
EAGLE PROFILE

Science Rooms and HVAC Updated at NCHS



Over the summer, several contractors worked hard to update the science rooms and HVAC systems at the High School, and completed the project just in time for school to start. Over the last several years, the School Board and a Facilities Improvement Committee comprised of school staff, parents, and community members had been looking at the needs of our facilities and ways to improve them. The School Board was prepared to move forward with a \$16 Million dollar facilities improvement project when the local economy began to falter. The School Board decided that it was not the best time to move forward with this project, but believed that there were some areas that could not wait to be addressed. In looking at the big project, the School Board determined that the Science rooms at the High School were not adequate for what we currently require out of our teachers and students. “The old Science classrooms simply did not meet the needs of our students. The gas, plumbing, and electrical systems in the classroom did not work properly making it difficult if not

impossible to do labs. As we looked at the future of the job market our students will be entering, we saw that a great number of jobs will require a strong understanding of science, and our current classrooms were not able to meet those needs,” shared Superintendent Reinhardt.

Once an area of focus was determined, the School Board set a budget for improvements that they felt was responsible. Research was then done to determine viable ways to finance the project while staying in budget. The School Board was able to secure QZAB (Qualified Zone Academy Bonds) funds, and worked with Farmers Bank and Trust in Bazine to develop a Lease Purchase program to utilize these funds. “The great thing about the QZAB funds is they are interest free. These funds are provided by the IRS specifically to allow school districts to complete projects. By obtaining the QZAB funds, the School District was able to save around \$300,000 in interest which allowed us to better utilize our money,” stated Superintendent Reinhardt.

The other part of the project was an updated HVAC system at the High School. The school had been operating on an old boiler system that was not effective or efficient. It was quickly becoming a system that would require large dollar amounts to fix and upgrade. These fixes and upgrades would not have helped with efficiency or effectiveness of the system. The old system was removed from the classrooms, cafeteria, library and office areas at the High School, and replaced with a VRF system that allows individual control of the heating and cooling in each classroom. This new system is more efficient and effective than the old system, and will help reduce some of our operating costs.



PUBLIC NOTICE

USD 303 will continue to monitor and regulate the utilization of the district’s computer network to assure patrons of USD 303’s compliance with the federal regulation of the Children’s Internet Protection Act.

PRIVACY NOTICE

The superintendent, the board and staff shall protect the right of privacy of students and their families in connection with any surveys or physical examinations conducted, assisted, or authorized by the board or administration. The district shall provide parents notice of their rights under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment annually, at the beginning of each school year, and at any other time the school district policies in this area are substantially changed.

2014 BUILDING REPORT CARD

As Kansas schools continue working towards full implementation of the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards (KCCRS), 2014 marked the first year that students transitioned to a new state assessment that addressed the skills currently being taught in the classroom. Kansas launched its pilot of the new state assessment and assessment delivery platform a year in advance of the federal state testing requirement for the purpose of identifying and fixing any system issues and district-level technology compatibility issues. Additionally, the early launch provided the time needed to verify the validity of the new assessment items and provide students the opportunity to interact with the new types of technology-enhanced items prior to the official launch in 2015.

During the early part of the testing window, KSDE’s assessment vendor, the Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation (CETE), reported that the assessment delivery platform had been the target of a Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack, which attempted to shut down the servers and severely impacted the testing environment for many students. The impact of this attack resulted in CETE’s inability to verify the validity of the results for all students. As such, the Kansas State Board of Education, acting on the recommendations of the Kansas Technical Advisory Committee, CETE and Kansas State Department of Education staff and with approval from the United States Department of Education, voted to not release any results of the 2014 state assessment.

While we are not able to provide assessment scores for 2013-14, we are still able to publish academic indicators, including graduation rates, and demographic information. We are pleased to report that graduation rates as a whole have improved for the fifth straight year in a row. This is great news for Kansas and highlights the great work happening in our classrooms.

Thank you for your support as we continue our transition to higher academic standards for Kansas students.

