

BACK TO SCHOOL 2023

Harmony Project KC offers free music instruction to students in the Northeast. PAGE 9

Ryogoku is a private, all-boys middle and high school that combines soccer and academics. PAGE 8

Learn gardening, cooking, canning, fermenting and art at the Agape Grow Education Center for children, teens and adults. PAGE 16



For a list of exam practice booklets that can help you prepare you for college, read Erin William's letter to upper classmen. PAGE 5

Northeast Alumni support food pantry and clothing closet. PAGE 17



Padres de Familia y Cuidadores

CONOZCAN SUS DERECHOS EDUCATIVOS



Derecho al **acceso lingüístico**: usted tiene el derecho a recibir comunicación en su idioma de preferencia. Esto incluye comunicaciones escritas (traducción) y habladas (interpretación) en juntas y eventos en la escuela de su hijo/a.

(Título 6, Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964)

Derecho a **participar y recibir notificación**: todas las instituciones académicas públicas están obligadas a implementar programas, actividades y procedimientos para la participación de los padres en programas relacionados con la escuela, de manera accesible y auténtica.

(Título 1, Artículo 1118)

Acceso a información académica y disciplinaria de su hijo/a: tiene el derecho a tener acceso a expedientes (récores) educativos, a modificar el récord educativo, y a la privacidad acerca de los récores de su hijo/a. La institución no puede compartir información acerca de su hijo/a sin el consentimiento de los padres de familia/tutores.

*(Ley de Derechos Educativos y Privacidad Familiar o "FERPA"
20 U.S.C. §1232g ; 34 CFR Parte 99)*

QUIÉNES SOMOS

Revolución Educativa es la organización principal de abogacía educativa en Missouri y Kansas que defiende los intereses de las familias latinas, estudiantes y educadores. Nuestra misión es construir un poder colectivo de manera sustentable para la comunidad latina.

2203 Lexington Ave Kansas
City, MO 64124

www.revedkc.org

Padres de Familia y Cuidadores

CONSEJOS PARA INVOLUCRARSE EN LA EDUCACIÓN DE SU HIJO/A



1. **Notifique a la escuela de su idioma de preferencia.** Aunque su hijo/a hable inglés a un buen nivel, usted como padre de familia debe recibir información en su idioma de preferencia.
2. **Preséntese directamente con el maestro/a** al principio del año escolar. Esto puede ser en persona durante el evento de "regreso a clases" - ¡asegúrese de tener información sobre esa fecha! Comparta con el maestro/a un poco acerca de su hijo/a, y **pregunte cuál es la mejor forma de comunicarse** con él/ella durante el resto del año.
3. **Llame para avisar que su hijo/a estará ausente.** Por ley estatal, los alumnos tienen que asistir a clases. Si hay más de 7 ausencias, el distrito escolar puede mandar su caso a la corte. Si no asiste a la fecha de corte, el condado puede emitir una orden de arresto para los padres de familia/tutores.
4. Imprima o **pida una copia de la Guía de Alumnos/Guía de Familias** al principio del año. Por ley, la escuela debe tenerlo por escrito en español. Revise la guía con su hijo/a, y guárdela como referencia cuando tenga preguntas acerca de las reglas y políticas.
5. **Asista a todas las conferencias de padres/maestros.** No olvide recordarle a la escuela que requiere interpretación (acceso lingüístico) para participar en las conferencias. Esto es un derecho civil protegido por la ley federal - ¡pida un intérprete calificado!
6. Pregunte a la escuela si tienen una organización/comité de padres. **Involúcrese en los grupos de padres de familia** en su comunidad escolar, estas conexiones son indispensables para el éxito escolar de su hijo/a.

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Welcome Back!



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Whittier Elementary
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(816) 418-3850

Garfield Elementary
436 Prospect Ave.
(816) 418-3600

Gladstone Elementary
335 N Elmwood Ave.
(816) 418-3950

J.A. Rogers Elementary

6400 23rd St.
(816) 418-4770

Trailwoods Elementary
6201 E 17th St.
(816) 418-3250

CHARTER

Guadalupe Centers Preschool
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(816) 994-0303

Guadalupe Centers Elementary
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(816) 994-0396

Hogan Preparatory Academy Elementary School

2803 E. 51st St.
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Scuola Vita Nuova
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(816) 231-5788

KIPP Endeavor Academy

2700 E 18th St.
(816) 241-3994

Citizens of the World Charter School

3435 Broadway Blvd.
(816) 499-8000

Frontier School of Innovation Elementary

6700 Corporate Dr.
(816) 363-1907

Kansas City International Academy

414 Wallace Ave.
(816) 242-4206

Hope Leadership Academy
2800 Linwood Blvd.
(816) 921-1213

PRIVATE

Holy Cross Catholic School
121 N Quincy Ave.
(816) 231-8874

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

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Lincoln College Preparatory Academy Middle School

2012 E 23rd St.
(816) 418-1500

Northeast Middle School
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(816) 418-3400

Lincoln College Preparatory Academy High School

2111 Woodland Ave.
(816) 418-3000

Northeast High School
415 Van Brunt Blvd.
(816) 418-3300

East High School
1924 Van Brunt Blvd.
(816) 418-3125

Paseo Academy of Fine and Performing Arts

4747 Flora Ave.
(816) 418-2275

CHARTER

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(816) 268-2573

Frontier School of Innovation Middle School

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(816) 241-6202

Hogan Preparatory Academy Middle School

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(816) 444-4479

Guadalupe Centers Middle School
2640 Belleview Ave.
(816) 472-4120

Guadalupe Centers High School

1524 The Paseo
(816) 471-2582

Hogan Preparatory Academy High School

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(816) 444-3464

DeLaSalle Education Center
3737 Troost Ave.
(816) 561-4445

Frontier STEM High School
6455 E Commerce Ave.
(816) 541-8200

PRIVATE

Ryogoku Soccer Academy
606 Gladstone Blvd.
(540) 355-0970

Cristo Rey High School
211 Linwood Blvd.
(816) 457-6044

A Letter to the Rising Classes of 2025 & 2024: Your High School Upperclassmen Timeline

Erin William
Northeast News

If you're a rising junior or senior, you may have started to envision life beyond high school. Maybe you're looking to the future with excitement ready for where the next chapter of your life will take you - maybe you feel sick to your stomach at that exact idea. You may feel devastated at the fact that at this time next year you and your classmates will be in completely different scenarios with completely different people. Or maybe the idea of life beyond high school hasn't even crossed your mind yet. Just know, in whatever you are experiencing, you are not alone.

This guide shows high-school upperclassmen through the daunting processes of standardized testing, college admissions, trade school admissions, and other approaches to life beyond high school through the eyes of a recent high school graduate. Students entering senior year are often burdened by feelings of anxiety, burnout and whiplash at their fast-approaching future. Breaking things down can make the process much easier.

The start of junior year is a great time for high schoolers to begin thinking about their futures. Junior year is typically the hardest year of high school while simultaneously the most critical time for high school upperclassmen to lay a proper foundation to achieve their post-graduation goals.

The sooner, the better; however, the most critical time for a student to get their future in place is the spring of their junior year as well as the summer and fall months before the start of their Senior year.

It is important for students envisioning what they would like to do in the future to consider all of their options and the career paths that they find fulfilling. During this process, students should research colleges, universities, and trade schools that match the goals they set and vision they have for their future.

When trying to decide between college, trade school and other options, the most obvious factors students should take into consideration is what they envision themselves doing when they leave high school. Those looking into trade school should consider what trade schools are looking for in prospective students.

Trade schools are looking for "students who are dependable, flexible" and who "like building something and seeing the finished project" come to fruition, Bob Kanatzar, trainer with MoKan Ironworkers said.

As stated by Kanatzar "There is a shortage of people who want to show up on time and every day." Students considering trade school should fit into the criteria trainers expect.

Kanatzar mentioned one of the biggest differences between trade school and college is that students who enter trade school, "get

paid immediately." Additionally, during apprenticeship programs, it is common for students to study at their apprenticeship for a week and then go practice the skills they learned for a week as a form of practical learning.

Students should research all of the careers they find interesting and look into the requirements to be hired in such positions before making a decision on their next steps after graduation. Students looking into job positions that require college degrees should also look up scholarship opportunities and plan to apply to those alongside college applications. More information on scholarships is available on page 13.

For those looking to go into college, you will need to begin studying for standardized tests like the SAT and ACT the summer before your junior year, that way you can start testing in the fall of your junior year, giving you about a year to gain the score you need for admission to your goal institution.

Students should pick between the ACT or SAT, depending on their personal strengths and what their target colleges require, and begin studying for the exams, which are held on a monthly basis. The Princeton Review article "SAT v ACT: Which Test is Right for You?" is a great resource to help students understand the difference between the two standardized tests. When choosing between the standardized tests as with all major college ap-

plication decisions students must also check in with a guidance counselor at their school.

Keep in mind, you have to pay to take the SAT and ACT, so it is important to limit the number of times you need to take the tests in order to save money. Sometimes a great investment can be practice exam books. The best standardized test booklets include:

- The College Board's Official SAT Study Guide
- SAT Prep Black Book
- Baron's ACT Practice Book
- The Princeton Review's ACT Practice Book

You may also access free SAT prep from Khan Academy at khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat.

During the fall and winter months of junior year, students must maintain a grade point average to the highest of their abilities while also keeping a balanced lifestyle outside of school. While going through this process, it is important for students to keep in touch with their extracurriculars, passions and community involvement. Junior year is notoriously stressful for students.

At this point, juniors should be making lists of the colleges, trade schools and/or jobs they wish to apply to the summer before senior year. Making this list as early as possible gives students enough time to strategize how to get into their dream college, trade school or job offer.

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Una carta a las clases de 2025 & 2024

Erin William
Northeast News

Si estás en los grados 11 o 12, tal vez ya has imaginado tu vida después de la preparatoria. Puede que mires al futuro con ilusión, preparado para saber adónde te llevará el próximo capítulo de tu vida, o puede que te revuelva el estómago esa misma idea. Puede que te sientas desolado ante el hecho de que el año que viene por estas fechas tú y tus compañeros de clase estaréis en escenarios completamente distintos con personas completamente distintas. O puede que ni siquiera se te haya pasado por la cabeza la idea de una vida más allá del instituto; pero debes saber que, sea lo que sea lo que estés experimentando, no estás solo.

Este artículo pretende guiar a los estudiantes de último curso de secundaria a través de los desalentadores procesos de los exámenes estandarizados, las admisiones a la universidad, las admisiones a la escuela de comercio y otros enfoques de la vida después de la secundaria. Los estudiantes que entran en el último año a menudo están agobiados por sentimientos de ansiedad, agotamiento y latigazo cervical ante su futuro que se acerca rápidamente. Afortunadamente, descomponer las cosas hace que el proceso sea mucho más fácil.

El comienzo del penúltimo año es un buen momento para que los estudiantes de secundaria empiecen a pensar en su futuro. El penúltimo año es estereótipicamente el año más difícil de la escuela secundaria, mien-

tras que al mismo tiempo es el momento más crítico para los estudiantes de último año de la escuela secundaria para sentar las bases adecuadas para lograr sus objetivos después de la graduación.

Cuanto antes, mejor; sin embargo, el momento más crítico para un estudiante para conseguir su futuro en su lugar es la primavera de su año Junior, así como el verano y el otoño meses antes del inicio de su último año.

Es importante que los estudiantes que se plantean lo que les gustaría hacer en el futuro consideren todas sus opciones y las trayectorias profesionales que les satisfacen. Durante este proceso, los estudiantes deben investigar las facultades, universidades y escuelas de oficios que se ajusten a los objetivos que se han marcado y a la visión que tienen de su futuro.

