

EAGLE PROFILE

The Official News for USD 303

USD 303 Accepts Credit Cards

Ness City Schools are now accepting credit card payments. Payments can be made for any school fees and deposits to meal accounts. All major credit cards are accepted. A 2.5% service fee will be added to the total amount paid. Credit card payments can be made in any school office. Credit card payments can also be made by phone by calling any school office. Elementary 798-2222, Jr/Sr High 798-3991, Superintendent's Office 798-2210.

Thank You

Ness City Schools would like to thank First State Bank, Home Oil, Jamboree Foods, and Mini Super Mart for providing our school calendars! Business and patrons who would like a calendar may stop by any school office to get a copy while supplies last.



The Freshmen Class

The school year is off to an amazing start for the freshmen class! First, we would like to give a huge thank you for the contributions through our fundraising, whether it was at the Frosty Flavor Trailer or concessions. We have had a blast working our fundraisers, and getting to know the community. As the year goes on we look forward to the amazing support, and contributions at the concession stands. Please look for us at each home Varsity Football game! Parents, you are more than welcome to step in to help us work at the concessions. We would love to have you join us! Please contact our class sponsor, Ms. Jessip, if you have questions!



FCCLA:

The Ness City FCCLA chapter has been busy this fall. On August 30 -31, 6 members accompanied Mrs. Schaub to the annual Take AIM Conference in Hutchinson where they participated in leadership activities and were introduced to Kansas FCCLA projects for this year. Participating in Take AIM were: Lexea Barnes, Emily Dawes, Paola Jurado, Darian McClure, Sarinna Rogers, and Jaymi Stewart. All members took part in serving concessions at the first home Volleyball games on September 8, and those who had paid dues were served walking tacos on Friday, September 11.

October 7th will be the District Fall Leadership Conference to be held at Wheatland High School in Grainfield, Kansas. All members were encouraged to attend and all but one will be making the trip where they will take part in leadership activities and lead the group in a door prize activity. The group will be making name tags for competition for this event.

Also on the horizon will be the Powder Puff Football and Iron Man Volleyball tournaments. Information coming soon!

Ms. Jessip's English Classes

The school year is off to an amazing start for each of my classes, 7th, 9th, and 11th grade. The first few days of class we established classroom rules and expectations (displayed in the picture below right), as well as "getting to know you" activities. For example, each 9th and 11th grade class has had an in depth discussion about who they are now, and who they want to be by the end of the school year. Then, each student wrote on a slip of paper what kind of person he or she wanted to be, such as energetic, or confident (displayed in the picture below left). Thus, each class took the time to write two goals for English class, and a personal goal that they would like to achieve by the end of the year. Many exciting, and new things are occurring for each grade level,



whether they are beginning a novel, or writing a paper. This will be a challenging, exciting, and memorable year for each one of my students as well as myself! I am looking forward to the many challenges, successes, and failures that await my students and I this year!



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN PHYSICAL SCIENCE ?

Students in Mrs. McNinch's Physical Science Class have been learning how to use scientific measurements in their calculations. They have been involved in modeling activities that have focused on discovery and problem solving skills. Graphing has been emphasized in interpretation of their data to draw conclusion. Below is a picture of Tyler Whipple and Angel Moore involved in a lab that identifies metallic cylinders by their density. The students calculated the densities of various cylinders. They then graphed their results and established if their data was accurate and precise based of their experimental percent error.



Auto CAD Builds Foundry

The NCHS Auto CAD class wanted to have a way to create 3-D objects without the use of a 3-D printer. They came up with the idea of creating this miniature foundry. They researched the posed problem and came by a step-by-step video for creating a foundry by watching Grant Thompsons YouTube video "How to Make a Mini Metal Foundry", he runs a YouTube channel that basically tells you how to create some pretty awesome things with basic everyday household items. All you need for this makeshift foundry is a steel bucket, plaster of paris, play sand and water! After

FACS classes:

The Family and Consumer Science classes have been exploring various aspects of the curriculum. 7th graders have been exploring process skills and how they can be used at home, school, and in every aspect of their life. Career investigation has been the order of business in the Introduction to Human Services where 8th graders are learning about Career Cluster pathways and career skills. After exploring differing characteristics of today's families, the Family Studies students will be presenting a project (newsletter, iMovie, or other) about their families. The Consumer and Personal Finance students are exploring the importance of budgets and steps in budget preparation while the Career and Communications class will be exploring teamwork in the workplace. The Nutrition and Wellness students are anxious to get in to the kitchen where they will apply their safety and sanitation knowledge during foods labs.

mixing the plaster, sand, and water then letting these materials sit together, you will have your creation. You're going to need a steel crucible 3 inches in diameter, and a 2-foot long blower tube that's half PVC pipe, and half steel pipe with a hair dryer duct taped to the end of the PVC. With this foundry, after sketching and drawing the class would create the mold from foam, and then cast the foam mold in sand and finally we pour the mold with molten aluminum. These students have poured many cool items. Just a few of these items are a 3-D nameplate, a gear, a toggle clamp, and some aluminum ingots. The Class plans to post a YouTube video of one of the pours at a later date.



