

Eagle Profile



FFA Land and Homesite Evaluation Team Qualifies for National Competition

On Wednesday, September 25, the Ness City FFA Land and Homesite evaluation team traveled to Satanta to participate in the national qualifier for Land and Homesite Evaluation. The team consisted of Caitlin Smee, Dylan Bruntz, Ethan Schlegel and Tia Solze. The team was 1st in Homesite Evaluation and 2nd in Land judging. The team qualified for the National contest and will represent Kansas in Oklahoma City in May at the National competition in Homesite Evaluation. Ness City beat Hugoton KS FFA in Homesite while nearly losing to Hugoton in Land Judging.

Individually Dylan was 1st in Homesite followed closely by Caitlin who was 2nd. 2 points separated 1st and 2nd. Ethan placed 13th and Tia was 14th.

In Land Judging Caitlin tied for 2nd place overall and Dylan was 8th place.

The National contest will be May 5-7 in Oklahoma City and sponsored by USDA and NRCS.

Kansas Blue Ribbon Task Force Works to Define Bullying

One of the observations that the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Bullying has found is that there is considerable misunderstanding about the **Kansas** definition of bullying. In **Kansas**, the definition was defined by court case (*Theno v. Board*) and subsequently the statute was amended to align with the court's decision. It was then later amended to include **anyone** at school.

Here is the current definition:

- **72-6147. Bullying, school district policies.** (a) As used in this section:
- (1) "Bullying" means: (A) Any intentional gesture or any intentional written, verbal, electronic or physical act or threat either **by any student, staff member or parent towards a student or by any student, staff member or parent towards a staff member** that is **sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive** that such gesture, act or threat creates an intimidating,

threatening or abusive educational environment that a reasonable person, under the circumstances, knows or should know will have the effect of . . .

The first change was that bullying can be any intentional act that is severe, pervasive **or** persistent (not and). The Olweus definition states that the behavior must be repeated over time, the **Kansas definition** states that any intentional act could be bullying, it **doesn't need to be repeated**. Examples of this would be initiation and/or hazing rituals that may occur just once.
The other change was that the statute applies to everyone in a school, not just students. This includes students, staff members and/or parents.

Makerspace: An After School Program for 1st-6th Graders

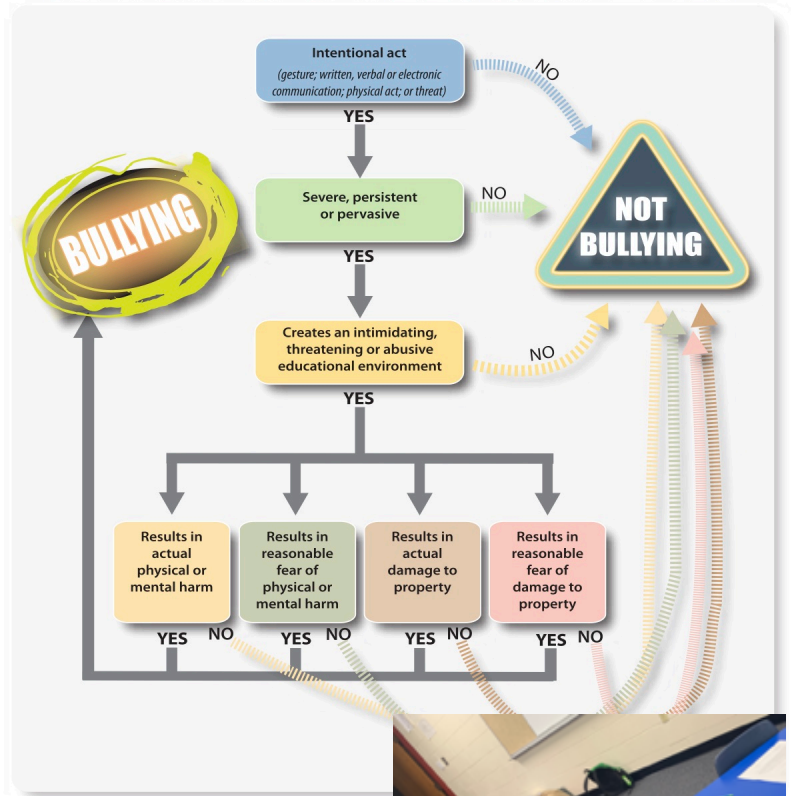
Makerspace is an after school program that students in 1st through 6th grade at Ness City Elementary School can take part in. Mondays Makerspace is open to students in first and second grade while the third through sixth graders attend on Tuesdays. Students not only have the chance to make things from cardboard, pipe cleaners, pom poms and perler beads, but this year we are also doing more technology related learning.

