



Aug. 26, 2009

# Board At Work



News from the Pattonville School District Board of Education

## Pattonville High among Top 10 in area on state exams

Last year, Pattonville High School students took the state's first end-of-course exams in English II, Biology and Algebra I. Recently released results show Pattonville students scored in the Top 10 among school districts in the St. Louis area for the percent of students scoring proficient or advanced on the English II and Biology exams.

The Top 10 lists were compiled as part of a story published by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch on Aug. 13. At Pattonville High School 84 percent of students scored advanced or proficient on the English II test, compared to the 73 percent average at the state level. In Biology, 73 percent of Pattonville High School students scored advanced or proficient, compared to 55 percent at the state level. In Algebra I, middle school and high school scores contributed to the district scoring well above state average, with 63 percent of Pattonville students scoring advanced and proficient, as compared to 53 percent at the state level.

## State results show areas for celebration, areas for improved focus

**A** report on federal accountability legislation at the Aug. 25 board meeting showed Pattonville has many areas to celebrate on results from recent state tests and other indicators of progress, however some areas need continued focus. During the meeting, administrators gave an update on the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and Pattonville's assessment results from tests given last year at the elementary, middle and high school levels. NCLB requires all schools and school districts in the nation show adequate yearly progress (AYP) toward the law's goal of all students (100 percent) being proficient or advanced in communication arts and math by the year 2014.

Pattonville saw many areas where students - including students in specific subgroups - made gains on state tests. In addition, Pattonville High School students took their first state end-of-course exams, which replaced the high school Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) tests, and performed well above state average (see front page for details). More points of celebration are shown in the list at right.

The report also showed declining scores at some grade levels at the elementary and middle school level that will be the focus of improvement efforts over the next year. Dr. Tim Pecoraro, assistant superintendent, said the district and schools will look at data to determine the areas of focus in communication arts and mathematics and use research to guide next steps. School Improvement Teams at each school will also identify and use scientifically based research and evidence-based practices to guide building level work. Staff will go deeper with the data team process to help focus on individual student learning. In data teams, teams of staff members look at individual student data to determine how to best meet the instructional needs of their students. They then identify and use instructional strategies that research shows are effective in helping students achieve. Pecoraro said the work that will be conducted this year is all part of the district's strategic plan that was updated and approved by the board last year following the volunteer work of nearly 150 parents, staff and community members.

## Points of Celebration

- Pattonville High School students' performance on state end-of-course exams was well above state average and in the Top 10 in two out of three subjects for all districts in the St. Louis metro area (see front page for more information); this includes Algebra I scores that combine 8th- and 9th-grade scores.
- District communication arts total score (based on state's AYP or adequate yearly progress report) increased 4.5% from 2008 to 2009.
- District AYP achievement increased in communication arts in the following subgroups - Asian/Pacific Islander, Black, White, Free/Reduced Lunch, students with disabilities and students with limited English proficiency.
- District AYP achievement increased in mathematics in the following subgroups - Black and students with disabilities.
- Highest percentage of students scoring proficient and advanced in 6th and 7th grade communication arts over the last four years.
- Highest percentage of students scoring proficient and advanced in 7th grade math over the last four years.
- Parkwood Elementary showed improvement in both communication arts and mathematics.
- Rose Acres and Remington Traditional showed improvement in communication arts.
- The high school graduation rate increased by 4% to 90.7% which is the highest level in five years.
- Pattonville maintained its attendance rate with an average of 95.3%

# Pattonville sets tax levies for 2009-2010

The Pattonville Board of Education set its residential tax rate at \$3.6706 for the 2009-2010 school year during its Aug. 25 board meeting. Although the estimated rate represents an increase of 24 cents over the previous year, two-thirds of homeowners (approximately 10,000 homes) will see a reduction in their property taxes because of a decline in residential property values. Another 2,500 will see an increase of less than \$20 because of a low change in the value of their property.

Even with the tax rate increase in the current school year, revenues will decrease slightly from the previous year. Pattonville's 2009-2010 budget includes \$2 million in reductions, including a reduction of 14 staff members through normal retirements and resignations. These reductions enable Pattonville to maintain a balanced budget and offset any increase in expenditures.

Pattonville's tax rate is typically well below the St. Louis County average for school districts. Last school year's tax rate of \$3.4334 per \$100 of assessed valuation was among the lowest in St. Louis County - nearly 57 cents below the county average school district levy.

St. Louis County school districts levy tax rates in four classes: residential, commercial, agricultural and personal property. The rates for the 2009-2010 school year, compared with the previous year's rates, are shown in the box at right.

Class of Property	2009-2010 Rate	2008-2009 Rate
Residential Real Estate	\$3.6706	\$3.4334
Commercial Real Estate	\$3.9127	\$3.7946
Agricultural Real Estate	\$4.4599	\$4.4329
Personal Property	\$4.2804	\$4.2757

debt service levy, but is foregoing that increase to keep its promise to tax payers not to increase this portion of the levy to pay for the 2006 bond issue.

