

Webpage

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ELEMENTARY OPEN HOUSE A SUPERHERO SUCCESS

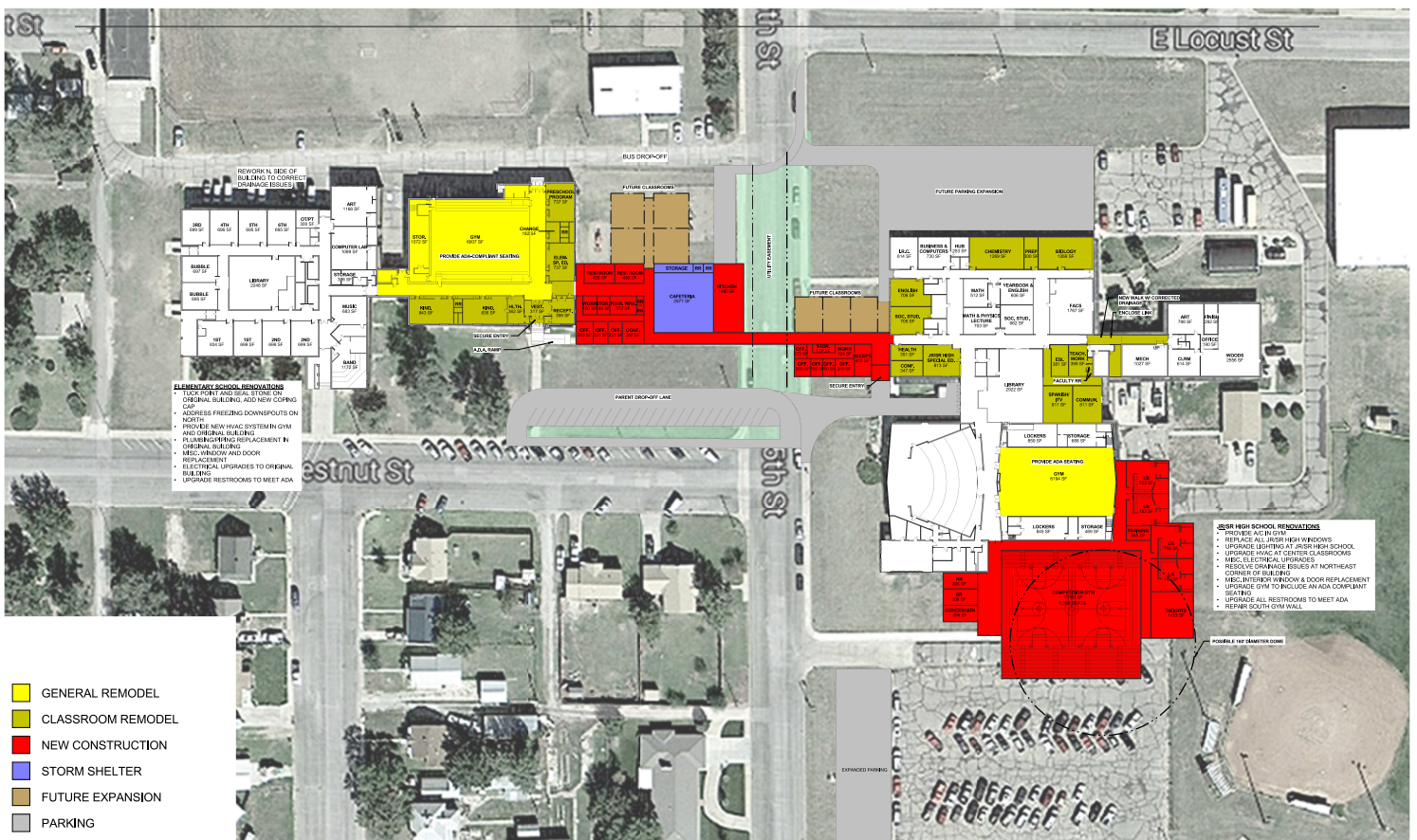


THREE SENIORS RECOGNIZED AT KU HONOR BANQUET



FCCLA PARTICIPATES IN TAKE AIM ACTIVITIES

EAGLE PROFILE



SCHAFFER JOHNSON COX FRY ARCHITECTURE
 101 W. 11TH ST. SUITE 100
 NESS CITY, KS 66240

School Board Approves Moving Forward with Facilities Improvement

In December 2013, the USD 303 School Board commissioned a steering committee and hired an Architectural Firm (Schafer, Johnson, Cox, and Fry) to study the current condition and needs of our existing school facilities. The Board also directed this group to look to the future and develop goals and objectives to improve the current facilities in Ness City. After several meetings, the committee developed several areas they felt needed to be addressed in the future. Over the last couple of months, the School Board has utilized this information to develop multiple plans that attempt to address these needs. The biggest concern the School Board faces at this time is the financial and tax implications that the community will face if all areas are addressed.

The pictured plan was approved by the board at the October regular meeting. Over the course of the next several months, the Board will be working to educate the public on the plan, and make small adjustments with an end result of a ballot question during the April elections.

This Plan addresses the following:

Remodel of Original Limestone Elementary Building (in Yellow): ADA needs, efficiency needs (HVAC, Plumbing, Electrical, windows, etc), classroom space needs, and safety and security needs.

Remodel of High School (in Yellow): ADA needs, efficiency needs (HVAC, Plumbing, Electrical, windows, etc), classroom space needs, and safety and security needs. The remodeling of both buildings will allow us to move all Jr/Sr High classes out of the Elementary building and into the High School Building creating better learning environments and much needed space in both buildings to meet student needs.