VO-AG Classes Stay Busy

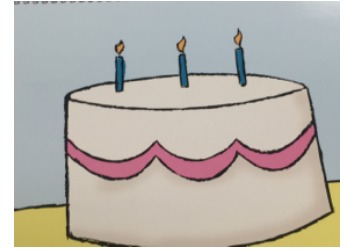
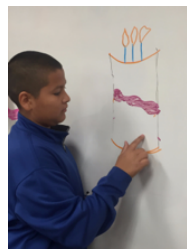
The agriculture classes have been keeping busy this semester. The welding and mechanics classes have been learning about safety, welding processes and reference lines, weld joints and symbols, before entering the shop. This way they are safe and ready to read welding blueprints. In order to better understand blueprint drawings, students quizzed themselves with cheese and crackers (see pictures), it was a fun activity and a snack to enjoy at the end! JH Ag has been actively learning about dairy cattle and some students enjoyed showing their knowledge at dairy judging and dairy foods contests (see pictures). Plant and Soil Science has started cleaning out the greenhouse, has learned about plant classification and plant parts. Agriscience, jumped into learning the FFA Creed. Ashley Foes and Kenzee Cupp represented our chapter at the district Creed contest. Kenzee Cupp placed sixth and Ashley Foes placed third, they did awesome(see picture)!



“What do you give a sick horse? Cough stirrup!” (<http://www.jokes4us.com/peoplejokes/farmerjokes.html>) If you couldn’t guess it, the animal science class has been learning about horses. Not only did they get an introduction to horses, they also learned about different breeds and diseases. The last class, my Agriculture Business and Leadership class has been learning about leadership, they have each been assigned a famous leader to research and share with the class. We have also talked about what leadership is. This class also helps prepare for the FFA Fundraiser, they helped choose prices and educated the other student about selling techniques. As these busy bees continue their semester, it will be exciting to see what they learn and accomplish.

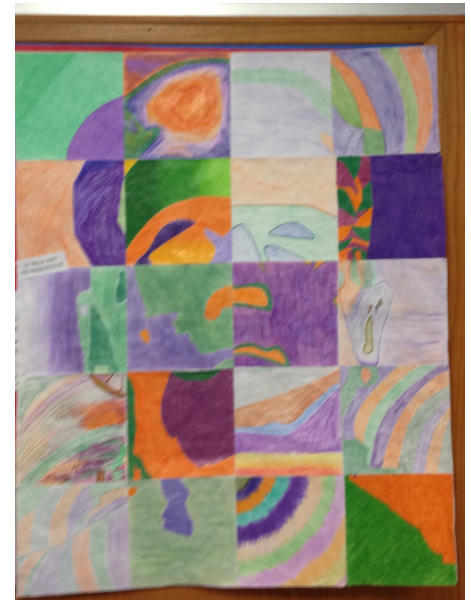
Visualizing and Verbalizing in Language Group

During Flight Time the Language Group has been busy learning about the importance of using descriptive language when we describe things to others. We have been using the Visualizing and Verbalizing Word Imaging Book. I shared a picture from the book with the group of kids. I then gave them the instructions that they had to use their descriptive words to get their classmates to create a similar picture on the white board using expo markers. Their descriptive words needed to include details like what, size, shape, color, number, where, movement, mood, background, perspective, when, and sound.



NCHS Students Begin Journey in Art

The Art 1-4 levels of High School art students began their artistic journey with a group project. Each student was given a random 1" x1" square with lines and shapes drawn on, next step they recreated the line pattern on a 10x10 inch square of drawing paper completing the design with a specific color scheme. Once the squares were completed they worked together to create a large scale portrait of a well know person or character.



Yearbook Staff Attend Workshop

The 2017 Eagle Yearbook staff attended the Josten’s yearbook workshop in Ellis on September 12, 2016. The students learned about the latest trends, tools and resources to use in creating a great yearbook. They worked with Josten’s graphic design artist and designed an outstanding cover. They also were given tips to help develop their theme and carry it out the entire book. The students received instruction on using the Josten’s online software to design their pages. They were given examples of good and poor page design. In the area of content and coverage, the workshop discussed the importance of making sure everyone was included a minimum number of times in the yearbook. General photography guidelines and rules of photo composition were shared. The yearbook staff for 2017 is Zach Bochy-Kimber, Wyatt Delaney, Suzanna Gomez,



Yearbook staff discussing workshop ideas

Kristen Klitzke, Darian McClure, and Sarinna Rogers.

