

# EAGLE PROFILE

It is a Great Day to be an Eagle

## 8th Graders Use Technology to Create Shop Safety Videos

After a motivating inservice with Kevin Honeycutt, the 8th grade Vo-Ag class took the opportunity to find ways to incorporate the use of their iPads into their Vo-Ag class. With the help of Mr. Burdick, the 8th graders created Shop Safety Videos on multiple topics. This was a great learning activity for the students. They gained a much better understanding of the importance of Shop Safety and how to stay safe in the shop. They also became more comfortable with the technology they have available for their use.

## Pre-School Studies Lifecycle of a Frog

The preschool class ended their study of the life cycle of a frog by presenting a program for their family and friends. They enjoyed making frogs and tadpoles and a frog came to visit our classroom.

The children wrote stories about what they would do if they were a frog.



Mrs. Foos presenting to the Delta Kappa Gamma Members about the benefits of board games. Judy Brandon, special guest volunteered to help out with the playing of the Game Head Bands.

## Mrs. Foos Awarded Delta Kappa Gamma Grant

This spring, Jennifer Foos, 5-8 Resource Room Teacher, applied for and was awarded one of two \$250 Grant Awards from the Beta Gamma Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma. Jennifer's proposal was about the impact of how playing board games can benefit children. Playing games is an easy and excellent way to spend unhurried, enjoyable time together. As an added bonus, board games are also rich in learning opportunities. Games don't need to be overtly academic to be educational, however. Just by virtue of playing them, board games can teach important social skills, such as communicating verbally, sharing, waiting, taking turns, and enjoying interaction with others. Board games can foster the ability to focus, and lengthen a child's attention span by encouraging the completion of an exciting, enjoyable game. Even simple board games like Chutes and Ladders offer meta-messages and life skills: Your luck can change in an instant — for the better or for the worse. You might hit the jackpot and , if you stay in the game for just a few more moves. Games purchased with the Grant Funds



### 2nd Grade has a Year of “Fifths”

Second Graders were involved in many activities this year involving the word “fifth.” The Fifth Graders from Mr. Scott’s class were their Study Buddies every Tuesday and Friday. The older students were partnered with the younger students to read AR books, solve math problems, dance and sing to lyrical songs, build leadership skills in the older students, and create a sense of community between the classes. To end the school year, the two classes combined for a field trip to Scott City.

Another “fifth” which involved the Second Graders was “The Fifth of May” better known as “**Cinco de Mayo.**” It is celebrated every year to commemorate the Mexican’s unlikely victory over French forces on May 5, 1862. The Second Graders learned the steps to a few Spanish dances from Mrs. Allen, the Foreign Language teacher. Before the Spring Music Concert, a Mexican-dish, carry-in supper was enjoyed by the students, their family members, and the teachers. After the delicious supper, the students entertained the audience with the Spanish dances they had learned. Then for their last dance the Second Graders grabbed their family members to join in “The Mexican Hat Dance.”

include: 5 Second Rule, Say Anything, Sequence, Headbands, Rummikub, Hangman, Racko, Scrabble, States and Capitals Sequence, Blur, Would You Rather, Phase 10, Uno, Sorry, Skip Bo

### *Rockets and Prom Kept Students Busy in Mr. Allen’s Class*

In Mr. Allen’s class, we have been very busy finishing out the school year. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade Math and Science classes joined together to build rockets. Each student made a rocket and shot the rockets off the last week of school. The students used an app called SloPro. This app makes a video play in slow motion so we could see the rocket being shot off easier. Once they were shot off, we calculated the speed of the rocket being shot in the air and the speed of it coming back to the ground. Below is a picture of one of the rockets being shot off.

In mid April, the Junior Class hosted Prom at the Ness County Bank Building. The juniors did a great job of setting up prom. My wife and I would like to thank all the parents that helped us during prom. Without you, it is not possible.



## Music Department Participates in Music Festivals

The music department of USD 303 spent most of the semester working on their contest performances. The junior high musicians traveled to LaCrosse for its music festival on March 6. Receiving III ratings were the 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys ensemble and Tyler Goodman's vocal solo. Two ratings were awarded to Brayden Hellerud's vocal, Austin Snodgrass' vocal, Gracie Schreiber's flute, Alysson Foos' clarinet, junior high band, Janate' Kerr's vocal solo, 7<sup>th</sup> grade boys ensemble, the junior high chorus, Rhett Moody's trumpet solo, and Edwin Reyes' vocal solo. One ratings were presented to McKenzie Braun's vocal solo, Kaydan Smith's alto sax, Jose Lopez's vocal solo, Austin Snodgrass' violin solo, Clay Beutler's baritone solo, Alysson Foos' vocal solo, Gracie Schreiber's vocal solo, Dayton Copeland's vocal solo, 6<sup>th</sup> grade choir, Austin Snodgrass' vocal solo, 7/8 grade brass ensemble, 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls ensemble, 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls ensemble, brass quartet, flute trio, Tristan Schwien's trombone solo, Landon Reinhardt's trombone solo, Ryan Gabel's trombone solo, Sassy Bailey's vocal solo, 6<sup>th</sup> grade band, Cynthia Guzman's vocal solo, Tristan Schwien's vocal solo, Sassy Bailey's flute solo, and Caitlin Smee's trombone solo. Receiving an AP (Advanced Performance) was Taylor Murray on her vocal solo.

The NCHS musicians traveled to Barton County Community College for the CPL League contest on March 10. Receiving II ratings were the high school choir, Trace Flax's vocal solo, Skyler Snyder's vocal solo, and the boys' trio. The high school band, Cicely Moody's clarinet solo, Alyssa Wierman's clarinet solo, girls' trio, and Alyssa Wierman's vocal solo received I ratings. At the Regional Music Contest in Larned on March 27, II ratings were presented to Trace Flax's vocal solo, Cicely Moody's clarinet solo, both trios, and the high school choir. One ratings were awarded to Lucas Roths' alto sax solo, and Alyssa Wierman's vocal and clarinet solos. Roths and Wierman received II ratings on their solos at the state contest in Salina on April 25. The NCHS Concert Band also received a II rating at the state contest.

## Junior High English Classes Study Novels

Students in junior high English classes have read several novels with themes centering around young adult independence or overcoming personal obstacles in the character's life. As our students have read through the novels, they have realized that all stories have a major conflict and along with that conflict comes many minor correlating conflicts. Students have become quite adept at mapping out stories from the beginning to the ending. As they have worked through the writing process, students have been able to construct their own stories that follow the story-mapping concepts. This writing process will serve them well as they progress further with their writing. One of the classes wrote an extra chapter to the book they read. All of the stories were fantastic to read. Being able to imagine and write down one's thoughts is very satisfying for everyone, especially our students. Please encourage your child to write and read throughout the summer!