1st and 2nd grade learners are practicing their coding skills. Coding is what tells a computer exactly what you want it to do. Students are currently practicing the basics of coding by using non-tech directions. Writing directions for movement, as seen pictured, teaches students multiple things. 1) They need to have a plan before writing the code. 2) They have to write the directions step by step, in the correct order. 3) They have to re-evaluate and make changes if it doesn't work. Their first challenge was to write code to get the chicken to its egg. You can see Mason, Madison, and Evelyn testing their code and Reizlyn, Braelyn, and Yasmin are writing theirs out. After a couple weeks of non-tech practice, they are almost ready to move on to coding basic technology. We are working on getting a few Bee Bots or something similar to practice this skill. The students are very anxious to start the next level!

3rd through 6th graders have been working hard, with some frustration and complication, to design and 3D print their very own cookie cutters!!! They started with a template on paper and then transferred it into a computer program to be 3D printed. It's really frustrating though when you have complications with the program and realize after you're done that it won't work with the rest of your technology. (Sorry kids, that was my fault.) They are looking forward to working with the new program that WILL work and being able to get those cookie cutters printed. I think after all their work, they'll probably deserve to bake some cookies in order to test out their creation.

Students are really looking forward to learning more and more new things in Makerspace this year and furthering their skills. It's been a great start and they have shown some true grit and determination already! New students can sign up and join us at any time throughout the year. I've got a quick permission slip/rule contract to for them and mom/dad to sign and they're all set!

KANSAS BULLYING LAW



STUCO

The 2019-20 is a quarter of the way over, but it seems like it just started yesterday! On October 2, Stuco members attended the KSHSAA Regional Conference at Garden City High School, and listened to motivational speaker Heather Schultz encourage student leaders to never give up and power through. Her message resonated with many of our members, and they came back to NCHS pumped up for the school year. Student Council has several activities planned for the school year, including two blood drives, one on December 5 and one in April, Winter Homecoming, and a student mixer or two. Members this year are, Summer

Pfannenstiel (President), Makenzie Flax, Rylee Starr, Brayden Hellerud, Dylan Bruntz, Caitlin Smee, Jena Ratliff, Gavin Schreiber, Amy Foox, Bryce Flax, and Trey Solze.

High School Special Education Department Implements New Programs

A new year and a new classroom brings new possibilities for our High School Special Education Department. For the 2019-2020 school year, the special education classroom was moved into the home economics room bringing along with it, tons more room. A daily yoga session has been implemented to assist with the physical and emotional well being of some of our students. Working on breathing techniques helps to center ourselves and is a great way to let off daily stress and pent up anxiety.

As we continue with preparing the snacks for the elementary school building, believe it or not, our new classroom has offered us even more hands-on learning with washing and prepping fresh fruits and vegetables. The students have also had the opportunity to learn new vocabulary as well as utilize different tools necessary for preparing the snacks that we might not have encountered in our previous classroom.