New Construction (in Red)

Teacher Workspace and Administrative Space at both buildings

Purpose: Provide conference, meeting, and workspace to better meet student needs

Cafeteria/Kitchen built between buildings (in Blue)

Purpose: Create more classroom space in the high school, shorten the time elementary students are out of class to walk to lunch, and creation of a tornado safe and FEMA certified storm shelter

Connection of Buildings

Purpose: Create a safer environment for students (safety and security from outside entities and weather)

Locker rooms

Purpose: Our current locker rooms do not meet our needs with all of the extra curricular participation that we have

Weight room

Purpose: Create more classroom space in the Vo-Ag building, Create safer facilities for our students, current weight room space does not meet our needs

Gym/Concessions Area/Restrooms

Purpose: Our current gyms do not allow us to host large tournaments and sub-state tournaments creating increased revenues for community businesses due to increased traffic in the community, more practice space is needed to better serve our students

Future (in Brown): This plan allows us to easily add additional classrooms if the need for more arises.

Financial Impact: In its entirety, this plan would require around a **16 MILL tax** increase to fund. The school district currently levies **38.754 MILLS** for the school and an additional **3.178 MILLS** for the Recreation Commission. Focusing solely on the MILLS used for the school district this would create a MILL levy of **54.754 MILLS** plus the 3.178 MILLS for Rec. How does this compare:

State Wide Median School Tax Levy = 52.46 MILLS

Dighton's MILL Levy after Passing a \$12.5 million dollar bond = 57.605 - 61.605 MILLS

Jetmore's MILL Levy = 52.769 MILLS

Kinsley's MILL Levy = 59.875 MILLS

Victoria's Mill Levy = 54.774 MILLS

Other Considerations: The Board feels that it is important to consider ways that an updated facility could be utilized to better benefit other areas of the community. We have been working with representatives from the City, Recreation Commission, and

Ness City Elementary School Hosts Open House for Superheros



Superheros galore graced the halls of Ness City Elementary School September 23 as the staff and students dressed up as their favorite Superhero and showed parents and grandparents around the building on a Super Scavenger Hunt. It was a great opportunity for parents and grandparents to see what all of our superheros have been doing so far this school year, and learn what their superpowers are going to help them achieve during the rest of the school year.

the Hospital to develop additional uses for the school facilities and ways all entities can work together to provide the best possible facility that can be utilized by all stakeholders. An indoor walking track, pool, and access to the weight room have been discussed as possible additions to the plan.

We will be holding several meetings between now and April for all individuals to gain a better understanding of the plans and what it means to you. If you would like more information, please contact Derek Reinhardt at 785 798-2210 or derek.reinhardt@usd303.org.

Mr. Hewitt's Science Classes

I am a new teacher here at USD 303. I am teaching Physics, General Science, Biology, and 8th Grade Earth and Space Science. We have been rather busy in all of these courses.

In Physics we are covering motion in one dimension. This includes topics such as velocity, acceleration, gravity, and distance. Currently we are doing some gravity labs with objects of different sizes and dropping them from different heights.

The General science class is like a chemistry course in which the topic we are wading through right now is changes in matter. This can be phase changes, physical or chemical changes, and more. We have just completed a phase change lab that allowed us to heat up water and then graph how the temperature changed over time.

Biology is covering the basic unit of life in the cell. We are discussing the structure and function of it, and how that allows them to carry out their part in the larger organisms that make up plants and animals. We are also doing some projects along with this content to help the students get a more well-rounded grasp of what we are talking about.

Lastly is 8th grade. This class is covering a lot of information about the earth and the rest of our universe. This keeps the science interesting because of the changes throughout the year. The topic we have just dived into is minerals. We have talked about the types of minerals and how to identify those based on a given set of criteria. This will be used in an identifications lab where I give the students some minerals and they will use the previous criteria to identify them.

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The teachers and staff have been working hard to keep our district webpage up to date. There are new articles placed on the website regularly sharing what is going on in the classrooms and around the district. It is a great place to stay up to date on what is going on. The District Calendar is easily accessible from the website.

Cabinetmaking & Furniture Design Shop Jigs

After several weeks of safety demonstrations, lectures, and tests the cabinetmaking and furniture design classes have started to make some dust fly in the shop. Their first project was a group project; the groups were tasked with designing and building a shop jig. After doing some research each group started construction. A total of 6 jigs were built; 2 half lap joint jigs, a rough stock jointing jig, a circle-cutting jig, an angle cutting sled, and a box joint or finger joint jig. These groups all worked very hard at producing these jigs and each jig works flawlessly. These jigs will be a great addition to the NCHS Wood Shop!



Three Seniors Recognized During KU Honors Banquet

The Kansas Honors Program recognizes and awards high school seniors for their academic achievements. Each year KU alumni gather in more than 37 locations across the state for an awards ceremony and honorary dinner or reception. All high-school seniors who rank academically in the top 10 percent of their class are invited to attend as guests of the Association with their parents, principals, counselors and superintendents.

The Kansas Honors Program has been a KU tradition since 1971. It is designed to promote academic excellence in secondary education, to reward high school seniors for their hard work and dedication, and to support our Kansas communities.



Each Kansas Honor Scholar receives a certificate and a special edition of Webster's New College Dictionary, and has a chance to qualify for a \$4,000 scholarship to KU.

On October 1, 2014, three senior girls from Ness City High School traveled to Dodge City where they were honored at an awards ceremony. The three students are Kaitlyn Dinges, Sara Dreiling, and Alyssa Wierman. Congratulations girls on receiving this distinction.