## STUCO has Busy Year

We did it!!! Thanks to the many donations from the community, the Booster Club, the KAY Club and FFA, we were able to meet our goal to purchase an electronic marquee for the school! This will be a great addition to the school and will keep the community informed of activities going on at USD 303. A big THANKS to all who helped with this project!

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, the Student Council hosted a successful blood drive in the high school gym. Forty-three people arrived to donate blood, and of those, 22 were first time donors, whom we hope will continue to donate well into the future. A total of 38 units of blood were collected, and due



**First time donor, Makenna Fritts, helping to save lives.**



to the efforts of the student body and community, our school earned a \$250 scholarship from the American Red Cross, which was awarded to Pedro Flores.

As this year comes to a close, we look forward to next school year! The Student Council will be under the leadership of President Addison Beutler and Vice-President Lucas Roths. Everyone have a safe and fun summer!

## Powerlifting 2014-15

This season we were able to take participants to two meets. In these meets our lifters competed in bench press, squat, and hang/power clean. Lifters are placed in the classes based on their weight. They had three chances per lift to lift as much weight as possible. This provides kids a great atmosphere for them to try to improve their maxes and break personal records. Many of our lifters were able to do this at those competitions.

**Trego Powerlifting Meet on March 7th:** Participants include Devon McInnis, Jacob Hoss, Logan Schlegel, and Leviathan Kelly.

**148 class:** Jacob lifted 310lbs. in Squat (2<sup>nd</sup>), 235lbs. in Hang Clean (2<sup>nd</sup>), and 175lbs. in Bench. With those lifts he placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in his weight class overall.

**165 class:** Leviathan lifted 255lbs. in Squat, 170lbs. in Hang Clean, and 210lbs. in Bench.

**198 class:** Logan lifted 275lbs. in Squat, 215lbs. in Hang Clean, and 195lbs. in Bench.

**220 class:** Devon lifted 365lbs. in Squat (1<sup>st</sup>), 245 in Hang Clean, and 215lbs. in Bench. With those lifts he placed 4<sup>th</sup> in his weight class overall.

**KEMFA State Powerlifting Meet on April 18th:** Participants include Makenna Fritts, Jaycie Richarson, Alexis Clarke, Devon McInnis, Jacob Hoss, Logan Schlegel, Danny Holecek, Dylan Hamilton, Dalton Snyder, Luis Rodriguez, Kevin Rodriguez, and Brennan Chacon.

**148 class:** Jacob Hoss lifted 170lbs. in Bench, 235lbs. in Hang Clean (3<sup>rd</sup>), and 305lbs. in Squat (4<sup>th</sup>). This placed him 4<sup>th</sup> in his class overall.

**156 class:** Kevin Rodriguez lifted 205lbs. in Bench (5<sup>th</sup>), 215lbs. in Hang Clean (6<sup>th</sup>), and 300lbs. in Squat. This placed him 5<sup>th</sup> in his class overall.

**165 class:** Dalton Snyder lifted 235lbs. in Bench (4<sup>th</sup>), 210lbs. in Hang Clean, and 325lbs. in Squat. This placed him 7<sup>th</sup> in his class overall.

Luis Rodriguez lifted 175lbs. in Bench, 205lbs. in Hang Clean, and 250lbs. in Squat.

**173 class:** Dylan Hamilton. lifted 190lbs. in Bench and 285lbs. in Squat.

Kyle Harris lifted 195lbs. in Bench and 225lbs. in Hang Clean

**220 class:** Devon McInnis. lifted 225lbs. in Bench (5<sup>th</sup>), 260lbs. in Hang Clean (6<sup>th</sup>), and 370lbs. in Squat (5<sup>th</sup>). This placed him 4<sup>th</sup> in his class overall.

Logan Schlegel lifted 210lbs. in Bench, 205lbs. in Hang Clean, and 290lbs. in Squat

Brennan Chacon lifted 310lbs. in Squat

**Heavy Weight Class:** Danny Holecek lifted 255lbs. in Bench, 205lbs. in Hang Clean, and 375lbs. in Squat.

### Girls

**Alexis Clarke** lifted 90lbs. in Bench, 95lbs. in Hang Clean, and 150lbs. in Squat

**Jaycie Richardson** lifted 110lbs. in Bench (5<sup>th</sup>), 120lbs. in Hang Clean, and 195lbs. in Squat (4<sup>th</sup>). This placed her 4<sup>th</sup> in her class overall.

**Makenna Fritts** lifted 135lbs. in Bench (6<sup>th</sup>), 145lbs. in Hang Clean, and 240lbs. in Squat (4<sup>th</sup>). This placed her 5<sup>th</sup> in her class overall.



## High School English Classes

All of the upper-level English classes focused on research skills during the last nine weeks of the year. The students in English II read *Night*, written by Holocaust survivor Elie Weisel. After some preliminary research, the students each selected a topic related to the era for a research paper and class presentation. The students realized the depths of suffering one group of people inflicted on another and the importance of knowledge and awareness.

The literary focus for English III is relating American literature to American history. As a concluding assignment, each student composed a thesis about the significance of some person or event in American history. They conducted extensive research to write lengthy research papers in support of their premises. They shared their research with PowerPoint presentations to the class.

Each student in English IV created a fifteen-minute presentation about a person he or she admires.

They had to convince their audience that the person was truly someone to emulate.

The curriculum from Dodge City Community College requires the students in the dual credit Composition class to write a "Take a Stand with Sources" paper. The students had to support their opinions, consider the counterclaims, and persuade their readers.

## National Honor Society

Eight new members were inducted into the Ness City High School Chapter of National Honor Society on April 28.

Current members planned a karaoke contest for the inductees; an activity that not only entertained family and friends but also proved what good sports the new members could be. Following the fun, the NHS officers conducted a serious, traditional induction ceremony for the new members. Everyone then enjoyed refreshments and conversation. The next week, the stoles the senior members wear during the graduation ceremonies were presented at the academic awards night. Those senior members of NHS were Sara Dreiling, Kaitlyn Dinges, Pedro Flores, Cailin Foos, Kyle Harris, Tanner McMillen, Mason Weber, and Alyssa Wierman. Underclassmen members are Addison Beutler, Alexis Clarke, Wyatt Delaney, Makenna Fritts, Lucas Roths, and Regan Stiawalt.



## Mrs. Smith 2nd Grade

We ended the year with a blast doing everything from digging dinosaur fossils, meeting the Power Team, learning Latin dances, visiting Scott City Lake, touring the bank and grocery store, and making stone soup. During our dinosaur unit the students created dinosaur bones out of salt dough. They made everything from skulls to eggs. Later, they were able to excavate their bones out of a sand pit. We had to be really careful so we didn't hurt or break the bones! We joined 5<sup>th</sup> grade in the Library to discover bones laying around then went through the problem solving process of putting the bones together to create a dinosaur. The students and teachers had a lot of fun with this topic. One of



our last topics of the year was over the story “Stone Soup”. To go along with this story and practice our money skills, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade took a field trip to the grocery store and the First State Bank. The students were amazed at all that goes on behind the scenes at a grocery store. They were especially impressed with how they make donuts. After touring the store, groups of students were given money to purchase a vegetable with. They had to figure out what they could afford, what vegetable would be good in soup, and how much change they should get back. When the vegetables were purchased we headed on to the bank.

