

INSIDE



SHAWNEE MISSION SCHOOL DISTRICT

FALL 2019



> **Community Essential to Putting Strategic Plan in Motion**

> **Scholarship Shawnee Mission Connecting Students with Their Futures**

> **Shawnee Mission School District Aquatic Center Opens for 2019-2020 Swim Season**

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ON THE COVER: Dr. Mike Fulton shares scholarship offer letter with Mysti Allison-Barnes, Shawnee Mission North senior.

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INSIDE

Shawnee Mission School District
8200 W. 71st Street
Shawnee Mission, KS 66204

Inside Shawnee Mission School District is published by the Communications Department in the Shawnee Mission School District.

Board of Education

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- Sara Goodburn
- Laura Guy
- Patty Mach
- Mary Sinclair
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Friends & Food - 50 Years of Excellence Celebration

You are invited to join the district's 50th celebration, at "Friends & Food" a community event.

Wednesday, January 22, 2020
5 - 8 p.m.

Center for Academic Achievement (CAA)
8200 W. 71st Street
Overland Park, KS 66204

Specialty alumni guest chefs from the culinary arts program will prepare food representing different decades from the past 50 years.

Student performances will entertain guests throughout the evening and student artwork will be on display.

Students and instructors will give tours of the CAA and the Signature Programs; Animation and Game Design, Biotechnology, Culinary Arts and Hospitality, Engineering-Project Lead the Way, and Medical Health Science. Community members, corporate partners, and alumni are all invited to attend this special event. Reservation and ticketing information is available online at bit.ly/smsd50. ♦



Destination Learning

A Message From the Superintendent

The world is changing quickly, and key to future success is being able to anticipate what comes next. Shawnee Mission's Strategic Plan is designed to anticipate change and support the future success of every learner, as evidenced by our three objectives:

- Every student will achieve academic success through a challenging, relevant personalized learning plan;
- Every student will develop and utilize personal resilience while mastering essential competencies that lead to college and career readiness;
- Every student will develop interpersonal skills to be an engaged, empathetic member of the local and global community.



Dr. Mike Fulton

These three objectives define our destination. They are student-focused, clear, measurable, and will guide SMSD's work for years to come.

This year, in support of achieving these three objectives, we have assembled a number of work groups (comprised of district staff) and district task forces (comprised of students, parents, staff, community members) to study and, as appropriate, recommend action steps that prepare us for the journey ahead. Each group is assigned a specific topic as defined in the Strategic Plan. This advance planning is critical to successfully reaching our three objectives. We will use quarterly updates at Board of Education meetings, along with online updates, to keep the community informed on each group's work.

Ensuring success requires a careful evaluation of both current and future district resources. There are over \$600 million dollars in current and already identified future facilities needs. Our current mill levy supports meeting half those needs over the next 10 years. On the operating side, Kansas is finally providing additional money for schools, but in SMSD those resources fall short of adequately restoring all the cuts that have been made over the past 10 years. For example, we are trying to restore social-emotional supports (counselors and social workers), provide additional planning time for teachers, and keep class sizes at a reasonable level. The problem-solving necessary to arrive at fiscally sustainable solutions will require extensive use of data, a clear identification of the most important priorities, and creative thinking about strategies that will help us achieve our three objectives.

The SMSD community was built on the strength of our public schools. Great public schools are not a function of luck, but the result of a community that grows together to ensure the success of every learner. As we continue our celebration of SMSD's 50th year as a unified school district, let's take time to honor the past and create an even better future for every child we serve. Thank you for supporting the Shawnee Mission School District. ♦

Join the Shawnee Mission School District Team



for those who work a minimum of 20 hours per week, including: health insurance, paid leave, paid holidays and summers off.

Custodial and Maintenance Staff

The students and staff in the Shawnee Mission School District appreciate our custodial department. Chris Burns was honored as the October All Star. Chris has been the Building Manager at Shawnee Mission South for the past 18 months.

We are hiring custodians, HVAC technicians, grounds and maintenance technicians, a grounds landscaping lead and a small engine mechanic.

We offer a competitive starting salary and benefits package including: health insurance, paid leave, paid vacation and paid holidays.

Paraprofessionals and Aides

SMSD has non-teaching career opportunities available in our schools. If you enjoy interacting with students, consider applying to be a paraprofessional or aide.

