

Spring 2021

Coming Up!

Orchestra Concert May 18th – 8 p.m.

Track and Field

May 10-SPS All City at Parkview 10:00 a.m.

May 11-Ozark Conference at Lebanon 10:30 a.m.

**Promotion Ceremonies:
May 26th for 6th and 7th
grades. May 27th for
8th grade.**

Connect with us:

Webpage: <https://www.sps.org/jarrett>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Jarrett.SPS/>

Twitter: @JarrettTrojans

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The New Jarrett Broadcaster

Dr. Kirk Slater, Principal



I am fervently longing for a time when masks are only for bank robbers, cowboys, and surgeons. I will be glad when we are back to some sense of normalcy. The pandemic has truly shaped our educational experience. However, most importantly, it has taught us how special friends, family, and loved ones can be. As a principal I am proud of our staff, parents, and students for graciously navigating these uncharted waters. Together, as a team, we have truly embraced the old adage of making lemonade out of lemons. I am proud to be a part of this Jarrett family!!

Summer is only a moment away, but the work is still before us. Our students are in the midst of state and diagnostic testing and we continue to immerse them in learning that is engaging, relevant, & personal on a daily basis. With the lion share of my administrative experience coming from the high school level, I am in awe of the demands placed upon students at the middle school level at the closing of a given school year. The academic demands, daily routines disrupted due to mandated testing, the demands of testing itself, & even virtual learning; in other words, middle school is not for cowards. The Jarrett team, both faculty and students, are working hard to finish the year strong.

As this year draws to a close, we say good-bye to those who will be leaving our Jarrett family - Traci Countryman, 6th grade Science; Ronda Pennington, 7th grade Math; Karen Martin, Librarian; Marsha Pestana, Custodian; Kara Davis, 7th/8th grade counselor; Alicia Foster, Nurse; Jeremy Sullivan, Learning Specialist; & all our 8th graders, soon to be 9th graders. Whether it be retirement, embarking upon a new adventure, or simply moving on to high school, we will miss these individuals greatly. Once a Jarrett Trojan, always a Jarrett Trojan.

In closing, I would like to again share how proud I am of our students. They have simply persevered and stayed the course. They have done it the Jarrett Way and they haven't looked back. They have done what is right, all day, and on purpose; they have respected one another, by first respecting themselves; and they have identified opportunities to build each other up by saying positive things about one another!! It's the Jarrett Way!!

Over the summer, do not forget to follow Jarrett on Twitter, stay abreast of important updates on the Remind App, and peruse the Jarrett website for extra & co-curricular activities on our Google calendar. It is truly a privilege to partner with the Jarrett community by investing in the lives of our future leaders. I am reminded daily, it's all about TEAM...Together, Everyone, Accomplishes, More.

Sincerely,

The New Jarrett Broadcaster

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Battle of the Books Team—by Mrs. Timm



Calling All Readers!

If you love to read the Truman Award nominee books, then you should know all about Battle of the Books. It's a district-wide competition, which means that every middle school in Springfield Public Schools puts together a team of students to read all of the 12 Truman Award nominees to compete against each other in a contest to see which team knows the most about the books. It happens quickly! This year, teams answered 240 questions in two fast-paced forty-minute rounds.

This year's team from Jarrett included 7th graders DJ Knowlton and Jessica West, as well as 6th graders Aubrey Bennet and Anna Gillham. They met weekly to talk about the books, share notes, and quiz each other. There were also two practice rounds where they got to test themselves and see what the real competition would look like.

DJ enjoyed the science fiction genre the most. "I read *Ghost Boys*, *City of Ghosts*, *Skyward*, *Fire and Heist*, *Deepwater* and *Nightbooks*, but my favorite was probably *Skyward*," said DJ. "I just really liked the story, and it's a very addicting book. I just wanted to keep reading."

Sixth-grader Anna Gillham hadn't read as many titles as DJ, but she loved *Not If I Save You First*. It was one of the first novels she felt like

she had truly studied. "Battle of the Books helped me a lot with my reading," said Anna. "I used to be really bad at comprehending books, but through all this, I learned that just a little bit of research and context can help me really get into a book." As if the competition itself wasn't exciting enough, students were thrilled to be able to meet Antony John, author of *Mascot*, via Zoom. They were even able to ask him questions! Jessica West asked him about his favorite book as a child, and everyone was excited that it was *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. He remembered reading it, just like many of us, in his middle school English class! Everyone had a great time this year with Battle of the Books, and we can't wait to do it again next year! If you are interested in being a part of the team, start reading the 2021-22 Truman Award nominees, available now in the Jarrett Library!