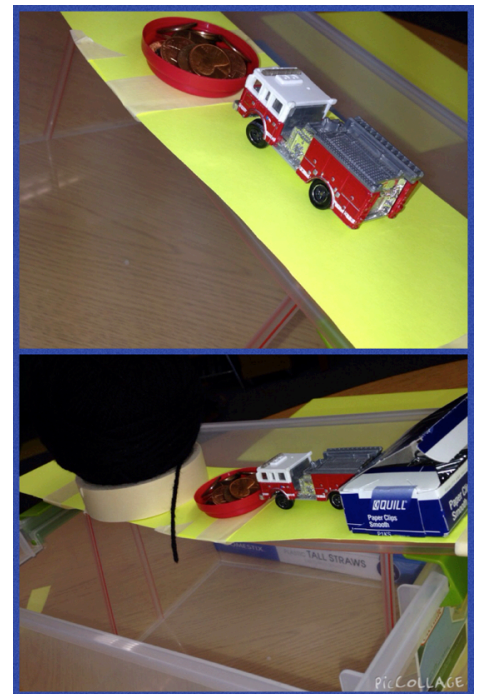


The vault, rolled coins, and stacks of money impressed the students! Once back at the school we washed and cut our vegetables and made stone soup. The students are quite the cooks. It was a good year with many fun memories.

### Mrs. Randa’s Students Build Bridges

As part of the my students’ intervention, we read the story Pop’s Bridge, written by Eve Bunting. As a culmination of the story, the students used drinking straws, tape, yarn, paper, and paper clips to create their own bridge. This was quite a challenge as we only had one 30 minute session together to plan and build.

The finished product wasn’t quite what we expected it to be, but it held up to the Fire Truck and Penny Trials. It even went above and beyond, also holding up the tape, yarn and the whole box of paper clips as well! The students seemed to enjoy this challenge, and so did I!



### FACS Classes and FCCLA Bring the Year to a Close...

The end of the year was a busy time for the Family and Consumer Science classes. The junior high classes had little time for cooking after completing their sewing projects. In lieu of nutrition information and weekly labs, the Nutrition and Wellness class concluded their class with health videos concerning drugs, alcohol and eating disorders. A visit by Sandy Reinert and Kevin Beutler was a special treat that was very informative for the students in the Consumer and Personal Finance class; the Family Studies classes explored crises that can affect family life and the Career and Community Connections students finished their out of class experience working with Mrs. Smith and Mrs. McIntosh at the grade school. A special thanks also goes to Sheriff Whipple, Deputy Wilson, Kent Schaub, all FCCLA and FACS members that helped to make the annual Family Fun Night despite the inclement weather on April 17!



Just a few of the JH Sewing projects!





Manning the Jail!



Fun was had by all at the annual Family Fun Night!

Mrs. Schaub and the NCHS FCCLA chapter would like to thank all who participated in the Pennies for Patients earlier in the year. The winning classes were: the 5<sup>th</sup> grade at the grade school (\$226) and the freshman class at the high school (\$104.70). The total amount sent to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society was \$1,075. The collection was a success! Also, on May 11, the annual FCCLA Officer Installation was held. Officers installed for next year were: President – Darian McClure, Secretary- Sierra Hamilton, VP of Finance- Kyla Stephen, VP of Public Relations: Emily Dawes, VP of National Programs: Zach Bochy-Kimber, and Chapter Historian- Paola Jurado, STUCO Rep- Lexea Barnes.



Left to Right...Ciera Cell, Lexea Barnes, Alyssa Wierman, Kyla Stephen, Darian McClure, Paola Jurado (behind), Sierra Hamilton, Kale Klitzke, Emily Dawes, Zach Boche-Kimber

## 2015 Golf:

This year we had 5 members out for golf. Jacob Hoss and Matthew Hahn played varsity for us this year. Nathaniel Gabel, Chance Cupp, and Jacob Schwien have made up the Junior Varsity team this year. The Varsity had a successful season, and had someone medal in the majority of the tournaments we played in. Jacob Hoss lost a playoff to miss medaling by one stroke at Hoisington, but shot an 80 at Norton to earn himself a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish. He also finished 12<sup>th</sup> place at Ellis in the I-70 Classic, 10<sup>th</sup> at Hill City, 10<sup>th</sup> at Kinsley, and 4<sup>th</sup> in league. In a difficult regionals at Syracuse, Jacob was able to play good enough to earn himself a trip to state at Emporia, on May 26<sup>th</sup>. The Junior Varsity had a successful year as well. Jacob Schwien placed 7<sup>th</sup> at Wakeeney, and 4<sup>th</sup> at league. Chance Cupp placed 6<sup>th</sup> at league. Matthew Hahn played in one JV tournament this year, and placed 2<sup>nd</sup> at Wakeeney. Even though our numbers were down this year, it has been a good group of guys to work with. They worked extremely hard and improved daily.

## 1st Grade

We started out the month of May by teaching students about giving. The students created May Day baskets and filled them with candy. They then delivered their May Day baskets to the people at the nursing home. This was a fun and rewarding







experience for all. Next on the list the kids traveled to Garden City to visit the zoo. At the Garden City zoo the students presented the research projects that they each worked hard on prior to the field trip. They enjoyed observing the animals and even touching a few. To top things off the first graders took a trip to Cuppa Joe to show off their culinary skills. They each created their own pizza and then enjoyed tasting the end results. It was an amazing year in first grade!



### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Travels to Great Bend

At the beginning of May Mr. Schulte's 6<sup>th</sup> grade class visited Cheyenne Bottom's Wildlife Education Center and the Brit Spaugh Zoo in Great Bend, Kansas. Students were taught about wildlife found all over the world and they also learned about invertebrates found in Kansas' waters. All students who participated in the field day were able to use hip waders and use trap-nets to gather different types of invertebrates found in Cheyenne Bottoms. When students were finished in the water refuge they were able to look at their findings through a high-powered microscope. There were over 7 different types of invertebrates found in a 30 minutes time frame. All invertebrates were classified into groups by the students and then released back into the wild.

When finished at the Cheyenne Bottom's Wildlife Education Center the students traveled a short distance to Brit Spaugh Zoo. After arrival the class was split into two groups. Both groups were given a private tour of the zoo by staff volunteers. All students got to witness amazing things like alligators feeding, bears playing, and much more.

Mr. Schulte is looking forward to a similar field day experience for his class next year. "This type of activity is very beneficial and makes for an awesome science lesson. The students really enjoy working together and for most students it was their first time studying in a marsh," Mr. Schulte said.