Al tratar de decidir entre la universidad, la escuela de comercio y otras opciones de escolarización, los factores más obvios que los estudiantes deben tener en cuenta es lo que se imaginan haciendo cuando salen de la escuela secundaria. Para aquellos que buscan en la escuela de comercio como Bob Kanatzkar, entrenador con MoKan Ironworkers estados, las escuelas de comercio están buscando "los estudiantes que son confiables, flexibles" y que "como la construcción de algo y ver el proyecto terminado" llegar a buen término. Los estudiantes que se planteen estudiar en una escuela de oficios deben ajustarse a dichos criterios, ya que, según el Sr. Kanatzar, "hay escasez

de personas que quieran presentarse a tiempo y todos los días."

El Sr. Kanatzar mencionó que una de las mayores diferencias entre la escuela de oficios y la universidad es que los estudiantes que entran en la escuela de oficios, "cobran inmediatamente". Además, el Sr. Kanatzar declaró que durante los programas de aprendizaje es común que los estudiantes estudien en su aprendizaje durante una semana y luego vayan a practicar las habilidades que aprendieron durante una semana como una forma de aprendizaje práctico.

Los estudiantes deben investigar TODAS las carreras que les parezcan interesantes e investigar los requisitos para ser contratados en esos puestos antes de tomar una decisión sobre sus próximos pasos tras la graduación. Los estudiantes que busquen puestos de trabajo que requieran titulación universitaria también deben buscar oportunidades de becas y planificar la solicitud de las mismas junto con las solicitudes universitarias.

Para aquellos que buscan ir a la universidad, tendrá que empezar a estudiar para las pruebas estandarizadas como el SAT y ACT el verano antes de su primer año, de esa manera usted puede comenzar a probar en el otoño de su primer año que le da alrededor de un año para obtener la puntuación que necesita para la admisión a su institución objetivo. Los estudiantes deben elegir entre el ACT o el SAT (dependiendo de sus puntos fuertes personales y de lo que requieran

las universidades de destino) y empezar a estudiar para los exámenes que se celebran mensualmente. El artículo de Princeton Review "SAT V ACT: Which Test is Right for You?" Es un gran recurso para ayudar a los estudiantes a entender la diferencia entre los dos exámenes estandarizados.

Ten en cuenta que el SAT y el ACT son de pago, por lo que es importante limitar el número de veces que tienes que hacer los exámenes para ahorrar dinero. A veces, una gran inversión pueden ser los cuadernillos de práctica de los exámenes. Los mejores cuadernillos de exámenes estandarizados incluyen:

- The College Board's Official SAT Study Guide
- SAT Prep Black Book
- También puedes acceder a la preparación gratuita para el SAT de Khan Academy en: <https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat>
- Libro de práctica ACT de Baron
- Libro de Prácticas ACT de The Princeton Review

Durante los meses de otoño e invierno del año Junior, los estudiantes deben mantener un promedio de calificaciones al más alto de sus capacidades, manteniendo al mismo tiempo un estilo de vida equilibrado fuera de la escuela. Mientras pasan por este proceso, es importante que los estudiantes se mantengan en contacto con sus actividades extracurriculares, pasiones y participación en la comunidad. El penúltimo año es muy estresante, ya que los estudiantes que aspiran a entrar en

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High School Upperclassmen Timeline

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The summer before senior year, students should be working to get ahead on their college, trade school or job applications so they don't have to balance applications with their work during the school year. While it is unrealistic to get everything completed over the summer, the earlier a student starts, the longer they will have to review their work before submitting their applications. Students applying to colleges and trade schools should keep an eye out for important scholarship, financial aid and FAFSA deadlines during the fall of their Senior year.

One thing for students to avoid once having submitted all applications is the dreaded "senioritis", a common "illness" or trap, seniors fall into during the winter and spring after they have either completed all of their applications or already secured a spot in their dream college or trade school. "Symptoms" usually include tardiness, skipping class, failing exams, and not turning in homework. The danger with senioritis is that all colleges and trade schools require their admitted students to graduate and obtain their high school degree before enrolling.

What students don't realize is that these institutions reserve the right to revoke admission to students whose GPA drops below a certain level, who don't graduate and who do not remain in good standing with their high

school. Even after having attained their goals it is imperative that seniors in highschool do not fall in the trap of the dreaded senioritis.

For more information on the college process be sure to be proactive about checking in with your school's college counselor. If you are unable to reach your college counselor check out The Whatsoever Community Center in Sheffield, which provides free college counseling opportunities for highschoolers and the "Path to College" bilingual organization that helps students with college counseling and securing scholarships.

For students looking to apply to trade schools be sure to visit the website of the schools you wish to attend. On the websites look for contact information to admissions officers and give them a call with further questions you may have. www.onlytradeschools.com/missouri/kansas-city/ is a great resource for students to gain more information on the application process and trade schooling options available locally and nationally as well.

Best of wishes to all upperclassmen highschoolers embarking on their college admissions, trade school admission, or job application journeys. Stay on top of it, you've got this.

Sincerely,

*Erin William
Princeton '27*



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Beyond the Books: Athlete Spotlight on Dael Umanzor

Grace Kertz
Northeast News

Dael Umanzor lives and breathes soccer. He's been playing soccer for seven or eight years, and attends Ryogoku Soccer Academy, where he will be a freshman in high school. Ryogoku is a private, all-boys middle and high school at 606 Gladstone Ave. that combines soccer and academics.

Umanzor practices soccer for over three hours a day during the school week, both before and after classes.

"I think [morning training is] more just about waking up your body and mind," Brad Leonard, the founder and principal at Ryogoku, shared. "In the afternoon, it's more strategic."

Umanzor also practices in different conditions, such as big versus small spaces.

"We practice on concrete, we practice on grass, we prac-

tice on turf," Leonard added.

While Umanzor has aspirations to be a professional athlete, he understands the importance of rest. According to Leonard, listening to your body is central. Wellness and nutrition are also emphasized at Ryogoku, and the school spends "a lot of time [teaching] what goes into your body and what goes into your mind," he continued.

Although Umanzor attends school year-around, Ryogoku takes more frequent breaks than a typical school model.

"We're able to take off at least one day every two weeks as well, because we're asking them to do a lot physically; mentally," Leonard said.

Soccer also brings connection to Umanzor. The students are together each day from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Umanzor expressed that he likes this because he and

his friends "can go to school and do lots of stuff together."

"There's like a brotherhood that's forming," Leonard remarked of watching these friendships develop.

From training and playing soccer together to completing academics, it doesn't stop there. The boys at Ryogoku watch professional soccer together and talk through what they notice, which heightens their performance on the field.

"We think those conversations are very meaningful because they're starting to see things within those games that most people will not see," Leonard said.

The staff is deliberate to



not
over-

burden

Umanzor and the boys with games, in an effort to make sure "the games they do play are very high quality," Leonard explained.

Umanzor and others at the academy look forward to traveling to other Major League Soccer (MLS) academies in the U.S. to compete, including St. Louis, Chicago and New York.

Developing community is also an important element to the school.

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Más allá de los libros: atleta Dael Umanzor

Grace Kertz
Northeast News

Dael Umanzor vive y respira fútbol. Ha jugado fútbol por siete o ocho años y es estudiante actual de Ryogoku Soccer Academy, una escuela privada para niños de secundaria y preparatoria solamente, ubicada en 606 Gladstone Avenue que combina fútbol y la vida académica, donde entrará al grado nueve.

Umanzor practica fútbol por más de tres horas al día durante la semana escolar, antes y después de clases.

"Yo creo que el entrenamiento de la mañana es más sobre despertar tu cuerpo y mente", Brad Leonard, el fundador y director en Ryogoku, compartió, "En las tardes, es más sobre estrategia".

Umanzor también práctica en diferentes condiciones como en campos grandes y campos chicos.

"Practicamos en concreto, pasto, y pasto sintético", Leonard dijo.

Mientras Umanzor tiene aspiraciones de ser un atleta profesional, él entiende la im-

portancia de descansar. Según Leonard, escuchar tu cuerpo es crítico. El bienestar y nutrición son temas marcados en Ryogoku, y la escuela pasa mucho tiempo "enseñando que va a tu cuerpo y que va hacia tu mente", continuó.

Aunque Umanzor asiste a la escuela todo el año, Ryogoku toma descansos más seguidos que el modelo tradicional de escuela.

"Nosotros tenemos la oportunidad de tomar al menos un día de descanso cada dos semanas, porque

les exigimos mucho psíquicamente y mentalmente", Leonard dijo.

El fútbol también le trae conexión a Umanzor. Los estudiantes están juntos todos los días de 8:30am a 5:30pm.

Umanzor expresa que le gusta esto porque él y sus amigos "pueden ir a la escuela y hacer muchas cosas juntos".

"Se está formando una especie de hermandad", comenta Leonard sobre el desarrollo de estas amistades.

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Beyond the books: Musician spotlight on Eddie Cerritos

*Grace Kertz
Northeast News*

Eddie Cerritos discovered a love for music that's changing his life. Cerritos started playing the saxophone when he was a freshman in high school, and joined Harmony Project KC a month later. He's now entering his junior year of high school, and hopes to become a music teacher in the future.

He's inspired by the way music influences everyone around him.

Liz Snow, Music Therapy & Impact Manager for the nonprofit Harmony Project KC, elaborated that, "Harmony Project offers free music instruction to primarily residents in the Northeast Kansas City area."

This is done on their campus at the Northeast Community Center, 544 Wabash Ave., and teachers also go to select Kansas City Public Schools (KCPS) they're partnered with.

"It's a very new and fun environment to be in," Cerritos expressed.

Cerritos described his progress since joining the

Harmony Project. He shared that he has improved on playing scales. Beyond instruction, students perform a concert each semester. Cerritos described his most recent performance at the Folly Theater, where he played louder and more confidently with the saxophone quartet than in previous performances.

Harmony Project KC has music classes and ensembles for a range of skill levels and ages, with students as young as seven through high school. Cerritos intends to continue participating in the Harmony Project until graduation.

Cerritos finds music, "relaxing and challenging at the same time." He plays in the wind ensemble and saxophone quartet, receiving instruction on two weekdays and Saturday mornings. This adds up to five hours a week, with the opportunity to do an hour of private lessons, and other additional classes. At the end of each year, he completes a music assessment.

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Más allá de los libros: músico Eddie Cerritos

*Grace Kertz
Northeast News*

Eddie Cerritos descubrió que el amor que le tenía a la música le estaba cambiando su vida. Cerritos empezó a tocar el saxofón cuando entró a la preparatoria y se unió a Harmony Project KC un mes después. Ahora entrará al grado 11 y espera convertirse en un maestro de música en el futuro.

El se siente inspirado por cómo la música influye a to-

dos alrededor de él.

Liz Snow, directora de terapia de música e impacto para la organización sin fines de lucro Harmony Project KC, elabora que "Harmony Project ofrece instrucción gratis de música primariamente a residentes de la área del Noreste".

Esto está hecho en su campus en el Centro Comunitario del Noreste, 544 Wabash Avenue, y maestros también van a algunas escuelas

del distrito de Kansas City (KCPS) con las que colaboran.

"Es un ambiente muy divertido", Cerritos expresa.

Cerritos describe su desarrollo desde que se involucró con el Harmony Project. Él compartió que ha mejorado tocando escalas. Además de la enseñanza, los estudiantes dan un concierto cada semestre. Cerritos describió su actuación más reciente en el Folly Theater, tocando más

alto y con más confianza con el cuarteto de saxofones que en actuaciones anteriores.