Geometry Class Presented with Real World Problems

The Integrated Geometry Class started the year by learning how systems of linear inequalities can be used to model real world scenarios. The project based learning challenge that was placed before them was to create an advertising campaign that extended the “Crispy Colonel” KFC commercials. Students then had to use Linear inequalities to prove that the product they gave away would not cause the restaurants to lose money. Groups gave away many different products, including Fried Chicken scented sunscreen, hair gel, and deodorant. They chose new celebrities to play the Colonel, plotted graphs, found profit margins, and created presentations for KFC franchisees to review.

What is Title I?

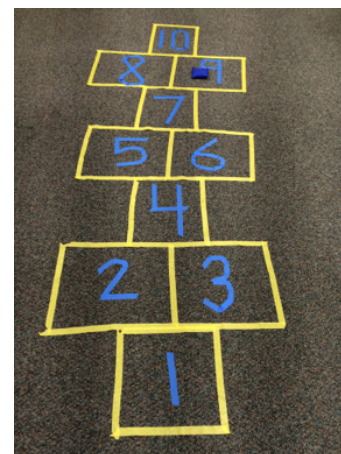
As a parent, it can be scary to hear the words, “Your kid has been selected to receive Title I services for math and/or reading.” I know the feeling because I AM a parent of a student receiving these services. A million things run through your mind and mixed feelings occur immediately (or at least that’s how it was for me).

So what exactly *is* Title I? Well, it is a form of intervention that is provided by the school in both reading and math. The program allows students to be pulled in groups of 5 or less to work on specific skills or areas in which students may need some extra help. Students are selected based on results of multiple diagnostic assessments as well as teacher observation and classroom performance. The Title I program allows time for intervention in areas deemed necessary for successful learning.

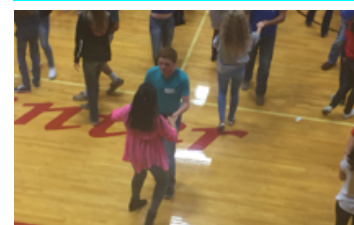
As I sorted through my own emotions I reminded myself that my goal as a parent is to raise successful children who will turn into adults that can contribute to their community/world in a positive manner. This all starts by providing a solid educational foundation. This is EXACTLY what the Title I program is working towards, providing all students with the foundational skills needed to be successful in school! Pictured are a couple of things done in the Title I Math class to build some basic skills: Hopscotch for number identification practice for Kindergarten and third graders using VersaTiles to practice place value.

STUDENT COUNCIL

As summer dwindled down to fall, the activities at NCHS burst into full swing and now time is passing quickly. StuCo members started the year hosting the annual Open House. As students were loading their lockers with supplies, several community members came to tour the new science labs and classrooms that had been built. Fast forward six weeks and Student Council members have been busy with fall sports and other activities, but made time on September 26 to travel to Quinter High School to attend the KSHSAA Regional Student Council Conference. The goal of the conference is to bring StuCo members from the area together to share ideas and get motivated for a fantastic school year. The keynote speaker this year was Brandon White, a former StuCo member at Mill Valley High School, who now speaks to students across the country. His message titled “Own It” was about owning the opportunities in front of you and what it takes to be a good leader. White, a ballroom dancer/instructor, also taught them how to Salsa. StuCo is planning many exciting activities for the student body and is looking forward to a great year!!



StuCo members waiting for the conference to start.



Westin dancing the Salsa with a student from another school.

Ness City FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America)

After a slow start due to complications in schedules, the chapter is in the process making plans for this year. Sales of Ozark Delight suckers and Yoder Snack Sticks have begun and are available at most Volleyball and Football games. This year a new fundraiser will be implemented during October. Members will be selling *Made by Jade* bread kits. *Made by Jade* is a company created and run by an FCCLA member in Goodland, KS. Some of the breads available are: Original Savory, Dill, Garlic, Italian, Jalapeno, Root Beer Float, Pumpkin Spice, and Hot Cocoa.