## Speech & Drama

The Speech and Drama students performed quite well this year! Kyla Stephen and Skyler Snyder participated in IDA. Alyssa Weirman performed a Serious Solo breaking finals and medaling at the League Meet. Cole Rupp and Dakota Stephen broke finals with their IDA placing 4th at the League Tournament. Trace Flax entered his Serious Solo and broke finals, placing 5th at the League Tournament. Angelina Copeland performed poetry. Together, Trace and Angelena entered IDA and broke finals, and medaled at the Otis/Bison Tournament. Addison Beutler and Lucas Roths teamed up in IDA for the season and broke finals at the Central Plains placing 4th and at the League Tournament placing 2nd. Their 2nd place finish qualified them for The State Championship Tournament in which they received a II rating at State Festival in Salina.

## Spanish Class

The Spanish Class took a field trip in March to learn how to dance various Spanish dance style like Merengue, Salsa, and the Cumbia. Those students in return were able to teach the 2nd graders how to do a simple Latin dance. We ended our year with a Cinco de Mayo celebration, which included a variety of Spanish dishes, and the 2nd graders being able to perform the Latin dance for their families on May 5th. ¡Felices vacaciones! Nos vemos en agosto

## Advanced Biology

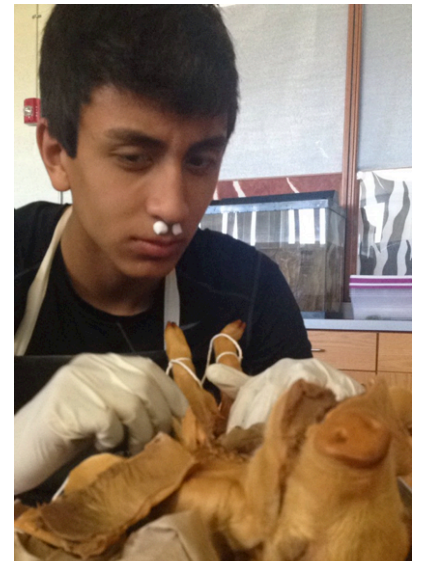
In the Advanced Biology class we learned all the systems of the body, and to help us remember these systems we would do labs that went from dissecting a cow eyeball to a pig autopsy. During this activity we surgically opened the fetal pig and had to name every individual organ. The smell of the formaldehyde was so intense that I was forced to put lotion under each one of my nostrils to prevent the smell from penetrating up my nose.

### 3...2...1... Blast-off

To round out the end of the school year we have been up to a few fun hands-on learning projects. With the 8<sup>th</sup> graders, Mr. Allen and myself have combined the math and science courses to do a cross curriculum rocketry unit. This is a great way to expand science and math into a real world application. They have gathered a kit and constructed it, painted it, and shot it off over the course of the last few weeks. In between the construction portions of the project we cover the science behind the rocket. The students have learned what laws cause the rockets the blast off with such force. And how the fly and return to the ground unharmed (usually). It was a great learning experience for the students. Pictures Attached.

## Plants

Biology is finished up their plant section. This is always a good section for the students because there are many labs that can be done with them. We completed a stomata lab where the students took apart the underside of a leaf to examine it under a microscope and see all the openings that they never even knew were there. We also cut open some flowers so the students could see what the reproductive



Josue Jurado during his fetal pig dissection



system looks like in a flowering plant. It is always a great lab to do because we see these plants everyday, but never know what they look like inside.

## Race Day

General Science has been learning about the physical science behind car engineering. We have discussed Newton’s Laws, Friction, and many other concepts. All these concepts came in handy when I gave them a mouse trap and said you have to build a car that looks good, goes fast and will drive for a while. There were a few different ideas, but it made for a fun and competitive experience to round out our school year. The winners were as follows:

Speed: Jett Humburg, Nathan Young, Kevin Rodriguez

Distance: Jett Humburg, Nathan Young, Kevin Rodriguez

## Students Recognized by Community for Their Works of Art

Congratulations to Senior Jacob Hoss, and Junior Chynelle Kraft. These students were the recipients of the Community Choice Award. Students, Staff, and Community Members voted for their favorite project at the 2015 open house. Thanks to all who helped set up for our open house!



## Scholars Bowl

The Varsity team finished with a record of 18-33. Their highest placing was 3<sup>rd</sup> at Dighton.  
 The Junior Varsity team finished with a record of 5-11. Their highest placing also was 3<sup>rd</sup> at Dighton.  
 Nashon Copeland was named All-League 3<sup>rd</sup> team.



**2014/2015 NCHS Scholars Bowl Team**  
**Back row:** Lucas Roths, Jacob Schwien, Robert Wierman, Wyatt Delaney, Trace Flax  
**Front row:** Darian McClure, Alyssa Wierman, Lexea Barnes, Nashon Copeland  
**Not pictured:** Emily Dawes

## Students attend Special Session of Kansas Supreme Court

Thirty-nine students in Mrs. Kepple’s classes were fortunate enough to attend the special session of the Kansas Supreme Court, held in Hays, Kansas on Monday, April 13, 2015. This was the first visit to Hays by the Kansas Supreme Court in its 154-year history. The Court heard three cases as part of its ongoing outreach program to familiarize Kansans with the high court, its work, and the overall role of the Kansas judiciary. The docket included cases that originated in Ellis, Rawlins, and Sherman Counties.

It was quite a treat for the students to observe the procedures and protocol of the state’s highest court in action. Eighth graders attending were: Clayton Beutler, MaKenzie Braun, Jacklyn Briney, Tiana Epperson, Alysson Foos, Chrissi Hunter, Iran Mesta, Ciera Moore, Savannah Moore, Taylor Murray, John Pfannenstiel, Landon Reinhardt, Andres Rios, Virginia Schaben, Gracie Schreiber, Kade Stoecklein, Brayden Vogel, and Jenna Werth. Sophomores attending were Lexea Barnes, Wyatt Delaney, Sierra Hamilton, Paola Jurado, Payton Rice, and Robert Wierman. Juniors attending were Will Bauer, Addison Beutler, Veronica Chacon, Jared Fellhoelter, Makenna Fritts, Rashel Hagans,



Dylan Hamilton, Jett Humburg, Josue Jurado, Chynelle Kraft, Kevin Rodriguez, Luis Rodriguez, Lucas Roths, and Cody Stoecklein.

## 5th Grade Travels to Scott City on Learning Adventure

The 5<sup>th</sup> graders recently traveled to Scott State Park for a class field trip. We saw cool and exciting historical features such as a 19<sup>th</sup> century home, a Native American dwelling built in the 1640's and awesome features at the museum. We ate lunch on the beach of the lake. After lunch we took a hike up a steep cliff to get an awesome view of the entire park.