Eighth Graders celebrate Constitution Day

The eighth grade social studies class celebrated Constitution Day on September 17, by beginning their unit on the Constitutional Convention. The students viewed the movie "A More Perfect Union" which portrays the difficulty the delegates to this convention faced and the issues that threatened to end the meeting. Little known facts on the men attending the convention are presented in the movie as well as a comprehensive re-creation of those heated debates that took place during the summer of 1787. At the end of the unit, the students will research one of the lesser known Founding Fathers and put together a presentation using their iPads and Google Slides.

6th Grade Starts Recycling Program

Mr. Schulte's 6th grade class has been working hard to start a recycling program at our school. The students have come up with very creative ways to get K-6 students excited about recycling.

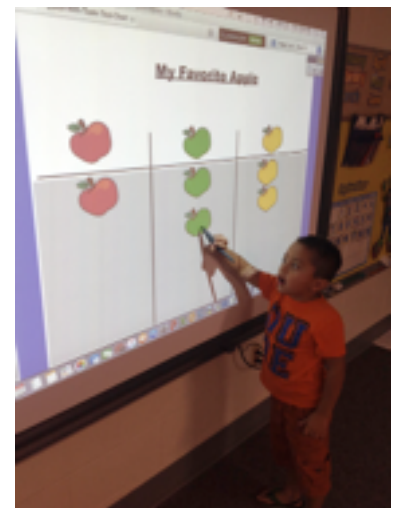
With help from Mrs. Macintosh and her high school aide the 6th graders have created basketball goals made out of plastic, cardboard, and netting. They had to build approximately 10 basketball goals. All goals are placed above a recycling bin so students can "shoot" their wadded up papers into the bin.

Sixth graders have also given presentations to all students in the elementary school. During the presentations, all classes were given a goal of 100 pounds of paper to be recycled by the end of December. Any class that reaches their goal will receive a movie and popcorn party put on by the 6th grade.

The program has been going on for about two weeks and has already proven to be very successful. With only two trips to the recycling center the 6th graders have already delivered over 100 pounds of paper and plastic.

Kindergarten

September 21st kicked off our Johnny Appleseed week here in Kindergarten! We started off by listening to stories about who Johnny Appleseed was. Then we have done various activities involving apples, ranging from graphing apples by taste to counting apples. We have also sung songs about apples and made applesauce. After learning about the life cycle of an apple tree we created our own apple tree in the classroom. We also handed out positive notes on apple cards to others in our building after learning how Johnny was a friendly and kind man.



New Paraprofessionals Hired to Support USD 303 Students

Carol Barnes is a familiar face to USD #303. She has two children Lexea, a junior and Landon, a fifth grader at Sacred Heart. She is glad to be back at the school and being able to work with the students making a difference in their education. Carol is working with students in the 5th through 8th grades.

Karen Young says she is enjoying her experience with the kids of USD #303. There is never a dull moment. She has even re-learned some things that she has forgotten in the past. Karen walks with the preschoolers to the lunchroom and works in the elementary building.

Crystal Medina and her husband John are new to Ness City. They have two kids, Trinity (7) and Weston (4). She is studying Elementary Education. She enjoys watching children grow as they learn. She likes knowing that what she is doing is helping the children make improvements. She has been very flexible and has helped out everywhere from Preschool through sixth grade.

Savannah Lira enjoys helping the kids out. Her favorite moment is when she can see the “light bulb turn on” and they finally understand what she is explaining. She says those “light bulb moments” make all her efforts worth it. She works mostly in the fifth and sixth grades and junior high.



Physical Education

K-6 Physical Education: The theme inside the gym this year has been Olympic Village. With 2016 being an Olympic year, we’ve been discussing key words/phrases to illustrate what it takes to qualify for the Olympics...they have found out that these traits also reflect “being an eagle”. All the grades worked very hard on learning the necessary rules and skills of volleyball the first few weeks of the school year. With the weather starting to cool down a little bit we have

been learning football and then we will be learning about fitness and playing soccer.

