



PERRY ★ LECOMPTON

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 343

JANUARY - JUNE ISSUE 2019 - 2020

The USD 343 Newsletter is published three times a year. The July-December issue will be distributed the first of July and will "look ahead" at enrollment and upcoming events. The January-June issue will be distributed the first of January and will "look back" over fall semester highlights. The May issue will feature highlights from the spring semester, including updates from the Superintendent. Please submit articles to Deb Brehm by the 15th of the month prior to the newsletter being published. Email articles to dbrehm@usd343.org or mail to USD 343 District Office, PO Box 729, Perry, KS, 66073.

A Note from the Superintendent...

New things and fresh starts!

One thing is for sure when you work in a school district, things are cyclical and time passes quickly. This time of year, people often greet each other by talking about the constantly changing weather, how fast the first semester flew by, how before we know it, it will be Spring Break, then graduation in May, then summer break, and before we know it, our school year is over.

I do think about how fast time has passed this time of year to bring us to where we are now, but one of the things this time of year reminds me of is with a new year upon us, we all have the chance to abandon old bad habits and replace them with new constructive ones. We all have a chance to come out of our comfort zones and embrace change and a new approach to goals. We all have the opportunity to have a "fresh start" so to speak, with the arrival of the New Year. I love the fact that January brings in a "clean slate" that we can all "write on" and define how we want our year to unfold. It is my wish for all our students and their families, and patrons in our district to make many good memories this next semester to build on to a great end of a fantastic school year. There has been so many positive things happening in our District and we should be very proud to be a KAW!



It was humbling and our honor to celebrate our Veterans this year and all they have done and are doing for us and our country at our annual Veteran's Day Celebration. It was a joy to hear our students pay tribute to these much deserving veterans with their singing, instrument playing and their "History of Veteran's Day" essays that were read to the crowd. We were very happy to have guest speaker Col. Jarrod Frantz (ret.), a 1986 PLHS graduate, address the crowd and to hear remarks from Governor Laura Kelly. To all Veterans, whether at home or serving abroad in active duty, reserves, or retired, thank you for your service!

The USD 343 District Daycare has expanded since it started in August of last school year. We were able to hire additional staff in order to provide services to more children. Currently, we are full again! We are fortunate to have such a great opportunity in our District.

This January, we will have three new members to our School Board. Join us in welcoming our new Board Members Jacki Aldrich, Dr. Emily Riner, and Jarae Essman! We also want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has ever served or is serving currently on our School Board in honor of January's School Board Recognition Month. We appreciate your service to our District and community!

This year, PLHS and PLMS began the process of Apollo Redesign, an initiative supported by the Kansas State Department of Education. Currently over 60 districts in Kansas are participating in the school redesign process. In looking at the "big picture", redesign is intended to develop school systems that focus on a student's passion and interests, which should increase the likelihood that students will be engaged in learning, graduate, and pursue a meaningful future. Redesign isn't about remodeling the exterior or interior of the building or changing the paint colors in the classroom, it is about restructuring how education takes place within the building. It is about breaking the mold of traditional schools and rebuilding it to meet the needs of today's students. What will it look like? We don't have the answer to that yet, but the process is underway!



Hopefully you had a chance to watch this year's PLHS football team as they made their impressive run to the Class 3A State Championship game. After the first three games of the year, the Kaw football team had a record of 1 win and 2 losses. However, with great leadership from Coach Paramore and the rest of the coaching staff, the team was able to improve with each practice and overachieve on the expectations many had set for them. This year's team showed grit, determination, and teamwork, which is the very reason why high school activities are an important piece to the development of personal character for all of our students. The season was capped off with not one, but two wins over Topeka Hayden! (A feat that will be remembered for a long time by Kaw fans!) Congratulations to the players, coaches, and parents on an outstanding season. Thank you for representing Perry-Lecompton in a positive manner!

Wishing you the best this year, with lots of health, happiness and positive things! Make this year count as you write on the slate of your new year!

J.B. Elliott, Superintendent of Schools

NEWS FROM *JOSH WOODWARD*,
DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Mindset Matters!

Happy New Year! Full disclosure here.....I am recycling information I shared back in 2015 when I was the middle school principal. I did edit some parts but still believe it is applicable and something I wanted to share again. I hope your 2020 is full of great memories and successes.