After visiting the park we took a tour of the El Quartejejo museum. We saw many extraordinary paintings from the Jerry Thomas collection. There were many exhibits that reinforced what we saw out at Scott Lake such as the Native American dwelling and some other lake features.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> graders also went along with us as well. Throughout the year we have been with the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class for many activities. During these activities the 5<sup>th</sup> graders have shown great leadership and positive role model experiences. It has been a great year of learning and growing here in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We have all developed tremendously in many ways over the year. They will continue to be respectful and responsible students as they continue their education career.



## NCHS Awards Banquet 2015

Ness City High School held it's annual Awards Banquet on May 7, 2015. This night is special because our students are recognized for their participation in athletics, forensics, art, drama, and music as well as their academic accomplishments. We also had numerous local scholarships awarded to our seniors. A special thank you to all of those community members who help make these local scholarships possible to our students.

### Seniors

#### **Kaitlyn Dinges**

**Scholarships** - Kansas Financial Scholar, Helen Foster Ward Memorial, Southwest Kansas Bar Association Essay, Matt Kraft Gun Rights, Wet Walnut Creek District; **Awards** - President's Award for Educational Excellence, CPL Honor Scholar, Kansas Scholar, Principal's Honor Roll Award, KU Honor Scholar, Kansas Governor's Award

#### **Sara Dreiling**

**Scholarships** - Orville & Beulah Klitzke Memorial, Thomas & Roberta Harkness, Ness City Rotary Club, Ness County Farm Bureau; **Awards** - Principal's Honor Roll Award, CPL Honor Scholar, President's Award for Educational Excellence, Kansas Scholar, KU Honor Scholar

#### **Pedro Flores**

**Scholarships** - Orville & Beulah Klitzke, Thomas & Roberta Harkness, Good Shepherd, Sacred Heart Alter Society, American Red Cross; **Award** - President's Award for Educational Excellence

#### **Cailin Foos**

**Scholarships** - Marlin Norton Memorial, Thomas & Roberta Harkness, Ness City Healthcare Foundation

**Nathaniel Gabel**

*Scholarship* - Ness County Farm Bureau

**Kyle Harris**

*Scholarships* - Knights of Columbus, American Legion;

*Awards* - Dale Dennis Excellence in Education Award, Craig Horchem Courage Award, CPL Honor Scholar, Kansas Scholar, President’s Award for Educational Excellence

**Jacob Hoss**

*Award* - President’s Award for Educational Excellence

**Tanner McMillen**

*Scholarships* - Sacred Heart Alter Society, Knights of Columbus, Rotary;

*Award* - President’s Award for Educational Excellence

**Shelby Rupp**

*Award* - President’s Award for Educational Excellence

**Tara Walker**

*Award* - President’s Award for Educational Excellence

**Mason Weber**

*Scholarships* – Orville & Beulah Klitzke, PEO, Vietnam Veteran #939;

*Awards* - Lyle C. Goff Award, President’s Award for Educational Excellence

**Alyssa Wierman**

*Scholarships* - Matt Kraft Gun Rights, Sacred Heart Alter Society, Knights of Columbus; *Awards* - John Philip Sousa Award, CPL Honor Scholar, NASSP Principal’s Leadership Award, Kansas Scholar Curriculum Completer, President’s Award for Educational Excellence, KU Honor Scholar

**Juniors**

**Dylan Hamilton**

*Award* – Perfect Attendance

**Josue Jurado**

*Award* – CPL Honor Student

**Chynelle Kraft**

*Award* – CPL Honor Student

**Nathan Young**

*Award* – Perfect Attendance

**Sophomore**

**Sierra Hamilton**

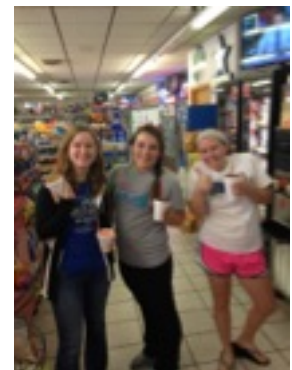
*Award* – Perfect Attendance



Alyssa and Sara working on their Calculus Project!



Kaitlyn, Sara, and Alyssa finalize their SnoBall Calculations!



**Calculus Students use Trip to Mini-Mart to Hone Their Skills**

The three seniors in calculus have learned many concepts over the year. One of the applications of calculus is the concept called related rates. As the class was working through the problems, one of the students made the connection of using this concept

using snoballs from the Mini Mart in various size cups. Running with the idea, the class took a field trip to Mini Mart and then applied their knowledge to solve for each of the 5 size cups.

## NCES AR

Reading transports curious minds to a world of imagination. It determines success not only in the classroom, but in life. The Accelerated Reader Program helps teachers create enthusiastic readers. We would like to congratulate the students in Ms. Gerstner’s First Grade class for earning the “Accelerated Reader Champion” of the month award for the month of April. These students earned the highest percentage on the AR quizzes taken during the month. We would also like to recognize the following students for being the top readers in their class.

Lane Elam	Isabella Stout
Izzy Reinhardt	Justyce Pfaff
Kiera Bailey	Raul Lopez
Lex Reinhardt	Andrea Morales



## NCES PBS

Ness City Elementary Students continue to work hard to be an E.A.G.L.E. and earn feathers. Feathers are turned in once a month for rewards that the student gets to choose. Our students are learning to Give Respect. Everyone, including yourself, is a valuable part of our learning community. Students are encouraged to act in a way that shows that they value themselves and others around them.

We would like to congratulate the following students for being the Top Eagle for their class for the month of April.

Jazzy Willis	Wyatt Sutton
Hannah Younger	Blake Madden
Jorge Esparza	Jaiden Braun
Emiliano Araiza	Gwendolyn Copeland
Amy Foos	Matthew Delaney



## Area, Research, and Money! OH MY!!

The 6th graders are working hard on real world math skills and problems solving as the year is coming to an end. A couple small groups were given this prompt to plan, research, and work through in order to come up with an agreeable solution.

“Mr. Reinhardt would like to replace the rock on the playground. He wants to remove all the old rock and replace it with a new surface of some sort (rock, mulch, rubber, etc). We will need to find out how much surface he will need to cover, where he should purchase it, and how much it will cost in all.” Students then set out to the playground equipped with yard sticks and a way of noting their measurements. They worked together to find the total area by measuring and then converting their measurements. Time was then spent researching different materials available and all the places they could purchase the materials. Once the decision was made, the total cost was figured.

This project allowed students to see why multiple math skills are necessary





in real life as well as the importance of having a specific plan in place by researching multiple possibilities. Leadership skills came out in students that was amazing to see along with phenomenal problem solving abilities and group work! Way to go 6th graders!!! We are both sad to see you move on but excited to see what your future will hold! Keep working hard!!!



## Kindergarten

It is hard to believe it is the end of the year and we are done with Kindergarten! The kids have been working really hard this year. They have learned how to read, spell, add, subtract, and a whole lot more! If you get a chance, listen to one of them read. They are becoming GREAT readers! We have been reading and studying plants and what they need to survive. In our picture, they are holding their student planters. The students each planted, watered, and cared for their grass. They even had to give it a few haircuts! Look at their wild hair! It has been an amazing school year. I hope you have a great summer!