Harmony Project KC tiene clases de música y conjuntos para una amplia gama de niveles de habilidad y edades, con estudiantes desde los siete años hasta la escuela secundaria. Cerritos tiene intención de seguir participando en el Proyecto Harmony hasta su graduación.

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Careful consideration: Which childcare option is the best fit?

Grace Kertz
Northeast News

Where a person spends their time makes them who they are. Atmosphere and activities are certainly an important consideration when selecting a daycare. Other contributing factors, such as convenience, affordability and operating hours compound the complexity of this decision. To select a daycare parents and guardians feel good sending their child to, it's helpful to explore the distinctions between centers in their area. Northeast Kansas City has several daycare options, including Children's Choice Too, Della Lamb, Early StART and Whatsoever Community Center.

Della Lamb and Early StART care for children as young as six weeks up until five years, while Whatsoever Community Center's preschool program cares for ages two up to six years. Their infant/toddler program is currently being re-established. Children's Choice Too includes a large range of ages, four months to 13 years.

The daycares all provide

breakfast, lunch and snacks for the children, though none provide transportation to and from their facility. They each operate Monday through Friday. Della Lamb and Early StART have hours from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Whatsoever Community Center extends from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Children's Choice Too has the longest hours, ranging from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Payment assistance options are available for low-income families. At Early StART, those who qualify can receive full or partial coverage of enrollment costs through the Mid-America Regional Council Head Start program. At Della Lamb, those who qualify for subsidized fees can receive assistance through the Missouri Department of Family Services. Whatsoever Community Center also accepts state assistance.

Each daycare varies in its mission for the children.

"At EarlyStART, our distinctive approach blends the Creative Curriculum with the Arts, sparking each child's

innate curiosity," explained Rhonda Mays, Early StART's Director of Family and Community Engagement. "We encourage creative expression and foster each child's social competence, support learning through play, and forge strong home-school connections."

More information can be found on EarlyStART's website, earlystartkc.org.

Whatsoever Community Center incorporates "the development of social skills as well as scholastic preparation for our student's transition to the public school system," according to its website.

Della Lamb's website details that they "provide quality education, child care, nutrition, nurturing and supplemental services in preparation for kindergarten."

They note that many of their families are refugees and immigrants.

"We invite you to tour," Cori Wallace, the Engagement Director from Della Lamb, said. "Reach out to our Program Director, Mrs. LaTrecia Thornton at earlyed@della-lamb.org

and dellalamb.org, and add yourself to our waiting list by visiting dellalamb.org/earlyed."

Children's Choice Too daycare provides a window into its environment on its Facebook page.

"My biggest goal is to ensure each child truly knows they are special, loved, and can do whatever they set their minds to as they grow up," Joanna Restivo, the owner and director, shared.

The children work on developmental motor skills and milestones and prepare for kindergarten by learning in both English and Spanish. Restivo emphasized they take a "holistic child-focused approach that encourages children to develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively at their own pace."

Beyond daycare options, before and after school care within the Kansas City Public School District (KCPS) varies from school to school. KCPS partners with the Local Investment Commission (LINC) to operate before and after care.

continued on next page

Eddie Cerritos *continued from page 9*

"The teachers know how to give us a challenge," Cerritos said. "They know how to give us some breaks."

This balance keeps students improving and motivated.

This group of individuals are from diverse backgrounds. Flags hanging in the building represent each culture, based on the nation of origin reported by the parents.

"I think we have 50 flags that are represented through our teachers and student body," Snow shared.

Harmony Project sup-

ports these students beyond making music. Snow described their Path to College program, which includes workshops, college visits, and one-on-one meetings with the Hispanic Development Fund. Scholarships are also an integral part of this.

"Last year we had all of our kids graduate almost tuition-free and got accepted into many, many colleges," Snow said.

Care services and other support are also available through the Northeast

Community Center, and it's evident to students that Harmony Project KC has a supportive atmosphere.

"The thing I like about being here is how friendly everyone is," Cerritos said. "It's definitely one of the safest places I've been."

Harmony Project KC cultivates this positive environment by sending surveys each semester to parents, students and teachers. The organization reaches about 300 kids and currently has a waiting list, accessible on the

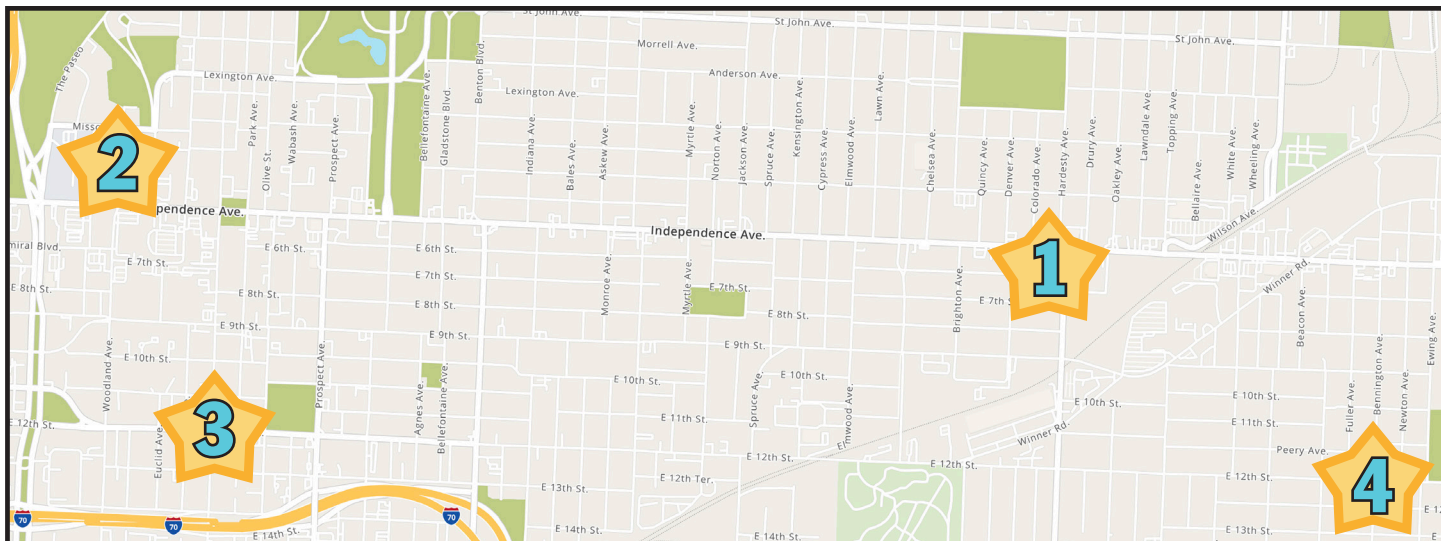
Harmony Project KC website, necc-kc.org. Students, including Cerritos, are able to take their instrument home for the semester to practice.

Snow believes in the impact of music.

"I think music is a powerful tool and a catalyst for change and growth," she shared.

Music has gifted Cerritos and his fellow students with a community, passion, mentors, support and a career.

"Music is my place to go," Cerritos shared. "It's awesome."



Childcare *continued from previous page*

LINC provides services that support children and families while allowing district staff to carry out their responsibilities of educating students, according to its website, kclinc.org/kcps. Schools that offer care through LINC can be viewed

on a map accessed through the LINC website. Transportation is not provided.

Families can reach out to the childcare program closest to them, or most in alignment with their needs, with further inquiries.

1. Children's Choice Too
614 Hardesty Ave
(816) 231-3404

2. Della Lamb
500 Woodland Ave
(816) 842-8040

3. Early StART
2008 E 12th St
(816) 994-5400

4. Whatsoever Community Center
1201 Ewing Ave
(816) 231-0227

Una carta a las clases de 2025 & 2024 *continued from page 6*

la universidad también deben hacer el ACT/SAT durante este año para obtener las puntuaciones que necesitan para sus solicitudes.

En este punto, los Juniors deben hacer listas de las universidades, escuelas de comercio, y / o puestos de trabajo que desean aplicar el verano antes del último año. Hacer esta lista tan pronto como sea posible da a los estudiantes tiempo suficiente para elaborar estrategias sobre cómo entrar en la universidad de sus sueños, la escuela de comercio, o la oferta de trabajo.

El verano antes del último año, los estudiantes deben trabajar para avanzar en su universidad, escuela de comercio, y las solicitudes de empleo para que no tengan que equilibrar las aplicaciones con su trabajo durante el año escolar.

Si bien no es realista completar todo durante el verano, cuanto antes comience un estudiante, más tiempo tendrá para revisar su trabajo antes de presentar sus solicitudes. Los estudiantes que solicitan ingreso a universidades y escuelas de oficios deben estar atentos a los plazos importantes de becas, ayuda financiera y FAFSA durante el otoño de su último año.

Una cosa que los estudiantes deben evitar una vez que hayan presentado todas las solicitudes es la temida "Senioritis", una "enfermedad" o trampa común en la que caen los estudiantes de último curso durante el invierno y la primavera, después de haber completado todas sus solicitudes o de haberse asegurado ya una plaza en la universidad o escuela de comercio de sus sueños. Los síntomas suelen

ser: llegar tarde, faltar a clase, suspender los exámenes y no entregar los deberes. El peligro de la "Senioritis" es que TODAS las universidades y escuelas de comercio exigen a sus estudiantes admitidos que se gradúen y obtengan su título de secundaria antes de matricularse. Lo que los estudiantes no saben es que estas instituciones se reservan el derecho de revocar la admisión a los estudiantes que bajan su GPA, que no se gradúan, y que no permanecen en buen estado con su escuela secundaria. Incluso después de haber alcanzado sus metas es imperativo que los estudiantes de último año de secundaria no caigan en la trampa de la temida Senioritis.

Mis mejores deseos a todos los estudiantes de último año de secundaria que se embarcan en su admisión a la universidad, la admisión a la

escuela de comercio, o viajes de solicitud de empleo. Para obtener más información sobre el proceso de admisión a la universidad, asegúrate de consultar con el consejero universitario de tu escuela. Si usted no puede comunicarse con su consejero de la universidad visita The Whatsoever Community Center que ofrece oportunidades gratuitas de asesoramiento universitario para estudiantes de secundaria y el "Camino a la Universidad" organización bilingüe que ayuda a los estudiantes con asesoramiento universitario y becas garantizadas.

Sincerely,

*Erin William
Princeton '27*

Want to win a Scholarship? Yes. You. Can.

Erin William
Northeast News

Nothing in life comes for free; often when students hear about scholarships, the “free college tuition” feels impossible to attain. Many believe in order to earn scholarships students must be one of two types: an exceptional Division 1-bound varsity athlete or the valedictorian of your school with near – if not perfect – standardized test scores.

While it is true that there are plenty of scholarships aimed toward students like this, students not fitting into these two categories are more than capable of winning scholarships for their college tuition.

Still don't believe it? As a recent high school graduate, Northeast News Intern Erin William was not the valedictorian, nor the salutatorian, and she most definitely was not a D1 star athlete; yet she received over \$25,000 in scholarships. Continue reading to learn how Erin did it, and how other students can, too, with advice from KC Scholars.

Common misconceptions

One of the biggest misconceptions when it comes to applying for scholarships is that students believe they're not smart enough, or scholarships only exist for students that have that 4.0 Grade Point Average (GPA), said Natalie Lewis, Chief Operating Officer at KC Scholars, an organization working to increase postsecondary education and credential attainment of low- and moderate-income adults.

This imposter syndrome mindset, or the belief that an individual is underqualified or

undeserving, is entirely false.

“There are scholarships for anything you can imagine,” Lewis confirmed. “There are scholarships for students; students that like to play the violin that grew up in Georgia and were born on a Tuesday.”