National Honor Society

At the conclusion of the fall semester, the Faculty Council of the National Honor Society will consider students for induction into the honorary. Membership in NHS is based upon excellence in four areas: scholarship, leadership, service, and character. Each category is judged independently. To be eligible for membership, a student must have completed three semesters of high school and attained a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.5 based upon a 4.0 scale at the end of the semester preceding the time of consideration for membership. A student's grade point average does not guarantee membership. In addition to the academic requirement, a student's participation and leadership in school and community activities are evaluated. The Faculty Council, a five member faculty committee, makes the final decision about membership after reviewing an informational resume compiled by eligible students.

Mrs. Petersilie's English Classes

As the first nine weeks ends for the upper-level English classes, students are finishing a variety of assignments. The students in English II have completed several collections in their literature anthologies. The collections focus on literary concepts that will be crucial for the assessment tests the students will encounter next semester. They composed comparison and contrast essays and will begin writing short stories based on news articles. A more light-hearted assignment for the nine weeks connected one collection's family heritage theme to making a class quilt. Each student created a paper quilt block to use as a visual during a self-reflective speech.

The students in English III have traced the connection between American history and American literature. They analyzed the persuasive elements in speeches and documents from the founding days of our country, particularly the Declaration of Independence. They used the Book Creator App on their iPads to create a visual timeline for some of the material. They also used their knowledge of persuasive techniques in their own essays.

The students in English IV just finished reading *Of Mice and Men*. Their end-of-novel activities include a Persona Powerpoint Presentation as a person from the 1930's and a iPad Garageband playlist interpreting the novel with songs.

The dual credit (high school and community college) composition class follows the curriculum from Dodge City Community College. So far, the students have written the following papers: Recalling an Experience, Observing a Scene, and Interviewing a Subject. They help each other through the writing process, revising and editing numerous drafts.

Fun in First Grade

Each week first grade focuses on one main theme. Throughout the first few weeks of school the first grade students have been able to experience a multitude of fun and exciting learning adventures. To start the year off we celebrated grandparent's day, where the grandparents joined the first graders in fun games and activities. The month of September focused on Johnny Appleseed and community helpers. During Johnny Appleseed day the students got to make applesauce and share it with their fourth grade buddies. When we discussed community helpers, students learned about different careers throughout the community. A variety of community members were able to come into the classroom and share with the students their occupations and what it consists of. In October the main topics were fire prevention and the 5 senses. During fire prevention week Mrs. Schulte's brother taught the students all about fire and safety and demonstrated how firefighter prepare for real life fires. The Ness City fire department brought a fire engine for the students to see. Each of the students was able to sit in the fire engine and feel what it would be like to be a firefighter. While learning about the 5 senses the students enjoyed a nature hike where they used all of their senses to explore their surrounding environment. Next on our agenda in first grade was investigating pumpkins, which included a trip to the Utica pumpkin patch!



Mrs. McNinch's Science Classroom

Wyatt Rupp and Ryan Gabel, 7th Grade Life Science students, were busy in lab this week learning about the processes of respiration and fermentation. During this experiment they were studying the process of respiration in yeast cells. Students were collecting carbon dioxide gas by water displacement and then calculating the rate of respiration. During the remainder of the month students in this class will be designing and implementing their own experiments involving yeast respiration. Students will then use the steps of the scientific method to submit a final paper on their investigation.



Exciting Things Happening in the Music Department

The USD 303 Music Department is busy these days. There are six junior high students trying out for the Middle Level Choir, and five high school students auditioning for the High School KMEA Choir. In addition, one band member, Lucas Roths, is trying out for a saxophone position in the District Band. Tryouts are November 8 in Dodge City. The annual light show was on Thursday evening, October 30, during the halftime of the NCHS vs. Hodgeman County football game. This was a presentation performed by both the junior and senior high marching bands of Ness City. Of course, it was a "ghoulish" evening for all.

Ness City Elementary Student Attends William Allen White Ceremonies

The first week of October each year, two authors of children's books are presented with William Allen White medals. Students who have participated in reading books on the list may be chosen to attend the celebration in Emporia. Lex Reinhardt, fifth grader at Ness City, had the privilege of attending last weekend as a result of her activities in a book club at her former school in Larned. The students left on a bus on Friday and upon arriving in Emporia were taken on a tour of the William Allen White home. That night, they slept in sleeping bags at the Rec Center. On Saturday morning, they went to Emporia State University campus where they were allowed to choose and participate in various activities. Lex said her favorites were arts and crafts, playing Jeopardy and acting out stories. In the afternoon, students paraded to the auditorium where Don Brown, author of *America Under Attack*, Sept. 11, 2001 and Helen Frost, author of *Hidden*, received their medals. Some of you will remember that in 2004, Allison Young and Gage Kepple from Ness City were selected as the students who had the honor of presenting the WAW medals to Peni Griffin, author of *Ghost Sitter* and Andrea Warren, author of *Surviving Hitler: A Boy in the Nazi Death Camps*. The William Allen White Children's Book Award program was founded in 1952 by Ruth Garver Gagliardo, a specialist in children's literature for Emporia State University. One of the few literary awards that asks young readers to choose the winners, the program is directed by Emporia State University and supported in part by the Trusler Foundation. Each year Kansas students in grades 3-5 and 6-8 are presented with a list of books that have been preselected by teachers and librarians. The students are encouraged to read at least two books on each list in order to be eligible to vote in March. The votes are compiled from all over the state of Kansas and the two authors with the most votes are invited to Emporia, Kansas in October to receive their medals.