Scholar Bowl Team by Luca Ryder



The Scholar Bowl season ended in March and the Jarrett team did very well! Scholar Bowl is an after school activity where you answer many different types of trivia questions for points. Each question that's answered correctly earns your team 10 points, there are 10 questions asked per round and if someone gets the answer right then there are

3 bonus questions. Questions range from geography and history to movies and books, anything can get thrown at you so you need to know a

lot of random trivia to do very well. There are three rounds per tournament and you go up against another school. In the first tournament, the Jarrett team scored at least 90 points for the first round! The second tournament went even better with the Jarrett team scoring a whopping 140 points in

one round! The third tournament went just as well! All of the members have said that Scholar Bowl is a fun and entertaining after-school activity. Scholar Bowl is coached by 8th-grade science teacher, Ms. Rezniceck, one of the best teachers in school.

Team members included: Ezra Gillham, Steven Massey, Oliver Rock and Luca Ryder. In the end, Scholar Bowl was very fun and I encourage everyone who is thinking about doing it next year to do it.

The History of Jarrett Middle School/Jarrett Junior High

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The New Jarrett Middle School: Coming in 2022



Artist rendering of the new Jarrett which is projected to cost \$41.5 million dollars and have as many as 725 students.

Two years from now it is projected that the new Jarrett Middle School will be open. It is the final project on the original plan for the \$168 million bond to get started. The new Jarrett will be constructed on a 10-acre campus at 906 W. Portland Ave. The current Portland Elementary building has been demolished to make way for the new Jarrett. Accessibility and security will be improved, there will be additional outside space for extracurricular activities and athletic events, and the gym will double as a "safe room."



**To be a
successful
Trojan**

*Being a Trojan is
taking responsibility
for your own actions
and doing the right
thing despite what
others think.
That might be
standing up for a
friend or doing your
best when faced with
difficult tasks.*

100 Years Old!

Jarrett Junior High was built in 1921-1923. 100 years ago! According to the Historical Postcards of Springfield Missouri:

The school was named for J.H. Jarrett, member of the Springfield Board of Education from 1900 to 1915. The first principal of the school was Mr. M.R. Rice. Some interesting facts about Jarrett mentioned in the

Springfield Leader and Press "Know Your Schools" column in 1954 were that every year Jarrett produced a student operetta and the school newspaper was called *The Broadcaster*.

Jarrett Junior High School became Jarrett Middle School in 1994, along with the other Springfield junior high schools, except for

Pleasant View, which had begun a pilot middle school program in 1991.

Jarrett currently has about 500 students, with 60 of them virtual students because of the Corona Virus 2019. The new school is projected to house 750 students.



Jarrett Junior High around 1940



Jarrett Middle School—projected 2022

From the Library—Mrs. Martin

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2021-22 Truman Readers Award



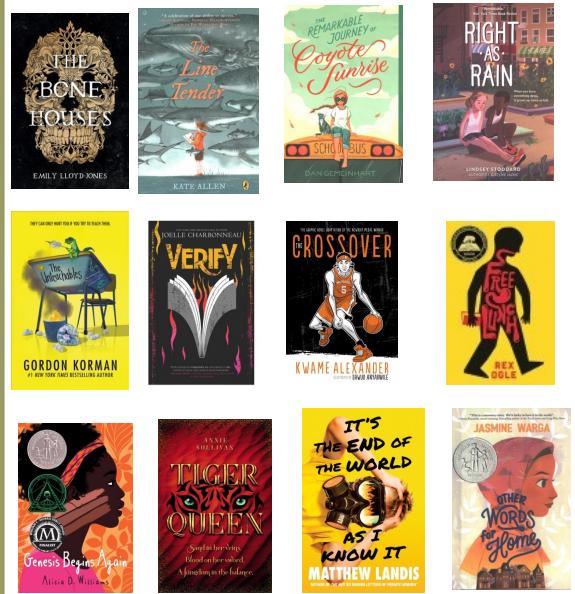
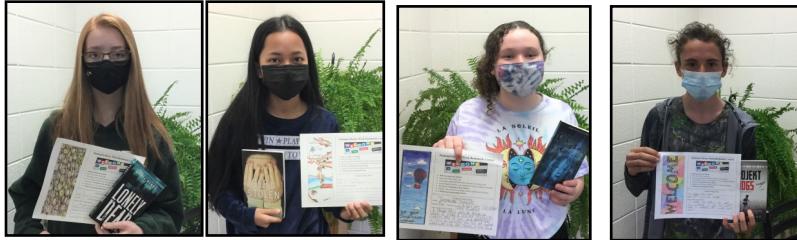
Spring 2021!