We offer a competitive starting salary and benefits package including: health insurance, paid leave, paid holidays and summers off.

To learn more about these positions and how to join the SMSD team visit: www.smsd.org/human-resources. ♦

Food Services Staff

Food Services has open positions and is currently seeking qualified applicants. "We have an amazing team," said Nancy Coughenour, Director of Food Services. "We truly enjoy nurturing the students not only by preparing delicious food, but also by giving them a friendly smile as they go through the lines. Our staff wants them to feel cared for – because they are!"

We offer a competitive starting salary and benefits package

Community Essential to Putting Strategic Plan in Motion



Drew Lane, Information & Communication Technologies Executive Director, discusses technology improvements with patrons.



Top: Chris Lash, Briarwood principal, talks with a patron about furniture updates for middle and high schools. Bottom: District Site Council meeting.



The Shawnee Mission School District community has created a plan to serve as a road map for its continuing journey of excellence. Now, community members from across the district are putting that plan into motion.

At the center of the plan is the community's main objective: To provide a personalized learning plan that supports students in being college and career ready and having the interpersonal skills important to life success.

"This plan, created by our community, is intended to live in our hearts and minds and be carried out in our classrooms every day," Superintendent Mike Fulton said. "These objectives will guide our work for years to come and importantly, reflect what our community has said is critical for student success."

Community Gets to Work

Following the Board of Education's adoption of the Strategic Plan in June,

2019, community members have rolled up their sleeves to more clearly define how the district will meet its stated objectives.

Through task forces, site councils, and other community meetings, the district and community have launched into Strategic Planning implementation work.

Site Councils

A district-wide site council meeting and Facilities Forums hosted across

the district have brought hundreds of voices into the process. In September, Site Council representatives from each school gathered to discuss how to develop customized Strategic Plans for each school community. Their work began with a review of district and school-level data, including academic growth and performance, discipline, attendance rates, and individual plans of study.

The data was shared so everyone could engage in the work of customizing the learning experience so that every student is prepared for life success. No two schools in the district are alike, so each school community must create an individual plan that best fits the needs of its students, Fulton noted. “We are benchmarking where we are to acknowledge the work that is ahead of us,” he said.

This fall, parents and principals have been working on using the data and the district-level Strategic Plan as a guide for customizing school-level Strategic Plans. Being a part of the process has helped Site Council members better understand and support the work of school staff and administrators,

according to Ashley Little, Sunflower Elementary PTA President and Site Council member.

“It’s helpful to be able to customize our own plan because every school is going to have different areas it needs to work on,” Little said. “We all have to work together to make our school better for each student.”

Facilities Forums

Throughout October, community members were invited to attend a series of open house forums, held in each high school attendance area, related to district facilities. These events gave attendees a chance to learn more about the facilities planning process, which is a part of the Strategic Plan.

Topics included possible middle and high school renovations, elementary school rebuilds, parking lot resurfacing, roof repairs, security upgrades, and technology. District personnel, architects, and engineers hosted stations focused on specific topics, to answer questions and listen to input. Community feedback will be shared with the District Facilities Task force and the Superintendent for consideration in

recommending a possible bond issue proposal to the Board of Education.

Parent Ellen Parker, who attended a forum held at Shawnee Mission East, said she was glad to talk to architects and principals about the impact recent construction has had on their school communities.

“What I learned is the district wants to hear feedback and wants to hear from the community,” Parker said. “It’s important people come out to these events and make their voices heard.”

An Ongoing Process

Through study, planning, and action, Staff Work Groups are also engaged in implementing the district’s Strategic Plan action steps. The action steps define ways to address each strategy and objective of the Strategic Plan.

Samantha Feinberg, Shawnee Mission East English teacher, who served on the Steering Committee that built the framework of the Strategic Plan, is taking part on the Corwin Deep Equity team. Their work addresses Strategy 2: “We will relentlessly create a fully unified, equitable, and inclusive culture.”

“I’m very hopeful about the plan



over all,” Feinberg said. “I’m excited to be a part of the Corwin team and the training has been rich and interesting. I look forward to carrying it out among colleagues to deepen our levels of cultural competency for the benefit of working more effectively with the students and families we serve.”

The Strategic Plan developed by the community is designed to serve as a guide through 2024 and beyond, not only for Task Forces and Staff Work Groups, but for everyone engaged in the work of the district. As this process continues, community input and engagement will be essential and district personnel will continue to listen, said Superintendent Mike Fulton.

