



# TRAILBLAZER QUARTERLY

## DONOR UPDATE

FALL 2025

Building What's Next

### Superintendent's Message

This fall, belonging has a new shape at Crossroads. **Parents from all three campuses are gathering around one table.** Voices once separate now rise as one — stronger together, building belonging across our city.

**Bond work is underway.** Fresh paint. Safer doors. Brighter classrooms where students can see and be seen. One student walked into a newly finished room and whispered, "It feels new." These aren't just upgrades. They are belief turned into brick and mortar — proof that Kansas City is investing in its children and in the places where they grow, learn, and belong.

And soon comes **Grand Rising** — more than an event, it's a declaration: families, educators, and partners lifting our students higher, raising support for their future. When our community comes together, there's no limit to what our children can achieve.

Belonging. Rising. Building. These aren't just words — they're daily practice. And they are the reason your support matters. Together, we're not just starting another year. We're shaping what the future of Kansas City will look like.

**Tysie McDowell**  
Superintendent



**CPA high school volleyball made school history this season** — 8 wins, doubling the previous record. More than a number, it's proof of what belief, grit, and teamwork can build.



Support the Mission

### Grand Rising: A New Vision Takes the Stage

This fall, Crossroads introduces **Grand Rising** — a re-imagined version of our former "Dreaming Big" fundraiser. Designed by Development Director Lea Petrie and the Crossroads team, this new event creates space for a broader community to come together — families, alumni, partners, and students alike.

The goal is bigger than fundraising. Grand Rising invites guests to experience the heart of Crossroads: student creativity, real-world learning, and the power of belonging. For the first time, Central Street 2nd graders and Quality Hill 4th graders will perform together, filling the room with voices that remind us why this work matters.

Every ticket and every gift supports hands-on learning, classroom innovation, and opportunities that help students thrive.



**Sponsorships & Tickets Available**



### Building Belief Brick by Brick.



**The city's historic bond vote is already becoming reality.** A new parking lot at Quality Hill means safer drop-offs and smoother days for families. Fresh paint brightens classrooms at Central Street. And Crossroads Prep give students spaces that feel alive and welcoming.

*Every project is a promise kept.*

These first steps are more than upgrades — they are visible signs of belief.



## Our Students



## THE IMPACT OF YOUR GENEROSITY

| Impact Area          | Result                                                                       |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Teacher Appreciation | Thank-yous & meals                                                           |
| Classroom Supplies   | Classrooms are off to a great start with the needed supplies                 |
| Real-World Learning  | Students are able to participate in Internships and earn dual college credit |
| Health and Wellness  | Middle and High Schoolers are getting healthy with new exercise equipment    |
| Musical Arts         | Students are learning to play refurbished instruments                        |

## RANDALL MAKES CROSSROADS' HISTORY

For the first time in school history, Crossroads Preparatory Academy celebrated a graduate earning a college scholarship through athletics. **Devon Randall**, class of 2025, turned years of discipline and drive into a milestone nine years in the making.

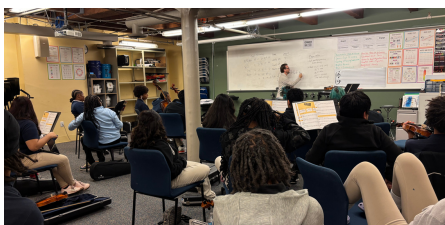
A four-year varsity starter, high jump record-holder, and one of the first CPA athletes to advance beyond districts, Devon set a new bar for excellence on and off the court. This fall, he takes his game — and his leadership — to Bethany College (NAIA), proving that nothing is impossible with belief and persistence.



## District-Wide Highlights

### Resurrecting the Music Program

When Dr. Travis Hale became band director this fall, he inherited a challenge — and a calling. Many of the beautiful instruments over time had received a lot of love from past students and now were in need of costly repairs to bring them back to their original glory. As CCS sought and still seeks funding to keep the music program performing at their very best, another challenge: more students interested in playing in the band and orchestra than available instruments, which is music to any music teacher's ears! Yet Dr. Hale refused to let silence win. Piece by piece, he has rebuilt the classroom, teaching rhythm, confidence, and collaboration while waiting for each instrument's return. Most of his students had never played before, but that hasn't stopped the music from growing. With strong support from staff and students, Dr. Hale is determined to resurrect the program — not just for this year, but for years to come. "Music changed my life," he said. "I want these students to feel that same power."



*Dr. Hale leading students through rhythm practice as instruments return to life.*



*Drums and brass ready to fill the classroom with music!*

### Superintendent Search: Built for What's Next



This fall, Crossroads entered the next stage of our superintendent transition. With Tysie McDowell set to retire in June 2026, the Board of Directors has partnered with **Daniels Talent Solutions** to lead a national search for our next leader. A selection committee made up of board members and Crossroads administrators is guiding the process. Applications have relaunched, and this fall, families and supporters are sharing input through surveys and listening sessions to help shape the decision ahead. The new superintendent will be named in early 2026, ensuring a smooth transition and continued stability for our schools. This process reflects what makes Crossroads distinct — our belief that every student should thrive, **Be Pro Ready** for life, and learn in a city where the **Community is Our Campus**.



