

Shawnee Mission South High School

Overland Park, KS



We're pleased to be recognized as an Apple Distinguished School for 2022-2025 for our implementation of Apple Technology to personalize student experiences.



Today

It is a spring afternoon in April, and students are presenting a project pitch to business leaders that they believe will make downtown Overland Park, KS more appealing for Gen-Z. Just down the hall, students in video productions are editing film for an upcoming production for KSMS. In another class, students are connecting with pen-pals from another country through video chat. These few examples are just a snapshot of the normal experiences of students at Shawnee Mission South. Whether they are creating student publications or are proposing solutions to community business partners, the use of various Apple devices immerses students in learning experiences that prove impossible without these tools. As evidenced by the included work samples, teachers at Shawnee Mission South ensure that students are receiving personalized learning that engages them in experiences that provide the foundational skills for success in their future endeavors.



TEACHING AND LEARNING

Students engage in learning with their Apple devices daily. Teachers implement inquiry or project-based instruction that is impossible without these devices. Furthermore, teachers manage learning through Canvas, which each student accesses from their devices.



SM South Heritage Editor-in-Chief presenting the yearbook cover that was created on an iPad Pro with the Adobe Illustrator app.



SOUTH STAFF

South teachers include general education, P.E., fine arts, performing arts, career and tech Ed, industrial tech, special education, counseling, administration, an instructional coach, and numerous classified staff members.



Demographics

High School

Public

Grades 9-12

1,600 Students

119 Faculty



Apple Products and Services

1:1 MacBook Air devices for students.

MacBook Air and iPad devices for teachers.

iPad for classified staff members.

Apple TV in classrooms.

Vision

Our building vision aligns with the [Shawnee Mission School District's Strategic](#) plan that was adopted in 2020. The mission of this strategic plan promises that, by engaging our community and Building Leadership



Team in the work, each student will have a personalized learning plan that ensures their future through the development of skills and attributes that are critical to life success. With the implementation of our 1:1 MacBook initiative, the Canvas Learning Management System, and

the development of individual plans of study (IPS), teachers are facilitating classrooms where students are engaged in personalized learning. Through a variety of learning opportunities, students at Shawnee Mission South are developing the necessary interpersonal skills needed as an engaged and empathetic member of the local and global community. In all, our students are connecting within and beyond their classrooms in ways that prove impossible without their daily access to their Apple devices.



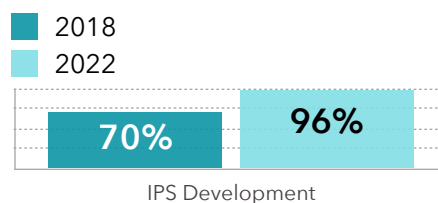
Learning

From learning the functionality of [interior design](#) tools for client-based projects, to [raising awareness about social issues](#), Shawnee Mission South students are excelling with their usage of their Apple devices in ways that personalize their learning experiences. Video chat allows students in a Spanish class to virtually connect with their Penpals in Spain. Students therefore establish relationships with their penpals and hold authentic conversations. Students in the Shawnee Mission South Video Productions class, KSMS, create and collaborate on video projects, including their [Raider Report](#), a series of [celebrating culture at South](#), and a series of [hype videos](#) for each student organization. These videos are shared with the school community each month. Students involved in Yearbook or Newspaper utilize their Apple devices for the purpose of learning and mastering all the skills necessary for the majority of roles in the fields of communications and journalism. These students are consistently create and administer [digital products](#) for an authentic audience. Students engage in authentic learning in their core classes, as well. For example, 9th and 10th grade students implemented a community project in their English classes. For this project, students collaboratively created digital surveys and [presentations](#) for the Director of downtown Overland Park. With this project, students researched demographic information about the area and employees working at establishments downtown. Lastly, students presented their findings and actions that they believe downtown Overland Park should take to make the area more appealing for Generation Z, including the importance of internships for high school students.



Success

At South, student success is measured through the improvement of student learning outcomes and the reinforcement of a positive culture where all students feel valued and have a sense of belonging. Each week, Professional Learning Communities meet for the purpose of evaluating formative assessment data that is tied to priority standards. Teachers then develop a data-informed solution that is based on determining how to respond with instruction that supports students that did not meet the learning target(s), and enriches those that exceeded the learning target(s). Technology supports this work because teachers examine how students are progressing towards learning goals through web-based programs like Edulastic and Canvas quizzes. Furthermore, students use their devices to create an IPS through the web-based program, Xello. Due to the accessibility created by the 1:1 initiative, students can access their IPS beyond the classroom, and teachers can track the data in real time. Therefore, nearly every student at Shawnee Mission South has developed an IPS since 2018.



➔ What's next

Looking towards the future, Shawnee Mission South is moving forward with personalizing student learning and maximizing their voices in the classroom. Our future goals include the use of inquiry-based instruction, thus engaging more students in learning that requires them to set goals, ask questions, collect data, and report findings. One example of this includes the expansion of the Real World Learning project for all 9th and 10th grade students in English Language Arts. Furthermore, our social studies courses will further implement inquiry-based learning through historical inquiry in all history courses. This will require students to develop arguments for complex historical questions after they evaluate evidence from multiple primary source documents. With the use of Apple devices, Shawnee Mission South teachers will create learning experiences where students curate information, collaborate with classmates, connect with the wider community, and communicate learnings with an authentic audience in ways proven impossible without the devices.

Links

- [Celebrating South Series](#)
- [KSMS YouTube Channel](#)
- [Digital Design- Adobe Illustrator](#)
- [Spanish Class Pen Pals from Spain](#)
- [ELA Real World Learning Project](#)
- [Spanish Film Festival Projects](#)
- [Flipgrid Book Talks](#)
- [The Patriot](#)
- [Interior Design Project](#)