7-12 Physical Education: While the weather was brutally warm, the students touched up on their volleyball skills. We just started our Tennis unit last week and then we will start our Soccer unit. Also, the students have been tracking their heart rate for a couple of weeks and learning what causes a change in heart rate and why it’s important when exercising.

Cross Country:

The low numbers of the JH/HS Cross Country team hasn't kept the Runnin' Eagles from having fun and bringing home lots of hardware. There are 5 runners currently on the team: Seniors Lucas Roths & Nashon Copeland, Junior Trace Flax, Freshman Savannah Moore, 7th Grader Sassy Bailey. The Runnin' Eagles have been working extremely hard as Savannah and Lucas have been front runners in every race thus far. These 2 have their sights set on qualifying for state and Lucas really wants a top 5 finish there!

First Grade!

During the first few weeks of school the first graders enjoyed getting to know different community members and their jobs. The first graders learned about several jobs that make a community run smoothly. After discussing the importance of jobs and careers they got to hear from a local banker, veterinarian, police officer, and they finished it off by taking a trip to the post office (the first graders also enjoyed slushes afterwards thanks to kind community members that stopped us on the street and offered to buy them). I would like to say thank you to all the community members that make these experiences possible for the kids. It is a learning experience they will never forget.



K-3 Music

Kindergarten through 3rd grade music students have been working hard this year. They have been identifying instruments by their sound and learning how to read music by keeping the beat. Every Friday the students get to learn about a famous composer. So far they have learned all about Ludwig Van Beethoven, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Johann Sebastian Bach. The students gave their first performance of this school year on September 18th for their grandparents.



Mrs. Schaffer's English Classes

In Senior, Sophomore, and 8th grade English classes, students have kicked off the year with a new method of writing most have never experienced before--blog writing. Each of the students in these classes composes a daily blog post in response to a prompt. This experience of writing daily and publishing online aids students in their discovery of the world of online communication, a world which will undoubtedly only expand in the coming years. For now, these blogs are daily journal entries and reflections only viewable by me. My goal is to work with the students to develop individual blogs viewable by anyone, consisting of once- or twice-weekly blog posts.

Seniors have kicked off a study of the epic hero, reading ancient texts such as *Beowulf*, *Gilgamesh* and the *Iliad*. As most of these epics were passed down orally from one generation to the next prior to written publication, seniors will be composing their own stories of epic heroes, which will then be presented Old English style--around a "fire" with flagons of "mead" (Note: No actual mead will be imbibed--we're sticking to apple juice.) Sophomores and eighth graders have focused primarily on the plot structure of short stories and are gearing up for reflective essays, in which they tell a story about a significant or impactful life experience and share the wisdom they gained from that story. The students will compose several drafts to be reviewed and amended through multiple writers' workshops.



8th graders show off their personal dictionaries. These dictionaries don't just help them learn vocabulary--they also learn about document/book design in the process.

Sophomores share futuristic dreams and inventions with peers after reading "The Pedestrian" by Ray Bradbury, a story set in 2053.



Mr. Allen's Class

In Mr. Allen's class, we have been very busy starting out the school year. In my high school classes, we are working on going paperless. We are turning all of the homework in using Google Classroom and iPads. The 8th grade students will be doing a project soon with Mr. Bixler's Science class. I am very excited to work with my students this year.

Ms. Smith's 4th Grade

Fourth Grade has been busy since the start of school! We have learned how to cooperate and collaborate in groups. We also created models of the Eiffel Tower to go along with our world theme, celebrated Grandparents Day, read many stories, kept track of where we've traveled through our stories, and so much more. This year in Math, we started with the topic of Geometry. The students have had a lot of fun playing with shapes, lines, and angles. One day the students found right angles around the room. Some students have created videos describing the geometric attributes of pictures they took around the school while others found the geometric properties of quilt patterns. Then they all worked to see how many different right triangles they could create on a geo-board. They are excited to discover how many geometric properties there are all around us.



STUCO

The 2015-2016 school year is off to a fast and furious start! Student Council members started the year off on an "Extra" positive note encouraging the student at NCHS to have a great year. On September 23, ten STUCO members attended CLASS Leadership in Scott City, and learned, not only leadership skills, but skills they can take with them throughout their lives to be better people and productive citizens. The students were required to get out of their comfort zones and interact with students from Dodge City and Scott City throughout the day to practice the skills they were learning. The Student Council would like to thank the following people, businesses and groups for contributing to the purchase and completion of the electronic marquis, which is located on the southwest corner by the football field. If you haven't had the opportunity to see it, check it out! Joby Henning, Mini Super Mart, J & D Pump & Supply, Bruntz Plumbing, Stephen Rathburn class of '61, First State Bank Ness City, Richard & Joanne Stenzel, Thelma Fehrenbach, Pete & Grace Schlegel, Penny Robinson, FFA, Kenneth Burditt, USD 303, Booster Club, D&S Machine and Welding, Pat and Andy Fellhoelter, KAYS Club, Myron Seib