The Kansas State FCCLA Leadership Project this year is *The Gift of Time*. The goal is to communicate with elderly people in the area, by cleaning yards, helping at a senior center, talking, singing, playing cards, or just spending time with them. These are all ways to give *The Gift of Time*. Hours are a combination of all volunteer efforts and to get credit at least half the chapter needs to participate together or Individually. To achieve a Gold Award, the chapter must log in a minimum of 30 hours combined.

On October 8, the chapter members will be traveling to Hoxie, KS for the District A Fall Leadership Conference. In addition to that, plans are in the works for the annual Iron Man Volleyball and Powder Puff Football games, which will take place during Buffer Week. Dates and times will be announced later.

FCCLA conducts two National Cluster Meetings during the month of November. This year's meetings are being held in Denver, CO and Orlando, FL. The NCHS members have the opportunity to travel to the meeting in Denver, Co., which will be held November 4-5. Members attending are urged to compete in the FCCLA/LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl while at the conference.

This year's officers are: President Darian McClure; Vice President Paola Jurado; Secretary Lexea Barnes; VP of Finance Kyla Stephen; VP of Public Relations Alysson Foons; VP of National Programs Sarinna Rogers; Chapter Historian Jaiden Pavlu; and STUCO Representative Emily Dawes.

JH Football Team Puts Together Impressive Season

The Ness City Junior High football team is working hard this season. The junior high Eagles football team has 28 players out this year which is the biggest team in the league. We have seen the students improve every week in all aspects of the game. The team is currently 6-0 on the season with one game left to play.

Mr. Schulte and I have enjoyed coaching the players this year because of how well they focus and listen. When we work with the students during practice, they want to keep doing the drill until it is done right instead of quitting and waiting until next time. They also absorb everything we say and use it on the field. The team is never satisfied and works harder every week.

The 8th graders have done a great job of leading this team in the right direction. We have worked on always staying positive towards each other and remembering it is never about one player, but the team. The 8th graders this year are: Seth Flax, Patrick O'Toole, Edwin Reyes, Dylan Bruntz, Tristan Schwien, Matthew Delaney, Brendon Reed, Tim Hair, Eladio Luna, Gustavo Gomez, Ethan Schlegel, Justin Ramsey, and Gregorio Lopez.

It has been a great season watching these players grow throughout the year. I want to thank all of the parents for the support throughout the year.

Cross Country

Practice started on August 15th with 3 kids out. Before the 2nd week of practice we were able to increase our numbers to 15: 6 high school girls, 6 high school boys, 2 8th grade girls and 1 8th grade boy. It took a few meets before everyone had enough practices in to race. That day finally occurred September 29th at the 9th Annual Ness City Invitational; all 12 high school runners competed on varsity so we were able to have a full team in each varsity race!

Senior, Trace Flax has really improved this season and has brought a lot of experience and senior leadership to a very young team. Out of 5 meets, Trace has medaled in 4 and has already run a career p.r.! Sophomore, Savannah Moore started the season with a tweaked knee so she was unable to race

until the Hill City meet, yet she still placed and medaled. Even though she is just a Sophomore, Savannah has brought a ton of much needed experience to the girls squad.

15 schools were represented at our annual cross country meet. In addition to the spectators and the little kids fun run, it's been said that this was the biggest turnout in the history of the meet! We had great help and the meet went off with zero glitches.

We head to Hill City for the regional meet and by that time the whole team should be healthy and in great shape. Top 10 individuals and top 3 teams qualify for state so hopefully we can get many Runnin' Eagles qualified! Thank you again for all of the positive support throughout the season.

Ness City Eagle Football

"It is a great day to be an eagle" and that is exactly how I feel about this 2016 group of Ness City Eagle Football players. Our team is comprised of 26 members this year, all of which contribute to the Success of our program in one way or another. We are currently 4-1 heading into this week's District matchup at Spearville which will be the second game of District play, so now the playoff push begins. I have been excited about the start of the season, and am extremely proud of the effort this team has shown and how they have competed in the wins over St. John, Ellinwood and Kinsley the last three weeks. It is hard to believe that we only have 4 weeks left.