The first step to making sure a student secures a scholarship for college or trade school programs is dismantling the belief that they are not capable. Imposter syndrome is one of, if not the biggest, reason why students more than capable of winning scholarships are self-eliminated from the competition before it even begins.

The second misconception that Lewis mentioned was the belief that students only want to go for the big scholarships, and the little ones don't matter.

The reality is, if a student is applying to the niche, smaller scholarships that are aimed towards students like them, their chances of receiving said scholarships increase substantially. While winning a \$500 scholarship may feel minute compared to your total tuition owed, if they continue to apply to scholarships like this, they may be surprised how much the little ones add up.

When to apply for scholarships

While students may believe scholarship applications are only available to juniors and seniors, it is important to get started with the process as soon as possible. Although it is true that most scholarship applications are open solely to upperclassmen, Lewis explained, it is

extremely helpful for underclassmen in ninth grade to start identifying the big scholarships through organizations like KC Scholars or the Koch Foundation.

They can look up samples of their application questions/requirements to “see up front, what are they going to be asking from you,” Lewis said.

Starting the application process early and understanding what would be expected as a scholar allows students to make choices throughout their highschool career, which will increase their chances at receiving said scholarship.

How to Win a Scholarship

Say, for instance, a student wishes to apply for the Gates Scholarship. Before beginning any scholarship application process, they should first google, “What is X scholarship looking for in potential winners?”

The Gates Scholarship in particular says they look for “outstanding academic performance, leadership ability (e.g., as shown through participation in community service, extracurricular, or other activities), and exceptional personal success skills (e.g., emotional maturity, motivation, perseverance, etc.)”

Once the student understands what the scholarship they want is looking for, they can begin to make decisions that make sure they are competitive.

A critical component of winning scholarships that may seem obvious is adhering to the given deadlines.

“These are not deadlines that are movable,” Lewis explained.

It is imperative that students start scholarship applications well in advance of the given deadline to ensure they turn in their credentials by the due date. Mistaking a due date or simply not turning in the application materials can be “life changing.”

Thinking strategically when filling out scholarship applications is essential to making sure students are competitive applicants. When applying for scholarships, students should always assume the other applicants are “students with the same GPA as yours, and have all the numbers as you have,” Lewis said.

Then, they must ask themselves, “What's going to be my differentiating factor? Why me?”

If students are competing with others who meet the same academic credentials, they have to do something that will make them stand out to the people deciding whether or not to grant them the scholarship. This is called a “wow factor.”

“Sometimes it's community service,” Lewis said. “Sometimes it's what's written in your recommendation letter and your essay. So they see the person, the passions, and the interests.”

Displacement and how to avoid it

Something to watch out for when applying for scholarships is “displacement.” Displacement occurs when students secure scholarships, but instead of using the scholarship funds to lower the expected contribution from the student or family, a university

continued on next page

Scholarships *continued from previous page*

will reduce the financial aid amount given to the student. It is important that students understand the financial aid policies at the college or trade school that they apply to so they can avoid unexpected displacement.

When searching for scholarships, it is also important to be cautious of websites that ask students to pay for access to scholarship information or applications. As Lewis warned, a student should never pay for a scholarship list or a service to get access to a scholarship list. During the scholarship application process it is imperative that students look to avoid the scams.

Understanding the Pell Grant

A large eligibility factor for many scholarships like the Gates Scholarship is whether or not a student is eligible for the Pell Grant. The Pell Grant, or Federal Pell Grant, is awarded to students who “display exceptional financial need” on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the federal government. This grant differs from aid a student may receive from the FAFSA because aid from the Pell Grant does not need to be paid back. To check eligibility for the Pell Grant, students must first fill in the FAFSA on studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa and submit their form.

KC Scholars Program

As Kansas City residents, students have the opportunity to apply to the KC Scholars Foundation, a scholarship organization that stands out because of the sheer amount of money they give - \$50,000 for students to use over a five

year period.

“We’re not happy until you’re in a job – a family sustaining job – and we even stay tethered to you, supporting you even through the first year of your job,” Lewis said. “So it’s so much more than writing a unity.”

Additionally, the KC Scholars Foundation caters to not only college bound students but also those seeking trade school opportunities. Moreover, at KC Scholars, they want to help the family as a whole. In line with this goal is their “Great Jobs KC” program available to all adults 17 and above. Be sure to visit their website, kcscholars.org, for more information on the application process.

Below, students can find two comprehensive lists of scholarships for students looking to pursue college degrees or trade school programs respectively. This list barely scratches the surface of all of the scholarships available to students and should be referenced as a starting point.

• **QuestBridge (Due: Sept. 26):** For students looking into highly ranked colleges that may be financially inaccessible for their families, QuestBridge is a great college application platform to “connect low-income and first-gen students with partner colleges and universities”. Students who apply through QuestBridge and are matched to a college, are granted Early Admission with a full scholarship. Seriously check out: questbridge.org for more information on the application process and scholarship details.

• **National Honors Society**

(Due: Nov. 30): Generally, the National Honors Society offers over 400 Scholarship programs for high schoolers; however, if you were a member of The National Honors Society you are eligible to apply for the National Honors Society Scholarship. With the first place prize at \$25,000, 24 finalists get \$5,675, 575 National Semi Finalists earn \$3,200. Be sure to visit their website at: nationalhonorsociety.org for more information on how to apply.

• **Ron Brown Scholar Program (Early Application Due: Nov. 1; Regular Application Due: Jan. 9):** The Ron Brown Scholar Program is a great opportunity for low income African American students to gain \$40,000. If awarded, scholarship participants are granted \$10,000 annually throughout their undergraduate college experience. To find out more about the information on their application process visit: ronbrown.org.

• **TheDream.US Opportunity Scholarship (Due Jan. 31):** TheDream.US is a scholarship for undocumented students who are DREAMERS wishing to attend university but who are forced to pay out-of-state tuition or prohibited from enrolling in a state college at all. Students who win the scholarship are granted \$80,000 in total to attain a bachelor’s degree at one of TheDream.US’s Opportunity Partner Colleges. For more information on the application process visit: thedream.us.

• **The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation (Due Oct. 31):** The Coca-Cola Scholarship is open to all Senior Year

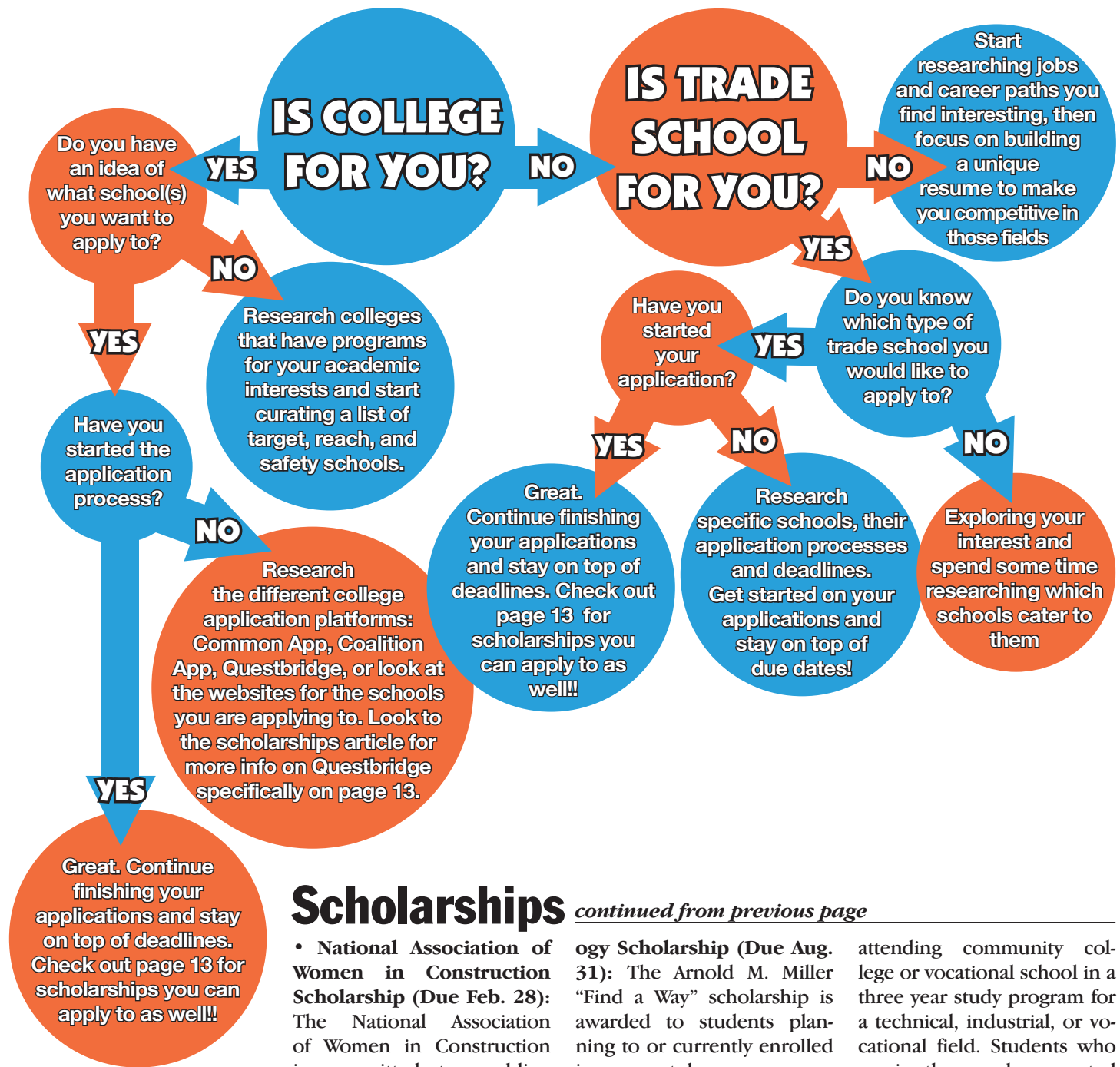
students and awards 150 high schoolers \$20,000 in scholarships. The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation allows students 10 years to use their scholarship which can be used for both undergraduate and graduate schools. For more information on the Coca-Cola Scholarship and the application process, visit: coca-colascholarsfoundation.org.

• **The Coolidge Scholarship (Due Feb. 23):** The Coolidge Scholarship is open to all Senior Year Students. Winners of the Coolidge Scholarship are awarded full-ride scholarships covering tuition, room and board, and other expenses for all four years of undergraduate study. For more information on the Coolidge Scholarship application process, visit: coolidgescholars.org.

For scholarships specific to this region myscholarship-central.org/category/north-west/

Trade School Scholarships
• **DEWALT Trades Scholarship (Due Dec. 14):** The DEWALT Trades Scholarship is open to students planning to attend any 2 year college or vocational-technical school full time. The unique thing about this scholarship is that both high school seniors and current undergraduates can apply for the award. The DEWALT Trades Scholarship is awarded to about 20 students who are granted \$10,000 each. To stay updated on the application process, visit: learnmore.scholarsapply.org/dewalttrade/.

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STUCK DECIDING BETWEEN COLLEGE, TRADE SCHOOL, OR ANOTHER PATH? READ “UPPERCLASSMEN TIMELINE” ON PAGE 13 TO GAIN MORE INSIGHT.