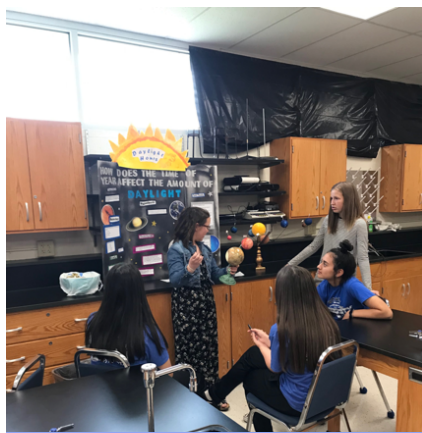
With the much needed larger room, the students are looking forward to getting their tower garden planted with fresh leafy greens and juicy tomatoes. Can you imagine how great their tacos will taste with fresh-cut lettuce grown in their very own indoor garden? Thanks again to the community members that donated funds to help us purchase the tower garden last year, we love it!

With several different stoves/ovens in our newly acquired classroom, you can bet we'll be cooking up a storm in no time. First on the list, learn to make a grocery list. Second, go shopping. Finally, it's time to cook. Be on the lookout for some amazing new cooks near you!

We'd like to send out a huge thank you to the administrators for giving us this amazing opportunity. We are excited to see all the advances made this year, and years to come.

Science Fair 2019

At the end of the school year, the 7th grade and Freshman classes put on a Science Fair. For their project, the students researched different things that they thought would be interesting to plan and perform an experiment. Some of the projects included "How to turn Milk into Plastic", "Different Ways to Generate Electricity", "How to Make the Best Naked Egg", and many other exciting topics. Parents were invited which was a great turnout and the students did amazing. For the 7th grade, Dawson McGranahan, Peityn Beckman, and Jordan Pfaff received 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place respectively. For the Freshman class, Taylor Starr and Alexa Reinhardt, Jena Ratliff and Samantha Kleweno, and Abby Schwien and Kenya Resendiz received 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place respectively. The science fair was fun and exciting for everyone and we can't wait to do it again next spring!!



Peityn Beckman presenting her project on "How the Time of Year affects the Amount of Daylight"



Your Child's Attendance Matters

A few weeks ago, I sent home a letter to all parents about the importance of your child's attendance in school. Regular student attendance is the number one variable that can lead to your child's academic success in school. One of the main reasons for that letter is the increase in student absences that has occurred here at the Jr/Sr High over the last three years. This is a trend that I believe that we can easily change if we all work together. There are two measures that stick out to me when looking at our school's data. One, we have seen a large increase in the number of students who are deemed "Chronically Absent." Chronically absent is defined as missing more than 10% of school for any reason, unexcused or excused. That basically equates to 2 days or more per month. The other measure is the overall attendance rate of the entire student body (What percent of students attend school each day). Below I have listed a few of our numbers in regards to attendance over the last few years:

Chronic Absenteeism:

Year	total students	chronic absent	school %	State %
2017	170	31	18.2%	13.7%
2018	151	28	18.5%	14%
2019	155	37	24%	14%

Attendance rate:

Year	Our ave %/day	State ave %/day	Target rate %/day
2018	93.2%	94.5%	95%
2019	92.9%	94.5%	95%

Inclosed in that mailing was a checklist to help you determine when your child is too sick for school. If you would like another copy, please contact the office. Please use this as a guide to help determine when to send your child to school. If they are too sick or contagious, we want you to keep them home, but there are situations that children can come to school when they are not feeling their best as long as there is no fever, vomiting, or diarrhea. I think that if we can better determine when to send to school, we can increase our attendance rate and reduce those who maybe considered chronically absent.

Three seniors recognized as Kansas Honors Scholars

Earlier this month, three of our senior students were recognized as Kansas Honors Scholars at a program at Garden City High School. In all 3,600 students across the state of Kansas earn the distinction of being named Honor Scholars. Congratulations to Ashley Foos, Easton Seib, and Sebastian Araiza-Bejarano for this recognition. Ashley is the daughter of Bryan and Jennifer Foos. Easton is the son Karen Seib and Shawn Winter, and Sebastian is the son of Liliana Bejarano and Jesus Araiza.



Vaping and JUULing! A Health Risk for our Students!