Jr. High Football

In junior high football, our season is very successful so far. The students are working very hard. Mr. Schulte and I are excited to see how the students master more skills as the season progresses. We are 4-0 on the season so far and plan on adding more wins on the season. We would like to thank BTI and Mini Mart for supporting our lunches this football season. Also a big thank you goes out to Carolyn Gabel for helping with shirts and lunches for junior high this year.

Mrs. Beutler's Second Grade

Second Graders are taking flight in this small group activity. These two girls are comparing blue square to red square and learning Subtraction.



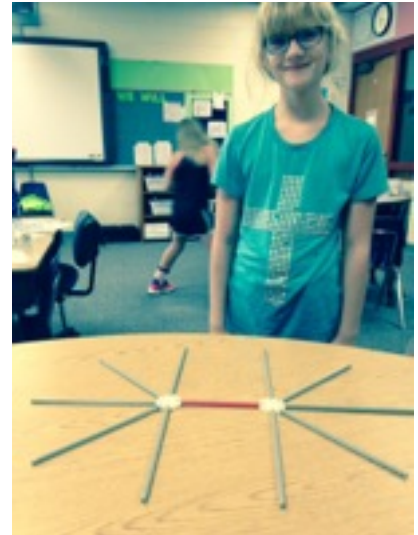
Rockin' Those S.T.E.M. Activities in Mrs. Beutler's Class

S.T.E.M. activities refers to the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and they promote education in those related areas. Below, students build a dog house. Only cardboard, glue and scissors were needed for this project.



3rd Grade Starts After School Maker Club

The third grade participates in an after school Makerspace club. This year so far, they have made new inventions, used kinects to build, created sandcastles, and learned origami.



THANK YOU!!!

The library staff would like to thank Dave Clapham for solving our software problems and getting our scanners and barcodes back on track. We really appreciate your help!!!!!!

HELP WANTED

Mrs. Marcus would like to have some student volunteers from grades 7-12 on November 5 to visit the Elementary School Book Fair and choose books that they would like to have in the HS Library. If you are interested, please stop by the library and talk to Mrs. Marcus.

PBS

Once again this year, we will be implementing a Positive Behavior Support System. We will be drawing the focus away from negative behaviors and redirecting the focus to the positive things that we see in our school. Students will earn feathers for demonstrating positive behavior and be recognized as teachers see fit. 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. The following students are the Top EAGLE for their class:

Melissa Talamantes, Jonathan Arteaga, Emma Petersilie, Justin Luna, Danae Rodriguez, Emily Clanton, Amy Foos



Book Fair!

The Ness City Elementary School is excited about our upcoming Scholastic Book Fair. An amazing selection of books is headed our way. As more activities and media compete for our children's time we need to strike a healthy balance between screen time and reading for fun. Our Book Fair gives us the opportunity to promote independent reading at school and home, providing access to a wide variety of books, choice in what to read and family involvement.

This year's book fair will be held in the Ness City Elementary the first week of November to coincide with Parent Teacher Conferences. We will have a great selection of books during the annual Book Fair. There are bestsellers, picture books, easy readers and great new books by favorite authors. All purchases made during the Book Fair will help benefit our school by generating additional books for classroom libraries and funds for our school library. Make sure to stop by and check out the selection. Flyers will be sent home with students with dates and times for our Book Fair.

5th Grade Learns About Wind Turbines

The 5th grade class had a great presentation from Mortenson Construction Company. Two employees from the wind turbine project came to talk to the 5th graders about daily tasks they do, brought objects from the job site and showed a video presentation. The students also got to keep some vests, helmets and glasses. We learned some great information about wind turbines and also gained a great appreciation for what they do to help our environment. Along with the presentation we have also done some math skills associated with wind turbines. We have estimated the lengths of the turbine parts. We have also figured out different weights of the parts. We have also created our own anemometers to measure the wind speed. Overall, it has been a great start to the school year with some great knowledge being presented and discovered!