Coline Marcus,
Librarian

High School Library Offers Computer Access for Students

This year the High School Library has a twenty-five station desktop computer lab available for classes to utilize for various assignments. During testing season, classes used the lab for MAP testing. Language Arts instructors had all students take Star Reading tests to assess what level books they should be reading and to measure growth during the year. Individual students frequently use a computer to complete assignments. The computers are also used for Accelerated Reading quizzes.

Coline Marcus, Librarian

Spanish Classes celebrate El Dia de Los Muertos

The Spanish students of Ness City High participated in the celebration of El Día de los Muertos (The Day of the Dead) last month. El Día de los Muertos honors the dead with festivals and lively celebrations, a typically Latin American custom that combines indigenous Aztec customs with Catholicism, brought to the region by Spanish conquistadors. The students will be making calaca (skeleton) masks and calaveras (sugar skulls). They also tried a taste of Atole (Mexican Hot Chocolate) and churros as well.

Positive Behavior Supports (PBS)

Positive Behavior Support is a proactive strategy for defining, teaching and supporting student behavior resulting in academic and social gains in a positive school environment. Students' hard work and dedication to this program will be recognized

as teachers see fit. Students will earn feathers when they are “caught” demonstrating positive behaviors. Each month students may turn in their feathers for rewards. A few of the items students may choose from are: extra computer time, being first in the lunch line or being a teacher aide. These are the top feather earners for each class: Sampson Liggett, Brenna Hoss, Sabryn Copeland, Leonardo Araiza, Karina Rios, Jordon Pfaff, Hannah Delaney, and Jadon Copeland.



Accelerated Reader

Giving your child the choice to read what they want helps them create their own interest in reading. The Accelerated Reader Program is built upon this concept. Students are allowed to choose the books they want to read within their reading range to earn Accelerated Reader points. We would like to congratulate the following students for being the top readers in their classroom: Benjamin Durham, Emma Petersilie, Justin Luna, Karina Rios, Peityn Beckman, Vanessa Guzman, Amy Fooks, and Tristan Schwiens.



Family and Consumer Science Classes

Mrs. Schaub’s Family and Consumer Science (FACS) classes have been busy on many fronts. While studying process skills, one highlight for 7th grade FACS students was the “hand” activity. It was necessary for the students to implement problem solving and cooperation in order to “untangle” themselves after joining hands in a circle. Students had to evaluate their positions and communicate with each other in order to succeed. And succeed they did (eventually!).



On November 19, National *It Can Wait* Day, the high school FACS classes took time out from their studies to access the Driving While Texting online simulation. It was very interesting and students were amazed at the effect that the texting had on their driving ability! The texting and distracted driving info-graphic, DWI: DRIVING WHILE INTEXTICATED was used for this activity.

After exploring characteristics of fetal development during pregnancy, the Human Growth and Development students will soon be seen with their “babies”. The RealCare Babies are now being *charged* for their entry into the lives of the HG&D students’ lives. These dolls are designed to give students a more realistic experience with caring for an infant. In addition to crying for attention, the dolls “coo” when being cuddled; make sucking sounds when being fed; and will continue to “cry” if in need of a diaper change. Students must determine the baby’s (doll’s) need by its cry and then give the needed care.

Stay tuned for news from other classes!

FCCLA



In August, eight NCHS FCCLA members travelled to Hutchinson to attend the annual Take AIM to kick off the 2014-15 school year with leadership training. On August 24-25, 529 FCCLA members and leaders from 85 chapters attended Take Aim at the Ramada Conference Center in Hutchinson, KS. They engaged in leadership workshops and gained information about FCCLA. The leadership workshops were led by Amy Gallimore and Bryant Collier from Tri-Leadership, who empowered the students to break out of their comfort zone and become better leaders. Peer Education Members and State Officers also got involved by leading mini-breakout sessions that taught students more about FCCLA and how they could get involved. Take Aim was a success in creating more leaders in our communities. Attending from Ness City were: Ciera Cell, Skyler Snyder, Zach Boche-Kimber, Emily Dawes, Sierra Hamilton, Paola Jurado, Kale Klitzke, Sarinna Rogers, accompanied by Mrs. Schaub.

The 2014-15 school year is proving to be very busy for Ness City FCCLA. Due to realignment of the Kansas FCCLA districts, the Dighton and Ness City chapters will be moving from District F to District A. Because of this, there will be participation in both districts this year. Ciera Cell, being the District F Vice President of Elections, will be running the District F meetings throughout the year. The NCHS chapter members attended the District F Fall Leadership Conference (FLC) on October 29. Mrs. Schaub and NCHS FCCLA officers also attended the District A FLC on October 22, in order to get acquainted with the district in which we will compete this year.

Thank you to all patrons who support FCCLA by purchasing our suckers and meat sticks. The proceeds from these sales help to pay for registration for these meetings.



What is a Paraeducator?

A paraeducator is an important part of the school community. The special education paras working at NCES help students meet their IEP goals and objectives. The paras at NCES, working under the supervision of a certified teacher, may work in the resource room or may support students in the regular classroom, at art and other specials, or even in the cafeteria. Eight paras work with Mrs. Foos and Mrs. Randa at NCES.



Meet our Elementary Paras

Vanessa Kraft

Vanessa has been a para educator for 6 years. This is her second year at NCES. She has a son, Broxton (6), and a daughter Braelyn (1). She is engaged to Tony Gall.

Jeanette Moore

Jeanette has been a para for six years. She is married to Shannon and together they have 5 children and 1 granddaughter. She is also a volunteer for Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Michele O'Toole

Michele first became a para in 1992 and has been a para most of the years since. She is married with two children.