“Together we are envisioning a future where every child leaves the Shawnee Mission School District ready to be a successful part of our community and world,” Fulton said. “We cannot do it alone. It takes all of us to educate a child and I am grateful to everyone who is engaging in this continuous improvement process.”

Are you interested in taking part or learning more about support in the Shawnee Mission School District?



Upper left: Steve Loe, SM West principal, works with school site council. Upper right: Dr. Fulton chats with Brent Fuson at a Facilities Forum. Lower right: Ryan Kalis, Sunflower principal, talks with parent at site council meeting.

There are a number of different ways to get involved.

To learn more about the Strategic Plan, visit www.smsd.org/about/strategic-plan-2019-overview.

Superintendent Fulton will provide quarterly updates about the Strategic Plan at Board of Education meetings. For date and time information, visit <https://www.smsd.org/about/board-of-education>. Recaps of these meetings are also posted under “Board Meeting Recaps” on the Board of Education page and on district social media platforms.

Follow www.smsd.org or follow the

district on Facebook (@thesmsd) or Twitter (@thesmsd) for updates about the Strategic Planning process.

Family members of current students are encouraged to contact their local school to find out more about how they can provide support.

Members of the community who are interested in providing support can email askthedistrict@smsd.org or consider becoming a school volunteer as a My Volunteer Pal. For more information about joining the My Volunteer Pal Program, visit www.smsd.org/families/volunteer-mvp.



One of the five Facilities Forums hosted at each Shawnee Mission high school.

Scholarship Shawnee Mission Connecting Students with Their Futures



Shawnee Mission Education Foundation presents scholarships to seniors at Shawnee Mission Northwest.

The Shawnee Mission Education Foundation has turned the scholarship process upside down with a new program, Scholarship Shawnee Mission.

In October, Foundation staff and board members visited each Shawnee Mission high school to present more than 1,200 seniors with scholarship offers with a collective cumulative value of \$737,413,126.

“I want to be a business major and was feeling so much anxiety,” Greta Horton, SM East senior said. “Receiving this letter, with all these offers, has been a huge relief. People want me!”

Traditionally, only student-athletes had the opportunity for colleges to extend offers of admission without the individual student having to navigate the application process. This program extends scholarship offers to academically deserving students as well.

“We believe all students should be recruited by colleges and universities, without the financial and psychological barriers implicit in the application process,” said Kimberly Hinkle, Foundation executive director. “This program opens up the recruitment process to academically deserving students and makes them feel wanted and valued!”

According to Susan Leonard, SM East associate principal, the program is already presenting options to students they had not yet envisioned.

“This program is incredible, and the best part is that it allows our students to dream,” she added.



Above: Seniors at Shawnee Mission North receive scholarship offer letters. Bottom: SM North seniors react to the scholarship announcement.

Giving Students New Options

To make this idea a reality, the Foundation hired Program Officer Edward Márquez to launch Scholarship Shawnee Mission in the 2019-2020 school year. As students and parents enrolled for the school year, they received the opportunity to opt-in for this program. By opting in, families agreed to share their students’ academic data with potential post-secondary schools.

Márquez worked closely with the school district’s Information and Communication Technologies department to gather and share the information with more than 27 participating colleges and universities.

“We hope to open doors and provide opportunities that maybe our students didn’t know were available or maybe had not thought about in their graduation plan,” Márquez said. “At the core, we support the district’s Strategic Plan objective to prepare our students for college and career.”

The Foundation announced the new initiative at their

annual Fall Breakfast in September to more than 1,100 attendees. At the event, Hinkle and Márquez presented scholarship offers to two seniors. Shawnee Mission North Senior TJ Oni was presented 27 scholarship offers valued at \$1,039,562, and Shawnee Mission West Senior Jetzel Chavira was presented with 23 offers valued at \$843,742.

The Beginning

As Foundation staff and board members reviewed their programming in 2018, they sought to identify programs where the Foundation could make a significant impact on Shawnee Mission students.

They settled on addressing the need to bring more college opportunities to Shawnee Mission students and hired Márquez. He hit the ground running on July 1, putting various program elements in place so 2020 graduating seniors could be eligible to receive scholarship offers.