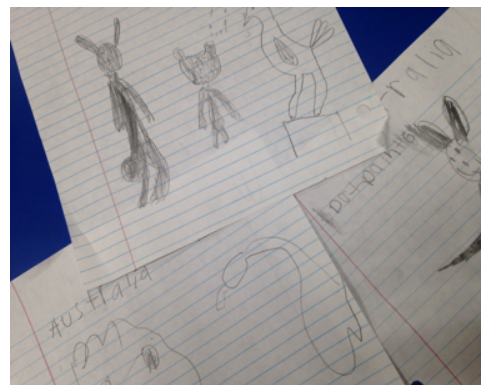


Mrs. Randa's Classroom Theme

G'day, Mates! This year, the NCES theme is "The World." The main character in my all time favorite book wishes he could live in Australia, so it was an easy pick for my classroom theme.

To begin the year, the students in my classroom completed a guided research project to discover more about Australia. Together, we researched Australia's unique animals, such as kangaroos, kookaburras, and platypus. We also discovered more about Native Aboriginal culture, specifically dot paintings. The students then each took an animal shape and painted it using the dot technique. Together, we created an Australian landscape, complete with the Uluru (Ayers Rock) and a billabong.

Completing this activity gave us time to understand a little more about Australia, as well as time to begin building a positive relationship for the school year. We will continue to learn more about Australia as the year goes on.



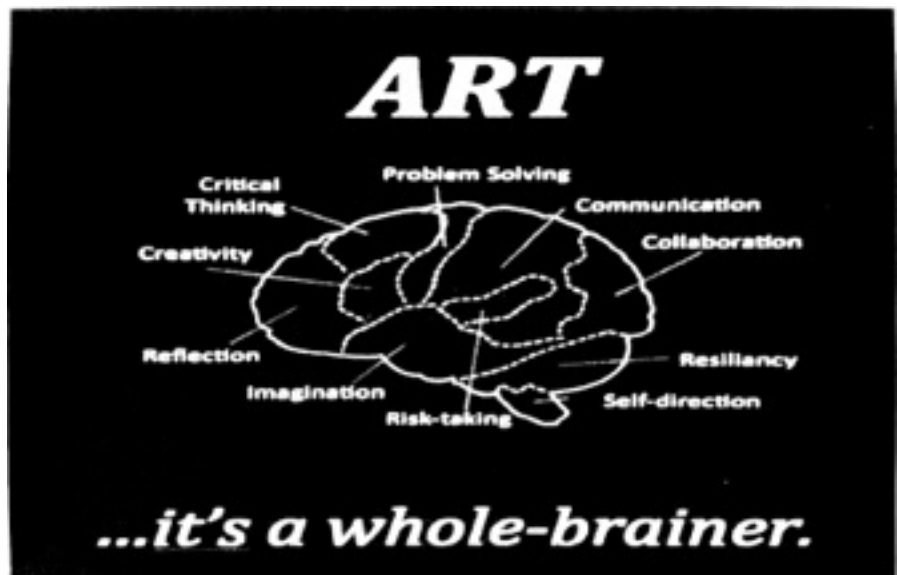
K-12 Art

The high school art students completed part one of creating clay bowls for the “Empty Bowls” community art outreach project that they are participating in, now to wait in anticipation of the initial bisque firing. When finished they will move on to surface glazing and decoration.

The 7th grade art students have learned how to construct several clay projects using the hand building techniques of coil and slab construction. Like the high school artists they are excited for the clay work to be fired so they can move into surface design. Currently they are making plaster casts of their face using plaster gauze, which will be turned into elaborate masks.



The elementary artists have been traveling to the continent of Africa with a focus on Egypt. Since the beginning of school all grade levels have created passports that will further allow them to travel the world in the art room. We have created three dimensional pyramids complete with mummies in sarcophaguses', King Tut inspired self-portraits, Egyptian landscapes that include dromedary or bactrian camels, Egyptian chest pieces, scarab beetles and learned about and experimented with the process of mummification using hot dogs. Interesting learning taking place in the two district art rooms!



Eagles Work to Improve in the Weight Room

This week will be the end of another three week cycle in the weight room. With nearly every workout, our numbers are going up so that means we are getting stronger. Next week we will start a new three week cycle which will be a repeat of weeks 1-3 so I am eager to see how we do compared to the first time through the cycle. I enjoy seeing the successes and accomplishments the students are making. My hopes are that the personal

success and achievements in the weight room that these students are seeing will carry over into the other aspects in their life in the form of greater confidence and self worth.

Ness City Eagle Football

We are currently 2-2 heading into this week's matchup against Spearville. This week marks the beginning of District play so now the playoff push begins. After two good wins we have suffered two tough losses. This week 5 game against Spearville will be the third game in a row we will be playing a State ranked team. However, we embrace the opportunity to play these good teams in order to prepare us for the remaining District schedule which ultimately decides our playoff chances. Thank you for your support of Ness City Eagle Football, it is greatly appreciated.