Scholarships *continued from previous page*

- **National Association of Women in Construction Scholarship (Due Feb. 28):** The National Association of Women in Construction is committed to enabling women to pursue higher education in the field of construction. In line with this mission, the NAWIC provides scholarships for women in trade schools geared towards the construction industry. Recipients of the award receive \$500-\$2,500. For more information visit: nawic.org/nfsf_scholarships.
- **“Find a Way” Cosmetology Scholarship (Due Aug. 31):** The Arnold M. Miller “Find a Way” scholarship is awarded to students planning to or currently enrolled in cosmetology programs. At the time of application, students must be at least 18 years old. For more information on the Cosmetology Scholarship and how to apply, visit: beautychangeslives.org/arnold-miller-find-a-way/.
- **APWU Vocational Scholarship (Due March 31):** The American Postal Workers Union scholarship is awarded to undergraduate students

attending community college or vocational school in a three year study program for a technical, industrial, or vocational field. Students who receive the award are granted \$3,000 to fund their education. Students interested in applying should visit: apwu.org/vocational-scholarship.

For a great and extensive list of available trade scholarships, visit: thescholarshipssystem.com/blog-for-students-families/going-to-trade-school-check-out-these-56-vocational-scholarships/

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What I Wish I Knew...

Students share advice about what they wish they knew before reaching educational milestones

Erin William

Northeast News

Each year, entering a new academic chapter can be exceptionally daunting for students. From nervous jitters before the first day of kindergarten to genuine anxiety prior to entering senior year, most students feel some level of stress before starting a new school year.

For those entering elementary school, overcoming the idea of leaving their parents' everyday comfort takes courage. Students leaving elementary school for middle school must acclimate to new social settings while joining a new class; meanwhile, students entering high school are met with near adult futures and life goals.

While at times, such pressures feel overwhelming, advice from other students and parents exiting the stages of school which your student

is entering may help to ease their nerves.

In this article, parents of elementary and middle schoolers will read about just how intertwined finances, economics and school are with one another. High-schoolers will learn that preparing for adulthood isn't as harsh a reality as they anticipate; meanwhile rising high-school seniors will learn how to mitigate adult pressures in college, trade school, and beyond.

On a cool Friday afternoon in Budd Park, a six-year-old daughter and her mother sat on a bench working on an arts and crafts project for one of the library's "Pop-In at the Park" sessions. While her daughter worked diligently folding and gluing paper, the mother of this kindergarten graduate shared some advice.

"I wish I would have real-

ized how much of reality is an illusion, a purposeful illusion," she said.

Prior to taking her child to elementary school, this mother wished she understood, "how much of everything I saw was really just this construct, essentially an illusion and not really real. Implanted thoughts, opinions and perspectives."

Had this mother known this before her daughter entered elementary school she would have understood just how everything is attached and money and have been able to brace herself for the unexpected costs of enrolling her child in elementary school.

A recent high school graduate and volunteer with "Pop-In at the Park" and computer science intern with "ProX," Anyshya Hemphill, said that before she entered high school, she wished she understood, "it wasn't as difficult as it is paint-

ed out to be."

"I went into high school with a lot of anxiety and stress because I thought it would be much harder to get through than it actually turned out to be," Hemphill said.

This tends to be the case in high schools across the city as during orientation or the first day of school, freshmen enter wide-eyed and trembling and listen to upper-classmen recall their own experiences and culture shocks entering high school. Often, seniors and juniors will try to convince freshmen that, "the workload is impossible" or "high school is way harder than middle school." However, the reality is high school was manageable enough for the thousands of students who graduated before you, and after a few "growing pains" you will for sure get the hang of things.

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Lo que me hubiera gustado saber cuando...

Erin William

Northeast News

Cada año, entrar en un nuevo capítulo académico puede ser excepcionalmente desalentador para los estudiantes. Desde los nervios antes del primer día de guardería hasta la auténtica ansiedad antes de entrar en el último curso, la mayoría de los estudiantes sienten cierto nivel de estrés antes de iniciar un nuevo año escolar.

Para los que entran a la primaria, superar la idea de dejar la comodidad cotidiana de sus padres requiere valor. Los estudiantes que

abandonan la escuela primaria para ir a la escuela secundaria deben aclimatarse a nuevos entornos sociales al tiempo que se incorporan a una nueva clase; mientras tanto, los estudiantes que entran en la escuela secundaria se encuentran con futuros y objetivos vitales próximos a la edad adulta.

Aunque a veces estas presiones resultan abrumadoras, los consejos de otros alumnos y padres que han abandonado las etapas escolares en las que entra su hijo pueden ayudar a aliviar sus nervios. En este artículo,

los padres de alumnos de primaria y secundaria aprenderán lo interrelacionadas que están las finanzas, la economía y la escuela. Los estudiantes de secundaria aprenderán que prepararse para la edad adulta no es una realidad tan dura como anticipan; mientras tanto, los estudiantes de último curso de secundaria aprenderán a mitigar las presiones de la edad adulta en la universidad, la escuela de oficios y más allá.

Un viernes por la tarde en Budd Park, una niña de 6 años y su madre estaban sentadas en un banco trabajando

en un proyecto de manualidades para una de las sesiones de "Pop Ins at the Park" de la biblioteca. Mientras su hija trabajaba diligentemente doblando y pegando papel, la madre de esta alumna de guardería afirmaba: "Ojalá me hubiera dado cuenta de hasta qué punto la realidad es una ilusión, una ilusión intencionada". Antes de llevar a su hija a la escuela primaria, esta madre deseaba haber comprendido "cuánto de todo lo que veía era en realidad una construcción, esencialmente una ilusión y no *continued on page 20*

For kids: Make a lunch that tastes good!

Grace Kertz
Northeast News

Tired of packing a PB&J every day? Sick of eating plain carrots Mom threw in your lunch? Packing lunches can be simple, even if you haven't taken a cooking class.

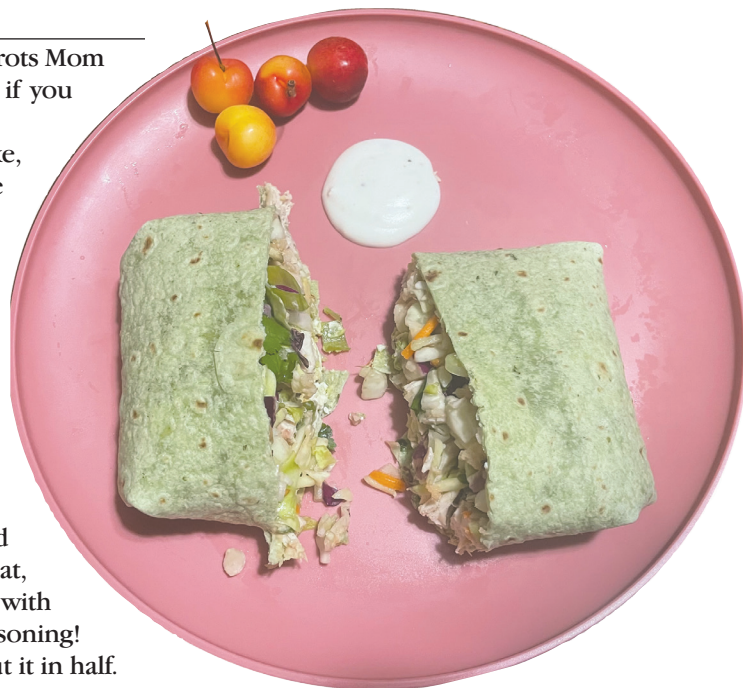
Foods like wraps, sandwiches and salads are easy to make, use food items your family may already have at home, and are delicious because you can put what YOU want in them!

To make a wrap, you need:

- Tortilla
- Salad/vegetables
- Dressing or spread
- Protein
- Extras

For my wrap, I started by laying down a spinach tortilla. Then, I stirred a salad mix with Hawaiian dressing. I spread hummus on the tortilla and plopped the salad on top. After that, I added pre-cooked rotisserie chicken for protein. I topped it with extras: avocado slices, almond slivers, feta cheese, and seasoning! Finally, I folded the sides of the tortilla in, rolled it up, and cut it in half. Served with ranch dressing and fruit.

Visit Northeast News' website for ideas on how to customize your wrap, and what to serve it with.



Para Niños: Prepara un almuerzo que sepa bien

Grace Kertz
Northeast News

¿Cansado de preparar sandwich de mermelada de cacahuate? Enfadado de seguir comiendo zanahorias que tu mamá añadió a tu almuerzo? Preparar un almuerzo es simple, aunque no hayas tomado una clase de cocinar.

Comidas como envolturas, sandwiches, y ensaladas son fáciles de hacer y deliciosas porque le puedes poner lo que TU quieras.

Para preparar un envoltorio, necesitas:

- Tortilla
- Ensalada/Vegetales
- Aliño o crema
- Proteína
- Extras

Para mi envoltura, empecé poniendo una tortilla de espinacas. Luego, revolví una mezcla de ensalada con aderezo hawaiano. Puse hummus en la tortilla y puse la ensalada encima. Luego, añadí pollo asado precocido como proteína. Lo cubrí con extras: rebanadas de aguacate, rebanadas de almendra, queso feta y isazonador! Luego, doblé los lados de la tortilla, la enrollé y la corté por la mitad. Servido con rancho y fruta.

Learn to be a chef!

Grace Kertz
Northeast News

Learn to be a chef, right here in Northeast Kansas City! Chef Christine Williams is the assistant administrator at Agape Grow Education Center, located in Beaumont Baptist Church at 8319 Independence Ave., and teaches all ages.

Williams formerly worked for the University of Missouri in the Eating from the Garden program. Now, she continues educating others at Precious Petals & Pepper Berries Urban Farm, at Beaumont Baptist Church.

"We teach gardening, cooking, canning, fermenting and art classes, and we

teach children, teens and adults," Williams said.

Cooking classes begin in September and run weekly through the end of March, and all ages are welcome. Keep an eye out on Facebook and Eventbrite on the Farm's page for details and possible pricing.

Not only do cooking classes at the farm take place in an industrial kitchen with professional equipment, but Williams described that the classes are fully interactive, saying, "It's all hands-on here."

Some dishes Williams has taught youth how to make include hash brown ala mode, mozzarella

continued on next page

Nourish on a Budget

Grace Kertz
Northeast News

Making meals and packing lunches every day can be a relentless chore, and for some students, half the battle is getting the ingredients. Many schools in the Northeast are helping make food accessible through food pantries. Last year, School Smart KC and Harvesters created a partnership allowing schools to apply for funding to start a food pantry and receive items for it. Last year, 30 schools were involved and more may participate this year.

Schools in Northeast Kansas City that are part of this partnership include DeLaSalle Education Center, Hogan Preparatory Upper and

Lower, Woodland Early Learning Community School/International Welcome Center, Guadalupe Elementary, James Elementary School, Northeast Middle and High Schools, Paseo Academy of Fine and Performing Arts and East High School.

Partnering schools each received \$500 for setup and \$2,000 to use on food from Harvesters through the year.

“The \$2,000 helps to supplement when there is co-op food on [Harvesters’] menu,” explained Rhonda Erpelding, the BackSnack and School Pantry Program Manager for Harvesters.

Co-op food refers to items that are not donated, but purchased by Harvesters.

Each school that’s partnered with Harvesters and School Smart KC has a system, hours, and items tailored to them and their needs. Some have traditional pantries, while others are pop-ups or drive-throughs. Some schools are also supplemented by other organizations, such as grocery stores or churches, and several have items beyond food.

Juan Rangel, the Chief Program Officer for School Smart KC, noted that the partnered schools share the methods behind their pantry opera-



tion during the Community of Practice, which meets three times a year.

“These 30 pantries have come together to learn from each other basic ways that they can do things from mar-
continued on page 22

continued from previous page

cheese, and pesto. Williams remarked that she incorporates nutrition education, “while we’re sharing and we’re cooking.”

“We bring in a lot of the nutrition value with it when we’re teaching,” Williams emphasized.

