and Mr. Kreiling!**

Page 8





<section-header>

Central, East, Lincoln College Preparatory Academy, Northeast and Southeast High Schools once again celebrated their annual Military Ball. The venue was new this year and was held at the Missouri Army National Guard Armory. The purpose of the Ball is to promote collegiality among the district's five JROTC programs, to practice etiquette in a social environment, to crown schools' Royalty Courts and to have lots of fun.

The Cadets shown in the picture from left to right are Michael Stivers, Madelyn Villeda-Guevara, Darian Duong, Emily Rios-Serrano, Bryce Stivers-Abbott, Harmonee Leach, Ian Partain, and Benedith Rios-Serrano. Also pictured is KCPS Superintendent Dr. Mark Bedell, NEHS Principal, Dr. Waymond Ervin; Vice Principals, Dr. Keyona Powell and Mr. Steven Dennis.



Missouri Association of School Librarians



Viking School Librarian and GKC Blue Ribbon Librarian, Carmen Truax from Northeast High School and Titan School Librarian, Paula York from Northeast Middle School representing KCPS at the 2022 Missouri Association of School Librarians (MASL) Spring Conference.





Unfortunately, our school didn't host the Annual *"Families on the Football Field"* event. Instead, we held a Community Resource Fair for our students and their families at inside the gymnasium. There were organizations in the community who participated and brought resources and any other pertinent information that our students and families could benefit. From amusement parks seeking to employ youth, colleges/universities, to other local nonprofit organizations. From the looks of it, our students seem to really enjoy going around to meet with the vendors as they filled their bags with goodies and information. The Northeast Community thrives on community engagement and appreciates their time and support!





























High School Students | Spring Semester 2022

The Lab Class and Entrepreneurship Program will be offered by Green Works in Kansas City this spring semester.

Elements of the Program

- Lessons emphasize creativity, brainstorming, and problem solving. Students will create a simple business plan, and make a sustainable product. Students will gain hands-on experience with merchandising, pricing, marketing, and customer service. We will take field trips to small businesses, host guest speakers, and have a group work experience with a local business.
- Practice essential life skills such as speaking, writing, and critical thinking. Work like a professional using team work, a strong work ethic, and collaboration.
- Learn how to operate a small business through our retail store, The Perennial Bee.

Program Details

Students grades 9-12 served by Kansas City Public and Charter Schools are eligible for the program

- Spring class runs from April 7 May 26
- Meets weekly on Thursdays from 4:00-6:30 pm
- Midtown classroom 607 E. 31st Street, Kansas City, MO 64109
- Students will need to provide their own transportation
- Students can work in our store on First Friday weekends
- Earn while you learn! Earn a \$25 stipend per class plus \$12 per hour working in the store
 Submittee per lice per proticipants
- Submit an application to participate
- Competitive program! APPLY NOW!





Questions: Contact Gina at 816-739-2107 or gina@greenworkskc.org





OR INFO CALL SHAWN 816-483-8484 The Salvation Army Eastside Corps 3013 East 9th St, 64124



Viking Nation 'salutes' Colonel Richard Hilliard, Jr. on his retirement

After school Tuesday, April 26, Northeast High School's JROTC decided to surprise Colonel Richard Hilliard, Jr. with a celebration.

Colonel Hilliard served 20 years as a career Army officer retiring at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Leadership, training and staff experiences at the platoon through Army Group level (NATO). He was employed as a U.S. Army JROTC instructor for the past 21 years in an inner-city high school in Kansas City, MO (Kansas City Public Schools). Colonel Hilliard was selected Teacher of the Year in 2021.

There were former teachers, former JROTC cadets, and several alumni of Northeast High School who attended the festivities. A special presentation was made by the Northeast Alumni Association.

LTC Richard Hilliard "Reminisces"

It is hard to believe that on May 25th. I will have completed 42 years of service to our great nation. 20 years on Active Duty with the Army and 22 years as a JROTC Senior Army Instructor here at Northeast High School. Back in 2000 when I began, the district was transforming from the Magnet concept, where students were bussed to a particular school based on their chosen theme, back to neighborhood schools. At that time, we had 1300 students in the school, 350 of which were in the JROTC program. We had five instructors then, including myself. There was also a JROTC headquarters downtown with four fully paid positions. In 2010, all JROTC programs were taken down to two instructors and the headquarters was eliminated. For a very long time we competed down in the Nationals at Daytona Beach, Florida where we won trophies.

The one thing that has never changed however, is the great time I have had working with a lot of great sergeants (including my "partner in crime" for the past 12 years, Sergeant Jerry Lewis), administrators, faculty, support personnel and of course all the great cadets. The surprise retirement party coordinated by the cadets, just reinforced how blessed and lucky I have been to have the opportunity to invest in the lives of so many of our students.

(Continued on Page 14)





NEHS holds National Honor Society induction ceremony

On Wednesday, April 27, Northeast High School inducted 46 new members in the National Honor Society.