What a year this has been from Spring 2020 to now. Each quarter has brought new challenges and new opportunities. I'm happy to be part of a group of teachers and students who have faced each hurdle with as much humor and stamina as they could muster! I'm retiring and leaving the Jarrett Library in the hands of a gifted and talented teacher, Mrs. Timm, who will be a wonderful librarian.

You can see the mountains behind me in the photo.

That's where you will find me this July and August, hiking in beautiful Rocky Mountain National Park with my son, his wife and my two precious grandsons! I hope to get to Salt Lake City in September to spend time with my youngest son and his wife and perhaps finally get to visit Bryce and Zion National Parks. I've never seen the Grand Canyon, either. Maybe that will be part of my Fall travels!

In the meantime, I hope you all continue to read because reading can truly take you places. I wish you all the best. Mrs. Martin



These are the newest Truman Readers Award Nominees for 2021-2022! Remember, if you read four of these before next February, you will get to vote for your favorite. Now is a great time to start reading them!

National Library Week Bookmark Winners!

From Left to Right:

Piper Crumbaugh: 1st place: Piper explains: The eyes are looking in different directions and reading different stories. The eyes are also different shapes and sizes to show that we accept diversity.

Keisha Jasmine: 2nd place: She thought it might be alright to draw a scene where a reader can enjoy reading peacefully.

Jazmeine Jenkins and William Gerstner: Tied for 3rd place!



1st Artist: Piper Crumbaugh



2nd Artist: Keisha Jasmine



3rd Artist: Jazmeine Jenkins



3rd Artist: William Gerstner

It is important in this challenging year that we recognize students who were especially kind, competent and focused on being the best student and the best person they could. Their teachers chose the following:

6th Grade Standout Students



Kaden Schell always has work completed and turned in on time, he participates and critically thinks in science, he volunteers to help his teachers and others, he is a great citizen and he works hard to learn and to help others learn.



Hannah Shepard's teachers report that she is a wonderful 6th grader and is always willing to lend a hand, whether it is to another student or to help her teachers. She is always positive and works hard in class to get her work done to a high level. The classes she is in are better because she is in there.



Jackson Parsons is quick to bring a funny, light-hearted outlook to any problem that stands in his way. Jackson is admired for his ability to overcome any problem he faces. His critical thinking skills always have him pushing himself AND others to higher levels of analysis.

7th Grade Standout Students



Keisha Jasmine is a dedicated learner. She is passionate about her quest for knowledge and enjoys doing well on her daily assignments.

No matter the subject, Keisha shows mastery in all depths of knowledge and is a devoted student at Jarrett.

Nyla Graves works hard in and outside of the classroom. A multi-sport athlete, Nyla strives for excellence in many different areas at Jarrett. She is a positive, caring, and kind individual who is an excellent ambassador of our school!



Zain Knox is a great learner and an awesome student to have in class. He is a bright spot in class everyday and is consistent with his work and with his work ethic.



Student Council Leaders 2021-22

Nyla Graves is the newly elected president of Student Council. Vice president is Toran Owens, secretary is Sara Tubbs and treasurer is Jaxon Bermudez. In addition, there is a Leadership Team composed of Taylor Goebel, Sydney Smith, Shannon Lovelace and Dixie Pope. Congratulations to all of these students.

Students from left to right: Jaxon, Sara, Toran and Nyla



Ms. Countryman —Another “best” begins!

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Ms. Countryman, 6th grade science

Abraham Lincoln once said, “I do the very best I know how;

the very best I can, and I will mean to keep on doing so until the end.” I live by these words.

When I was a child, I loved to explore the outdoors. I was curious and had lots of questions about our world. It was in these early years I discovered my passion for science. I was going to be an archaeologist.

As an adult searching for a career, I reflected on my past experiences and the passionate, quality teachers (including my parents) who were willing to invest in my young life. I, too, wanted to make a difference in a crucial time in a student’s life. My

teaching career began. I have been passionate about teaching science for almost 25 years. The strong relationships, the “ah ha” moments, and former students who are now in science careers of their own are just some of the “bests” of an exhausting but rewarding career.

Remember - what you do in your young life and the determination you possess does make a difference in who you become in the future. Thank you Rountree and Jarrett families for allowing me to be a part of the best. This chapter of my life has come to “the end” but another “best” begins.