The new rate also includes a reduction of nearly 14-cents due to Proposition C. In 1982 Missouri voters approved a special sales tax of one cent on the dollar to benefit public education. School districts were required to reduce their tax levy to represent half of their annual revenue from Proposition C. The majority of area districts have asked voters to repeal that requirement, and Pattonville is one of only a handful of area districts that continue to reduce their tax rate under this provision. Pattonville currently receives approximately \$4 million in revenue from Proposition C, and the 14-cent rollback represents a revenue reduction of approximately \$2 million for Pattonville. The combined effect of each of Pattonville's rate reductions saves an average homeowner nearly \$90 based on the value of a \$200,000 home and decreases potential revenue of the district nearly \$3 million.

## Voluntary rollbacks in the new rate

State law allows for the recovery of lost tax revenue due to a reduction in assessed valuation, and when assessed valuation decreases a district's tax ceiling will increase. The tax ceiling is the maximum levy a school district may set in a given year. Due to the impact of the current economy on many district's residents, the 2009 residential tax rate is nearly 24 cents lower than the tax ceiling or maximum levy that may be set due to two voluntary rollbacks and one Proposition C rollback. The new rate includes a 5-cent voluntary operating reduction in Pattonville's tax rate from what it could legally levy, a 5-cent reduction in the debt service levy, and a 14-cent reduction due to revenue from Proposition C. The voluntary reductions mark the fourth time in the last five years Pattonville has voluntarily reduced its residential tax rate. In addition, Pattonville has followed the state's Hancock Amendment requirements for reducing its tax levy when property values increase. As a result, Pattonville has reduced its residential tax rate by 60 cents between 2004 and 2008.

## Debt service levy unchanged-as promised

The new rate includes an unchanged debt service levy of 49 cents, as promised to voters when they approved a zero-tax-rate increase bond issue in 2006. Under the state's formulas for calculating tax levies, the district could have legally levied an additional 5 cents in the

## Calculating estimated rates last spring

State law requires school districts to project an estimated non-binding tax rate in April each year in order to provide taxpayers information on how changes in their assessed values affect their annual tax bill. For the first time ever, St. Louis County mailed residential changes of assessment, which included taxpayer's current and prior-year assessments and estimated tax rates, in May 2009. Pattonville uses a form from the state auditor's office to set its tax rates. The rates on the notices sent out by the county were estimates only, as the county assessor's office did not have complete information on the assessments of commercial real estate and personal property needed to complete this form. For this reason, residential and commercial rates approved on Aug. 25 are slightly higher than originally anticipated.

Initial estimates from the county showed commercial real estate values increasing more than 5 percent, however, commercial property values in Pattonville actually dropped by 9.5 percent once complete information was available. This change impacted both residential and commercial tax rates, increasing the residential rate by 5 cents and the commercial rate by 17 cents over the estimated rates from last spring.

## Pattonville preparing for H1N1 flu; parents asked to help

Last spring, the H1N1 flu (previously known as swine flu) began circulating the globe and is still a concern. This strain of the flu has been shown to target children and young adults and is easily spread from person to person. For this reason, the Pattonville School District is continuing to take steps to reduce the spread of flu in Pattonville schools. The goal is to keep schools open and functioning in a normal manner this flu season.

Pattonville is working closely with the St. Louis County Department of Health to monitor flu conditions and make decisions about the best steps to take concerning schools. County health officials have indicated they will receive vaccines for the H1N1 flu in mid-October, and Pattonville will serve as one of their school-based vaccination clinic sites. Parents of children in elementary through high school will have the option of giving consent to have their children vaccinated against the H1N1 flu for free at the school-based clinic. More information will be shared as it becomes available on the clinics.

The H1N1 vaccination will require two shots given approximately three to four weeks apart. Health officials also recommend those who normally receive a seasonal flu shot still get the shot in addition to the H1N1 flu vaccination. Although county health officials indicate there will be enough supplies in St. Louis County to provide vaccinations to anyone who wants one, early priority for receiving the H1N1 vaccination will be given to children ages 6 months to adults 24 years of age and pregnant women.

In Pattonville, staff members routinely work to prevent the spread of illnesses in Pattonville schools. Teachers and school nurses work with students on proper hand-washing techniques. The schools have posters, which illustrate proper mouth coverage when coughing or sneezing. In addition, Pattonville facilities staff members work to keep our schools clean every day. According to health officials, routine cleaning of heavily used surfaces is effective in curtailing the spread of illness, and excessive cleaning is not necessary.

Pattonville will continue to monitor this illness and work with as a team to keep Pattonville students and families safe and healthy. For more information, visit [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov), or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.