Upon graduating from college, I fully planned to teach at the high school level. Becoming a middle school teacher was my back up plan, yet the vast majority of my education career has been at the middle school level and I have loved it. Maybe fate had something to do with it, at least my wife believes so. When my boys were of middle school age, my wife looked at me one day and said, "I finally understand you...you fit right in with this age group." :)

As each year passes by, I cannot help but think of how fortunate I have been to spend the bulk of my career in the Perry-Lecompton school district. Teachers who move from district to district do not enjoy the opportunity to work with students who are children of former students. It is great fun to observe how current day students share similar personality traits with their parents. At times, it can be quite entertaining! While there are many similarities between parent and child, I recognize many differences as well. Each child has a special uniqueness about him or her, which brings excitement to our staff as we watch them grow and mature, not only academically, but also emotionally and socially. With so many educational theories and philosophies about "best practices" when working with our youth, I thought I would share some information from a book I previously read. The book is entitled "Mindset - The New Psychology of Success" and is based on research by Stanford University professor Carol S. Dweck, Ph.D. It is an interesting read and a very inexpensive purchase online.

According to Dweck's research, what an individual believes about his/her abilities strongly impacts whether he/she is able to succeed through difficult challenges or struggles. There are two types of mindset, the **fixed mindset** and **growth mindset**. When individuals with a **fixed mindset** face a difficult task, they tend to shy away from the challenge and quit. They fear failure because they are afraid failure will define how others view them. Individuals with a **growth mindset** tend to thrive in challenging situations and look at these situations as an opportunity to grow.

Dweck believes that mindsets can be impacted by environmental factors. When children receive praise for effort, and mistakes are viewed as an opportunity to learn, children begin to develop the **growth mindset**. When mistakes are used to belittle or tear down effort, children believe it is impossible to live up to expectations and often times quit. Let's look at some different scenarios. To summarize:

Fixed Mindset response to failure

Mistakes are used to belittle/tear down people.
Believe it is impossible to live up to expectation.
Place blame for failure on others.

Growth Mindset response to failure

Tend to thrive in challenging situation. Excited!
Challenges and failures are an opportunity to grow.
Does not fear failure and willing to try new things.

When a child scores a 100% on a test, Dweck believes it is more important to praise their effort, attitude and diligence in working towards that A rather than telling the child that he or she is smart. Her research indicates that telling a student he or she is smart only causes the student to feel pressure to be perfect every time on every test. When faced with a difficult challenge, this child may refrain from participating due to the threat to his or her label of "being smart". The child does not want to jeopardize the image that others have of him/her as smart. A New York Times article points out....."failure has been transformed from an action (I failed) to an identity (I am a failure)."

With the **growth mindset** attitude, although failure can be a painful experience, it does not define you. People with a **growth mindset** view failure as a problem to be faced, dealt with, and an opportunity to learn. If we celebrate that same 100% test score with comments of great effort, you worked really hard to earn that 100%, students believe their effort and diligence impacted that A. As a result, the student believes that effort and attitude determine success, not talent. Dweck believes you can determine an individual's mindset by how he or she respond to failure and challenges.

Think of it this way, toddlers are a perfect example of the **growth mindset**. When a toddler is learning to walk, repeated failure has no impact on him or her. They continue to try and try again. Parents are there to encourage and praise the effort along the way. Imagine how a toddlers effort and attitude might change if the parent criticized and scowled the toddler each time he/she failed or reacted negatively to each attempt by the child to walk. Across the United States, this same scenario plays out in classrooms and the work force each and every day. When teachers, parents, or bosses become too critical, students/employees may become too afraid to try because of the negative response received when doing so. Students and employees become more worried about being judged by the teacher/parent/boss rather than learning and growing.

(CONTINUED)

NEWS FROM *JOSH WOODWARD*, DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Similar scenarios occur every year on the athletic playing field. When coaches or parents set the bar too high, kids become unmotivated to participate in the sport and often times drop out. The child believes that he/she can never meet the expectation that have been set. For those of you that are interested, Dweck's research on "Mindset" is a fascinating read. You can Google this book and purchase online.

I hope you find the rest of this newsletter informational. We have some really cool things going on at USD 343. Our students continue to amaze us with their accomplishments in and outside the classroom. Thank you for sharing your child with us!!!

Kansas State Assessment window coming this Spring, 2020

Each spring, Kansas students enrolled in 3rd grade through 8th grade, plus 10th and 11th grade complete assessments through the Kansas Department of Education. This year's assessment window will open on March 16th and close on Friday, May 1. As always, we encourage parents to avoid doctor's appointments and vacations during this assessment window. The window is set by the department of education and all students must be tested within this designated window. Below, please find a breakdown of subjects assessed at each grade level.