Amanda Schneider

Amanda moved back to Ness City from Wichita last November. She has been a volunteer fire fighter for Ness City since February. She enjoys working with the younger grades.

Rhonda Snodgrass

Rhonda has been a para for 8 years. She is married to Michael and they have three boys; Geoffrey, Joshua and Austin. She loves working with the younger students. Her passion the last year has been Bal-a-vis-x. She hope one day that every student will be able to participate.

Eve Tavoloni

Eve is another NCHS graduate who has come to work with us this year for the first time. She is also currently attending FHSU working towards her degree in Early Childhood Education.

Kaylee Weaver

A 2012 Ness City graduate, Kaylee joins us for the first time this year. She attended Cosmetology school. Her favorite age group is grade school children.

April Yakish

April has been a para at NCES for the last two years. She enjoys working with all age levels. Unfortunately, October was April's last month at NCES. We will all miss her!!

NCHS STUCO

The school year has started off fast and furious! On September 11, the STUCO members attended C.L.A.S.S. Leadership in Dodge City. Students from Scott City and Dodge City were also at the conference, where students learned the importance of leadership in building a positive school environment. Attending this conference didn't mean the students just sat and listened to presenter Joe Coles speak all day. Throughout the conference, the students were intermingling with students from other schools while participating in skill building activities. NCHS will host the next conference on December 8 and will have the opportunity to show the "big" schools what life on a "small" campus is like.

STUCO is also working in conjunction with the Booster Club to purchase an electronic marquee for the school. The goal is to have the sign purchased and installed before Old Settler's in June. In addition to several donations and Booster Club fundraisers, the STUCO is planning a fundraiser within the school to get the students involved. Thank you to those who have donated. For more information about this project, please contact Dawn Flax at 785-798-2222 or

dawn.flax@usd303.org. A huge thank you goes out to the Booster Club for all they have done so far to get the ball rolling.



Some Bunny in Mrs. Beutler's Class

Some Bunny (somebody) brought a pet rabbit to school? Do you know who it was? It was Blake Madden with his pet rabbit, "Bugs!" Students in the Second Grade have been learning about all kinds of pets and how to take care of them. Blake showed his rabbit and told the kids all about this pet. You can ask him about "Bugs" to learn about the responsibilities of owning a rabbit. Some Bunny (somebody) is probably wanting one right now.



NCHS Cheerleaders Attend NCA Cheer Camp

NCHS cheerleaders traveled to Emporia at the end of June to attend the NCA Cheer Camp 2014. The 12 NCA Camp instructors were all from major colleges throughout Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri. They spent 4 days of learning new cheers, chants, team bonding, and stunts for the fall and spring season. The camp consisted of 300 cheerleaders from different schools throughout the area. The ladies were evaluated every evening on what they had learned that day. The final day was for competition and final awards. The NCHS Cheerleaders received the Herkie Team Award (voted on by the camp members), and a trophy for the most improved team throughout the whole camp. The team also brought home a national bid, and received a spirit stick every evening of the camp and also at the award ceremony. Each girl brought home a superior ribbon, which is the highest ribbon possible. The team also received superior ribbons on all of their performances. Individual awards- Paola and Alyssa received the All-American nominee ribbon: Alyssa received the senior ribbon: Paola received a leadership pin: Emily and Darian received a St. Jude Pin.



2014-2015 NCHS Cheerleaders are Alyssa Wierman, Sierra Hamilton, Emily Dawes, Darian McClure, Paola Jurado and are coached by Barb Brenner and assisted by Elaine Weirman

English I Investigates Irony

During the first nine weeks of school, the freshmen in English I have analyzed the development of central idea or theme of several short stories. The relationships of characters, settings, and plots have been studied. Irony is a major theme in every story. Although that objective may sound complicated, the stories hold high interest for the students. One of the stories had an ironic ending which surprised everyone. That story was "The Interlopers" by Saki was also depicted in a short movie, which the students watched on YouTube. Another story called "The Most Dangerous Game" by Richard Connell is a classic story of foreshadowing and irony as well. The students read the story and then listened to an audio recording of the story that helped to bring it to life even better. Edgar Allan Poe wrote the latest short story the students read. "The Cask of Amontillado" told the story of revenge and irony too. We will wrap up this unit of short stories by reading "The Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry. Students will identify ambiguities, contradictions and ironies.

KAY Club Begins Busy Year

The Ness City High School KAY Club is off to a great start. The officers hosted a come-and-go informational meeting on September 17, 2014, and gave out ice-cream sandwiches for those interested in joining. A total of 37 students signed up and committed to helping make our community a better place. The Kansas Association of Youth (KAY) Clubs are sponsored by the Kansas State High School Activities Association and promote character-building and service programs.

The KAY's have already purchased tissues for classroom use and will continue to do so throughout the year. This is made possible largely due to money raised through the Boxtops for Education coupons that patrons clip and generously donate to the KAY Club. The KAYs then count, bag and send these coupons in to the General Mills Company, and are reimbursed ten cents for each coupon. In addition to purchasing tissues, the KAYs were also able to donate \$125.00 to the Ness County Bank Building Foundation for continued upkeep and improvements on the building.

For the 2014-2015 school year, the KAYs have committed to also continuing the recycling program. Special containers have been purchased for each classroom for students to place their discarded paper. Each week KAY volunteers pick up the recycling and take it to the recycling center. This is a time consuming and extended service project, but one that the KAY members feel is very important.

KAY Officers for the 2014-2015 are: President – Mason Weber, Vice President – Cailin Foos, Secretary – Kaitlyn Dinges, Treasurer – Regan Stiawalt, Point Director – Makenna Fritts, STUCO Representative – Lucas Roths, Co-Director Community Service – Kristen Klitzke, Co-Director Community Service – Alexis Clarke, Co-Director School Service – Sara Dreiling, Co-Director School Service – Madison Gabel.

