

## Inside this issue:

Liberal High School	2
Student Showcase	3
Student Showcase	3
Points for Parents	3
Online Activities for Families	4
District Contact Information	4

**Links to  
USD 480  
District  
Information**

[USD 480 Home](#)[2014-2015 Calendar](#)[December Calendar](#)[School Board  
Agenda \(Click on  
Meeting Date\)](#)[PowerSchool Login](#)[Breakfast & Lunch  
Menus](#)[Building Schedules](#)[Enrollment  
Information](#)[Employment](#)[USD480/Community  
Facilities Planning](#)

## District Spotlight: After School Programs

The three USD 480 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC afterschool programs, BEST, ROCK, and SOAR, sponsored *Lights On Afterschool* event at each of the eight participating schools. Project BEST, ROCK and SOAR are funded with 21st Century Community Learning Centers grants from the U.S. Department of Education. USD 480's three after school programs serve approximately 600 students in eight different schools: Project BEST at Sunflower and Cottonwood Intermediate schools, Project ROCK at Lincoln, Garfield, and McKinley elementary schools; and Project SOAR at Washington, Southlawn, and McDermott Elementary Schools. Students participating in the after-school programs engage in homework assistance, mentoring, tutoring, and classes and clubs, in sports, recreation, mathematics, robotics, and dozens of other subjects. The programs are a collaboration between USD 480, Liberal Area Coalition of Families, and the local K-State Extension Agency, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and other non-profit organizations. The gatherings are one of more than 8,000 such events around the nation that day, the 14th annual *Lights On Afterschool*, organized by the Afterschool Alliance. The event serves as an opportunity to call for expanding afterschool opportunities so that every child who needs a program has access to one, and discuss the benefits of afterschool programs, including inspiring children to learn, keeping them safe in the sometimes perilous afternoon hours, and relieving working families of worries about their children's activities in the afternoon. Funding for after-school programs has not kept up with demand, and more than 15 million children are alone and unsupervised after the school days ends. The Afterschool Alliance is a non-profit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children have access to quality afterschool programs. More information on *Lights On Afterschool* is available at [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org). For more information about the 21st CCLC afterschool programs in USD 480, please contact Sheri King, Director of Federal Programs, at 604-2400.



**Students at  
McDermott  
Elementary  
participate in  
Lights On  
Afterschool  
activities as a  
part of Project  
SOAR**

## District Spotlight: Liberal High School Prepares Students for Life after Graduation



The 2013-2014 school year was a great one for Liberal High School. Not only was LHS once again rated in the top schools in the nation according to US News & World Reports, but it was ranked as the second best high school in the state of Kansas. Staff members, students, and teachers worked diligently in order to gain the status of an AVID Demonstration School during the last school year, as well. The JAG and Communities in Schools programs provide additional support for students both inside and outside of the classroom. Students are provided multiple opportunities to gain information and experiences that will prepare them for life after high school including Market Day for the Entrepreneurship class, Career Day, and Reality U which is sponsored by the Communities in Schools program.



During Career Day, students meet experts from a wide range of occupations including computer science, nursing, cosmetology, diesel mechanics, and photography, just to name a few. "Career Day was an awesome experience for the students to interact with professionals in the community. They were able to explore different career paths and ask questions that pertained directly to them. The Professionals love the opportunity to show the students that Liberal can offer specialized career fields just like a bigger city," said LHS Business teacher Tasha Miller. Market Day, also a program for Miller's students, turns the gym into a virtual Market Square where young entrepreneurs, after weeks of research and preparation, sell a wide variety of food products in an attempt to turn a profit based on a business plan they have created. Ms. Miller is not the only staff member at LHS working to prepare students for the real world.



Reality U offers Freshmen a chance to practice creating a budget and managing finances based on real world circumstances. Students fill out a survey asking questions about their future occupations, marriage, and family planning. A credit score is also generated for each student based on a combination of GPA and survey responses. The students visit stations where they must calculate the amount they will have to pay for daycare if they have children, purchase insurance, and find out how much housing will cost. "I am hoping this will be an eye-opening experience for the students. I want them (students) to understand with the effort and hard-work, or lack of work, they put into the classroom now, will either help or hinder their opportunity to have an enjoyable career, good income and benefits, and a better quality of life," said Denae Weber, Communities in Schools Coordinator for LHS. "It's important for the students to realize sooner than later, of the importance of budgeting and saving money to be financially stable," Weber continued, "They aren't going to want to pinch pennies, go paycheck to paycheck, and make necessary sacrifices in the future. No one wants to."