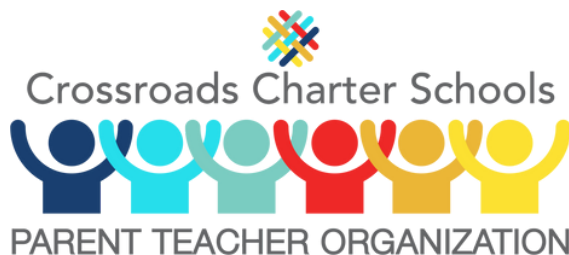
## Fundraising Stats | 7/1/25 - 6/30/26

| Goal this Year   | # Donors    | Raised to Date     | Family Donors Goal is 20% (138 families) |
|------------------|-------------|--------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 25-26<br>\$1.20M | 25-26<br>43 | 25-26<br>\$831,194 | 25-26<br>34                              |



## District-Wide Highlights

# One PTO. One Vision.



Last spring, our families and staff made history. For the first time, the Crossroads **Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO)** was ratified as one unified group – not campus by campus, but together, across all three schools.

Now, six months later, that decision is shaping real momentum. Parents, guardians, and teachers from Central Street, Quality Hill, and Prep are sitting at the same table, bringing their gifts and ideas into one shared vision: helping every student thrive.

As **Kimberlee Bookhart** (Central Street) put it, "This new PTO is bigger than just meetings. It's about building the village our kids deserve." And from Quality Hill, **Merritt Muñoz** shared, "There is a fresh energy of collaboration between the campuses with our new combined group."

The unified PTO is more than a structure – it's a symbol. Families and teachers across Kansas City are showing our students that when we rise together, we create something stronger.



*A packed house for the first 2025-2026 school year PTO meeting in September!*



### THANK YOU! 2025-26 School Year-to-Date Donors | July 1, 2025–October 17, 2025

|                                                  |                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Afrikids                                         | Richard Johnson                                            |
| AFV – Food Academy                               | Joe Joe's Catering / Westport                              |
| Ms. Charlynn Allen                               | Flea Market                                                |
| Anonymous                                        | Jaclyn Joslin                                              |
| Area Real Estate Advisors                        | Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation                           |
| Spark and Kimberlee Bookhart                     | William T. Kemper Foundation, Commerce Bank, Trustee, N.A. |
| Busey Bank                                       | Waymond King                                               |
| Douglas Buttleman                                | The Kirk Foundation                                        |
| Byron and Dori Canady                            | Jillian Linn                                               |
| Children's Services Fund of Jackson County       | Marsh & McLennan Agency                                    |
| Christ Community Church                          | Robert and Lisa O'Connor                                   |
| Department of Elementary and Secondary Education | Ms. Devon Paden                                            |
| EdOps                                            | Ms. Sandra Remnitz                                         |
| First Student                                    | SchoolSmartKC                                              |
| Matt and Judith Flynn                            | Jacob and Carolyn Schwartz                                 |
| Eben and Annie Fowler                            | Judy Steinmeyer                                            |
| Great Jobs KC                                    | Mary Sweetman                                              |
| Craig Gustafson                                  | Ms. Rebecca Tate                                           |
| Phyllis Hardwick                                 | Mr. Charles Usher                                          |
| Joan J. Horan                                    | Alicia Weatherstrand                                       |
| Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hunt                         | Matt and Cindy Wegerer                                     |
| Installnet                                       | Mary Wendt                                                 |
| Integrity Pro Services LLC                       | Jeffrey Williams                                           |
| Terry Irwin                                      |                                                            |
| Jackson County, Missouri                         |                                                            |
| COMBAT                                           |                                                            |

**Help our list grow!**

## Introducing the Crossroads Community Business Directory

Crossroads is proud to launch a new Community Business Directory – a year-round way to celebrate and support the businesses owned by our families, alumni, staff, and Trailblazers.

The directory will live on our website and appear in family-facing Wednesday Updates throughout the year, helping our community connect with and uplift one another. Participation is complimentary for Crossroads families and staff, and included with special perks for Trailblazers members (\$500+).

By sharing and shopping local, we strengthen the network that surrounds our students every day.

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO  
REGISTER YOUR BUSINESS!**





# Crossroads Charter Schools

## MISSION STATEMENT

Crossroads Charter Schools prepare and inspire students to build a better tomorrow by providing an academically rigorous PK-12 education in a creative, collaborative, community-focused environment.

## VISION STATEMENT

Crossroads Charter Schools will be the premier school system in Kansas City and a destination for other educators seeking inspiration and best practices. Graduates of Crossroads Charter Schools will be scholarly, culturally literate, and service-oriented individuals who will pursue their dreams relentlessly and have a positive impact on their family, their community, and the world.

## CORE VALUES

Belonging  
High Expectations

Real World Learning  
Creative Culture



### Service & Partnership

## Making the Season Merry & Bright

What began as one staff member's idea to help a few families has grown into one of Crossroads' most loved traditions. Each winter, Ms. CJ's "Merry & Bright" fundraiser brings our campuses together to make sure every student experiences the joy of the season.

Staff, families, and partners donate toys, books, clothing, and gift cards — all given directly to Crossroads families identified by counselors and teachers. Last year alone, more than 100 students received gifts, reminders that they are seen, valued, and cared for.

As Ms. CJ often says, "This isn't about charity — it's about community."

That spirit of belonging shines brightest in moments like this — when the Crossroads family comes together to share joy, generosity, and hope for every child.

**Donate TODAY**  
to  
**Ms. CJ's "Merry & Bright" Toy Drive**