### Help prevent the spread of illness

Here are a few things parents, staff and community members can do to help prevent the spread of the H1N1 flu:

- Teach your children to wash their hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub. You can set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Teach your children not to share personal items like drinks, food or unwashed utensils, and to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues or by using the elbow, arm or sleeve instead of the hand when a tissue is unavailable.
- Know the signs and symptoms of the flu. Symptoms of the flu include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit, 37.8 degrees Celsius or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea.
- Keep sick children at home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have fever or do not have signs of fever, without using fever-reducing drugs. Keeping children with a fever at home will reduce the number of people who may get infected.
- Do not send children to school if they are sick. Any children who are determined to be sick while at school will be sent home.

### For more information

[www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov)  
1-800-CDC-INFO  
[www.co.st-louis.mo.us/Doh/Flu/Swine-Flu.htm](http://www.co.st-louis.mo.us/Doh/Flu/Swine-Flu.htm)

# Superintendent's Update

Michael A. Fulton, Ed.D, Superintendent

## College planning starts now

For high school students, it's not too early to start thinking about planning for college. Pattonville High School has several free programs coming up this year to help students and their families in the planning process. First up is the Senior-Year College Planning Meeting, set for 7 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 27 in the high school's community auditorium. Seniors who plan to attend a four-year or two-year college are encouraged to attend this session with their parents. Julie Kampschroeder, college counselor, will discuss the timeline of what each senior should be doing at what time of the year if they plan to apply to college. Next up, high school juniors or seniors are invited to the "North County College Fair" hosted by Pattonville High School from 6:30 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 16 in the school's main gym. More than 90 colleges and universities will be on campus to talk with families about the scholarships and majors they offer at their school. This is the perfect time for students and families to begin or continue building relationships with the college representatives. For more information, contact Pattonville's college counselor, Julie Kampschroeder, at (314) 213-8051 or [jkampschroeder@psdr3.org](mailto:jkampschroeder@psdr3.org).

## Pattonville Homecoming 2009 - Oct 3

Pattonville has selected its 2009 Homecoming theme, "As Time Goes By...Homecoming 09," which gives the Pattonville community a chance to travel back in time and enjoy the decades of the past. The festivities begin at 9 a.m., Oct. 3rd with the annual community parade, featuring floats and walking groups from all our schools, alumni groups and community groups. The Pattonville Alumni Association will have its annual barbecue at 10:30 a.m., followed by the Homecoming football game as Pattonville takes on CBC at 1 p.m. The Homecoming dance begins at 8 p.m.

## Pattonville Education Foundation 10th annual Golf Classic

Shortly after Homecoming, Pattonville will also come together for the 10th annual Pattonville Education Foundation Golf Classic, set at noon, Sunday, Oct. 11 at Crystal Springs Quarry Golf Course in Maryland Heights. Funds raised through the program support grants for Pattonville staff members to conduct innovative programs in Pattonville classrooms. Cost is \$80 per player or \$320 for a foursome and includes greens fees, golf, lunch, four drink tickets and a buffet dinner. For more information, contact Connie O'Dell at (314) 770-1746.

## Tutors sought to work with elementary students

Pattonville is seeking older adult volunteers who can spend up to one hour a week tutoring a student in kindergarten through third grade through Pattonville's OASIS tutoring program. Tutors help children with language skills. A free, two-day training session and background checks are required of all tutors. Pattonville will offer training from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 24 and 25 at the Pattonville Learning Center, 11097 St. Charles Rock Road in St. Ann. To volunteer or for more information, call Supriya Deshpande in the Pattonville school-community relations office at (314) 213-8025.



## Business Bits

### Bills Paid

The Pattonville Board of Education approved paying the following on Aug. 25:

- \$169,272.71 in purchases made on Pattonville's purchasing cards; and
- \$7,635.21 to Kohn, Shands, Elbert, Gianoulakis, and Giljum for legal services.

### Board Actions

The Pattonville Board of Education on Aug. 25 approved:

- The contract between the Pattonville and Special school districts for home-bound general education services for the 2009-2010 school year;
- A revised contract for funding early intervening services between Special School District and Pattonville School District, with Pattonville to receive an amount not to exceed \$115,059;
- Payment to Cooperating School Districts for 60 percent of the staff development membership dues for the 2009-2010 school year in the amount of \$5,667; and
- Awarding the bid for printer supplies as follows: \$323.60 to Conover Office Products for labels, \$468.74 to Conover Office Products for blank diskettes, \$1,331 to International Laser Group for inkjet cartridges, \$42,611 to International Laser Group for Tektronix printer supplies, and \$8,907.15 to Conover Office Products for toner recharges.

### New Hires

- **Carrie Brown**, ninth-grade alternative teacher, High School
- **Florida Jenkins**, clerical assistant, Remington
- **Lee Grant**, early childhood special education paraprofessional, Parkwood

*Pattonville Online*  
[www.psd3.org](http://www.psd3.org)

#### Calendars

Pattonville maintains up-to-date calendars online. Click on the calendar tab in the left navigation column to view :

- An activities calendar of all school and district-level events; and
- An athletic calendar of Pattonville High School sporting events.

#### BoardDocs

Details of items discussed at board meetings can be found online. Click on any tab in the Web Tools menu on the right to find a link to Pattonville's BoardDocs page.

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