The first step was recruiting colleges and universities to participate in the program. When the admission personnel clearly understood the process, the colleges were very receptive to this unique program. The college representatives especially appreciated the opportunity to have a personal interaction with Shawnee Mission students.

Offering a student a scholarship is a much improved “first touch” over the index card many secondary schools use at college fairs, Márquez explained.

With 27 college partners onboard, the next step was notifying families about the opportunity and asking them to opt-in via Skyward, the district’s prek-12 student information system.

Families with students in seventh grade and up are able to opt-in. Once a student has opted-in to the scholarship program, they are included throughout their career in Shawnee Mission.

“The biggest advantage you can give yourself to be considered for opportunities through Scholarship Shawnee Mission is to take the ACT test as a junior,” Márquez advises. Many colleges will not consider a candidate for a scholarship without ACT scores.

All Scholarship Shawnee Mission offers are based on merit, and college partners look primarily at test scores and GPA when determining scholarship offers.

Nina King, SM West senior, attended an information event with her family to find out more about the Scholarship Shawnee Mission program. “I’m excited for this opportunity and excited to pursue a career in nursing,” King said.

The Impact

Mysti Allison-Barnes, SM North senior, received her scholarship offer letter from Superintendent Dr. Mike Fulton when the Foundation visited North to make their announcement.

“I couldn’t believe it”, Allison-Barnes said. It was one of the best moments that ever happened to me.”

“It’s great to know that people are invested in me personally and I get the opportunity to go to college that a lot of people don’t have,” Allison-Barnes exclaimed.

Allison-Barnes plans on going to a college that she and her family can afford. She will major in marketing, with a

minor in business.

“I want to be an entrepreneur and I’m optimistic and excited for the future.”

Mwayi Chipalo, a senior at SM West, talked with her father, who signed her up for Scholarship Shawnee Mission when they enrolled online for her senior year.

“I know what I want to do, and this program helps me with my path and gives me more options,” Chipalo shared. Chipalo wants to study exercise science, on a pre-med track, an eight-year program.

“The financial part has always scared me. It’s a lot of money, and I always thought I would be in a lot of debt. Now it will be easier.”

“For now, I am focused on being successful through my senior year,” Chipalo noted. “This program is amazing; I’ve moved a lot and been in a lot of different school districts and I’ve never seen anything similar to this before.”

Narrowing the Choices

Márquez suggests that students and families look at and consider different factors and intangibles when making their college decision.

“Be honest with yourself when deciding on the best fit or best path for secondary education,” Márquez counsels.

He shared the following questions for students to consider when making a college decision:

- Why do I want to go to college?
- How much does the college cost?
- What are my career interests?
- Do I know what I want to study?
- What are my personal interests?
- Does it matter where my friends go to college?
- Do I want to stay close to home? Far from home?
- What is the financial impact from each scenario?

The Foundation hopes that the scholarship offers will assist with some of the financial factors. Márquez recommends that students invest the time to learn about each school, and be honest in their final analysis.

The Future

The Foundation’s goal is to expand the diversity of the geography, size, and types of postsecondary schools in the program. Eventually, The Foundation hopes the program will have a national presence and colleges from across the United States will be competing for Shawnee Mission students, Hinkle said. The Foundation also plans to include technical and trade schools and apprenticeship programs.

“One of our goals includes expanding the program to include scholarship offers for juniors as well as seniors,” Márquez shared.

“We want to support every student with a personalized path when they graduate,” Hinkle said. I’m really so excited for the future. I hope every scholarship recipient understands how much we believe in them and how much these colleges and universities want them.”



Shawnee Mission School District Aquatic Center Opens for 2019-2020 Swim Season

This year, Shawnee Mission School District swim and dive teams will be making a splash in a brand new, state-of-art Aquatic Center. The Shawnee Mission School District (SMSD) Aquatic Center will open in December 2019. The Aquatic Center is a partnership between the school district, the City of Lenexa, and Johnson County Park and Recreation District, allowing the facility to serve students along with the entire community.

Johnson County Park and Recreation District (JPCRD) will manage the center and offer swim lessons along with open hours for the public.

“This center promises to be a hub for Learn-to-Swim, Lap Swimming, Master’s and Water Polo programs as well as a state-of-the art venue for the competitive swim/dive world, including the Shawnee Mission teams and local U.S.A. swim clubs,” according to Rhonda Pollard, JPCRD superintendent of recreation.

