



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 27, 2020

Contact: Meredith Pierce

Director of Communications

Saint Louis Public Schools

meredith.pierce@slps.org

314-532-4221, cell

11 SLPS SCHOOLS ON 2020 LIST OF AMERICA'S HEALTHIEST SCHOOLS

District has one of six gold-ranked schools in the nation, only gold in Missouri

ST. LOUIS, MO – Eleven schools in the Saint Louis Public School District are among the 517 schools nationwide to earn a spot on the [Alliance for a Healthier Generation's](#) (Healthier Generation) 2020 list of [America's Healthiest Schools](#) for their commitment to promoting quality nutrition, regular physical activity and strong wellness policies.

SLPS schools on America's Healthiest Schools List for 2020:

GOLD	Gateway Michael Elementary
SILVER	Adams Elementary
SILVER	Carr Lane VPA Middle School
SILVER	Gateway MST Elementary
SILVER	Hickey Elementary
SILVER	Lyon @ Blow Academy
SILVER	Mullanphy ILC Elementary
SILVER	Oak Hill Elementary
SILVER	Woodward Elementary
BRONZE	Gateway MST Middle School
BRONZE	Washington Montessori Elementary

Nationwide, only six schools received Gold recognition. Gateway Michael was the only school to earn this recognition in Missouri. Seventy-seven schools nationwide received Silver status. Eight of the 11 in Missouri are SLPS schools.

Examples of how these schools have promoted good health include:

- Garden beds built and in use at all 11 schools
- Smoothie bikes at all 11 schools (students pedal, generating energy to create fresh fruit smoothies for students and staff)
- Healthy celebrations practice/policy changes for students and staff at Gateway Michael
- Rock walls installed and in use in all 11 schools during physical education classes

- Increased number of minutes of physical education and physical activity at all 11 schools
- Sensory pathways added to hallways at Mullanphy to support cognitive connections to movement and balance
- Indoor walking trails, integrated with academic activities for use by students, staff and families at Adams, Hickey, Oak Hill and Washington Montessori
- Staff workout facilities created at Gateway Elementary, Gateway Middle, Gateway Michael, Hickey and Mullanphy
- After school walking groups at Gateway Elementary, Gateway Michael, and Woodward
- Community collaboration on a Farmers Market hosted at Oak Hill
- Annual SLPS Let's Move Flash Mob, which attracts participants from across the country

“SLPS teachers, students, staff and parents have come to recognize the critical role that health plays in learning,” said Leanne White, Healthy Schools Healthy Communities Project Director. “We are honored to receive national recognition for our dedication to supporting the well-being of students and staff, and remain steadfast in our commitment to fostering healthier environments for all members of the school community.”

For nearly 15 years, Healthier Generation’s annual recognition program has honored schools that are implementing best practices that support children’s learning and development, including meeting or exceeding federal standards for nutritious school meals and providing regular opportunities for students and staff to be active throughout the school day. It remains one of the country’s longest-running, nationwide recognition programs honoring schools for achievements in nutrition, physical activity and wellness policies.

“We commend this cohort of school leaders for prioritizing the essential health needs of students and staff in a time of great challenge and with limited resources at their disposal,” said Kathy Higgins, chief executive officer of the Alliance for a Healthier Generation. “Over time, these awardees established strong foundations in health – allowing them to pivot and adapt to meet acute health and wellness needs in a year unlike any other.”

As members of Healthier Generation’s Healthy Schools Program, SLPS works to implement wellness policies and practices that meet federal requirements and support a comprehensive approach to kids’ health. Any school can join Healthier Generation’s Healthy Schools Program to access trainings, resources and technical assistance by visiting HealthierGeneration.org.

To view the complete list of America's Healthiest Schools, visit HealthiestSchools.org.

###