High School Football

It feels like just the other day we were checking out gear in preparation for 2-a-days. It's amazing to me that we have already played finished our regular season and headed to the first playoff game.

Varsity

The Varsity finished the regular season 7-2 with their two loses coming in close games to Victoria and Spearville. An overtime win against rival Hodgeman County qualified Our Boys of Fall for the State Playoffs. The Bi-District Game was played November 4 in Oberlin. This was no easy task, but the team was up for the challenge. The boys continue to come to practice with great attitudes and intentions to improve their skills. If they continue to do this we can give ourselves a chance to play football in far into November.

Junior Varsity

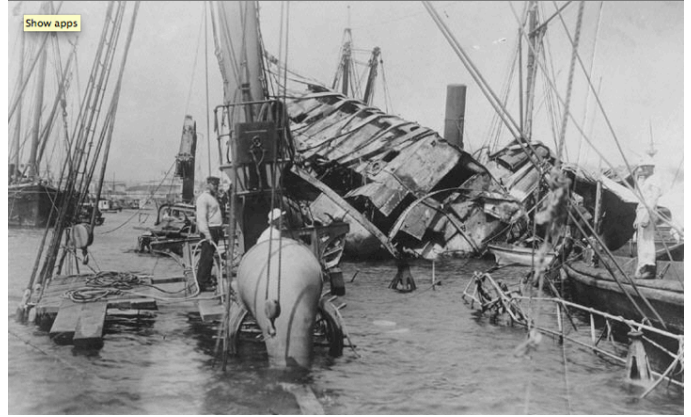
The Junior Varsity team has rounded out their season very quickly as well. We feel very fortunate to have been able to play five games this season as many teams have so few numbers that they aren't able to schedule Junior Varsity games. This squad has experienced some success with only taking one loss throughout their schedule. They have been a great group to coach. Their development will be key to the future of Ness City football.

American History Class Rewrites History

February 15, 1898, the USS Maine explodes in Havana harbor killing over 250 American crewmen. At the time, the American public was overwhelmingly swayed by the sensationalist journalistic reporting of the *New York Journal* and begins calling for war with Spain despite the fact that there is no proof of Spain's involvement. A rival newspaper, the *New York Times* publishes a more cautionary article detailing the very real possibility that the explosion was caused by a fire in the coal bunkers which then spread to the magazine.

What would the conclusion be today when presented with the same information? Would we be as swayed by the extreme sensationalistic style of reporting that the public seemed to be in 1898?

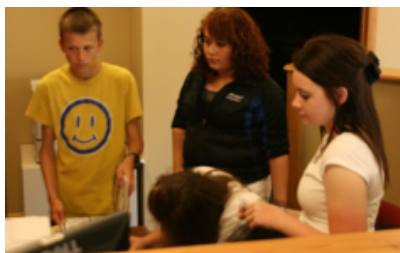
The students in American History were asked to make that decision by reading primary newspaper articles, both written 2 days after the original "Maine" incident. Their task: decide which article they felt was more truthful and why. The result was quite different from the public's response in 1898. Barely 20% of the class came to the conclusion that the vast majority of the public did over one hundred years ago. What a difference that might have made in our nation's history! Would the U.S. still have come to own Puerto Rico and the Philippines? Something we will never know, but all very interesting to ponder.



Business/Computer Department

Computer Applications classes have been learning the many useful features of MS Word. The students have created a document with pictures, a business letter with a letterhead and table, a document with a title page that contains lists, tables and a watermark and a resume using a template. They are currently working with the mail merge feature. Using this feature, the students are creating form letters, mailing labels and a directory.

Accounting I is nearing the end of the accounting cycle for a service business organized as a sole proprietorship. These students have learned how to analyze and journalize transactions and prepare financial statements. They have also learned how to account for cash control systems, including writing checks and reconciliation of a bank statement and maintaining a petty cash fund.



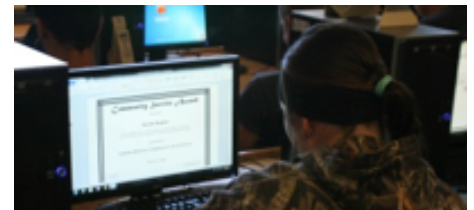
The yearbook staff selling an ad to State Farm.

7th Grade Keyboarding has spent the first 9 weeks learning the reaches for all the letters, numbers and characters on the keyboard. Speed and accuracy are improving every day. Their next step is to learn the reaches for the numbers on the 10-key pad.

Graphic Design students have been learning the basic rules of graphic design. They apply these rules while creating flyers and signs, fax cover sheets, memos and agendas. The students have also designed stationary for their own businesses. The stationary includes letterhead, envelopes and business cards.

Photo Imaging has been learning how to use the tools and capabilities of the incredible software, PhotoShop. Once they have learned all the tools; their function and how to use them, the students will begin to design their own projects.

Digital Media Design and Production is the class formerly known as Yearbook. The yearbook staff has been busy taking pictures, editing the pictures, designing page layouts and selling ads. You may have seen them around town doing this. If they have not been to your business yet, they will be soon!



Rashal Hagans designs an award certificate.

Elementary PE Working Hard

K-6 PE is off to a very busy start as we have completed our Volleyball and Soccer units and we are in our final week of Football. Next week we will begin a Golf unit but we will not be using clubs; instead we will be throwing frisbees and kicking soccer balls. Jump Rope for Heart is right around the corner as the kids have set a goal of raising over \$3,000 for the American Heart Association!