“There’s certainly a positive buzz in our local swim community concerning this amazing aquatic center and we’re honored to be part of the excitement.”

The SMSD Aquatic Center was constructed as part of a \$223 million bond issue overwhelmingly approved by voters in 2015. Joan Leavens served on the Board of Education when the decision was made to build the Aquatic Center.

“The development of the new Lenexa City Center and the



interest of JPCRD to share management of the Aquatic Center created a perfect opportunity to build a world-class facility that could meet multiple community needs.” Leavens noted.

“It was hoped the continued collaboration would result in programming to benefit students and community members alike. That vision is coming true.”

One of the goals for the design was for it to fit into the other development in Lenexa City Center.

“Our desire was to create an open building that would connect the inside to the outside, bringing in natural light while controlling glare,” said Duane Cash, Senior Associate, ACI Boland Architects.

“The interior structure is expressed directly to the exterior form, which creates a sense of movement, to resemble the movement of water.”

Aquatic Center Features and Facts

The SMSD Aquatic Center is the largest pool in Johnson County and includes the following:

A 50-meter Olympic-sized pool for competitive swim meets featuring:

- A 16-foot diving well, with a 3-meter board and a 1-meter board.
- The ability to be used for competition, water polo, water basketball, swimming lessons and more.

A 25- yard pool featuring:

- A flexible portion that can adjust the depth from 0 to 7-ft. deep, providing pool access for multiple ages and abilities.
- Ability to be used for warm-up, cool-down, swimming lessons, water aerobics, and more.

The pool area features a video board that can be used as a secondary scoreboard and for live view and playback. There is a state-of-the-art timing system and scoreboard system. The Aquatic Center is equipped with a modern loudspeaker system designed with flexible zoning and even coverage, designed to function within the challenging acoustic environment of an aquatic facility.

“The new natatorium will give our SMSD community an opportunity to utilize a facility that maintains standards above and beyond most venues,” Richard Kramer, Athletics and Activities Director said.

“In addition, our swim and dive teams will have the chance to practice and compete at a site that will attract national events, which will help prepare them for competitive opportunities in the future.”

The Spectator Experience

Spectator comfort was a high priority in the design of the facility. The seating in the bleachers will accommodate at least 1,000 spectators, including 216 of those with chair-back seats.

There is also a mezzanine for race spectators which will accommodate 150 to 200 people behind glass in a climate-controlled space.

Special “high volume, low velocity” (HVLS) fans are provided over the spectator seating area to create a cooler, more comfortable environment for the spectators.

The natatorium air temperature will be maintained at 84°F, but the HVLS fans will create a ‘perceived cooling effect’ for the spectators,

making it feel more like 77°F to 78°F. This technique allows the spectators to be more comfortable while maintaining the seating area in direct communication with

the natatorium (i.e. not be divided by a glass barrier), thus, enhancing the overall fan experience at the facility. The air in the natatorium is exchanged every nine to ten minutes, creating a healthy environment for the swimmers and spectators.

The competition swimming pool audio system features local inputs for MP3 connections, and public address announcing via both hard-wired and wireless microphones. In addition to the loudspeaker system, the facility also has a dedicated Assistive Listening System provided throughout the facility coverage areas for the hearing impaired, insuring that events can be enjoyed by all patrons.

Additional amenities include a concession stand with dedicated seating in front, and a merchandising area under the grand staircase in the lobby, which is along the southern edge of the building, separate from the pool deck. The building is equipped with a wet classroom and a hospitality space. There is a coaches’ room, classrooms, and two timing rooms with the ability to move timing to the pool deck.

Environmentally responsible and sustainable design was also incorporated to best utilize the energy consumption of the natatorium HVAC systems. Excess heat from the moisture removal process is recycled to warm both the competition and instructional pools, before the gas-fired pool water boilers are activated.

Joan Leavens now serves as the SMSD Coordinator of Sustainability and Community Engagement. “Shawnee Mission has a strong commitment to building sustainable learning environments,” she said, “which serve the community and improve health and well-being.”

“The Aquatic Center continues that commitment to use resources responsibly through its simple yet inspiring design and highly efficient heat recovery system,” Leavens said.

“The Aquatic Center will lead to increased support for our swim and dive programs, becoming a destination for larger swim competitions,” Wiley Wright, Boys Swim and Dive coach from Shawnee Mission East noted. “Our athletes will be better prepared to perform at the state level.”