Grade 3	Mathematics and English Language Arts	Grade 7	Mathematics and English Language Arts
Grade 4	Mathematics and English Language Arts	Grade 8	Mathematics, English Language Arts, and Science.
Grade 5	Mathematics, English L.A. & Science	Grade 10	Mathematics and English Language Arts
Grade 6	Mathematics and English Language Arts	Grade 11	Science

Please note: The Kansas State Department of Education determines which grades are tested as well as the content/subject level. All three assessment areas will include two test sessions. Schedules should be released via weekly building emails by late January/early February. The schedule will also be available on our District webpage. Please keep in mind the district established assessment dates are tentative and could change. [District Assessment Information Page](#)

As always, before completion of any type of assessment, we recommend students get a good night of sleep, eat a healthy breakfast the morning of the assessment, and of course make sure they are at school the day of the test. Make up assessment dates are scheduled for late April but are often times difficult to complete. Please make every attempt to have your child at school on their specified grade level assessment date.

Finally, it is important to note that state assessments are only a small part of what defines a student's success at Perry-Lecompton Schools. Our staff strives to help all kids grow and mature in non-assessed areas as well. These areas include, but are not limited to, artistic talents and musical abilities, physical health, becoming an independent and responsible person, ability to collaborate and communicate appropriately, become reflective so said student has the ability to evaluate his/her own progress or improvement, and develop good attendance habits. We, at Perry-Lecompton, understand that assessment results are not the only measure that defines a student, which is why we choose to focus on the whole child. GO KAWS!





News from Perry & Lecompton Elementary Schools

Mark Lamb, *Principal*



We at Perry-Lecompton Elementary have had a wonderful first semester! It is amazing how many exciting things you can pack into such a narrow time frame. We have had Kentucky Township Fire, Lecompton Fire, the Egg Challenge, Halloween parties, Happy Bear, Grand Friends Day, Veterans Day, Homecoming parade, Holiday concert and so much more. It has been a wonderful first semester for the Jr. Kaw Family.

Mark L. Lamb

PLES Principal

The 2019 PLES Spelling Bee was held on December 13th, 2019 in the Lecompton gym. The Spelling Bee lasted 29 minutes, went 6 rounds and concluded on the 96th word (distressed).



Third graders:	Josephine Hamm	Arabella Bradshaw	Kylie Smith
	Marley Doleman	Mary Yarm	Mylie Hudson
	Ziva Rockhold	Harlee Brown	Cohen Christman

Fourth graders:	Braydon Trimble	Brayden Vaughan	Sophia Marshall
	Kendall Craig	Jazlyn Amerine	Joel Brown
	Peyton McCune	Karson Weissand	Lydia Baranski
	Allie Nitchals	Jovie Lawrence	



Congratulations to *Marley Doleman* Lecompton Elementary Spelling Bee Champion!



Perry and Lecompton Elementary School Fall Field Trips: Schaaque's Pumpkin Patch, Lawrence Fire Station #5, O'Trimble Family Farm, American Royal, Sea Life Aquarium, Kaleidoscope
PLES Spring Field Trips will include: Topeka Zoo, Topeka Discovery Center, Topeka Capital

Important dates to remember for the PLES Spring Semester:

- 2/19: 1st grade Music Program
- 3/9-3/13: Spring Break
- 3/22: Spring Pictures for PES and LES
- 4/10: 3rd grade Music Program
- 4/8 & 4/9: Kindergarten Screening (No School for Kindergarteners)
- 5/10: Kindergarten Music and Recognition
- 5/14: 4th grade Music and Recognition Program
- 5/20: PLES Field Day
- 5/20: Last Day of the 2019-20 School year.



The first semester for Perry Lecompton Elementary school ended with the Winter Music program held in the PLHS gymnasium. This event is always well attended and the children enjoy sharing their talents!



*Have a safe and
happy holiday season!*

*We welcome in
the New Year!*



A Note from the PLHS/PLMS Principal – Mike Maloun



The first semester of the 2019-20 school year is complete. Perry Lecompton High School and Perry Lecompton Middle School have both had a busy fall with great things happening both in and out of the classroom. Below are some highlights of the fall semester, then keep reading for more individual building highlights! I am always here help, so please email me at mmaloun@usd343.org any time if I can be of assistance. Enjoy this next semester! Before we know it, it will be summer break!

Veterans Day

USD 343 hosted our annual Veterans Day program. Area Veterans are invited to attend a breakfast and then an all-district assembly. During the Assembly students presented essays as well as special music to honor our Veterans. This year, 1986 PLHS Graduate Col. Jarrod Franz was our guest speaker. We were also honored to have Gov. Laura Kelly in attendance to address the audience and specifically the Veterans.



Redesign Update

Hopefully many of you have heard that PLMS/PLHS are in the process of Redesign. As an Apollo school, the staff, students, and community are taking an in-depth look at our school, and making necessary changes to help our students succeed in the 21st century. Schools today look largely like they did in the 1900s, but students today, and the workforce today is nothing like it was in the 1900s. For our students to be successful in today's world we feel that school must undergo a transformation that meets the ever-changing needs of our students. So far the PLMS and PLHS staffs have, in collaboration with community members and students, developed a "why statement" and "vision statement" to help guide the decisions we will make. We want and need community input and support to make changes that are successful so, feel free to email me at Mmaloun@usd343.org with your suggestions or comments.