Our JV Eagles are playing well also and have a 2-1 record with 2 games left to play.

Something new for the program this year is that all of our Varsity games are being carried on 104.7 KISS FM and also online at www.kiss1047.net and specifically <http://streamdb4web.securenetsystems.net/v5/KXNC>. There is also a Ness City Football Coaches show aired on the same stations every Thursday evening at 6:00pm. You can also follow us on Maxpreps by searching for our school and selecting Varsity Football. Follow us on Twitter too at @nesscityFB. Again Thank you for your support of Ness City Eagle Football, it is greatly appreciated.

2016 Ness City High School Volleyball Season

Ness City Eagle volleyball started in the summer with a varsity and junior varsity squads playing at the Hays Recreation Center. Two-a-days for skills and conditioning started August 15th. The girls capped off their week with a photo scavenger hunt that took them all over Ness City. Alexis, Virginia, Jaiden, and Jayme won by taking a picture at all 15 locations the fastest. The JV had a home tournament after the first week of school. It could have gone better but our girls picked up some much needed experience before the rest of the season. They showed the crowd how much they improved since summer league.

The Varsity Lady Eagles kicked off their regular season September 6th in Stafford, with a narrow victory against Macksville. We also beat Stafford for a great beginning to a season. Unfortunately, we lost two out of three to Otis-Bison in our first home game, but were able to defeat a tough Quinter team that same night. Our first tournament took us to Dighton where we won against Dighton and Wichita County. Our only pool play loss was to Holcomb, who placed 2nd in the tournament. The Eagles made it out of



pool play to meet Hoxie. NCHS had a serious lead in both games of the match but the tenacious Hoxie team rallied back to win.

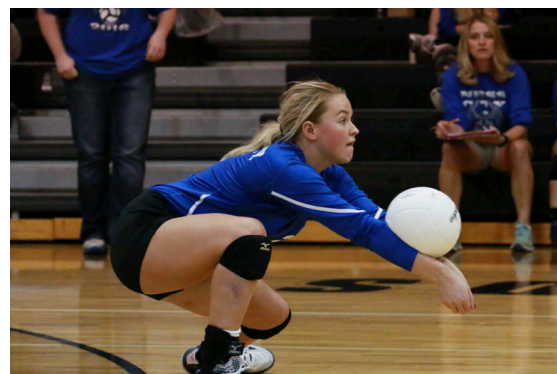
September 20th took us to Victoria where the Lady Eagles defeated Kinsley but fell to Victoria. Both varsity and JV had tournaments at Kiowa County. The varsity started slow by losing two out of three to South Gray. Our first game against LaCrosse got off to a lackluster start. The second game against LaCrosse saw us gain momentum but it was too late. Our final match of the day showed our skills and desire to win against Bucklin. When these girls are having fun they forget about any insecurities and prove to be an unstoppable force. The only real weakness they have is an overall lack of height, which they make up for with verticals and heart.

There are two seniors, both are excellent setters and hitters. Alexis Clarke is a fantastic all-round player. She can be counted on to make serves and keep her head in tense situations. She bounced back from an early dislocated finger injury. Jaycie Richardson is an outstanding all-round player. She hustles on the court and is a great student of the game. These two quality players lead the rest of the team.



There are now four juniors. Baylee Holecek is a power middle hitter, great blocker, rarely misses a serve and will sacrifice her body to get the dig. Kyla Stephen is another willing to put her body on the floor to get the dig; she has a lot of try in her. Doctors only recently released Miriam Guzman but I'm looking forward to utilizing her passing abilities as the libero. Jocelyn Walker, new from Utica, is also a defensive back row player and consistent server.

The sophomore class is by far the largest. With a little more experience these girls will be a force to be reckoned with. Tianna Epperson plays opposite Baylee Holecek as a fierce middle hitter and blocker. Virginia Schaben did a wonderful job stepping up as varsity setter while Alexis was injured. She remains a key player in serving and passing. Jacklyn Briney can pass and serve all day. Taylor Murray looks to be an aggressive attacker and passer. Iran Mesta keeps demonstrating her hitting and blocking on the court.