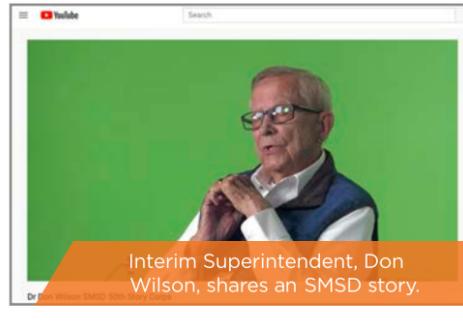
The 2019-2020 Boys Swim and Dive season begins in December and SMSD teams will host their meets at the SMSD Aquatic Center. ♦



50 Years of Excellence Celebration Continues for the Shawnee Mission School District



Shawnee Mission Education Foundation, Board Member Laura McConwell shares SMSD memories.



Interim Superintendent, Don Wilson, shares an SMSD story.

In September, the Shawnee Mission School District community kicked off the district's 50th

anniversary, by celebrating the legacy of excellence at the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation Fall Breakfast. The event included 400 students and more than 1,100 guests and provided an opportunity to recognize the contributions of numerous community members, while highlighting how the district continues to challenge today's learners and inspire tomorrow's leaders.

Reaching the 50-year milestone provides an opportunity both to reflect and look back on the rich history of Shawnee

Mission Schools, as well as to look forward and celebrate. The celebration continues on the school district's website throughout the year with SMSD Story Corps. Many SMSD educators, staff members, alumni, retirees, parents, students and community members have shared their cherished stories and unforgettable memories. If you have a memory you would like to share, we encourage you to reach out to adcommun@smsd.org to schedule a time to share your story at the Center for Academic Achievement (CAA).

In January, the celebration continues with an Open House event on January 22, 2020. "Friends & Food" will be held at the CAA (see page 4).

In January 1969, the Kansas Legislature passed Senate Bill Number 58 "providing for the establishment of one unified school district to include all of the territory of any rural high school district in which there are located at least two cities of the first class."

As a result of SB 58, effective July 1, 1969, the 12 elementary school districts and the Shawnee Mission High School District were unified into the present Shawnee Mission School District #512. As USD 512, SMSD is the last unified school district in Kansas. ♦

Signature Programs Informational Summit

The Center for Academic Achievement will host an informational summit open to all students and parents. Prospective students will learn more about the Signature Programs:

- » Animation & Game Design
- » Biotechnology
- » Culinary Arts & Hospitality
- » Engineering - Project Lead the Way
- » Medical Health Science
- » Project Blue Eagle
 - » EMS
 - » Fire Science
 - » Law Enforcement

SAVE THE DATE

January 21, 2020
5:30 - 8 p.m.
8200 W. 71st Street
Overland Park, KS 66204

For more information about Signature Programs, visit the CAA website <https://caa.smsd.org>.



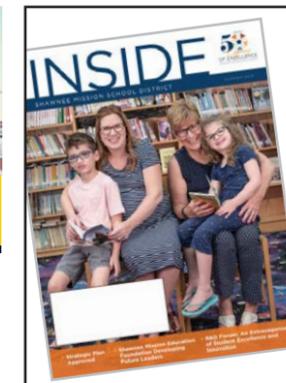
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- The **college sports experience**, with 21 varsity sports, including esports

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2020 Season Auditions!
FEB 22 8am-4pm
FEB 23 Noon-4pm

13 MAR 20 - APR 5	CINDERELLA JUNE 5-13	ALL SHOOK UP JUNE 19-27	BIG RIVER JULY 3-11
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Exhibition opens **NOV. 12!**