Covid— by Grace Simmons, 6th Grader

My 6th grade year is not at all what I thought it would be. With the pandemic and other crises of 2020, everything was very different and not what I expected in the slightest. Needless to say, despite the unfamiliarity and challenges, I find that it’s been one of the best years of school yet.

Firstly, I was able to join band, and I realized how much fun music is. And because I’ve joined band, I’ve also met and been able to re-connect with some wonderful people. The first name that comes to mind is one of my closest friends, who shall remain unnamed (for the sake of conserving her identity). She’s been an incredible help this year, as have many others.

Secondly, my teachers have been a big help. A

name on the top of my list is my ELA teacher, Mrs. Pearl. I can’t even begin to thank her enough. She’s done so much to help me, including, but not limited to: listening to my problems/rambles, providing me moral support, and answering my questions clearly.

Thirdly, even though we had to wear masks, my friends and I were able to connect. Be it through Zoom calls or in-person conversations, most of us were able to forge new bonds.

There are many more things that have made this year so good for me, but to spare time (and my word count), I’ll wrap it up here. In short, thank you to everyone at Jarrett for making my year as good as it was.

End-of-the-Year Carnival

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Jarrett held an End-of-the-Year Carnival this year! The carnival was run by the Related Arts team and was an incentive for students to do their best during MAP testing. Students were able to earn tickets for being on time, having a charged device, good behavior and for bringing something to work on following their testing (like a book!) On the day of the carnival students received their tickets. The tickets were then redeemed for games and prizes (dunk tank, ice cream, noodle toss, corn hole, mask tie dying, cake

walks, grand prize field trips, etc.) For example: if you wanted to tie dye a mask, you had to pay 4 tickets! If you wanted to try to dunk Dr. Slater in the dunk tank, you had to pay 1 ticket for two throws! Those with the most tickets, had the most opportunities for fun!

This was
one of
the
grand
prizes!



SPORTS PAGE —

Track and Field by Coach Rezincek



This year we were all so excited to start our Track and Field season because we missed it so much last year. This group of 7th and 8th graders have learned so much this year and have come so far since our first day of practice. Looking back, it's almost comical to think that we only had 4 practices last year. You would've never guessed. As coaches, we always enjoy seeing kids do what they do best out on the track, working towards the finish, and fighting to improve. As always, we are looking forward to next year to see our 7th graders break their current personal records and see our 8th graders around at Parkview!

Track and Field Coach McBrayer



Track and Field has been quite different in the era of COVID-19; however, things are business as usual for the seventh and eighth grade boys teams. Jarrett has always had fast, strong and disciplined athletes in Track and Field, and 2021 is no different. Our eighth grade boys have consistently finished in the top three for local meets and top ten for out of area

invitationals. Tyler Brantley has been a standout for the team, showcasing his speed and jumping abilities at every opportunity and finishing among the top in each of his events. Ezekiel Neil, Noah Barks, Gavin Stevenson-Compton, and others have also contributed to our team's overall success.

Although the seventh grade team is down in numbers this year, they have not let that stop them from having success this season. Sean Demster, Arik Koschak, and D'Shun Wright have added to our teams success by working hard and being great team members all season. Notable standouts Khasye Highley, Jermaine Townsend, and Central-middler Isaiah Hampton have aided in the seventh grade team's success as well. Each athlete has endured and prospered throughout the season and we are excited to see just how successful this team can be in the future. It's been a difficult season, but the athletes have done an amazing job keeping a positive mindset, and with the All-City and Ozarks Conference Meets coming up in May, we are confident that we will see a lot of Jarrett Trojans at the winners podium.



"Back-to-Back City Champions. What else can describe this team? What an accomplishment these young men achieved. There was no doubt when the season started that the bullseye was firmly on the backs of these talented young men. Even with everyone out to knock off the defending city champions, no one came close to challenging these guys. Eli Govan took his game to a whole other level that included multiple in-game dunks; Rue Wells, McCaskill, and others providing outside buckets. From top to bottom, this group could do it all. With powerful rebounds and put-backs from Christian Cordova to a strong supporting cast from Zac Cannon and others, this group will be a force to be reckoned with in years to come. Everyone involved can carry with them that they were a part of a special team that the city of Springfield won't see very often." **Written by Coach Drybread**

Trojans "N Training Summer Basketball Camp

June 7-June 10 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. students can join the free basketball camp for boys and girls. It's open to grades 4,5,6 and 7 and will work on fundamental skills in the game of basketball.

It is a free camp but students do need to RSVP by May 27th, the last day of school, to Coach McBryer.

The camp will be held at Jarrett Middle School and will focus on basic fundaments skills to advanced skills in the areas of shooting, dribbling, passing, defense, and sportsmanship.