Jenna Werth has come a long way since only recently taking up setting, her hitting keeps improving too. Jaiden Pavlu has been hard at work on her passes and attacks. The up and coming freshmen include Makenzie Flax, who has improved on passing and loves to hit. Rylee Starr also loves to hit, plus she is an aggressive middle blocker. Before injuries ended Jayme Tillitson's season early, she was improving her passing and experimenting with setting. Summer Pfannenstiel keeps working on her setting, and her serves are incredibly consistent.

Our manager, Sierra Woods, is busy keepings stats and filming our games. Stephanie Rebel's official title is assistant coach but she is much more. She knows these girls inside and out, cares about them,

and works at getting the best out of them. She is blunt and honest, silly and funny, or serious and motivating to match their needs.

The team would like to thank those that have traveled to support us. A special shout out to the loud boys that rock the gym. Volleyball is such a mental game and we need and appreciate those of you yelling encouragement to keep our attitudes positive and provide us with that unyielding drive to never back down.

So far our win/loss record does not accurately represent the talent we have on the court. These young ladies work hard and have tremendous abilities. We need to now prove ourselves to our opponents by being consistent. I know we have it in us. I'm honored to coach this fine team.

Random Thoughts from Mr. Flax

Wow! Can it be possible that it's October already and we are 6 weeks into this new school year? And, what a great start to the school year! Our student numbers are up with so many new faces (but I'll talk a little more about that a little later in this article); We have newly renovated classrooms for the students; New technology for the students with the addition of Chromebooks. There are so many positive things happening at USD 303 and NCHS. Plus, I find it impossible to think that this is my 10th year at Ness City Jr/Sr High School. I'm so fortunate to be able to serve this district in the role of principal, and for that I thank you!

A little bit more about our student enrollment count: September 20th is our official count day when we must submit student enrollment numbers to KSDE (Kansas State Department of Education) and KSHSAA (Kansas State High School Activities Association). I submitted a 9-12 count of 113 students for KSHSAA, and a 7-12 count of 160 (169 with the part time Sacred Heart students) to KSDE. This includes 19 new students to the 7-12 building who were not in our school district last school year! The number of students a school has basically drives everything that we do when it comes to school. From the number of teachers hired to the type of academic programs offered, all are driven by the enrollment numbers. I mention this because our numbers continue to stay fairly constant and/or continue to rise slightly, even in the tough economic times Ness County is facing. In May of last school year, I was preparing for a fairly significant loss in enrollment, as I had heard of several students who were not returning for various reasons. So, this year's increase in numbers (with the 19 new students) really surprised me. Below, I broke down some of the numbers during my 10 year tenure here at NCHS:

- 07-08 134 FTE (Full Time Equivalent students)
- 08-09 147 FTE
- 09-10 157 FTE
- 10-11 155 FTE
- 11-12 156 FTE
- 12-13 155 FTE
- 13-14 155 FTE
- 14-15 148 FTE
- 15-16 154 FTE
- 16-17 163 FTE

Another unique fact about our student enrollment count; approximately 1/7 of our 7-12 students this year live outside of our district boundaries.

Ness City High School will compete in class 2A again this school year. Last week, KSHSAA released the 2016-2017 classifications based on this year's enrollment. No surprise here as NCHS is right in the

middle of class 2A. Volleyball was assigned to the Sublette, Kansas sub-state and Cross Country was assigned to go to Hill City for Regionals. Our other activities will be assigned to their post-season locations at a later date in the school year. Football is not classified like all of the other activities. Football is classified with its own unique formula every two years (done last October 2015). NCHS competes this year and next year in Class 8-man Division I.