News from Perry-Lecompton Middle School

Mike Maloun, *Principal*

Eryn Moland, Assistant Principal
Rhett Scrimsher, Assistant Principal

Maker Space Room

This year PLMS has added a MakerSpace Program room to the library. Makerspace rooms are a place for students to work on STEM activities that include problem solving and designing. This has been a great addition to our library and Mrs. Ellis has been giving the students lots of activities that test their ability to problem solve and figure out how to make things work through trial and error. So far this year Mr. Allen's students have built Rube Goldberg projects and Mrs. Ellis has many students working on programming spheros, which are small robots that help students learn about coding



PLMS Fall Sports



Volleyball – 8th Grade Volleyball finished 2nd in the Big 7 league this year with a record of 6-1. 7th grade finished 1-6 in league play. The 7th grade made continued improvement throughout the season and finished 3rd in the PLMS A-team tournament, while the 8th graders took 1st.

Football – Football had more students participating this year than last and that is a positive step to rebuilding what has been a strong football program. Although the team finished 1-6, they became much more competitive as the season progressed and are looking forward to building on that growth next season.

Wrestling – Our PLMS Wrestlers had a great season with several students receiving medals throughout the season. They had tremendous success at the Rossville tournament with a top 10 finish, 8 medalists and one champion Haven Gruver at 95lbs.



Music Students Selected for District Honors



On Saturday December 7th, several students were selected by audition to represent PLMS at the NEKMEA District Convention honor groups. The following students were selected. Congratulations to Lara Mano who was also selected to perform in February with the All-State Middle Level Choir in Wichita.

7th and 8th Grade Middle Level District Choir:

Nadene Green
Palin Orr
Lara Mano
Grace Rothwell
Taylor Trimble
Zach Essman
Masen Reed
Bronzen Rush

6th Grade Honor Choir:

Mollie Moseley Devin Aldrich
Hutson Buttram Journey Casey
Arlo Brownlie Jarritt Otter
Maggie Ross
Lia Essman
Garrett Metcalfe
Malakie Laws
Trevor Conklin

Communication

Our goal is to consistently share the great things going on at PLMS throughout the semester. In addition to this newsletter, each week you should be receiving an e-mail with a weekly calendar of events from Mr. Maloun. If you are not receiving this, please check your junk mail/spam folders or contact Mr. Maloun for additional help. Also, please make sure you are following us on Twitter and Facebook for additional updates.

Twitter is @plmskaws

Facebook is Perry-Lecompton Middle School “Official Page”



News from Perry-Lecompton High School

Mike Maloun, Principal
Eryn Moland, Assistant Principal
Rhett Scrimsher, Assistant Principal

The first semester of the 2019-2020 school year is complete. PLHS has had a busy fall with great things happening both in and out of the classroom. Below are some highlights of the fall semester at PLHS.

PLHS Football – State Runner-Up!



It was an outstanding year for the PLHS Football team as they finished the season as class 3A State runner ups, losing to Andale in the 3A State Championship Game 35-7. After a 1-2 start the Kaws finished the season 9-4,

including beating Hayden twice, avenging an earlier season loss at Holton in the playoffs and beating an undefeated Prairie View the next week at home. The Kaws have a strong current junior class and expect to contend for the State title again next year! Congratulations to the team for a great season and outstanding effort and toughness all year!

Date	Opponent	Notes	Result
9/6	vs. Royal Valley		W 68-0
9/13	@ Holton		L 7-14
9/20	vs. Sabetha		L 21-41
9/27	vs. Wellsville		W 49-6
10/4	vs. Santa Fe Trail		W 33-21
10/11	@ Jefferson West		L 3-8
10/18	vs. Topeka Hayden		W 21-20 OT
10/25	@ Bishop Ward		W 57-6
11/1	vs. Wamego		W 38-21
11/8	Holton	(at Holton)	W 35-21
11/15	Prairie View	(at Perry-Lecompton)	W 30-6
11/22	Topeka Hayden	(at Perry)	W 35-27
11/30	Andale		L 7-35

KU Honors

Each year the University Kansas honors the top 10% of students from Kansas High Schools. We had seven students this year that were honored as part of the KU Honors programs. Congratulations to the following students for their outstanding efforts in the classroom. Blaise Ball, Gabrielle Cummings, Blake Farmer, Dorothy Haggard, Jenna Keller, Emailey Leslie, Calvin McPherson.