Mr. Allen's Math Classes Cover Many Concepts

In Mr. Allen's class, we have gone over many new things. The 8th graders filled different objects proving that a pyramid is one-third the size of a prism with the same dimensions. The 8th graders filled a pyramid three times with water to show that it was equivalent to the same volume of a prism. We also discussed how to compute how much water is in a certain three dimensional figure. In algebra 2, we went over how to graph many different types of functions and how they can be used in their everyday lives. We are now getting some students ready for Math Relays. Math Relays is a day in which we compete against schools across the state on different math concepts. This is done at FHSU in Hays, Kansas. Wish us luck!

Lucas Roths punches his ticket to State Cross Country!

The Runnin' Eagles had a smaller team than usual but that didn't stop the team from working hard all season while having fun! The high school runners were Juniors Lucas Roths and Nashon Copeland and Sophomore Trace Flax. The junior high runners were 7th graders Austin Snodgrass and Skyler Woods and 8th graders Landon Reinhardt, MaKenzie Braun, Jacklyn Briney, Savannah Moore. The runners brought home lots of hardware throughout the season. The exclamation point of the season was Lucas Roths (unable to run most of the season due to injury) placing 7th at Regionals and finishing 17th at the State Meet Nov. 1st at Wamego! Congratulations Lucas!



Elementary Artists use Creativity to Learn The Elements of Art!

The grade school artists are busy learning about the ABC's of Art called The Elements of Art; Line, Shape, Color, Texture, Value, Form and Space. Understanding and applying this knowledge will help them create and appreciate art and the world around them.

Snodgrass and Moore use Summer Training Opportunity to Bring New Program to NCES

What is Bal-A-Vis-X?

Imagine if bouncing racquetballs and tossing bean bags in a specific rhythm could help people with visual and auditory challenges, and behavioral disorders. Bill Hubert, a longtime educator and creator of a program called Bal-a-Vis-X, says it can, while also assisting others like orthopedic and neurological patients, gifted students, those with special needs, and athletes. Short for Balance-Auditory-Vision-Exercises, the program teaches a series of more than 300 balance/auditory/vision exercises, most of which are done with sand-filled bags and/or racquetballs, often while standing on a balance board. Exercises address visual tracking deficiencies, auditory imprecision, impulsivity, balance and anxiety issues. Some exercises combine bags or balls with feet patterns.

Who Benefits from Bal-A-Vis-X?

Bal-A-Vis-X is for nearly every student. For all students the gains in eye hand coordination and growth in overall confidence, earned self-esteem are readily observable. At Ness City Elementary School we are lucky that two of our para-educator staff have each attended two Bal-A-Vis-X multi-day trainings. Rhonda Snodgrass and Jeanette Moore have both attended these trainings and are using this program with Ness City Students on a daily basis. Students from multiple grade levels are using this program during their "Flight Times", "Small Group

Times” and others are receiving individual Bal-A-Vis-X time. If your child comes home and tells you that they used bean bags and balls at school today, we want you to know that they are working on improving their visual tracking, auditory skills, and eye hand coordination; all which will positively impact their future educational performance.

Grade School Music Classes Singing Carols?

The music students in grades kindergarten through sixth grade will start working on their Christmas songs this week. Since the annual Christmas Program is scheduled for the first week in December, that leaves about six weeks of classes for the students to learn their songs. The students in grades third through sixth will be presenting a play for their Christmas program, with lots of holidays songs and lines that need to be memorized. The younger musicians will learn about Christmas and its meaning, and they will performed several songs for the program in December. So, in the midst of Halloween and Thanksgiving, be prepared to hear some “Noels” and “Jingle Bells” from the Ness City Elementary music students!

5th and 6th Grade visit Pumpkin Patch

On October 15th the 5th and 6th grade class went to the TLB Prairie Pumpkin Patch in Utica, Kansas. The students got to experience a little bit about what life is like on the farm. They were also educated on agriculture and how animals play an important role on the farm.

The classes also got a chance to visit an “old time” shopping store. Once in the store, students got to shop for old time favorites like homemade jellies, beef jerky, popcorn, and much more.

One of the main highlights for all of the students was the slide. Once on top, both classes got to slide down a 15-foot slide dug into the side of a hill. Students soared down the slide and flew right into a pile of straw.

Mr. Schulte and Mr. Scott both agree that the field trip to Utica was a success. Students got to have a hands-on approach field trip and for some, it was the their first time at a farm. We are looking forward to visiting the TLB Pumpkin Patch in Utica next year.



Kindergarten

We have been really busy and working hard in Kindergarten! In September, we learned about Johnny Appleseed and did a lot of fun activities. We made homemade applesauce and made Johnny Appleseed hats. Pictured below you can see our class in our hats. We also had the super hero Captain Clot come and visit us. He talked to us about hemophilia. Pictured on the left is our class with Captain Clot. This month we have been learning about fire safety. We had a fireman from Wichita, KS come and talk to us about fire safety. Pictured on the right is our class with fireman Brandon. We have a lot of work to do, so we better get back to work!



Mrs. Smith's Second Grade

We have had a great beginning to our year! As a class we have studied punctuation, spiders, nouns, types of sentences, phonics, improved our reading skills, and so much more. We also were able to celebrate Talk Like A Pirate Day! Our day involved learning pirate vocabulary, pirate cause and effect, reading pirate books in our ship, and practicing our map/treasure hunting skills. The fifth grade even came over to teach us about North, South, East and West.