Beyond her cooking classes at the farm, Williams travels to schools to teach gardening and cooking. She works with elementary students up to eighth grade and makes recipes using “what you can grow in Missouri and unusual things.”

In the schools, kids aren’t able to make the food themselves, but they watch Williams make and explain her technique. Students get to try the food and “they always

get to take something home every day,” she said. This includes the recipe, so they can recreate it at home.

Williams progresses through instruction strategically.

“I like to start with knife safety and just the safety in the kitchen first... and then we start working on their taste buds and helping them recognize different spices,” Williams said.

She wants students to be able to identify spices used in different cuisines, and be able to adapt a dish to sport flavors common in certain cultures, like Mexican or German spices.

“We can change the next generation by teaching these kids how to... [eat] healthy,”



Kids make a dish in Williams’ cooking class
Photo by Christine Williams

Williams said.

With a variety of classes offered, kids (and adults) can learn how to grow food, make it, and even learn art, another of Williams’ pas-

sions. Williams sees the fruit of her teaching, remarking, “We’ve got a lot of kids excited about nutrition and growing their own stuff.”

RevED's summer series and other resources increase parent engagement

Grace Kertz
Northeast News

There are currently 51,198 Latino students in the Greater Kansas City metro area. Yet graduation rates for Latinos fall below the national average; there are three times as many Latino students as teachers, and Latinos are underrepresented at the governance level.

Revolución Educativa, or RevED, is a Northeast Kansas City-based "advocacy organization working to build collective power in Latino community," shared Trisha McGhee, the Parent Advocate and Program Assistant.

RevED's website details their belief that, "in order to truly effect positive change and improve education outcomes, we must come together and give our communities the tools, resources and supports needed to build sustained collective power in

Kansas City and beyond."

The 501(c)(4) organization is an affiliate of the Latinx Education Collaborative (LEC). The LEC's website details that it "is a nonprofit organization that works tirelessly to retain and increase the representation of Latinx education professionals in K-12." RevED operates under three pillars to build community, amplify voices and exercise collective power, and offers five programs and a variety of resources. This all supports Latino students, parents and educators.

"Sometimes people don't share what their biggest concerns are until they feel comfortable with you," McGhee observed.

Building relationships holds an integral role in the organization, which RevED does in ways as simple as sitting and having coffee with someone.

"We are community built and driven," McGhee said. RevED largely spreads the word about their organization through word of mouth, although they also do tabling, attend outreach fairs and host events. Their events are always communicated through WhatsApp chats.

RevED's recent summer series, Educación Sin Límites, worked not only to build community, but to amplify voices and exercise collective power, the other pillars of the organization. The first of three sessions occurred on July 12, and defined educational rights of parents.

According to McGhee, the series was "based on what we see parents saying that their biggest needs are."

The second session occurred on July 19 and discussed bullying and safety inside schools, and the final session on July 22 was a community talk

with school leaders.

"We are ending the summer series with a community circle and leadership panel where superintendents of... local school districts and... board members are coming to a Spanish-dominant event to work with the community members," McGhee detailed about the final session.

Kansas City, Kan., Public Schools (KCKPS) Superintendent Dr. Stubblefield attended with board member Randy Lopez, and Kansas City Public Schools (KCPS) Superintendent Dr. Collier attended with board members Rita Cortés and Robert Sagastume. The programming was entirely in Spanish, with the English-speaking guests wearing translation headphones, "like many of our parents do when they're accessing events at their own school."

[continued on next page](#)

La serie de verano de RevED y otros recursos aumentan la participación de los padres

Grace Kertz
Northeast News

Actualmente hay 51.198 estudiantes latinos en el área metropolitana de Kansas City. Sin embargo, las tasas de graduación de los latinos están por debajo de la media nacional; hay tres veces más estudiantes latinos que profesores, y los latinos están infra-representados en los niveles de gobierno.

Revolución Educativa, o RevED, es una organización

de defensa con sede en el noreste de Kansas City que trabaja para crear poder colectivo en la comunidad latina", explica Trisha McGhee, defensora de los padres y asistente del programa.

El sitio web de RevED detalla su creencia de que, "con el fin de efectuar un cambio verdaderamente positivo y mejorar los resultados educativos, debemos unirnos y dar a nuestras comunidades las herramientas, recursos y

apoyos necesarios para construir un poder colectivo sostenido en Kansas City y más allá."

La organización 501(c)(4) es una filial de Latinx Education Collaborative (LEC). El sitio web de LEC detalla que "es una organización sin fines de lucro que trabaja incansablemente para retener y aumentar la representación de los profesionales de la educación Latinx en K-12". RevED opera bajo tres pilares para construir

comunidad, amplificar voces y ejercer poder colectivo, y ofrece cinco programas y una variedad de recursos. Todo ello apoya a los estudiantes, padres y educadores latinos.

"A veces la gente no comparte cuáles son sus mayores preocupaciones hasta que se sienten cómodos contigo", compartió McGhee.

La construcción de relaciones tiene un papel integral en la organización, que RevED *[continued on next page](#)*

RevED *continued from previous page*

All of the information from the summer series can be assessed in an online toolkit. McGhee hopes that the summer series will help parents start the school year ready to advocate for their children and their neighbor's children.

McGhee differentiated between the terms parent engagement versus involvement. She described that parent involvement is "them involved in an activity. That's not them making decisions

with the school district as a partner, or that's not them advocating for their child."

Alternatively, parent engagement means that parents are equally viewed as partners in a child's education.

McGhee emphasized that with parent engagement, "parents and school districts partner together so it's a two-way, authentic, reciprocal relationship."

She elaborated that this benefits the school and families, and that students perform better when there

is a higher level of parent engagement, and a stronger relationship between families and schools. RevED helps provide resources to strengthen that engagement.

"Parents already have the capacity, but what we're doing is giving them access to the information that they may not have," McGhee said.

RevED works to bridge divides such as digital literacy and language barriers. They work on a level as personal as one-on-one support and discussion groups, yet also

engage on a national level. For instance, RevED supports and helps parents advocate for legislative change, and strengthens their national impact through their partner, the National Parent Union.

RevED offers a range of support and resources, which are particularly important as the new school year begins. Contact RevED at info@revedkc.org or (305) 906-0644 for more information about resources and programs, and to get connected.

RevED *continued from previous page*

hace de maneras tan simples como sentarse y tomar un café con alguien.

"Somos una organización basada en la comunidad", afirma McGhee. RevED hace correr la voz sobre su organización en gran medida a través del boca a boca, aunque también realizan actividades de promoción, asisten a ferias de divulgación y organizan eventos. Sus eventos se comunican siempre a través de chats de WhatsApp.

El taller más reciente de RevEd, parte de su talleres de verano, Educación Sin Límites, fue presentado no solo para crear comunidad, sino también para amplificar las voces y ejercer poder colectivo, y otros pilares de la organización. El primero de los tres talleres ocurrió el 12 de Julio, y definió los derechos educativos de los padres.

Según McGhee, la serie de talleres está basada en lo que vemos que son las necesidades más grandes de los padres".

La segunda sesión fue el 19 de julio y discutió el acoso escolar y seguridad dentro de las escuelas, y la última sesión

el 22 de Julio fue una charla comunitaria con líderes de escuelas.

"Estamos terminando la serie educativa con una discusión con la comunidad y líderes donde los superintendentes de los distritos locales y miembros de la mesa directiva van a venir a un evento principalmente en español para trabajar con miembros de la comunidad", McGhee detalló sobre la última sesión.

Superintendente Dr. Stubblefield de las Escuelas Públicas de Kansas City, Kansas, (KCKPS) asistió con el miembro de la mesa directiva Randy Lopez, y el Superintendente Dr. Collier de las Escuelas Públicas de Kansas City (KCPS) asistió con miembros de la mesa directiva Rita Cortés y Robert Sagastume.

El evento fue completamente en Español, donde participantes anglohablantes usaron audífonos de traducción, "como muchos de nuestros padres los hacen cuando acceden a eventos en sus propias escuelas".

Toda la información de Summer Series puede evaluarse en un conjunto de her-

ramientas en línea. McGhee espera que la Summer Series ayude a los padres a empezar el curso escolar preparados para defender a sus hijos y a los hijos de sus vecinos.

McGhee diferenció entre los términos compromiso de los padres y participación. Describió que la participación de los padres es "que participen en una actividad. Eso no es que tomen decisiones con el distrito escolar como socio, o eso no es que aboguen por sus hijos".

Alternativamente, la participación de los padres significa que los padres son igualmente vistos como socios en la educación de un niño.

McGhee hizo énfasis en que con la participación de los padres, "los padres y los distritos escolares se asocian para que sea una relación bidireccional, auténtica y recíproca".

Añadió que esto beneficia a la escuela y a las familias, y que los estudiantes obtienen mejores resultados cuando hay un mayor nivel de compromiso de los padres y una relación más sólida entre las

familias y las escuelas. RevED ayuda a proporcionar recursos para reforzar ese compromiso.

"Los padres ya tienen la capacidad, pero lo que hacemos es darles acceso a la información que quizá no tengan", afirma McGhee.

RevED trabaja para superar barreras como la alfabetización digital y las barreras lingüísticas. Trabajan a un nivel tan personal como el apoyo individual y los grupos de debate, pero también se comprometen a nivel nacional. Por ejemplo, RevED apoya y ayuda a los padres a defender cambios legislativos, y refuerza su impacto nacional a través de su socio, la Unión Nacional de Padres.

RevED ofrece toda una serie de apoyos y recursos, especialmente importantes ahora que empieza el nuevo curso escolar. Póngase en contacto con RevED en info@revedkc.org o (305) 906-0644 para obtener más información sobre recursos y programas, y para conectarse.

Global Free Education Workshop Sept. 18

Erin William
Northeast News

Educators working with children who have endured trauma and mental health struggles should not miss this year's inaugural Global FC Free Education Workshop, which will be held September 18 at the MCC-Penn Valley Education Center, Penn Drive Kansas City, Mo.

At the event, educators will learn practice tools and hear from multiple speakers with

advice on how to continue their work. The targeted audience, as stated by Director of Mentoring Madi Harrington, is educators who "work with kids who have traumatic backgrounds."

Global FC is an extracurricular organization focused on mentoring mainly international students who are refugees and immigrants through sportsmanship. According to Harrington, with their boys and newly launched girls soc-

cer teams, Global FC makes each child feel as though someone is "in their corner".

On a community scale, at Global FC, they are "trying to offer all of the tools to be able to serve the community better." According to Harrington, at the workshop, Global FC is expecting to see individuals who work in a wide range of fields including inner city schools, schools with refugee students, immigrant students and/or English learning stu-

dents, but is open to all other "teachers who need support with education in this area."

For educators interested in the workshop, registration is open. It is preferred that those hoping to join register prior to the event. If you would like to register for the workshop keep an eye out for their Evite link on the Northeast community calendar. For more information regarding the workshop in general, visit their website.

Dael Umanzor *continued from page 8*

"Of the 19 [students], I'll say that they're representing 15 or 16 countries," Leonard said. "Their families also bring in their own cultures; their own backgrounds, and being able to incorporate that into our academics has been great."

Umanzor believes in the importance of contributing to the community beyond his school. He recently planted 150 trees in Northeast Kansas City to help fight pollution. The trees have been planted as seedlings, and are housed

in a facility operating as a greenhouse, promoting their initial growth.

"When they're producing fruit, we're going to pass [the trees] out to foster shelters... the streets, or go to families," Umanzor said.

Umanzor is active physically, active within his community, and of course engages academically. He likes that at Ryogoku Soccer Academy, there's "enough time to do your work and enough time to play."

