

Pinckney Elementary School Information Sheet

For 140 years Pinckney has been a highly visible presence at the gateway to our city. Improvements over the years have allowed the school to evolve with the times. Our school has served generations of Lawrence families and continues to function as the public elementary school for two of the city's oldest and most historic neighborhoods. Pinckney is an asset to our urban core and is vital to help our downtown area remain vibrant.

Lawrence's elementary schools are recognized as some of the best in the state. And while we all strive to reach a high level of academic achievement, each of our schools has its own distinct nuances informed by the neighborhoods in which they are located, the educators who teach our children, and the unique populations they serve. The Pinckney group has enjoyed learning about each elementary school's strengths, and we would like to share some of ours with you.

QUICK FACTS

- According to data from spring 2011, a survey of all Pinckney student addresses showed that more than 75% of Pinckney's student body lives within one mile of the school. More than 55% live within $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile and more than 45% live within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. This walkability is a key to the success of many of our students, who do not have consistent access to transportation to and from school each day.
- Pinckney's classroom sizes exceed district standards. Independent measurements confirmed averages of 987 sq ft for kindergarten rooms, 742 sq ft in grades 1-3, and 779 sq ft in rooms that house grades 4-5 (formerly 4-6).
- Pinckney is adjacent to a main arterial route in Lawrence, one that was designed to accommodate and move high volumes of traffic safely and efficiently. Pinckney sees both morning drop-offs and afternoon dismissals finish within 10 to 15 minutes of the school's start and end. If Pinckney were expanded to a three-section school minor modifications to parking and pick-up/drop-off areas could easily move additional cars without marked delays or neighborhood disruption.
- During the past 10 years the district has made a significant investment into Pinckney. A large, two-story addition provided two additional classrooms, reception area, administration offices, clinic, storage, janitorial space, ADA accessible restrooms on both floors, a new elevator, and roof replacement on the existing school and gymnasium. Improvements also included new mechanical and lighting systems throughout the building, and renovations that expanded the school library and added a computer lab.
- Pinckney could be expanded to a three-section school without class disruption and without extending its footprint into playground or surrounding educational environs.
- Pinckney is sited on the northern edge of Lawrence's boundaries. Pinckney is geographically situated to accommodate students as the city expands north with boundary adjustments to act as a relief valve to Deerfield's overcrowding.
- Pinckney is within walking distance of community classrooms including the public library, City Hall, the Douglas County Courthouse, Watkins Community Museum, Natural History Museum, and the Spencer Museum of Art.

HISTORY

- The origins of Pinckney are as old as the town of Lawrence itself. The school sits on an area that was part of a land grant issued to Mr. A.B. Wade in 1854. Between 1854 and 1869, various incarnations of elementary schools served Lawrence children in downtown locations including cabins, businesses and church basements.
- By 1871, temporary locations had become overcrowded, and it was decided that four parcels of land on Pinckney Street (now 6th) would be the site of a new two-story, two-room schoolhouse.
- Completed in 1872, the first school cost \$6,000 and served 90 students. As time passed, population growth led to expansions in 1884 and 1908.
- Renowned poet Langston Hughes attended Pinckney school, entering second grade in 1909. At that time Hughes lived at 520 Louisiana—a home where two Pinckney students live today.
- By 1929, the 50-year-old school needed to be replaced by a larger, more modern facility. The new Art Deco building was built directly north of the original structure. When classes ended for the summer of 1931 the old school was torn down to reveal its replacement. Students entered the new building, the current Pinckney School, in fall 1931.
- Since 2000 the Lawrence School District has made an investment in Pinckney by expanding the building to include new administrative offices, additional classrooms, an elevator and ADA accessible restrooms.
- Pinckney is located within the Pinckney historic district and contributes to the Old West Lawrence historic district.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Pinckney proudly claims a cohesive, neighborhood-based student body that is one of the most ethnically, socially and racially diverse populations in the City of Lawrence.
- Pinckney is the only elementary school in the Lawrence district that participates in KU's Professional Development Schools Alliance. For the past two years Pinckney teachers have worked with KU students in an innovative program that looks at discipline-specific literacy. PDS interns, usually about 24 students, complete research projects that complement Pinckney's KSDE School Improvement Plan. This research is shared as a professional development opportunity. In spring 2011 the research was presented to the Lawrence School Board during a visit to Pinckney.
- Pinckney's PRIDE program pairs small groups of students with teachers and administrators who provide support outside of the classroom environment. These groups remain constant for students from kindergarten through 5th grade. The program has seen great success, and similar programs have now been implemented at other schools in the district.
- Pinckney's traditions include a daily, school-wide morning opener. The program is an opportunity to build community among the students, teachers, administrators and parents. Monday through Thursday students are updated on news and events before saying the Pledge of Allegiance and going to their homerooms. On Fridays dozens of parents attend the opener, which also features student, teacher and parent chants, as well as the school song.
- Pinckney is supported by a strong and highly involved PTO that organizes long-standing events including the annual spring Pinckney Street Dance, Grandparent's Day Luncheon, movie night, talent show, Evening of the Arts, and Pinckney's unparalleled Halloween parade. The organization also raises money through the school's Really Big Sale and its annual Chili Feed and Used Book Fair. With no membership dues and free events, our PTO strives to include all members of Pinckney's community.
- Pinckney's business partners, Lawrence Memorial Hospital and Gould Evans architects, are directly involved with the school, supporting annual events including our Halloween parade and spelling bee.