Finally, I end with this. Anyone who knows me, knows that I am a strong proponent to extra-curricular activities in schools. From FFA to the school play to athletics, I believe that the education taught outside of our classrooms in these programs is so beneficial to our students. I have always encouraged, and will continue to encourage, student participation in these programs that we offer. I have always tried to take an active role to promote student-activity programs whether that be at the district level, league level or state level. With that, I am humbled to serve NCHS, the Central Prairie League and all class 2A schools in the state of Kansas on two KSHSAA Boards. I'm beginning my 4th year on the KSHSAA Board of Directors as the CPL representative. This 75 member board meets twice per year and is the legislative board of the KSHSAA. From that board, I was selected to be the 2A representative on the KSHSAA Executive Board. The Executive Board is a 9 member board and serves as the management body of the association. I am beginning my 2nd year on the Executive Board with one additional year remaining on my term. By far, these appointments have been one the biggest achievements of my professional career, and I do not take them lightly. I am honored to have been chosen by my peers to represent our league, our state, and our students of the KSHSAA. I thank you for your support of USD 303 and Ness City Jr/Sr High School and I wish all a great school year!

NCHS Helping Prepare Students for their Future

Did you know that in 1973 only 28% of the jobs in the United States required any training or degree beyond high school, and that there were only 91 million Americans in the workforce? It is projected that by 2020 there will be 164 million Americans in the workforce and 64% of the jobs in the United States will require training or a degree beyond high school?

Conversely, the cost of tuition at a four-year public institution in 1971 averaged \$428 per year. The average cost in 2012 was \$8,646 for a year of college tuition. Students who graduated in 2015 average \$35,000 in student loan debt. Not only are most students leaving post-secondary education with some sort of debt, students are now capped at how many semesters they can receive Federal student money. We no longer live in a world where students can afford to go to post-secondary education to "explore" what they want to do. They need to have a pretty good idea of their career path when they leave high school.

Beginning this year, Ness City teachers will also play the role of Advisor to a group of junior and senior high students. They will work with these students doing a variety of activities during our CAP period (Career Advisory Period), which is held once per week. Some of these activities include career interest and skill assessments, career and college exploration, goal setting, resume building, working on soft skills, as well as a variety of activities concerning social and emotional development.

Information gathered from these activities will be gathered into an Individual Plan of Study which will be created for each individual student.

With the workforce increasingly requiring higher levels of education Ness City Junior/Senior High School wants to assist more students to complete a post-secondary credential and be competitive in the job market. Being able to utilize our weekly CAP period to better prepare our students will in turn help our students as they leave NCHS and spread their wings to find their own place in our world.

USD 303 Teachers Receive Invitation to Very Selective ECET2 Conference

ECET2 is part of Teacher2Teacher—a community supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and devoted to the practice and profession of teaching—providing teachers with opportunities to connect with other teachers and join teacher-led communities. In 2012, nearly 200 educators attended the first national ECET2 convening. After that event, energized teachers began organizing local or regional convenings to inform and inspire teachers in their own communities, develop their leadership potential, and hone their craft. In 2014, teachers across the country held more than 30 convenings with the support of ECET2 grant funding and guidance from the ECET2 network. For each event, teachers developed the goals and content, identified speakers, and managed logistics—all in the spirit of bringing fellow educators together to collaborate and learn. The goal of ECET2 is to celebrate effective teachers and to build a strong network of teacher leaders working together to elevate their practice and profession. On November 11 and 12, ECET2 will be hosting a Regional Convening in the Kansas City area. The Convenings are only open by special invitation to teachers that are currently at the top of their profession, and are doing outstanding things in their classrooms. This is a very selective process for a very small group of educators. More over, this opportunity is fully funded for all attendees through a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. USD 303 is excited to announce that not only did we have a teacher receive an invitation to attend the Regional Convening, we had multiple teachers receive invitations. More exciting is this is an all expenses paid opportunity for our teachers to work with some of the best of the best educators in our State. Through excellence in leadership and teaching, Amanda Buethe and Brent Kerr have proven themselves worthy of an invitation and are excited to participate in this very selective opportunity. We encourage all patrons to congratulate Amanda and Brent on this accomplishment.

USD 303 Staff Receives Suicide Prevention Training

During the 15/16 Legislative Session, the Kansas Legislature passed SB 323 commonly known as the Jason Flatt Youth Suicide Awareness Act. This new law requires school districts to provide a minimum of one hour of suicide awareness training for all staff members, and develop a crisis intervention plan that includes recognition of suicidal ideation, methods of intervention, and a crisis recovery plan. “It is unfortunate that we have come to the point in our society that we must provide this training. One child committing or attempting to commit suicide is too many, and if this training helps us to prevent such a tragedy, it is well worth the time and energy,” Superintendent Reinhardt.