## K-2 Music

The music students in grades kindergarten through second have been busy preparing for their spring program. It was held Tuesday, May 5, and the little ones bebopped to a dozen catchy tunes about the different letters in the alphabet. "AlphaBOP" was performed by all three grades, with each class singing several of their own individual "letter" songs throughout the presentation. A special thanks to Mrs. McIntosh for her help with decorating the tee-shirts during the students' art classes. And a very special thank you to the parents for providing the tee shirts and supporting the music program at USD 303 elementary school. Have a great summer.

## Summer Food Service Program

Just as learning does not end when school lets out, neither does the need for good nutrition. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is designed to fill the nutrition gap that occurs in the summer. The program provides free, nutritious meals and snacks to help children in low-income areas get the nutrition they need to learn, play, and grow, throughout the summer months when they are out of school.

In cooperation with the federal and state food service program we are providing you with the information regarding the serving sites in our area. Please use the following link to find a site that fits your needs [https://svvappcnw.ksde.org/SFSPLocationsASP/SFSP/SFSP\\_Menus/SFSP\\_Locations.asp](https://svvappcnw.ksde.org/SFSPLocationsASP/SFSP/SFSP_Menus/SFSP_Locations.asp)  
USD 303 - Ness City is not a Summer Food Service Program serving site.

### 6th Graders Create Haikus

A haiku is a form of Japanese poetry. Traditionally this short poem consists of 17 syllables in three phrases. The first phrase has 5 syllables, the second has 7, and the last again has 5. After reading a selection from their reading series about space, the sixth graders wrote and published Haiku poetry about the planets and stars.



### 2015 Senior Accelerated Reading Stars

The following seniors have excelled in Accelerated Reading during their Elementary School and High School years. Sara Dreiling has earned 1857 points with a 93.6%; Kaitlyn Dinges – 1789.8 points with a 91.5%; Kyle Harris – 1670.4 with a 95.7%; Devon McInnes – 1458.1 with a 93%; Tara Walker – 1502.8 with a 95.4%; and Mason Weber – 1172.9 points with a 92.5%. Congratulations on a job well done and Best of Luck in your future endeavors!!!!

### Block Grant Awarded

The Ness City Elementary School Library has been awarded a Building Blocks Early Childhood Block Grant of \$500 by the Russell Child Development Center. The money has been used for the purchase of library books for preschool and early education students. The books will be available for students or their parents to checkout as well as other students in the primary grades.

### IMMUNIZATION NOTICE/HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

All students enrolling in any district school shall provide the building principal with proof of immunization of certain diseases or furnish documents to satisfy statutory requirements. Booster shots required by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Environment are also required.



A copy of this policy and the applicable state law shall be distributed to students or their parents on or before May 15th of each school year. The superintendent shall issue a news release each August explaining the required inoculations and booster shots. Parents may delegate in writing their authority to consent to immunizations. If the parent is not reasonably available, and the authority to consent has been denied as provided in law, individuals other than the parent may consent to the immunizations as provided for in current law.

Students who fail to provide the documentation required by law maybe excluded from school by the superintendent until statutory requirements are satisfied. Notice of exclusion shall be given to the parents/guardians as prescribed by law. Students who are not immunized against a particular disease(s) may be excluded from school during any outbreak.

Each principal shall forward evidence of compliance with the inoculation law to other schools or school districts when requested by the school or by the student’s parent/guardians.

All students up to the age of nine are required to submit evidence that they have undergone a health assessment prior to entering kindergarten or before enrolling in the district for the first time.

All students engaged in activities covered by appropriate KSHSAA rules shall provide the building principal with proof of a physical examination.

Principals shall work cooperatively with local, county and state health to disseminate on or before May 15th of each year materials related to the availability of health assessments and inoculations.

Kansas Administrative Regulation 28-1-20 — Immunizations required for (a) Except as provided in K.S.A. 75-5209(b) and amendments thereto, each child or adolescent shall be required to receive the following vaccinations before enrolling in any Kansas school: Diphtheria; Hepatitis B; Measles (rubeola); Mumps; Pertussis (whooping cough); Poliomyelitis; Rubella (German measles); Tetanus; and Varicella (chickenpox), unless proof of prior varicella disease is provided. The proof shall be verified by one of the following:

— The signed statement of a physician indicating the child’s or adolescent’s date of this illness;


— The signed statement of a parent indicating the child’s or adolescent’s date of this illness; or

— Laboratory evidence of varicella immunity. (b) The immunization record of each pupil shall document that the pupil has received the vaccinations specified in subsection (a) from a licensed physician or local health department in accordance with the “recommended childhood and adolescent immunization schedule — United States 2003” approved by the advisory committee on immunization practices and hereby adopted by reference. (Authorized by K.S.A. 72-5211; implementing K.S.A. 75-5209; effective E-79-18, July 20, 1978; effective May 1, 1979; amended April 9, 2004.)

### Immunization Requirements for the 2015 - 2016 School Year

K.A.R. 28-1-20 defines immunizations required for any individual who attends school or a childcare program operated by a school. There are changes in requirements for immunizations for the upcoming school year. Please carefully review the requirements below. The usual number of doses required are listed; however there are exceptional circumstances that could alter the number of doses a child needs. If you have questions about your child's immunization status, contact your child's primary care provider or local health department. *Proof of receiving the immunizations must be provided to the school prior to attending the first day of school.*

Early Childhood Program Operated by a School Ages 4 Years and Under		Notes
Vaccine	Requirement	
DTaP/DT (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis)	4 doses	<p>* Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine is not required if child has had chickenpox disease <u>and</u> disease is documented by a physician signature. Without a physician signature, vaccine is required even if you believe child has had chickenpox disease.</p> <p>** Total doses needed is dependent upon age of child when doses were received.</p> <p>*** All students in grades K - 4, all new students and students currently completing the polio series must have 6 months between the last 2 doses of polio vaccine, and one dose must be after the 4th birthday.</p> <p>— All 7th - 12th graders are required to have one dose of Tdap regardless of the interval since the last dose of DTaP (diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis) or Td (tetanus/diphtheria).</p>
IPV (polio)	3 doses	
MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)	1 dose	
Varicella (chickenpox)	1 dose*	
Hepatitis A	2 doses	
Hepatitis B	3 doses	
Hib (haemophilus influenza type B)	4 doses**	
Pneum (pneumococcal conjugate)	4 doses**	
Kindergarten - Grade 6		
Vaccine	Requirement	
DTaP/DT (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis)	5 doses	
IPV (polio)	4 doses ***	
MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)	2 doses	
Varicella (chickenpox)	2 doses*	
Hepatitis B	3 doses	
Grades 7 - 12		
Vaccine	Requirement	
Tdap	1 dose**	
IPV (polio)	4 doses ***	
MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)	2 doses	
Varicella (chickenpox)	2 doses*	
Hepatitis B	3 doses	
Additional ACIP Recommended Vaccines NOT REQUIRED for School Entry		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Influenza (flu) vaccine annually for everyone 6 months of age and older</li> <li>• HPV (Human Papillomavirus) vaccine for females and males at 11 -12 years of age</li> <li>• Meningococcal (meningitis) vaccine at 11 - 12 years of age, with a booster at 16 years of age</li> </ul>		