USD 303 Approves Budget for 15/16 School Year

The USD 303 School Board approved its annual budget on September 14. With the drop in assessed value due to reduced oil prices, the School Board and Superintendent Reinhardt have been working on cost saving and reallocation of funds to help reduce the number of MILLS needed to fund the Local Option Budget (LOB). The LOB supplies the district with additional funds to help with operating expenses. Due to a 37% drop in assessed value for the District, the Board was faced with raising taxes by over 7 MILLS to maintain our current operating budget. When coupled with no additional dollars in the General Fund due to the new Block Grants, this loss in budget put the district in a tight spot. "We understand the economic condition our community is in, and further understand the impact higher taxes would have on our local economy. We have worked hard over the course of this last year to find savings and efficiencies throughout the school district. A budget shortfall of several hundred thousand dollars can be very daunting," stated Superintendent Reinhardt. As a precautionary step, USD

BAND RECEIVES A "I" AT THE STATE FAIR

The Junior High Band and High School Band have been very busy so far this fall with marching. The Ness City Jr/Sr High Marching Eagles attended the Kansas State Fair on September 14th where they received a "I" rating for marching downtown. The Blue 1st Place Rosette is on display in the high school office. They also marched at the football game on September 18th. The group is currently preparing for the annual light show that will be held on October 23. The theme for this event is "Party 2000" We hope everyone will come out to see this spectacular event.

303 applied for Extra-Ordinary Needs Funds from the State. These funds were set aside as part of the Block Grant to help school districts that faced extraordinary circumstances with their budget. This bank of funds was created by taking a percentage of funds from the general fund of every district in the State and setting them aside. The petition for Extra-Ordinary Needs Funds proved beneficial for USD 303 when the Committee that oversees the funds granted the district \$254,000. These funds allowed USD 303 to lower the LOB MILL Levy instead of raising it, and allowed the district to continue to maintain contingency funds that can be used for future budget issues.

New Lighting Project

In April, the USD 303 School Board approved a Capital Improvement Project that would replace all existing lightings in USD 303 buildings with New LED lights. The price tag for this project was a hefty \$340,000, but would equate to between \$40,000 and \$50,000 in annual electrical costs savings. “As we continued to refine our physical plant needs and facility improvement plans, it became very apparent that we needed to make some major upgrades to our electrical, plumbing, HVAC, and windows. With the help of KNIPP Equipment, we were able to complete an energy audit of the district buildings. This audit has helped the Board and I to prioritize upgrades. With the annual savings we will see with the lights, it was an easy decision for the Board to move forward with the project,” shared Superintendent Reinhardt. The district utilized KNIPP’s project management services to secure bids for the project with the Board ultimately selecting local contractors to complete the project. Harrold’s Electric was selected to install and retrofit all of the new lights, and Scott Barb was selected to install a new drop ceiling in the old section of the elementary school and portions of the high school. Work began on the project in late May, and was completed before the new school year began. Many positive comments have been made about the quality of lighting we now have in the district. Classrooms, hallways, and the gyms are now brighter.

Pre-School

This week the preschoolers are working on the letter "C". They are designing cars and using cars to write the letter "C". The students are learning about an incline plane and how it affects how fast their car can travel. We have had a lot of fun and some very competitive races.



Part of the lighting project included digital controls of the lights. This allows the district to set schedules for lights to come on and shut off. It also allows the district to perform sweeps of the lighting system to ensure lights are not on when school is not in session. The process of learning this system and working out the bugs is time consuming. We are down to a couple of issues with the gyms and hallways, and hope to have everything working according to our expectations soon.

Project Based Learning



As we look at the future of education, we have come to realize that the old way of educating our students will not adequately prepare them for their future. Much research has been done on future job markets, and it is believed that the vast majority of our students will be working in occupations that have not even been created yet. So, how do we prepare our students for something that does not even exist yet? As we researched this concern, it became very obvious that for our students to be successful in the future they will need to be able to problem solve, apply their knowledge in unconventional ways, and have the soft skills

needed to work in any condition, environment, and with all types of people. With this in mind, USD 303 has taken steps to work with our teachers to begin adapting their instructional and curricular practices to meet the future needs of our



students. Teachers will have the opportunity to work with Project Based Learning trainers over the course of the next couple of years. These experts bring with them years of experience implementing Best Practice Strategies that focus on students building problem solving and other soft skills. Essentially, Project Based Learning (PBL) is a hands on approach to learning where a student must apply the skills the he/she has learned to solve a problem or create a