What is it:

Electronic devices known as "ENDS" (electronic nicotine delivery systems), "e-cigs", vaporizers, vapes, or hookah pens are generally battery-operated and use a heating element to convert a liquid called e-liquid or e-juice into a toxic, nicotine aerosol or vapor, which the user inhales.

Are they safe:

The e-juices and e-liquids contain many chemicals and toxins that are ingested by the user. Recent studies have shown that even e-juices labeled as Nicotine Free contain small amounts of nicotine. In fact, 99% of e-juices sold in the United States contain nicotine. Also, 1/3 of all kids that use these devices use it with a chemical other than nicotine. The most common chemical used is marijuana oil. They also contain chemicals such as antifreeze, formaldehyde, diacetyl, and artificial flavoring known to cause cancer and lung irritation.

Health risks:

Nicotine is highly addictive and negatively impacts adolescent brain development. Recent studies have shown that many e-juice units or pods contain more nicotine than a pack of cigarettes. Additionally, the nicotine used in these devices differs from the nicotine in a cigarette. These e-juices contain a nicotine salt produced using benzoic acid that makes the nicotine less harsh and therefore easier to smoke and ingest. The easier it is to smoke the more the user ingests. Furthermore, diacetyl can cause irreversible lung disease, and of course, antifreeze and formaldehyde are not safe for ingestion.

Common misconceptions:

It is just water vapor!

No, in fact, it is an aerosol similar to what makes spray paint, hair spray, and deodorant. If it was just water, you would not get a vapor.

It is safer than cigarettes!

No, in fact, due to recent studies, the FDA has begun cracking down on manufacturers of these products due to misleading and outright deceitful advertising. The FDA is currently in the process of placing further restrictions on these devices and will more than likely label them similar to cigarettes.

It is legal!

Not for anyone under the age of 18. In fact, USD 303 administration will treat it just like it was a cigarette if found on any USD 303 property.

What can I do:

If you saw a teenager smoking a cigarette, you would say something. These devices are no different. Talk to your kids, they will listen. You are the number one reason children choose not to participate in activities such as these. Please talk to your kids, share the dangers of vaping and JUULING just like you share the dangers of smoking, and don't provide these dangerous chemicals to your child. And don't forget, it is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to possess or use these devices, and they will be treated no different than a cigarette on school property.

USD 303 Tobacco Product Policy

In July 2016, the USD 303 School Board enacted new Tobacco Policies for all USD 303 property. These policies affect all students, staff, and patrons while on USD 303 Property, Property used for District activities, and all school vehicles. The policy states:

The use of tobacco products in any form and/or electronic cigarettes is prohibited on any school owned property or property operated by the district and in school vehicles.

For the health and well being of our students and staff, we ask that all patrons please help enforce this policy. If you utilize any form of tobacco or electronic cigarette, we ask that you please leave school property to do so.

Cross Country

This season we had 6 junior high runners in Danae Rodriguez, Savannah Buller, Angela Tavarez, Sabyrn Copeland, William Childers, Jaiden Allen, 4 high school runners in Alfonso Luna, Jadon Copeland, Seth Flax, Erick Gomez and Nate Gabel for 1 meet and JD Moore was our manager.

The Junior High kids ran exceptional all season long. We were able to get a full race schedule for them and their experience will be great as they continue to develop in the sport!