Music News



PLHS had 8 representatives in the NEKMEA district honor groups. These groups are selected by live audition and those students selected are eligible to audition for the All-State groups that perform in February. The PLHS Choir had 4 students in the District Choir; Gage Brown, Bryan Karten, Simon Orr, and Dailynn Phillips. Caden Dean, Thomas Fergus, Joe Ward, and Jack Youngquist represented the PLHS Band. Simon Orr has already been selected for the All-State Choir that will rehearse and perform February 27th-

29th. The band students will audition in January for the All-State band that performs the same weekend. Congratulations and best of luck for a great performance in February!





PLHS Volleyball

The PLHS Volleyball team finished 22-18 this season, with a loss in the second round of Sub-State to the eventual 3A State Champions Royal Valley. Jenna Keller was a Unanimous all-league selection, Cali Coleman was All-League and Katy Hurd was an honorable mention all-league. Congratulations to all who participated this year.

Communication

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*Proud to
be a*

KAW

SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

telephone using the Bright Arrow notification system. Notification calls will have a caller I.D. of (855) 994-4242. If the phone call is not answered, a voicemail will be left. *In all cases, the final decision regarding school attendance during inclement weather rests with the parents.*

In order to contact parents and guardians, it is vitally important the school has accurate telephone numbers for each student's family. If you have updated or changed your phone number since enrollment, please contact your child's school to provide updated information.

Additionally, the District will make announcements through the District's Facebook page and the following broadcast stations:

WIBW - Topeka - TV Channel 13. wibw.com
KSHB - Kansas City - TV Channel 41. kshb.com
WIBW - Topeka - AM 580 & FM 94.5 Country



We recommend staying tuned to one of the stations or websites listed above in order to receive this information in a timely manner. Other media that will be notified as time permits would be:

KLWN - Lawrence - AM 1320
KANU - Lawrence - FM 91.5
KSNT - Topeka - TV Channel 27

KTKA - Topeka - TV Channel 49
KCTV - Kansas City - TV Channel 5
WDAF - Kansas City - TV Channel 4

NEWS FROM *RHETT SCRIMSHER*, TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

With winter weather upon us, it's that time of year to review a few simple guidelines to ensure safe transportation for your child. Please call Mr. Scrimsher, USD #343 Director of Transportation, at 785-597-5124 ext. 1012, if you have specific questions regarding transportation.

- Please remind your child to dress appropriately for the possibility of inclement weather. Kansas weather can change rapidly through the school day. In the unlikely case a bus has to be evacuated or experiences engine failure, it is important students dress for the season. Hats, mufflers, gloves and warm foot wear are strongly encouraged.
- Please remind your child to remain clear of the bus as it approaches pick-up points and the brakes are applied. Depending on road conditions the surface may not be treated and could have become slick.
- Please contact your child's school office by 2:30 pm. with changes in their transportation for that afternoon/evening. Drivers cannot accept text messages from a parent to a child for a transportation change.
- It is important that our schools have up to date information on a plan your child will follow if we are required to close school early due to inclement weather.
- Please be sure that your child's school has updated phone numbers on file. The School Messenger phone system will be utilized in the event that we need to send students home early due to inclement weather.



NEWS FROM *CRAIG UNDERHILL*, NUTRITION SERVICES DIRECTOR

There's lots of changes to share from the Food Service Department! The most exciting change to pass along is the involvement of the PLHS Student Wellness Group in making menu selections. These students are making all their entrée choices, from a list provided by OPAA! Classics, student favorites, OPAA!-To-Go, and a Specialty Bar. These entrée choices influence the entrée choices for the other district schools and Day Care. One of OPAA!'s core values is a commitment to continuous improvement, meaning trying new things. The students are very willing to put new items on the menu, notably demonstrated at December's Board of Education meeting. Board members were treated to samples from that day's menu, including Nashville Hot Chicken, Roasted Chicken Sandwiches, and Hawaiian BBQ Pork Wraps!

The PLHS Flavor Lab seasonings have given way to new OPAA! branded seasoning mixes, including Lemon Pepper, Vegetable Herb, Cajun, Garden Seasonings, and 2 garlic mixes. Also at PLHS, we offer a new compliant Hidden Valley Ranch Dressing. Throw in the Protein Packs, with 5 different daily choices including Ham, Turkey, or Roast Beef Wraps, homemade Pita Chips and Hummus, or Yogurt and Granola, plus the constantly rotating OPAA!-To-Go offerings the students put on the menu. The choices for PLHS students are substantial, leading to several comments that it's almost like going to a restaurant!