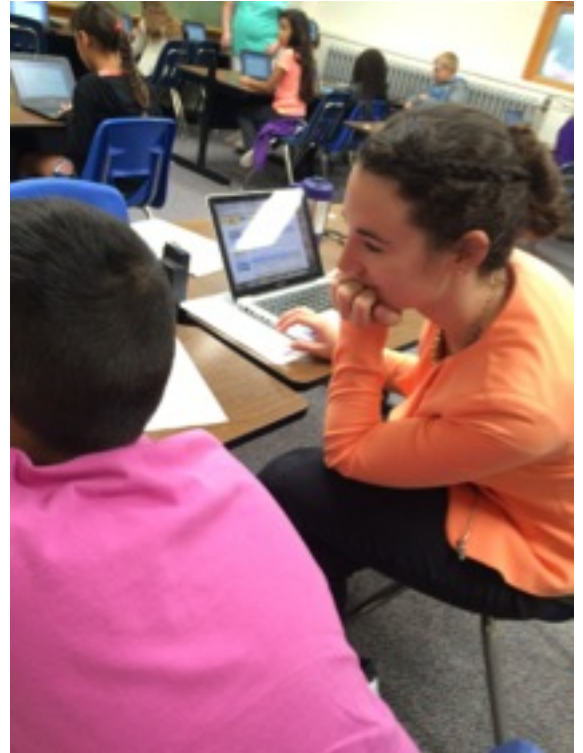
solution. This process focuses on real world application of knowledge which helps students develop a relevance for what they learned. Instead of students asking “why do I need to



know this,” students are submerged in an environment where they understand why they need to know this. The ultimate goal is to create an environment where students are taught how to learn instead of what to learn.

Jessica Smith Nominated for Horizon Award

The USD 303 School Board is pleased to announce that 4th Grade Teacher Jessica Smith has been nominated for the Horizon Award presented by the Kansas State Department of Education. The Kansas Horizon Award Program, sponsored by the Kansas State Department of Education, identifies and recognizes representatives of excellent teaching in the elementary and secondary classrooms of the state. The mission of the program is to recognize exemplary first-year teachers who perform in a way that distinguishes them as outstanding. “I knew during the interview process that Jessica Smith had that innate ability to be a great educator, and from her first day in the classroom, she proved me correct. Jessica has that special teacher voice that grabs student’s attention, and helps them to stay on task. Her classroom management skills are well beyond that of many veteran teachers, which also helps with her ability to motivate and inspire students. Jessica’s ability to hide any frustration she may have impresses me. She consistently creates an environment in her classroom that naturally creates the desire in students to succeed. Students know that they are important to Jessica by the way she speaks with them, spends time with them, uses a growth mindset to correct them, and simply builds relationships with them,” commented Superintendent Reinhardt. The USD 303 Board of Education applauds Ms. Smith for her well deserved nomination, and wishes her the best of luck during the selection process.



Fact Fluency

The importance of math fact fluency (the ability to quickly solve basic math facts) is obvious in our everyday lives. This one skill can be an accurate predictor of your child’s success in math class as they age. By being able to do simple, and even more complex, computation with ease, your child can use more of his/her brain-power to focus on the new concepts being learned and the “whys” and “hows” behind the math.

There are many ways in which you can help your child better their math fact fluency. Spending 10 minutes each evening practicing age appropriate math facts can be extremely beneficial for your child in the classroom. You can use flash cards, practice them orally, have your child write them, turn it into a game of “Memory” by matching facts with answers, go electronic and use an app or practice in a variety of other ways in order to change it up and make it fun!!! One program that we use with some students at school is called Xtra Math. It is a free program and is very easy to use. It also gives very nice feedback on your child’s work and progress. If you would like me to set your child up under my Xtra Math account I would be more than happy to do so! All you need to do is simply e-mail me at emily.keener@usd303.org and I will get it done and send you all the information you need to get started!!! Please, spend just 10 minutes a day for a LIFETIME OF SUCCESS!!!

Mr. Bixler’s Science Classroom

I am new to Ness City schools this year. I am teaching General Science, Biology, and 8th Grade Science. I am also overseeing an online Physics and Spanish course. We have been rather busy in all of these courses. In Biology the students are beginning to study cellular biology. We will be conducting inquiry investigations into membrane and enzyme function in the upcoming days. With respect to the membrane we will be taking a look at how the membrane functions as a barrier, allowing for material transport. We will model the process of osmosis with a de-shelled egg placed in various solutions. The General science class is going to be covering a variety of areas of study. Currently we have been looking at some systems of the human body, at this point we are studying the circulatory system. We will look at the anatomy and physiology of each system we study. Later this class will move to units on chemistry, ecology & physical science. Lastly is 8th grade. This class will be covering a variety of information throughout the year. This class has just finished a unit covering dimensional analysis and unit conversions. We have since moved on to beginning a study of forces, motion and Newton’s Laws of motion. We will use several different experimental investigations to gain a fundamental understanding of these concepts. This class will then cover a wide range of scientific concepts from chemistry to the earth sciences.