### Requisitos de vacunación para el año escolar 2015 - 2016

K.A.R. 28-1-20 detalla las vacunas necesarias para cualquier individuo que asiste a la escuela o a un programa de cuidado de niños operados por una escuela. Hay cambios en los requisitos para las vacunas para el próximo año escolar. Por favor revise con cuidado los requisitos abajo. El número usual de dosis requeridos están en la lista; sin embargo hay ciertas situaciones que podrían alterar el número de dosis que un niño necesita. Si tiene preguntas acerca de las vacunas de su niño, contacte al doctor de su niño o al departamento local de salud.  
*Se debe proporcionar evidencia de las vacunas a la escuela antes de asistir al primer día de clases*

Programa de niños de temprana edad operado por las escuelas edad de 4 años para abajo	
Vacunas	Se requiere
DTaP/DT (difteria, tétano, tosferina)	4 dosis
IPV (polio)	3 dosis
MMR (sarampión, paperas, rubéola)	1 dosis
Varicella (chickenpox)	1 dosis*
Hepatitis A	2 dosis
Hepatitis B	3 dosis
Hib (Influenza Hemofilia tipo B)	4 dosis**
Prevnar (antineumococica)	4 dosis**

Kinder - Grado 6	
Vacuna	Se requiere
DTaP/DT (difteria, tétano, tosferina)	5 dosis
IPV (polio)	4 dosis ***
MMR (sarampión, paperas, rubéola)	2 dosis
Varicella (viruela loca) varicela	2 dosis*
Hepatitis B	3 dosis

Grados 7 - 12	
Vacuna	Se requiere
Tdap	1 dosis**
IPV (polio)	4 dosis ***
MMR (sarampión, paperas, rubéola)	2 dosis
Varicella (viruela loca) varicela	2 dosis*
Hepatitis B	3 dosis

**Vacunas Adicionales Recomendadas Por el ACIP**  
**NO SON REQUERIDAS para entrar a la escuela**

- Influenza (flu)-gripe- vacuna anual para todos de 6 meses de edad para arriba
- HPV (Human Papillomavirus)-virus del papiloma humano- para niños y niñas de 11-12 años de edad.
- Meningococcal (meningitis)- Meningocócica- la primera vacuna es a los 11-12 años de edad, con un refuerzo a los



**Notas**

\* La vacuna de la varicela (viruela loca) no es requerida si el niño ha tenido esta enfermedad y la enfermedad ha sido documentada con la firma de un doctor. Sin esta firma, la vacuna es requerida aún si usted cree que su niño ha tenido la enfermedad de varicela.

\*\* La dosis total que se necesita depende de la edad que tenía el niño cuando recibió las dosis.

\*\*\* Todos los estudiantes de K - 4, todos los estudiantes nuevos y los estudiantes que actualmente están completando las dosis de poliomielitis deben tener 6 meses de margen entre las últimas dos dosis de la vacuna y una dosis tiene que ser después de su 4to cumpleaños.

\*\* Se requiere que todos los estudiantes de los grados 7 - 12 tengan una dosis de Tdap (refuerzo contra tétanos, difteria y tos ferina) independientemente del intervalo de la última dosis de DTaP (vacuna contra tétanos, difteria y

<http://www.kdheks.gov/immunize/schoolinfo.htm>

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## USD 303 Invests in Technology

Over the last several years, the USD 303 Board of Education has taken big steps to ensure that our students have access to modern technology. We recognize the need to prepare our students to be successful in the world they will be living and working in. Technology is growing everyday and, therefore, becoming a bigger and bigger part of our students' futures. Over the course of this school year, we have been working to provide our teachers and support staff with training opportunities that will help them to better implement technology in the classroom. We have also been working to inform our students about appropriate and safe technology usage. These training opportunities are a never ending endeavor, and we plan to continue this process next year. The following are some of the ways our teachers are having or plan to have students utilize technology in the classroom!

We made a newscast about a science article we read. The students reported and made a broadcast about article.- Mr. Scott

I'm going to have my 7th grade make a travel book for a state using pictures and text and then present it to the rest of the class. This is a culminating activity for a unit on the United States.

The goal is for the students to explore states and become aware the similarities and differences among the states, including the diversity that exists within and among the states. Mrs. Flax

We are going to make an iMovie trailer for the novel studies we are doing in Flight time. This will be a creative way to summarize our reading. They will have to analyze and choose parts to make sure they convey theme and plot.—Mrs. Bueth

While we are reading a novel in junior high English, students are investigating images and information to gain more understanding of the topics. In addition, the students will be using iMovie and Book Creator to culminate their learning. -Mrs. Goodman

Using Socrative for more than tests. I want to have questions for the students to answer as we have our classroom lectures and discussions. - Mrs. Kepple

I want to make a travel book for oral communications class - maybe as a final of their lives (past, present, and future.) It would really be nice if I could print them their books on their last day. My Oral Communications class will be writing their own one-act plays next week. If there are good examples, maybe they could be posted on a school website/YouTube. - Mrs. Fenley

I want to use the research idea that Kevin Honeycutt mentioned that will make the students use their iPads and learn how to research correctly and successfully. - Mr. Hewitt

Use iMovie to create a video over the digestive system in Advanced Biology. - Mrs. McNinch

I would like to use iMovie to have students teach phonics concepts. Having the students teach the lesson will help them to review and expose other students to a different way of learning. - Mrs. Gerstner

I would like the students to make a cookbook with Book Creator. Also I would like to make an iMovie over several of our topics including Cinco de Mayo. - Mrs. Beutler

I will be having students use iPads to: make stories, movies, or games, etc. for students which are developmentally correct for the ages targeted; create posters, etc. for class for reinforcing ideas such as self-concept; create food videos geared to improving the nutrition of recipes. - Mrs. Schaub

I would like to use an idea from Kevin Honeycutt. He suggested using video to teach proper lifting technique and procedures. I would have the upper-classmen create the video each year and they can then share it to the underclassmen. It will create some leadership opportunities and provide a visual learning experience for new lifters. - Mr. Bamberger

Students will be create a digital portfolio of their artwork. - Mrs. McIntosh

We record accompaniments on Garage Band and send it to the students. I am looking at doing more music creation through Garage Band. I also do voice recording and instrumental recording through a couple of different recording apps. I did all of the playing test for band this way and they sent them to me. - Mrs. Wierman