On the high school side, it was great having a full team for 2 meets this season including the league meet. My belief in Alfonso started way back in late August during the 1st week of practice. I saw something in him that showed me he had state qualifying potential. He never missed a practice and was always locked in on hard workout days. Medaling in his first ever race was a huge confidence booster. Time wise he really came on at the end of the season so I knew if he had a good regional race he'd be in contention to qualify for state. At our home meet on October 3rd, I saw something in all of my kids that showed me they were ready to have a breakout race. Sure enough, the following week at Lakin everyone p.r.'d! We headed west to Tribune for Regionals on October 26th and I couldn't be more proud of Alfonso and his teammates for their 3 races! Alfonso finished as the 7th individual on a non-qualifying team and punched his ticket to the state meet! The hardest part is over (qualifying), the pressure is now off so hopefully that will enable Alfonso to have his best race at state next weekend! I am very pleased with the training we had the last 2 weeks as everyone peaked at just the right time! Jadon easily had his best race of his career and Seth was right there as well. Again, I couldn't be more proud of Alfonso and these 2 other kids. This season absolutely flew by and we all had a blast! I took the JH with us this meet so they could experience the regional atmosphere and I am just so excited for the future of the program, NCXC!! Jadon has improved his best time by over 1 minute from last season. This is Seth's 1st season in the sport and is gaining valuable experience. Erick continues to improve weekly as well! I am extremely excited for my junior high crew as they did awesome during their whole season with very impressive times. I hope to have many 6th graders join us next season!

The state meet is Saturday, November 2nd and Alfonso's race will start at 11:45 at the Wamego Golf Course!



2019 Eagle Volleyball

Our NCHS Lady Eagles Volleyball season has just recently come to a close. The season ended sooner than we hoped but the girls left it all on the court in a tough second round loss to Central Plains at Regionals. I'm so proud of the girls for all they've done this season. Their skills improved tremendously throughout it and their ability to adapt was outstanding. There were a few times that I may or may not have received some eye rolls from changes to the rotation but every single time we'd adjust and run through it, you could almost see a light bulb going off showing them exactly why it was done. In today's world you hear a lot about youth being entitled and not being coachable. This was NOT the case for this group of ladies. They were extremely coachable and so eager to improve and learn. Which definitely made the season a fun and memorable one. Big things are coming in the future for this group of lady eagles!

These ladies also went outside of their comfort zones and did some fantastic things for our community members. They held a camp for K-6th and also put on our Future Eagle Volleyball as well. As always, you could find our team out cheering on our football guys and when possible they were out cheering on our cross-country teams. Beyond that though, we as a team pulled together and held a, "Go Gold" night at one of our home volleyball matches in September to promote childhood cancer awareness. We wore gold for the warriors, survivors and the departed. We even had one of our own local warriors, Hazen Byrd, as our honorary ball boy. October came around and it seemed fitting we would wear pink the remainder of our season for breast cancer awareness month. The Varsity and multiple others sported their pink and headed over to the Pink out at Sacred Heart and attended Becki Foss' fundraiser following practice. Showing yet again that nobody fights alone. Then finally one of our last practices took us to the Long Term Care where the girls introduced themselves to the residents and then showcased some of their skills. This group is one that loved to make an impact and I know they did.

I had a fantastic group of seniors that led the way. Summer Pfannenstiel, Makenzie Flax, Rylee Starr, and Jayme Tillitson. You girls deserve the biggest round of applause. Thank you for the memories and all your hard work and dedication to the team. You will never be forgotten and I cannot wait to see what the future holds for each of you. Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Coach Karen. (Karen Seib) She was a huge asset to our team and an amazing assistant to me. Her knowledge of the game is awesome and her drive to compete and help everyone get better was astounding. Thank you! – Coach Stephanie Rebel

Ness City Eagle Football

"It Is A Great Day To Be An Eagle" and that is exactly how I feel about this 2019 group of Ness City Eagle Football players. It has been an exciting year so far and I am extremely excited for this 2019 Eagle Squad. Our team is comprised of 35 members this year, all of which contribute to the success of our program in one way or another. We are very fortunate to have 8 seniors on this year's team. That is a great testament to the fortitude it takes to endure the difficulties that football presents. After picking up a hard fought win against Macksville in bracket play, we are currently 8-1 heading into this week's Regional matchup at Little River which will be for the Regional Championship and the opportunity to continue into playoffs. 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 Central Plains, Macksville, St. John, South Gray, Kinsley, Spearville and Kiowa County this year. Winning football games is hard and being 8-1 at this point is great. It is hard to believe that we are already in the playoffs.