DREAMING of a RETRO XMAS

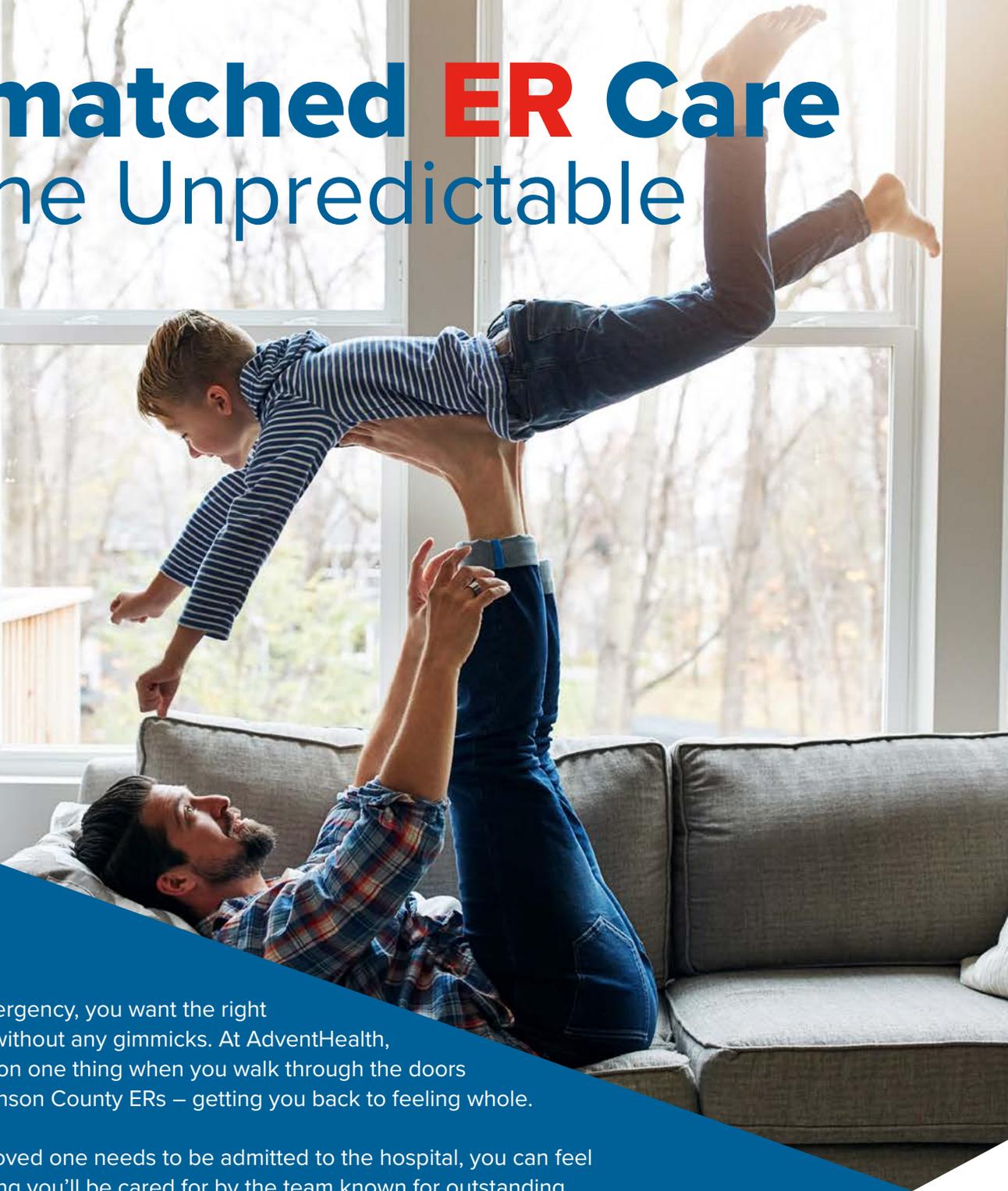


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Unmatched **ER** Care for the Unpredictable



In a medical emergency, you want the right treatment, fast, without any gimmicks. At AdventHealth, we are focused on one thing when you walk through the doors of our three Johnson County ERs – getting you back to feeling whole.

And if you or a loved one needs to be admitted to the hospital, you can feel confident knowing you'll be cared for by the team known for outstanding quality and compassion, along with Kansas City's highest patient satisfaction.

So instead of feeling worried or anxious about the possibility of a medical emergency, feel secure knowing an AdventHealth ER is nearby.

[AdventHealthKC.com/ER](https://www.adventhealthkc.com/ER)

AdventHealth Shawnee Mission ER
9100 W. 74th Street | 913-676-2218

AdventHealth Lenexa ER
23401 Prairie Star Parkway | 913-676-8501

AdventHealth South Overland Park ER
7820 W. 165th Street | 913-373-1100

Hospital departments of
AdventHealth Shawnee Mission


Advent Health
Emergency

Formerly Shawnee Mission Health