09-12 Grades 1,193 Students 73 Teachers

Liberal Sr High  
1611 WEST 2ND  
LIBERAL, KS 67901

Phone: (620) 604-1200

District: Liberal

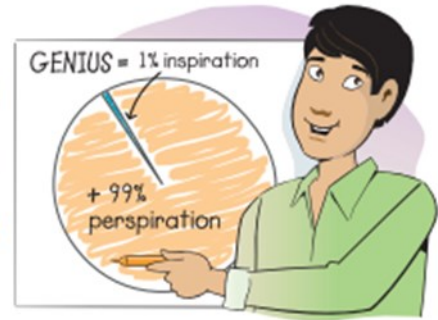


**Photos: Students learn to budget, meet with industry professionals, and practice business creation/services in order to learn more about life after graduation.**



## A Positive Attitude Can Inspire Your Child to Work Toward Success

A positive attitude can inspire your child to work toward success. As Thomas Edison is often credited with saying, "Genius is one percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration." What will motivate your child to do that hard work to achieve his goals? A positive attitude. A positive attitude about school can keep your child studying, problem-solving and learning long after he might otherwise want to give up. It can keep him going until he succeeds. To encourage your child to have a positive attitude:



- Have a positive attitude yourself. If you are negative or pessimistic it is not reasonable or even fair to ask your child to be positive.
- Help him focus on the things he can change. A negative attitude often results from feeling helpless. For example, your child probably can't change the material in his classes. If that were his goal, he would feel helpless and negative. But he can change how much he prepares. That can lead to success and a positive feeling of empowerment.
- Encourage him to think of others. It is amazing how doing something good for another person can lift you out of a bad mood. Challenge your child to bring a smile to someone's face. A person who does that often is usually a positive person.

Source: "Positive Attitude: Reflections for Middle School Parents. Helping Families Teach Good Character,"

Orange County (Florida) Public Schools, [niswc.com/positivity](http://niswc.com/positivity).

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## Student Showcase:

### Southlawn Elementary      Cottonwood Intermediate



"My favorite thing about school is that you can bring stuff to play with outside at recess. I wish we could add a little more time to recess. When I grow up I want to be a soccer player."



"This year I want to work extra hard on reading because I am a little behind on it. I have trouble finding the theme or the main idea in a story. In Reading Small groups, I get the help I need to understand more."

# U.S.D. 480 Liberal Public Schools

## Online Learning Activities for Families

### For Elementary Students:



Named one of the **Best Websites for Teaching and Learning** by the American Association of School Librarians, a division of the American Library Association, children have the opportunity to choose characters, take them on adventures and create their very own story along the way. my StoryMaker® lets them control characters and objects. Once the story is done, it can be printed!

### For Middle and High School Students:

[www.learner.org/students/](http://www.learner.org/students/) From Annenberg Learner comes a website that provides not only a wide variety of resources for teachers, but also a multitude of interactive learning opportunities that students can use, including both instructional videos and games.



## Find USD 480 on Social Media



USD 480 social media posts can be seen on Facebook as Liberal Public Schools and on Twitter @USD480. Beginning in October 2014 search a favorite campus by #480 and the campus name. Submit photos/videos/information to be posted on USD480 social media to [socialmedia@usd480.net](mailto:socialmedia@usd480.net).



## District Contact Names and Numbers

### Central Office

401 N. Kansas Ave.  
(620)604-1010  
Paul Larkin, Superintendent  
Rena Hickert, Deputy Superintendent

### Education Service Center

624 N. Grant St.  
(620)604-2400  
Vicki Adams, Special Ed.  
Sheri King, Fed. Programs

### Liberal High School

1611 W. 2nd St.  
(620)604-1200  
Rafe Begley, Principal

### South Middle School

950 S. Grant St.  
(620)604-1300  
Jason Diseker, Principal

### West Middle School

500 N. Western St.  
(620)604-1400  
Troy McCarter, Principal

### Cottonwood Intermediate

1100 W. 11th St.  
(620)604-2700

### Jon Schneider, Principal

### Sunflower Intermediate

310 W. Pine St.  
(620) 604-2800  
Jennifer Workman, Principal

### Garfield Elementary

516 W. 1st St.  
(620)604-1500  
Kendra Haskell, Principal

### Lincoln Elementary

11th & Calhoun  
(620)604-1600  
Melinda Cline, Principal

### Mac Arthur Elementary

925 S. Holly Dr.  
(620)604-1700

### Shawna Evans, Principal

### McDermott Elementary

439 S. Pennsylvania  
(620)604-1800  
Kathy Fitzgerald, Principal

### McKinley Elementary

700 W. 7th St.  
(620)604-1900

### Cindy Jones, Principal

### Southlawn Elementary

836 S. Jordan  
(620)604-2000  
Gloria Quattrone, Principal

### Washington Elementary

840 N. Washington  
(620)604-2100

### Traci Mettlen, Principal