The high school initiates, taken from the ranks of the sophomore and junior classes, were chosen based on their ability to meet the society's standards with regard to scholarship, leadership, character and service. They will join their fellow members in upholding these principles by contributing their time and talents to better their school and local community through volunteer activities, civic involvement and adherence to the highest standards of academics, morality and ethics.

A candle lighting ceremony, officiated by our counselors, Dr. Shanitra Jones and Ms. Juneall Lane and College Advisor, Ms. Ayanna Castaneda, and it highlighted the four ideals of the society. Each new member was asked to come to the stage to light a candle as a symbol of his or her commitment to uphold those ideals.

The festivities included the presenting of colors by our JROTC, under the direction of Colonel R i c h a r d H i l l i a r d .

"We are celebrating not just your grades, but the sum of you," said Principal Ervin. "We celebrate not just the numbers that the world views as

important, but the quality of you. We celebrate your scholarship and academic success, your leadership and example and your sacrifice in serving your community."

Five candles were lit symbolizing the ideals of scholarship, service, leaderships, character, and citizenship that form the foundation of the National Honor Society. Each inductee was called to the stage and received their certificate and a yellow rose acknowledging membership, and they took the oath to uphold the high standards of the National Honor Society.

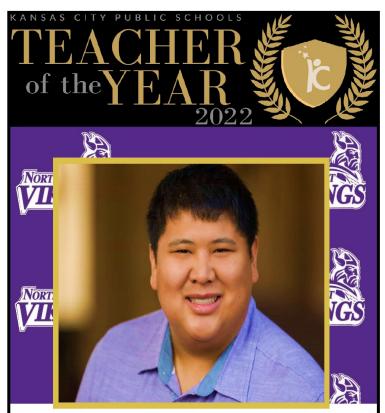




Colonel Hilliard

I will finish with the metaphor of the starfish, which I am sure many of you have heard before. A man was walking down the beach after a storm and he saw hundreds, if not thousands of starfish that had been washed up on the beach. He was throwing them back in, one at a time, when another man approached him walking from the other direction. The second man asked the first man what he was doing. He said, "I am saving the starfish by throwing them back in the ocean." The other man looked at him and at all the starfish and asked him how he could possibly make a difference when he saw the size of the task before him. He said, "Well I don't know, but I am making a difference with this one" as he continued to throw more starfish back in the ocean. That is what I said in my interview 22 years ago as the reason I wanted to be a JROTC Instructor, and I believe it still applies to the teaching profession today.

I will finish by saying that being a teacher will never be easy and will be very difficult as times as most of you know, but it will always be rewarding. I will miss everyone greatly and I wish you all God Speed, best of luck, and take care until you too are ready to join the "retired ranks.



Congratulations to Career and Technical Education (CTE) Instructor, *Andrew Corrao*, for being selected as Northeast High School's **2022 Teacher of the Year!**

NEHS students speak on the violence plaguing our City

Arts Tech, a local art entrepreneurship center, held a youth panel about the ongoing violence in our city. There will be another session with Mayor Quinton Lucas next month.

There were several news agencies there to cover the story. Here is a video showing an interview with Northeast senior, Marcelles Heart. (Click here: <u>https://fox4kc.com/news/kansas</u>-<u>city-teens-come-together-to-talk-about-violence-conflict-</u><u>resolution/</u>)

Participating on the panel were NEHS students, Guadalupe Pacheco and Adrian Ann Smith. They did an amazing job talking to City Councilpersons and other community stakeholders about the impact violence has in their communities and how to look for solutions.

A common theme that came up was a call for more direct community involvement with solid investments by organizations like Arts Tech to provide students positive learning experiences and guidance outside of the school day. Our students were incredibly powerful, and their ideas and insight were well received by many in the audience. Thank you, art instructor, Katharine Bruns, for providing this platform for Viking students.







2022 Decision Day in Viking Nation

On April 22nd, Northeast High School hosted "Decision Day" where seniors get to meet directly with select schools and get an acceptance statement the This year, on spot. students met in-person with college counselors and were able to at minimum, walk away with more knowledge of the college process or at maximum, run away with a full-ride scholarship to said school.

The participating colleges this year were Metropolitan Community Colleges, Donnelly College, Columbia College, University of Missouri, and many others. As a bonus, MetroPCS were onsite recruiting youth for employment opportunities. Parents were able to see the glee over their students' faces. It was quite a fun-filled day!

Kudos to our College Advisor, Ms. Ayanna Castaneda, and those who assisted her on a job well done!





















www.ctcogic.org



NEHS Students receive 20/20 LEADERSHIP LEGACY AWARD



NEHS Junior 20/20 Leadership participants (De'John Bailey, Olivia Rubio, Nehemiah Rogers, Rayonna Gibson, Sermaya Olpet, Cristian Rodas, and Mario Menendez) were awarded the Legacy Award for their project on creating a mentorship program for 8th grade students at Northeast. They were also awarded \$500 to help turn their project into a reality!













BBQ BEACH CAMPING FUN HOT ICE CREAM JUMP KITE PICNIC PLAY POOL POPSICLE SAND SUMMER SUN SUNGLASSES SWIM SWING VACATION