Relaxation of nutritional requirements have allowed us to bring in food items closer to what students might eat at home. Whole grain tortillas have been replaced by flour tortillas, and whole grain biscuits have been replaced by Southern Style easy split biscuits. We can offer great tasting and fun new items like soft-filled cereal bars stuffed with cream cheese and either Cocoa Puffs or Cinnamon Toast Crunch flavors. Even the brown rice we offered last year has been replaced by long grain white rice.

Another change is a simple behind the scenes shift in strategy; to increase the sale of reimbursable meals as opposed to a la carte. We offer a greater number of entrée choices at PLHS, with enough side items to allow students to select the components needed to make a reimbursable meal. We still offer snack items, like chips, granola bars, cookies, and fruit slushies, but in general are seeking to increase meal participation. K-8 students continue to have at least 4 choices for breakfast and 3 choices for lunch. Everyone wins when students eat school lunch and breakfast, with a fresh healthy meal for the student and reimbursements for the District for every meal served.

Children learn better when they are nourished, and please remember that if your student is eligible for free or reduced lunch, they are also eligible for free or reduced breakfast. If you have any questions about your child's lunch status through the federal Child Nutrition Program, please contact Deb Brehm at the District Office at 785-597-5138. It is important that we are able to provide nutritious and balanced meals to our students. If you have any questions about Perry Lecompton's Kaw Kitchen, please call Craig Underhill, Director Nutrition Services, at 785-597-5872.

The KAW KITCHEN

NEWS FROM *ABBY MARTIN*, DISTRICT SCHOOL NURSE

In reflecting on this fall semester, I must start with “thank you.” Thank you to the superior staff at each of our buildings. As health concerns and needs rise, I am grateful for this dedicated staff. The High School has created the Student Wellness Club, led by Nolan Meyer. They meet monthly and provide guidance on our health needs, as well as pursuing opportunities for health promotion. As vaping continues to be a concern, the High School is working toward being a Resist Chapter, led by Hunter Putman. The Middle School STUCO is collaborating to promote nutrition district-wide. At Lecompton Elementary, I have been able to partner with Miss Kelsey Kasson to offer art with health on Wednesdays. This has allowed more opportunity for health promotion. During National Handwashing Week, the Kansas Department of Agriculture presented a handwashing demonstration and lesson for our students. Perry Elementary received the Blue Cross Blue Shield Grant for interactive hallways. Check out the hallways at Perry Elementary! They are changing! We continue to excel at health promotion provided at our district, because of this amazing team.



Prior to these activities taking off, health records were updated. Thank you for your compliance and understanding, regarding the changes implemented this year regarding immunizations. Although both the Hepatitis A and Meningococcal vaccinations have been recommended and available in prior school years, research regarding the prevention of vaccine preventable diseases supported this implementation as a new school requirement. The KDHE recommended that students in preschool, kindergarten, and 1st grade be required to obtain the Hepatitis A vaccination series. Additionally, students entering the 7th or 11th grade, are required to have the meningococcal vaccination.



Influenza vaccinations were offered during parent teacher conferences by the Jefferson County Health Department, as well as being offered through the Douglas County Health Department in Lecompton in October. As a rural school district, I am grateful for the outside services our team can provide to our students. By bringing these services on site, we reduce barriers such as transportation, time, and cost. School wide dental screenings were conducted in compliance with Kansas State Statute 72-5201 and offered August 29th, 2019, for any students who had not opted out. Referrals following the screenings were sent home. Douglas Dental Clinic will return January 23rd, 2020. If you're interested in their free school based outreach program with services including x-rays, cleanings, fluoride varnish, dental sealants, fillings, and baby teeth extractions for your student to participate, you must complete and return the consent form available online at dcdclinic.org/friendly-smiles or a form may be picked up in the school office. For any questions regarding service and eligibility, Douglas Dental Clinic can be reached at 785-312-7770, ext. 206 or by email at outreach@dcdclinic.org.



I am so thankful for the office staff in each of our schools and all they do! Not only do they have the dental forms available, but medication forms as well. A reminder, if your child needs to take any medication during the school day, please complete the Medication Administration Authorization form. It is available in all the school offices. All prescribed medications must have a physician's signature on the medication authorization form. All medications must be in the original labeled container. Additional information regarding medication in Kansas schools can be found at K.A.R. 68-7-14. These requirements are for the safety of all students.

I am always here to help, so please feel free to email me with any questions at amartin@usd343.org.

Helpful e~Funds Information



Creating a New ACCOUNT

1. Visit our school website at www.usd343.net and click on the Parents-Students Tab and select e~Funds for Schools' portal.
2. Click on "Register Here"
3. Provide requested information
4. Click "Sign Up!" after you have read and agreed to the Terms of Service and Privacy Policy
5. You will be brought to the Student Management webpage
6. Use the Student Number you school has provided your, along with your student's last name and click "Add"
7. Once all students have been added, click "Continue to Account Overview"

Step-by-Step

e~Funds for Schools! This service will allow you to make payments on behalf of your student(s) for all school related needs such as lunch payments, student fees and more!