Lo que me hubiera gustado saber cuando... *continued from page 15*

realmente real". Pensamientos, opiniones y perspectivas implantados". Si esta madre hubiera sabido esto antes de que su hija entrara en la escuela primaria, habría comprendido "cómo todo está ligado y al dinero" y habría podido prepararse para los costes inesperados de matricular a su hija en la escuela primaria.

Anyshya Hemphill, recién graduada en secundaria, voluntaria de "Pop Ins at the Park" y becaria de informática de "ProX", declaró que antes de entrar en el instituto le hubiera gustado entender que "no era tan difícil como lo pintan". En lugar de eso, Hemphill "entró en el instituto con mucha ansiedad y estrés porque pensaba que sería mucho más difícil de superar de lo que realmente

resultó ser". Este suele ser el caso en los institutos de toda la ciudad, ya que durante la orientación o el primer día de clase, los estudiantes de primer año entran con los ojos muy abiertos y temblorosos y escuchan a los estudiantes de cursos superiores recordar sus propias experiencias y choques culturales al entrar en el instituto. A veces, los alumnos de último y penúltimo año intentan convencer a los de primero de que "la carga de trabajo es imposible" o "el instituto es mucho más duro que la secundaria". Sin embargo, la realidad es que la escuela secundaria fue bastante manejable para los miles de estudiantes que tú, y después de unos pocos "dolores de crecimiento" seguro que te harás con

el control de las cosas.

Jennifer, una estudiante de cuarto año de universidad en la Northwest Missouri State University y actual voluntaria del Kid's Café en la Northeast Branch de la KC Public Library, desearía haber sabido "seguir la corriente y tener una mentalidad abierta" antes de graduarse en el instituto. Como estudiante universitaria de primera generación, Jennifer ofrece un consejo a otros estudiantes que experimentan los mismos desafíos: "investigar sobre la universidad a la que quieres ir y asegurarte de que tienen lo que quieres hacer". Al elegir una universidad o escuela de comercio que se ajuste a sus intereses, los estudiantes podrán maximizar sus experiencias individuales de educación superior; sin embargo, Jennifer reconoce

que "la universidad no será el próximo capítulo de la vida de todo el mundo" y aconseja a todos los estudiantes que "intenten encontrar ese equilibrio" dondequiera que la vida les lleve después de la graduación.

Reflexionar sobre el pasado y compartir "lo que nos hubiera gustado saber" con familiares, vecinos y compañeros ayuda a construir y a tender puentes en la comunidad; así que considera la posibilidad de compartir "lo que te hubiera gustado saber" con tus seres queridos y compañeros para aliviar la ansiedad y aumentar sus posibilidades de éxito en esta temporada de vuelta al cole.

What I Wish I Knew... *continued from page 15*

A rising fourth year college student at Northwest Missouri State University and current volunteer with the Kid's Cafe at the North-East Branch of the Kansas City Public Library, Jennifer wishes she knew to go with the flow and have an open minded view of things" prior to graduating high school.

As a first generation college student, Jennifer offered a word of advice to other students experiencing the same challenges.

"Do research on the college that you want to go to and make sure that they have what you want to do," she said.

By choosing a college or trade school that matches

their interests, students will be able to maximize their individual higher education experiences; however, Jennifer acknowledges that, "not everyone's next chapter of life is going to be college," and advises all students to "try to find that balance" in wherever life takes them post graduation.

Reflecting on the past and sharing what they wish they'd known with family members, neighbors, and peers helps build and bridge the community; so consider sharing "What I wish I knew" with loved ones and peers to ease anxiety and heighten their chances of success this back-to-school season.

Dael Umanzor *continued from page 8*

Desde entrenar y jugar juntos al fútbol hasta completar los estudios, la cosa no acaba ahí. Los niños de Ryogoku miran partidos de fútbol profesionales y hablan sobre lo que notan, para mejorar su desempeño en el campo.

"Nosotros pensamos que esas conversaciones son muy significativas porque empiezan a ver cosas en esos juegos que las demás personas no ven," Leonard dice.

El personal procura no sobrecargar de juegos a

Umanzor y a los chicos, en un esfuerzo por garantizar que "los juegos que juegan sean de muy alta calidad", explicó Leonard.

Umanzor y los otros en la academia esperan viajar a otras academias de Major League Soccer (MLS) en los Estados Unidos para competir, incluyendo St. Louis, Chicago y Nueva York.

Crear una comunidad también es un elemento importante de la escuela.

"De los 19 estudiantes, yo diría que están representa-

dos entre 15 a 16 países diferentes", Leonard dijo. "Sus familias también compartieron sus propias culturas, sus raíces, y incorporar eso a nuestro académicos ha sido genial".

Umanzor cree en la importancia de contribuir a la comunidad fuera de su escuela. Recientemente, él ayudó a plantar 150 árboles en el Noreste para ayudar a combatir la contaminación.

Los árboles se han plantado como plantones y se alojan en unas instalaciones

que funcionan como invernadero, lo que favorece su crecimiento inicial.

"Cuando produzcan frutos, los entregaremos a centros de acogida, a la calle o a familias", explica Umanzor.

Umanzor es activo físicamente, activo en su comunidad y, por supuesto, activo académicamente. Le gusta que en la Academia de Fútbol Ryogoku haya "tiempo suficiente para hacer tu trabajo y tiempo suficiente para jugar".

Eddie Cerritos *continued from page 9*

Cerritos encuentra la música "relajante y desafiante al mismo tiempo". Toca en el conjunto de viento y en el cuarteto de saxofones, y recibe clases dos días entre semana y los sábados por la mañana. Esto suma cinco horas a la semana, con la oportunidad de hacer una hora de clases particulares, y otras clases adicionales. Al final de cada curso, hace una evaluación musical.

"Los maestros saben cómo darnos una reta", Cerritos dijo. "Ellos saben cómo darnos descansos".

Este balance ayuda a que los estudiantes sigan mejorando y que se mantengan motivados.

Este grupo de individuos

son de raíces diversas. Banderas en el edificio representan cada cultura y nación de origen reportados de parte de los padres.

"Yo creo que tenemos 50 banderas que representan los diferentes países de parte de nuestros maestros y estudiantes", Snow compartió.

Harmony Project apoya a sus estudiantes más allá de hacer música. Snow describe su programa 'Camino a Colegio', que incluye talleres, visitas a colegio, y citas personalizadas con la organización Hispanic Development Fund. Las Becas también son una parte íntegra de este proceso.

"El año pasado todos nuestros estudiantes se grad-

uaron con casi todo sus estudios pagados y aceptados a muchas, muchas universidades", Snow dijo.

Servicios de atención y otros apoyos también son disponibles a través del Centro Comunitario del Noreste y es evidente a los estudiantes que el Harmony Project KC tiene un ambiente de mucho apoyo.

"La cosa que me gusta de estar aquí es que todos son muy amables", Cerritos dijo. "Es definitivamente uno de los lugares más seguros de los que he estado".

El Harmony Project KC cultiva un ambiente positivo mandando encuestas cada semestre a estudiantes, padres,

y maestros. Esta organización alcanza 300 estudiantes y actualmente tiene una lista de espera, accesible en el sitio web del Harmony Project, ncc-kc.org. Estudiantes, incluyendo Cerritos, pueden llevar su instrumento a casa para practicar.

Snow cree en el impacto de la música.

"Yo creo que la música es una herramienta poderosa y un catalizador para el cambio y el crecimiento", compartió.

La música le ha regalado a Santos y a sus compañeros una comunidad, pasión, mentores, apoyo y una carrera.

"La música es mi sitio", comparte Cerritos. "Es increíble".

¡Aprende a ser un chef!

Grace Kertz
Northeast News

Aprende a ser un chef, aquí mismo en el Noreste. Christine Williams es el administrador adjunto en el Ágape Grow Education Center, ubicado en la iglesia Beaumont Baptist localizada en 8319 Independence Ave, y enseña a cocinar a individuos de todas edades.

Williams, que anteriormente trabajaba para la Universidad de Missouri en el programa Eating from the Garden. Ahora, ella continúa educando a otros en la granja urbana Precious Petals & Pepper Berries, ubicada en la iglesia Beaumont Baptist.

“Estamos enseñando jardinería, clases de cocina, conservas, fermentación y arte, y damos clases a niños, adolescentes y adultos”, explica Williams.

Las clases de cocina empiezan en Septiembre y serán ofrecidas semanalmente hasta el fin de Marzo, y todas las edades serán bienvenidas. Manténgase informados en Facebook y Eventbrite en la granja urbana Precious Petals

& Pepper Berries para recibir más detalles y precios.

No solo habrá clases de cocina en una cocina industrial con equipo profesional, pero Williams también describe que las clases son completamente interactivas, diciendo que “Aquí todo es práctico”.

Algunos de los platillos que Williams ha enseñado a preparar a los jóvenes son hash brown a la moda, queso mozzarella y pesto. Williams remarca que ella incorpora educación nutritiva. “mientras que compartimos y cocinamos”.

“Nosotros traemos mucho valor nutritivo cuando estamos educando”, Williams dice.

Más allá de sus clases de cocina en la granja, Williams viaja a escuelas para enseñar a estudiantes sobre jardinería y cocina. Ella trabaja con estudiantes de primaria hasta del grado ocho y crea recetas usando “lo que uno puede cosechar en Missouri y cosas inusuales”.

En las escuelas, los niños no pueden preparar la



comida, pero miran como Williams la prepara y la escuchan explicar su técnica. Los estudiantes tienen la oportunidad de probar la comida y “siempre se llevan algo a casa”, ella dijo. Esto incluye la receta, para que la puedan recrear en casa.

Williams avanza en la instrucción de forma estratégica.

“Me gusta empezar hablando sobre la seguridad de los cuchillos y en la cocina... y luego empezamos a trabajar con sus papilas gustativas y a ayudarles a reconocer las distintas especias”, explica Williams.

Ella quiere que los estudiantes puedan identificar es-

pecias usadas en gastronomía diferentes y poder adaptar un plato con sabores de ciertas culturas como especias Mexicanas o Alemanas.

“Podemos cambiar la siguiente generación enseñándoles a los niños cómo... [comer] saludable”. Williams dijo.

“Con una variedad de clases ofrecidas, niños y adultos podrán aprender cómo crecer comida, como prepararla y hasta aprender sobre arte que es otra pasión de Williams. Williams ve el fruto de su enseñanza diciendo “Tenemos muchos niños emocionados sobre nutrición y de cosechar su propia comida”.

Pantry *continued from page 17*

keting to distribution of food to... some of the regulatory pieces that they need to know,” Rangel said, describing the collaboration of the Community of Practice.

Northeast High School is an example of this individualization. Although they joined the partnership last year when it began, they are going on six years of operating a food pantry, fully staffed by alumni of the school.

“Our goal is just to feed hungry people in Northeast,” said Roberta Holt-Kipper, who runs the pantry.

Although food is pre-

packaged, Holt shared that, “We try to tailor what we give a family to that family’s specific needs.”

Northeast High School also has clothing, personal care items, and recipe books available at no cost, including Northeast High School’s own recipe book using ingredients from their pantry.

Additionally, science teacher Mariccia Spearman-Kaki is working to start a school garden at Northeast High School on the north lawn, next to the pantry. It will serve a purpose not only to teach life skills, but will be part of science labs and les-

son plans, and to help stock the food pantry. Primarily, members of the school’s Garden Club will be involved.

“I look forward to teaching the students the value of agriculture and the accomplishments and joy of growing your own food,” Spearman-Kaki said.

Items in their food pantry are also accessible to teachers and the general community. To use the pantry, community members need to contact the school, go through the front door and get a visitor pass. On return visits, they can call the pantry at 816-418-3422

from Wednesday through Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (the pantry’s operating hours) to be let in, which limits contact between visitors and students.