Our JV Eagles had a great season as well and finished with a 4-2 record. It is good to get to play those games so that our young kids get game action too, and luckily we did not have any weather cancellations and got to play all 6 of our games.

Like last year, all of our Varsity games are being carried on 104.7 KISS FM and also online at www.kiss1047.net if you cannot make it out to our remaining games you can follow us there, Bruce Beuthe and Patrick Younger do a great job bringing the action to you. You can also follow us on Maxpreps by searching for our school and selecting Varsity Football. Follow us on Twitter as well at @nesscityFB

Again Thank you for your support of Ness City Eagle Football, it is greatly appreciated.

"Go Eagles!"

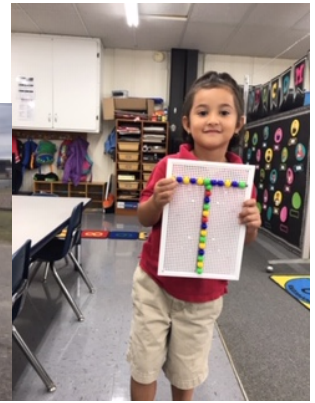
Marc Cowles

2019 JH Volleyball

This year we had 15 girls apart of our varsity and junior varsity, junior high volleyball squads. We suffered a couple of injuries, leaving us with 13 girls for a majority of the season. Both teams started off the season with wins at home against Wichita County. The season continues on with great, hard fought wins for the varsity team in Lacrosse, against Lacrosse and Otis-Bison, while the JV team came home 1-1. The teams continued their winning streaks with wins at Kinsley. Our varsity girls took part in two tournaments this season. Our first one being in Plainville, where they fought hard but couldn't pull through with enough wins to get them out of pool play. They also partook in our CPL tournament in St. John. The first game was a great win against Otis-Bison, but a tough loss to Victoria in 3 sets. I was impressed with how the girls played as a team and never gave up. They played amazing against Victoria, but once again fell short of making it out of pool play. The JV girls had their CPL tournament in Lacrosse, where they came home with 2nd place! To celebrate the end of the season, I got the opportunity to take the 8th grade girls to a FHSU volleyball game. It was a great way to end a fun season, with a great group of girls. This 8th grade class will always have a special place in my heart, as they were the first class that I taught. I am excited to see them continue to grow into great young ladies. As to all my volleyball girls, remember, I will always be cheering you on, on and off the court. :)

Preschool Learns About the Letter “T”

Mrs. Horchem’s preschoolers participated in homecoming week by having a “tailgate” party. Mrs. Borger and Mrs. Schlegel dropped by to do a Ness City cheer. The preschoolers practiced their cheer as well. Hot dogs were cooked on their grill and everyone enjoyed other tailgate foods. The students were learning about the letter “T”. They made letter “T”s using geoboards and pegboards, made Teddy Bears, built with Tinker Toys, and had a tea party on Tuesday. “T” week was terrific!



FCCLA STAR Events

Students in FCCLA have the opportunity to compete in many events at the district, state, and national levels. STAR events is one competition. Students Taking Action with Recognition (STAR) members create and present chapter and individual projects in leadership skills and career preparation. Two students, Hailey Hunter and Eladio Luna, spent the day in Oakley last week being trained in the planning process and various other aspects of STAR events. They will come back to the chapter and teach other members so they will be ready for the first district competition in Ness City on January 29th.



7th Grade Readers

“Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.” -Joseph Addison
7th grade students have been reading machines so far this year. Their current favorites are graphic novels and books set during WW2. This class has collectively read over 3,000,000 words this year!

JH Football

This year in junior high football, we saw a major improvement since the first day of practice. It is exciting for Mr. Hager and I to see the football team improve everyday as they worked hard. We only had seven eighth graders out for football this year so we had to rely on seventh graders stepping up quickly. Our record wasn’t what we were expecting, but we learned so much about how to work together and how to act on and off the field. It was a lot of fun working with these kids every day. We would like to thank our parents for their support and letting Mr. Hager and I to work with your kids this fall.