Pre-School

Preschool has started off the year great! We are introducing a letter a week, and we are doing many activities that go along with that letter. So far we have learned about Johnny Appleseed and ant experiments for Letter A week. We played in a spaceship for the letter S, had fun with ocean animals in blue JELLO for O, and got a visit from some



turtles for letter T. We were even lucky enough to have our grandparents join us to celebrate Grandparent’s day. This week we are making cupcakes for letter C. Stay tuned to hear about more of fun things we do in preschool!

Learning by Teaching in Mr. Buethe’s Room

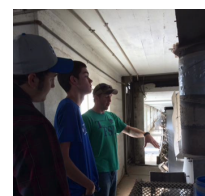
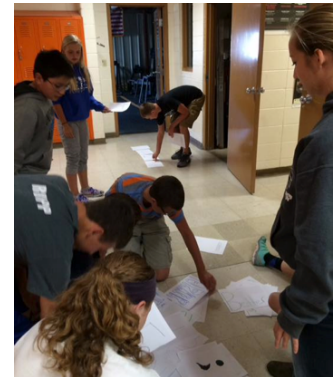
Traditionally, Math class has been about independent work, completing a worksheet, and getting the right answer. This year, students will be challenged to go a step further. We no longer stop at the "right answer". The students will be challenged to explain what they know to other students. Using the wonderful technology at our disposal, students are creating mini video lessons over class material. They will need to be able to explain their thinking in ways that other students can understand. Our first set of videos went well and the kids enjoyed the process.

Agriculture Education Program

There have been many things happening in the Agriculture Education Program. The Welding, Mechanics and Small Gas Engines classes have all be learning about safety and helping clean and organize the shop. In pictures below, you can see students had to dress a model with random items that would make them “appropriate” to go out in the shop. The Agriculture Business class has been learning about business by getting the chance to tour local businesses in town. Places so far include; BTI, Walnut Creek Extension Office, South Fork, and Bondurant Grain (see picture below). Students have also been learning about FFA, the inter-curricular part of Agriculture

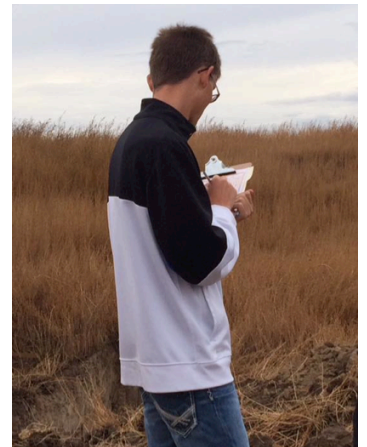


Education. You can see students in the picture have made pallets for Ness City FFA. The Exploratory Ag class has been working hard to memorize the FFA Creed. They have done an awesome job, as you can see in the picture of them organizing part of the creed together. All in all, students have done outstanding in classes!



FFA

FFA has been busy this year, we have chose our officers for this year. The 2015-2016 Ness City FFA Officers are: President: Logan Schlegel; Vice President: Lexea Barnes; Secretary: Devin Brown; Treasurer: Trace Flax; Reporter: Madison Seery; Sentinel: Nashon Copeland and Student Council Representative: Gracie Shreiber. On October 3rd the officers will attend an officers retreat in Garden City. We also attended our first contest on September 23rd. The contest was Land and Homesite Judging and the four person team consisted of Trace Flax, Madison Seery, Nashon Copeland and Kerri Bruntz. The students did excellent as they place 3rd in Homesite Judging. FFA T-shirt orders have been placed for this year and should be in by the time FFA helps with concessions (October 6th), for the Greenhand Conference and also for our first meeting and event (October 8th). There is a lot planned this year for Ness City FFA and we are excited!



7th Grade Keyboarding

7th Grade Keyboarding has spent the first 9 weeks learning the reaches for the letters on the keyboard. Speed and accuracy are improving every day. Their next step is to learn the reaches for the numbers and characters on the top row. The structure of keyboarding class has changed this year. Instead of a semester of keyboarding, every day, the students have keyboarding all year, every other day. Blue days, half of the seventh grade has keyboarding and the other half has reading. White days, the students attend the opposite class.