If your child’s school doesn’t have a food pantry, connect with a nearby school to utilize theirs. Another option is the many grocery stores in the Northeast that accept EBT. Look up the Snap Retailer Locator for other stores that accept EBT, and check out northeastnews.net for upcoming events and free back-to-school items beyond food.



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Spark Wheel provides resources for students at Guadalupe Centers High School and Frontier School of Innovation Middle School

Erin William
Northeast News

Spark Wheel is an organization built “in the quest for success in academics and life” for “many students [who] face daunting obstacles with limited resources” according to their website. For students who attend Frontier School of Innovation Middle School or the Guadalupe Centers High School, by speaking with the Spark Wheel Student Support Coordinator, they may be given assistance with academic materials and more.

At each school they work with, Spark Wheel provides a support coordinator to be the main line of contact for students. As any issue or barrier to academic access arises, students should reach out to their Spark Wheel support coordinator to help resolve such issues.

At Frontier School of Innovation Middle School, Spark Wheel:

- Supplies backpacks and other school supplies needed in the classroom
- Provides the required school uniforms to students who get in contact with their

Spark Wheel Student Support Coordinator

- Provide a pair of shoes to students in need who contact their Support Coordinator
- Supplies food to families struggling to purchase food after allocating a majority of their budget towards Back-to-School shopping
- Hosts family engagement events on Saturdays including bring your laundry day, games, and more.

At Guadalupe Centers High School Spark Wheel:

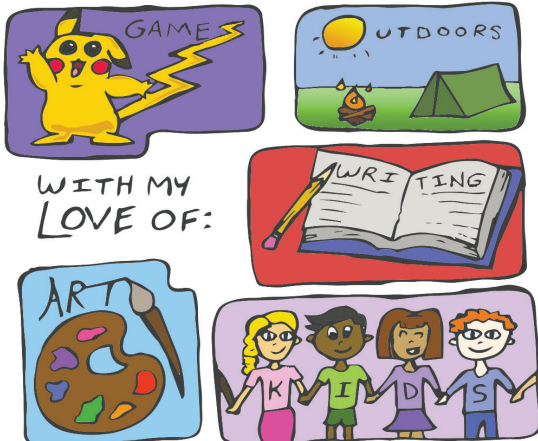
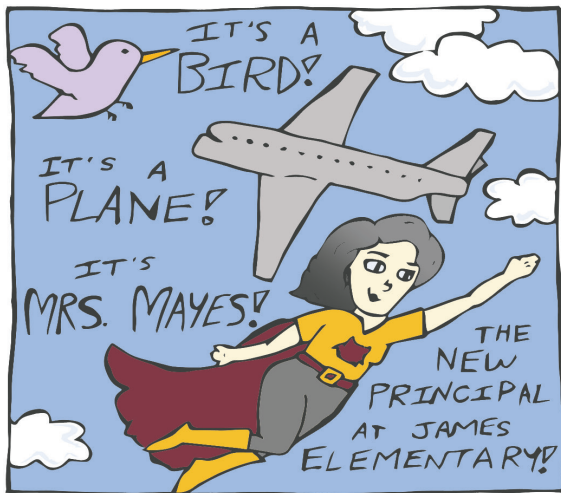
- Provides classroom essen-

tials like backpacks, pencils, and other school supplies needed in the classroom

- Provides students in need of clothes with a clothing closet
- Helps with attendance support, encouraging students to attend school on a regular basis and sends letters to families of students who are not attending class
- Provides financial assistance for extracurricular activities and graduation fees for case-managed students (ex. cleats for sports practice, etc.)

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New KCPS Principals, a comic strip series by Grace Kertz



Back-to-School Shopping “Life Hacks”

Erin William
Northeast News

Each summer seems to fly by faster and faster. What feels like a greater whiplash than the summers flying by? The back to school shopping bill. From new clothes to writing utensils, at times the back-to-school shopping list seems bottomless. Tapping into shopping hacks and knowing information on various back to school organizations can help parents avoid blowing a hole through the wallet whilst sending their children to class, well equipped for the new school year.

For first-time parents of elementary schoolers, the

back-to-school shopping lists schools send in early August can be exceptionally overwhelming. From Sharpies, to specific colored socks, to tissues for the whole class, at times the list feels all over the place. To avoid feeling parents should review the previous 2022-2023 supplies list for reference. This hack allows parents to begin back-to-school shopping earlier, space out their budget and snatch school items before prices rise in August. To view the past school year’s shopping list, click on the following link to the KCPS shopping list website: kcpublicschools.org/families/school-supply-list.

Another more obvious solution is to reuse items for as long as possible. Usually, backpacks tend to be the most expensive item on the list so it is important to get a high quality bag that can last years. Along with this, parents may encourage their students to steer away from patterns on bags, pencil cases and shoes that they may not like in the next couple of years.

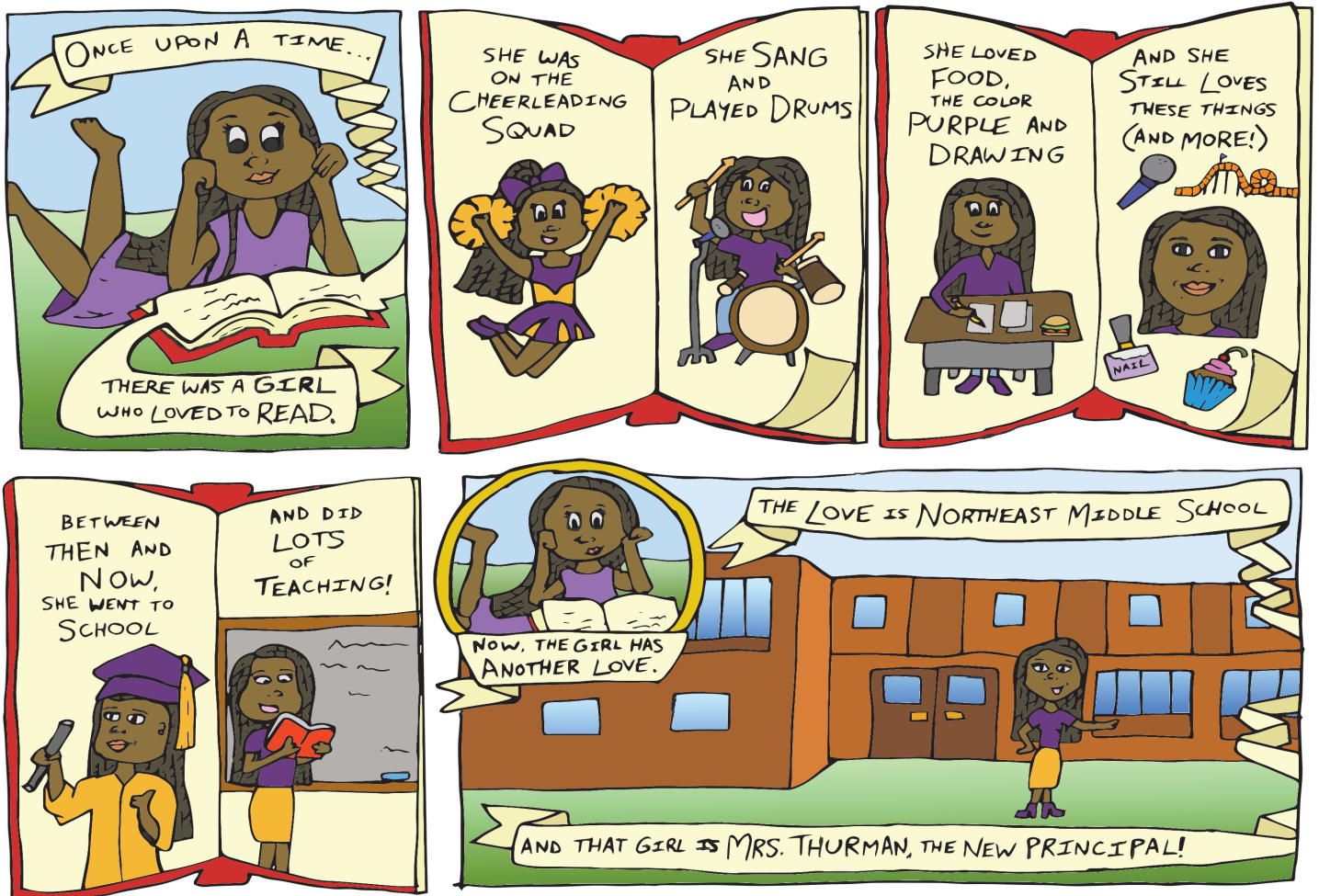
In high school, it may be useful to look at the future shopping lists your child will use to anticipate what they will need for the next year, as some items are especially expensive. For example, as a student advances in math, once

they reach geometry they may be required to purchase the Ti-84 calculator – a tool whose prices range between \$90 and \$120.

Knowing this requirement in advance enables parents to slowly budget for the purchase over time. And if a child has graduating siblings, the Ti-84 is a long lasting calculator that may be passed down between siblings.

A great way to offset the pricier items on a student’s back to school supplies list is to look out for Missouri’s Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday. Tax-free weekend omits taxes

continued on next page



Spark Wheel *continued from page 24*

- Assists families who are at risk of having utilities turned off; work with community partner to continue having that resource
- Guadalupe Centers High

School is partnered with Harvesters and can provide the students with food to take home

For more information on Spark Wheel, how the organization works and how it

might benefit families, visit its website, sparkwheel.org/ impact. Families of students who attend Frontier School of Innovation Middle School should call (816) 241-6202

and families of students who attend Guadalupe Centers High School should call (816) 471-2582 for support.

Back-to-School Shopping *continued from page 25*

on items that meet the following categories: Clothing, School Supplies, Computer Software, Personal Computers, Computer Peripheral Devices, and Graphing Calculators. After purchasing these items during tax-free weekend, many parents will have saved upwards of \$100. Every year, tax free weekend takes place during “a three-day period beginning at 12:01 a.m. on the first Friday in August

and ending at midnight on the Sunday following.” This year’s tax-free weekend will begin Friday, August 4 and end Sunday, August 6. To find out more information, visit the state’s Department of Revenue website.

Every year, as elementary, middle and high schoolers go through intense growth spurts, an unplanned cost to the back to school budget can be properly fitted clothes for

the new school year. In addition to shopping for clothes during tax free weekend, in the future, be sure to capitalize on summer holiday sales to lower the cost of clothing for children. Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day weekends are all great opportunities to purchase clothing.

While tips, advice and various “life hacks” can aid families with back to school shop-

ping, at the end of the day, when money is tight, sometimes the reality is there may not be enough space in the family budget for all of the back to school necessities. To help combat this struggle, there are organizations that help distribute books, clothes and other materials to families in need.

Visit NortheastNews.net for a list of back-to-school events.



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plus Sept 4 & Oct 9, 2023

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KANSAS CITY MUSEUM



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The Kansas City Museum has designed its history and humanities exhibits to align the need learning goals and needs of educators and students. Exhibits are the initial layer of learning for museums. Education programs take the exhibit content deeper by creating an immersive and inspiring environment for open-ended inquiry, critical analysis, meaningful conversation, and multidisciplinary exploration.

The Kansas City Museum is focused on creating education programs such as school field trips, workshops, virtual experiences, mentorships, and internships that supplement and enhance core curriculum and provide

students with real-world learning opportunities. These programs connect students with historians, educators, artists, and museum professionals who expose them to viable careers opportunities.

To learn more, please visit kansascitymuseum.org and email Glenn North, Director of Inclusive Learning and Creative Impact at gnorth@kansascitymuseum.org.

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