I have downloaded the Beemz app that Kevin shared with us to use with students in my classroom. I use google docs to have students create shared documents. I have utilized Dragon Dictation App to help students create essays and answer short answer questions with their words instead of having to write the answers themselves. I have also used Notability to allow students to use their iPads to answer questions in math. I would also like to do more video recording and plan to check out the Active Inspire that we learned about today. - Mrs. Foos

I plan to use iMovie to have the students teach about the solar system. I am going to have the students research, create a video, and share with the rest of the class. - Mrs. Pfannenstiel

My students are starting to get into chapter books. As we read the chapter books in group I want them to share their book with their classmates using iMovie. This will give them a preview as to what the book will be about and get them all excited about reading bigger books. My class has also learned the phonics dance. My plan is to record them doing their song and share it with the other first grade class and have it for next years class to see. They are so proud of themselves for learning it (as am I)...now time to show it off! - Mrs. Schulte

In the High School Library, we are using the student's emails to notify them of overdue items, items we have on hold for them and to renew items when they request it. We also notify them when interlibrary loan materials are available. - Mrs. Marcus

I plan to do recorded book reports using iMovie. Students will get to present their book report and it will be accessible for years to come. This may help other students get a great preview of a book. Also, it can be used as a resource for others. Those in the community could view them as well so they will have an idea of the great things happening in class. - Mr. Schulte

I am planning on having students create a stop motion video explaining greater than/less than. I have also started recording students reading their fluency passages, the first and last days they read them. This lets them see how much they grow and also reflect on how fluent they are. - Mrs. Randa

Several students have started typing essays and papers using Dragon Dictation. This app allows the students to tell the story instead of typing it. Once the paper is done, we proofread and make corrections. Since using this Dragon Dictation, their papers have improved drastically. I also plan to implement iMovie in the future. - Mr. Overlease

We have used BookCreator for several projects. The students have been impressed with Flipboard. They have found periodical sources for their research projects. - Mrs. Petersilie

My students do all of their homework on the iPads using Notability and Google Classroom. Notability allows the students to type or annotate on any document and then send it back to the teacher. The students also research different topics that we are talking about in class. If I am gone, I use Google Hangouts to teach my class if possible. - Mr. Allen

## Kansas Learning Network (KLN)

For the past three years, Ness City Elementary has been part of the KLN process. This process is designed to help schools improve their academic progress and student achievement. During these three years, the teachers and staff of NCES have worked hard to build a strong learning environment by incorporating research based, effective instructional strategies and curriculum. This process has helped our staff to find better ways to assess our students, analyze the data we receive from those assessments, and have beneficial conversations about our students, instruction, and curriculum. Most importantly it has helped our teachers to better meet the individual needs of our students.

Part of this process involves a school leadership team meeting regularly with a KLN consultant to discuss our progress on improvement. These meetings allow us to look back over what we have been doing so that we can assess our effectiveness. They also allow us to look at the future make educated decisions about our next steps. As we finalized this current year, the leadership team met with our KLN consultant to discuss our progress and look at plans for next year. It was decided by the team that our next big step will be to begin incorporating strong Differentiated Instruction practices into our elementary classrooms. This will be a big step for our teachers that will take time, training, and much trial and error. In the end, our students will benefit greatly. Being part of the KLN process, makes NCES eligible for 1003A Grant money. This money carries very strict spending regulations with it. The biggest regulation is that it can not be used to supplant any current or future programs or projects. Over the last three years, NCES has used this money to purchase intervention curriculum, technology, and other supplies. The biggest part of these funds has been used to pay for teacher training opportunities. As we look to next year's plan, we recognize the need to provide as much training as possible for our teachers in the area of Differentiated Instruction. We plan to utilize this year's remaining 1003A Grant money and a portion of next year's Grant money to send seven of our elementary staff to the National Differentiated Instruction Conference in Las Vegas this summer. This will be a great learning opportunity for our teachers that will help them to make huge instructional progress in their classrooms, and to help train the staff that is unable to attend. Without the 1003A Grant money, a learning opportunity like this would not be possible.

## Budget

The budget picture continues to be a little fuzzy as we look to next year, but we appear to be headed in a much better direction than a couple months ago. While we do not feel the Block Grants established by the Kansas Legislature are the best direction for Kansas Education, we must admit USD 303 is one of the few school districts that may benefit from the funding change. If the Kansas Legislature fully funds the Block Grants as proposed, USD 303 will have a strong financial footing the next two years. The concern with the Block Grants is they do not take into consideration the rising costs of doing business. This is where we need to continue to find efficiencies in our daily operations. Our current budget obstacle stems from the emanate drop in Assessed Value that we are facing as a community due to a loss in oil value. Our Local Option Budget (LOB) makes up about 1/3 of our total operating budget. If projections hold true, we could lose about 1/3 of our LOB funds due to the decrease in Assessed Value. The School Board has been working on developing budget strategies that would allow us to use other funds that we have set aside for times like this, "rainy day funds." The use of these funds will allow us to operate with no increase or a minimal increase to local property taxes. The concern is once these funds are gone, it is nearly impossible to get them back which could create the need to raise taxes in the future. The School Board's goal is to have the smallest impact possible on local taxes.

## End of My First Year

It has been a fast and furious year for just about everyone that I have talked to recently. I just can't believe that my family and I have been in Ness City for an entire school year already. It seems like just yesterday we were putting the finishing touch on our house so we could get moved in. Even though it seems to have flown by, I am extremely proud of the many accomplishments our students, staff, and community have been able to achieve over the course of this year.



I don't recall ever being around an entire PK-12 group of students that work as hard and are as polite as the group of students we worked with this year. Leadership is key to creating an environment that allows this mentality to grow and flourish. I can not thank our graduating seniors enough for providing this leadership. Their leadership in and out of the classroom created a model that I hope we can continue to emulate for years to come.

Our staff has been a joy to work with this year also. I thanked them during our end of year inservice time for helping me to once again enjoy my chosen profession. Their hard work, dedication, and desire to improve has been outstanding this year. I challenged them at the beginning of the year to find ways to improve themselves and those around them. At first, they seemed a little overwhelmed, but they eventually bought in and starting making some big improvements in their classrooms and the hallways.

I also wanted to thank the community for the support they provide for our students and staff. Without your help, we would never be successful. I also want to thank all of you that have welcomed my family and I into the community. It has only been a year, but Ness City feels like home!

While we must take pride in the many things we have accomplished and improved this year, we must also recognize that we are never done improving. This next year, we will continue to improve our instructional and curriculum practices, work to improve the culture and climate in our buildings, find ways to continue to build relationships with community members and business, work to improve our facilities, and work to find budget efficiencies so that we spend our money in the most effective ways possible.

Again, thank you for all you have done for our students, staff, my family, and I,

Derek Reinhardt, Superintendent  
USD 303-Ness City