4th Grade

We have been having a lot of fun in fourth grade! Students were able to write their own spooky narrative stories for Halloween. We will finish publishing them this week! Earlier in the year the students were able to attend Ag Day in Jetmore. They learned about various ways to stay safe when dealing with farm equipment, animals, chemicals, electricity, ATVs, fires, and grain. Weatherman, Scott Roberts gave a presentation on tornadoes at the end of Ag Day, which the students really enjoyed. We also had the opportunity to visit the pumpkin patch in Utica this fall. We learned a lot of information of farm animals, such as how donkeys play an important role in keeping the cattle safe from coyotes. We also learned about the life cycle of farm animals and plants. The students were able to pick their own pumpkins at the end and have some fun going down the "monster slipper slide."



First Nine Weeks Elementary Award Ceremony

Ness City Elementary School has had a wonderful first nine weeks. We have so many students who have been working really hard and have shown some *Super* characteristics, including a willingness to help others whenever needed, working hard in the classroom every day, or getting fantastic grades! We thought it was really important to recognize these students and will do so every nine weeks. An award ceremony was held on Friday Oct. 24 to do just that. Parents and community members were invited to come and help our students celebrate their successes. The awards given were as follows:

Super Worker Award

K: Alexis Higgins and Jonathan Arteaga
 1G: Zachary Braun and Brenna Hoss
 1S: Broxton Gall and Hannah Younger
 2B: Leonardo Araiza
 2S: Karina Rios
 3: Alexis Gabel and Shayden Woods
 4: Emiliano Araiza and Emily Clanton
 5: Casen Marshall and Alexa Reinhardt
 6: Seth Flax and Caitlin Smee

PE Behavior

K-2: Kindergarten
 3-6: 6th grade

Honor Roll 3.5 (3rd through 6th grade only)

3: Peityn Beckman, Jaiden Braun, Elaina Hendrick, Emily Lozano, Dawson McGranahan, Danae Rodriguez, Diana Salazar, Tiana Smith, Daniel Talamantes, Shayden Woods
 4: Devyn Braun, Bryce Flax, Avril Garcia, Andrea Lopez, Alfonso Luna, Aneth Reyes
 5: Jadon Copland, Kyler Fellhoelter, Tyler Lidy, J.D. Moore, Jackson Seib
 6: Mackenzie Braun, Matthew Delaney, Seth Flax, Janate' Kerr, Jose Lopez, Eladio Luna, Edwin Reyes, Cassandra Rodriguez, Ethan Schlegel, Caitlin Smee

Honor Roll 4.0 (3rd through 6th grade only)

3: Kiera Baily, Alexis Gabel, Lizzy Horner
 4: Emiliano Araiza, Emily Clanton, Hannah Delaney, Tyler Gabel

Super Helper Award

K: Elsay Slagle and Daniel Morales
 1G: Brynlin Schwindt and Masique Carley
 1S: Emma Petersilie and Ethan Flax
 2B: Malachi Durham and Emma Yakish
 2S: Jaidon Allen
 3: Jaiden Braun and Dawson McGranahan
 4: Bryce Flax and Hannah Delaney
 5: Amy Foos and Dawson Stoecklein
 6: Edwin Reyes and Sassy Bailey

AR Points Earned/AR Highest Percentage

K-2: Mrs. Beutler's 2nd grade class
 3-6: Mr. Schulte's 6th grade class

5: Kaleigh Backstrom, Taylor Cable, Jay Cupp, Amy Foos, A.J. Garcia, Caidyn Horton, Samantha Johnson, Casen Marshall, Alex Pavlu, Alexa Reinhardt, Gavin Schreiber, Dawson Stoecklein, Dallin Walter, Summer Woods

6: Sassy Bailey, Tristan Schwien

Be watching for our next award ceremony to take place at semester where the same awards will be given along with some new ones. Keep working hard kids!!! We are proud of ALL of you!!!

Elementary Students Enjoy New Playground Equipment



On October 24, a new piece of Playground Equipment magically appeared on the Elementary Playground. Actually, it was a process that started with a gathering of designs, a democratic voting procedure, and ended with a brand new piece of equipment. In September, the K-6 students were presented with 6 different playground designs. They were encouraged to consider each design based on what each offered for play options. Each classroom discussed the options, and then each individual student was allowed to vote on his/her favorite. An overwhelming favorite emerged from the vote. It took the factory several weeks to make the equipment, and the help of several local entities and individuals to prepare for the final installation. A special thank you goes out to Brent Kerr for his labor and the use of his skid steer and truck, Ness County for the labor and the use of their trencher and new bridge planks, The City of Ness City for labor and the use of their loader and truck, Bill McLeish for finding us new rock, the Rec Department for the use of their tractor, Kevin Stoecklein and the Ness County Conservation District for locating and getting the weed barrier donated, and Layton Whipple and Sean Ries for their handwork to get everything in place.

Eagle Pride

It all started very innocently. Showing excitement during our first football game of the season, Activities Bus Driver, Steve Proctor would blow the air horn on the Eagle Bus every time our Boys of Fall would score a touchdown. The boys caught on fast, and wanted to hear the horn at every game. Steve is not one to turn down a challenge and began devising a plan to have the horn at home games also. With donations from Butch Roehl and S&W Supply, and the use of a horn from Steve Cranston and S & S Trailer Sales, Steve was able to put together the noise maker you heard during the final game of the regular season. Our Boys of Fall came out victorious in that game, and earned a spot in the State Playoffs. The Eagles will be traveling to Oberlin to take on the Red Devils from Decatur County in the Bi-District game on November 4. Steve, we look forward to hearing that horn several times long into the State Playoffs this year!