A large blue speech bubble with a white outline is centered on the page. To its right are three smaller blue circles of varying sizes, also with white outlines, arranged in a vertical line. The speech bubble contains the text "Making your Payments Online ...it's easy!".

Making your
Payments Online
...it's easy!

MAKE A ONE-TIME PAYMENT

1. Sign in to your account
2. Under "Payment Options," click "Make a Payment"
3. Enter your Checking Account OR Credit/Debit Card information
4. Click "Save"
5. Click "Return to Payment"
6. Choose student(s) and/or item(s) you would like to pay for
7. Click "Continue"
8. Verify your payment information is correct and accept convenience fee(s)
9. Click "Submit" and print the receipt for your records

VIEW PAYMENT HISTORY

1. Sign in to your account
2. Under "Payment Options," click "View Payment History"
3. Your past 30-day history will be displayed
4. Click the drop down menu on the right to view payments for your current or previous school year

SCHEDULE RECURRING PAYMENTS

1. Sign in to your account
2. Under "Payment Options," click "Schedule a Pre-Authorized Payment"
3. Select the student you wish to schedule payments for
4. Enter the dollar amount you would like to deposit for each student
5. Select the date in which you would like to start your payments
6. Choose the frequency in which you would like the dollar amount deposited
7. Select the last payment date
8. Click "Continue"
9. Verify your payment information is correct and accept convenience fee(s)
10. Click "Submit" and print the receipt for your records

ADD LOW MEAL BALANCE PAYMENTS

1. Sign in to your account
2. Under "Advisory Services," click "Low Meal Balance"
3. Enter a Minimum Balance and Replenish dollar amount
4. Check the box under "Notice" to receive emails when your student's account is low
5. Check the box under "Auto Replenish" to automatically have the Replenish Amount added to your student's account when the Minimum Balance is low
6. Click "Apply Low Meal Balance Settings"

Unified School District #343

2019-2020 Calendar

July 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

August

8-12 - Inservice Days
 13 - Teacher Work Day
 14 - First Day of School

September

2 - NO SCHOOL - Labor Day

October

22 - End of First Nine Weeks
 23 - NO SCHOOL - Workday 8-12 am & P/T Conferences 2-8 pm
 24 - NO SCHOOL - Teacher Inservice & P/T Conferences 4-8 pm
 25 - NO SCHOOL
 28 - 2nd Nine Weeks Begins

November

27-29 - NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break

December

20 - End of Second Nine Weeks
 23-31 - NO SCHOOL - Winter Break

January

1-6 - NO SCHOOL - Winter Break
 3 - NO SCHOOL - Teacher Flex Workday
 6 - NO SCHOOL - Teacher Inservice
 7 - 3rd Nine Weeks Begins
 20 - NO SCHOOL - MLK Day - Inservice

February

March

4 - Evening Only P/T Conferences 4-8 pm
 4 - End of the 3rd Nine Weeks
 5 - NO SCHOOL - Inservice 8-12 am & P/T Conferences 2-8 pm
 6 - NO SCHOOL - 1/2 Flex Work Day
 9-13 - NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
 16 - 4th Nine Weeks Begins

April

10 - NO SCHOOL - Good Friday
 13 - NO SCHOOL - Inservice

May

20 - Last Day of School
 21 - 1/2 Teacher Work Day
 25 - Memorial Day

13

January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

20

20

February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

18

March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

15

18

April 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

20

15

May 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

20

June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

14

- Inservice day
- Teacher work day
- Inservice & PM Conf.
- No classes & P/T confs.
- Evening only P/T confs
- School Closed



Board of Education meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each month @ 6:30 p.m. (except March)

Days Taught - 173 = 1,136 hours
 Inservice Days - 7.5
 Work Days - 3.5
 Parent/Teacher Conferences - 3
 Teacher Contract Days - 187

Parent-Teacher Conferences: October 23 (.5 Workday), conferences from 2-8) & October 24 (Teacher Full-day Inservice, conferences from 4-8)
 March 4 (full day of school, conferences from 4-8) & March 5 (Teacher inservice 8-12, conferences from 2-8)

Availability of Services for Students with Special Needs

Your local school district and all public schools in Kansas provide free special education services for eligible exceptional children ages 3 through 21 or high school graduation. Parents are encouraged to seek assistance from teachers, principals or other professionals if they have questions regarding their child's progress in school. Children with autism, emotional disturbance, giftedness, hearing impairments, specific learning disabilities, mental retardation, orthopedic impairments, other health impairments, speech or language impairments, traumatic brain injuries, or visual impairments may be found to be eligible and in need of special education or related services. In addition, children ages 3 through 9 who are experiencing developmental delays may also need these services. The related services, which is not an all-inclusive list includes: assistive technology devices and services, audiology, counseling services, early identification and assessment of disabilities, interpreting services, medical services for diagnostic or evaluation references, occupational therapy, orientation and mobility services, parent counseling and training, physical therapy, recreation including therapeutic recreation, rehabilitation counseling, school health services, school nurse services, school psychological services, school social work, speech and language, special education administration and supervision, transportation, vocational/transitional, and other developmental, corrective or support resources.