On August 18, all USD 303 staff participated in a training provided by the Jason Flatt Foundation. It was an eye opening experience that we feel will have a positive impact on all of students. The District will be using this year to update their crisis intervention plan, and have already began putting programs and lessons together to help our students build their social emotional well being.

We encourage any parent or patron that would like to receive the training or would like more information on suicide prevention and awareness to go to the Jason Flatt Foundation website at www.jasonfoundation.com.

USD 303 Board of Education Approves the Formation of Foundation for Education

The USD 303 School Board has approved the formation of the Ness City Schools – USD 303 Foundation for Education. The Ness City Schools - USD 303 Foundation for Education is a fully operational charitable organization that was developed to help gather funding, materials, supplies, and service support for Ness City School’s students, staff, and programs. As a full 501c3, all donations to the Foundation are tax deductible.

Our mission is simply to gather resources for the schools of USD 303 – Ness City. To fulfill this mission, we will be applying for grants that are currently unavailable to the schools due to the lack of 501c3 status. We will also be reaching out to alumni and community members for donations. All moneys obtained by the Foundation will be used to help fund academic, athletic, and physical plant projects taking place in USD 303 – Ness City. These projects may range from but are not limited to:

classroom supplies for students, curriculum supplies for classrooms, athletic equipment, professional development opportunities for teachers, athletic facility upgrades, and academic facility upgrades.

We accept donations in many forms:

Monetary Funds - will be invested back into the school system to help fund various projects.

Products - will be dispersed to the classrooms, organizations, and teams where they can best be used.

Property - will be used to grow funds and further develop educational opportunities.

Time - is also a very valuable resource for us. We are always in need of volunteers to help with fundraising, successfully finish projects, and reduce costs for the schools.

There are several different ways your donations can be used. You have the option of simply donating, or donating for specific reasons. If there is a program or opportunity you are passionate about, you can ask that your donation goes toward that specific project.

After School Programs and Camps – We are always looking for ways to extend learning outside of the school day and school year. These programs allow students to grow in areas that we are not always able to reach in the traditional classroom setting.

Facility Improvements – We are always working to provide the best possible facilities we can for our students and community. This process can often times become a tax burden for our patrons. Donations can help off set some of this burden. Naming rights to classrooms, gyms, and other improvements are a way that the school and community can publically thank you for your donations.

Scholarships – The Foundation offers individuals the opportunity to set up scholarship programs for USD 303 students. The Foundation can manage endowments, take care of disbursement of funds, handle candidate selection, and work with the scholarship creators to ensure funds are used in the manner they wish.

Classroom Needs – Often times, our teachers have different projects they are doing in their classroom, but funds are not available to make the project work. Donations can be given to support mini-grants that teachers can receive to make their projects successful.

Staff Development – We want to make sure our teachers have the opportunity to learn from and experience the best possible training available. There are many opportunities for teacher training, but funds do not always allow for our teachers to experience them.

Community Partnerships – We are interested in developing funds and opportunities that allow the school and community to work together.

Field Trips – Like our teachers, our students need the opportunity to explore the world around them. The school works hard to provide these opportunities for their students, but funds are not always available. Donations for field trips can be used to enhance these opportunities.

Organization Needs – We are proud of the many organizational opportunities our school district offers. Each of these organizations offers students the chance to grow and learn outside of the traditional classroom. Many times these organizations are the driving force behind a student's success.

Activity/Athletic Needs – Like our organizations, the different activity and athletic opportunities our students have are important for their success. These opportunities allow for students to learn and grow outside of the classroom.

We would like to thank Joby Henning, Pat Fellhoelter, Robyn Deines, Kevin Buetler, and Monty Pfannenstiel for serving as the founding board for the Foundation. The Foundation Board will be working to prioritize potential projects and working to fund those projects. If you would like to get involved, please contact Derek Reinhardt or any of the Foundation Board Members.