Don't forget: RSVP to Coach McBryer by May 27th, 2021!

7th grade Basketball by Coach Drybread

"If you had to use one word to describe this year's 7th grade boys basketball team, that word would probably be 'team'. This team was more than wins and losses. Placing 3rd in a very competitive city is a great accomplishment but it didn't define what this team was about. This group of boys showed many that it wasn't always about who scored or who got all the attention. This group supported each other, cheered each other on, and found ways to be great teammates. Isaiah Hampton, Jermaine Townshend, Khasye Highley, Kain McCaskill, D'Shun Wright, Anthony Flavin, Zain Knox, Willie Otto, Roman Patton, Vic Casper, and Hunter Elliot formed a bond that other teams wished they had. This team had players who have played for years and others this was their first time playing competitively. If you watched these boys all season, you would have seen some tremendous growth. The love of basketball and the love for each other was very clear with this group. The only limit they have are the limits they put on themselves. The future is bright with this group."



Jarrett has many students whose creative talents are just beginning to be noticed. The art work here depicts the progress of 8th grader, Piper Crumbaugh, as she works toward her finished masterpiece.



Piper Crumbaugh, 2021

Art Classes during a Pandemic! Piper Crumbaugh



When Covid-19 first hit it didn't feel real at all, so I didn't feel the need to take online

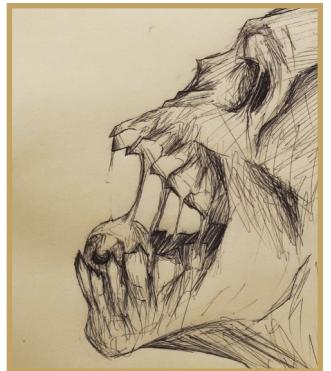
school seriously. Art class was one of the only classes I looked forward to- I can't speak for other students, but I think that Mrs. Lux did a good job online. The only problems were the materials, you had to pick them up from school and the communication about it was a little mixed up. But even with all of that, Mrs. Lux still managed to make lessons online seem livelier.

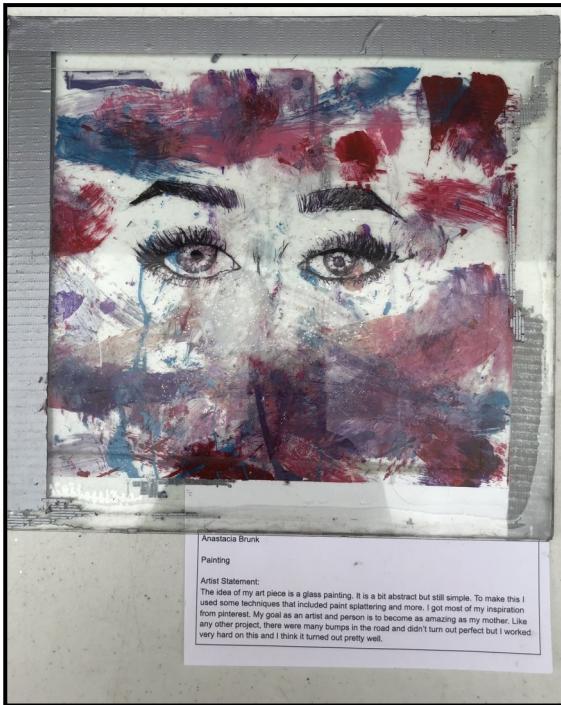
Now that I'm back in person, art

class is 10X more fun. In seated art class, it's like a happy place. The hands on activities just aren't the same if there isn't some random kid in the corner complaining about it, being inside of the classroom feels homey. So far this year, art class has been enjoyable. Although there was a shortage of materials, it was ok because 99% of the time you have to get creative and improvise when making art. From the time period I'm writing now, we are in a clay unit. It's fun to see other kids do different things than you do, being online -alone- just wasn't the same. I thank Mrs. Lux

for making this year different (in a good way of course), and I hope the next 8th graders do the same. I'll miss being in Jarrett art class once I go on to high school, and I definitely won't forget the memories I made and the people I met. In conclusion,

**Mrs.
Lux's
art
class
is
the
best.**





Mrs. Lux works hard all year in order to provide Jarrett students an opportunity to display their creative talents. She was determined that a pandemic was not going to stop the show. We all know that "the show must go on!"

Show here are just a few pieces of art created by our students!



Art Show during a Pandemic!



A special thank you goes to Ms. Silver for arranging some wonderful entertainment during the art show! It's great when teachers work together for the benefit of our students!