Special education is not meant for all children experiencing problems in development or trouble with schoolwork. Some students who are experiencing difficulty benefit more from the individual attention of a general education classroom teacher, the guidance counselor, and, of course, concerned parents. Your school district makes an effort to screen students for possible disabilities by carefully monitoring their progress on daily work and on achievement tests. Special education professionals, as part of school student improvement teams, sometimes work with regular education teachers and students to help solve problems students experience in learning. When classroom interventions are not successful, a referral for an initial evaluation is made. In addition, free screening clinics for children ages birth to five are held on a monthly basis in the area, and any parent with a concern is welcome to bring their child to be screened. School counselors, psychologists, and social workers are available to visit with teachers and parents regarding any concerns they might have. Parents who are concerned that their child may have an undetected disability are asked to notify the principal of the child's school in writing regarding the concerns.

Parents and their exceptional children have a number of rights under the law with regard to special education. For each of these rights, there are certain responsibilities for parents and for the school. The school system is responsible for safeguarding children's rights, including the right to benefit from the regular curriculum, to receive educational services in the least restrictive environment, and the right to participate in nonacademic and extracurricular activities. In addition, the school system is responsible for obtaining parental consent before evaluating a child or providing him/her special education services, for maintaining the confidentiality of all personal information regarding the child, and for making all educational records available to parents. Parents should assist the school system by keeping them informed of things that affect the child's education, attending conferences concerning their child's educational program, and by keeping the lines of communication open. Together, parents and school personnel can help children grow and develop into capable adults.

Your school district is a member of Northeast Kansas Education Service Center (NEKESC), also known as Keystone Learning Services, an organization that enables eight school districts in Atchison, Leavenworth and Jefferson counties to collaborate in the provision of special education services. Participating districts include the following: Valley Falls USD #338, Jefferson County North USD #339, Jefferson West USD #340, Oskaloosa USD #341, McLouth USD #342, Perry USD #343, Atchison County USD #377 and Easton USD #449. In addition, early intervention services for eligible children age birth to three in these districts are available through Keystone.

Official records for all students receiving special education services in the above school districts are maintained by Keystone Learning Services at their records office in the basement of the USD 341 District Office. Special education teachers maintain files in their classroom on students with whom they are working. Any parent of a student, or student who has reached age 18, has the right to review these records without unnecessary delay. This right includes having someone explain documents in the records, obtaining copies of the records at reasonable or no cost, and allowing a representative of the parent (with signed permission) to examine records. In cases where records might contain information on more than one student, the parts pertaining to other students will be deleted. Upon request, Keystone discloses educational records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, as allowed by federal law.

Anyone who wishes further information concerning services for exceptional students may contact the Keystone Office at 785-876-2214 or at 500 E. Sunflower Blvd., Ozawkie, KS 66070. Information is also available through the Kansas State Department of Education at 785-296-3869, or the "Make a Difference" Hot Line at 1-800-332-6262.

Perry USD 343

Mission

Preparing students to become successful citizens.

Updated and Adopted by the USD 343 Board of Education on December 12, 2016

Perry USD 343

District Beliefs

Our focus is on being a **UNIFIED** school district.

Our schools must be centers of **OPPORTUNITY**.

Mastery of **READING** and **MATH** is fundamental to a quality education to obtain quality 21st century skills.

PRIDE IN SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY is an important element in a quality school experience.

The success of our schools is accomplished because all stakeholders accept **RESPONSIBILITY**.

For students to learn effectively, they must have a school environment that demands **RESPECT FOR THE DIGNITY AND SAFETY OF THE INDIVIDUAL**.

The **EFFECTIVE USE and APPROPRIATE APPLICATION OF TECHNOLOGY** is essential for the success of our schools.

GOOD CITIZENSHIP and **RESPECT FOR COUNTRY** by staff and students are important cornerstones of our educational system.

The partnership between **SCHOOL and FAMILY** is a key to a child's success.

Note: *District Beliefs* are listed in random order. Updated and Adopted by the USD 343 Board of Education on December 12, 2016

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Unified School District 343

PO Box 729

Perry, Kansas 66073