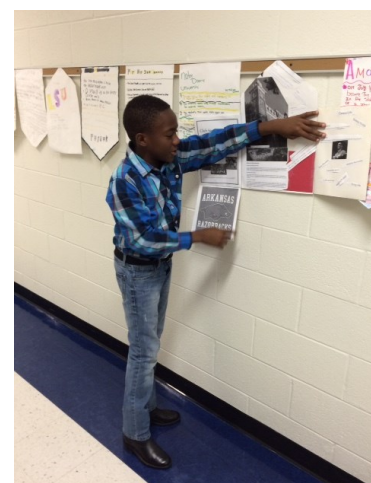


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Campus Spotlight: Sunflower Intermediate



Leadership and staff members are trying some new and exciting Family Engagement events this year at Sunflower Intermediate. Families and staff celebrated AVID Successful Student Week with an Open House in September. Students researched a college and created a display with the information. They then presented their research and display to their parents at the Open House. "Sunflower Intermediate School conducted an excellent open house for parents this fall showcasing the importance of college. Students researched a college of their choice and created a poster and prepared a presentation to present to the parents in attendance. Why promote College Readiness in the Intermediate grades? It is never too early to build students dreams, build good study habits and time management skills, build transferable skills and persistence to move to the next level of middle school, and provide opportunities to talk about short-term and long-term goals for middle school and beyond," said Rita Williams, USD 480 AVID District Director. In December the campus hosted a Family Read Night. Students brought parents to their classroom to show them the reading stations they do each day. The Holiday Gift Shop was also open, and they could shop for some gifts to go under their tree at home. The Spring Semester will bring a Lunch and Learn opportunity where parents can come and eat lunch with their student and then go back to the classroom to learn about Hands On Equations from their child. All of these events are new to Sunflower and provide a variety of options to get more families involved in more activities at the school.

Kansas Teacher of the Year Finalist for 2014-2015, Jennifer Hofferber (pictured below, center) teaches at Sunflower Intermediate. Ms. Hofferber was nominated as USD 480 Elementary Teacher of the Year for the 2013-2014 school year. As a KTOY Finalist, Ms. Hofferber will visit schools and universities throughout Kansas as well as collaborating with all Kansas Teacher of the Year Finalists. "I am both honored and humbled to have been selected as a Kansas Teacher of the Year Finalist. I am excited for the opportunity to begin serving as an ambassador for the Liberal School System to promote education and the teaching profession across the State of Kansas. I will be working with a talented group of individuals who share my passion of teaching," Hofferber stated. USD 480 Teacher of the Year nominations are open in February and may be submitted by anyone.



Links to USD 480 District Information

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

Campus Spotlight: Lincoln Elementary

Lincoln welcomes four new staff members this year. T-Yanna Devericks from South Dakota is teaching kindergarten and also coached 8th grade girls at West. This is her first year to teach. She completed her degree at the University of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Dawn Long is from the Guymon, Oklahoma area and is the new Instructional Coach. She has approximately 30 years of teaching experience. Melissa Heathman completed her student teaching in the Fall 2014 and began as Lincoln's Interventionist this semester. She assists staff with testing of students, as well as working individually with students. She has a 16 year old daughter who attends Liberal High School. Other staff changes that took place include Kris Classen transferring to the IRC position for this school year from Title position. Nichele Cauble transferred from teaching Pre-K at Washington Elementary to Lincoln to teach first grade. Kristine Patton, a second year veteran of Lincoln Elementary, was selected among the district's teachers who successfully completed their first year and are in their 2nd year as the Elementary Horizon Award Nominee. Kristine grew up in Liberal, attending Southlawn Elementary, South Middle School, and Liberal High School. She attended and graduated from Emporia State University in May 2013. She began teaching First Grade at Lincoln Elementary in the fall semester of 2013. A new program Lincoln Elementary has implemented this year is called Lincoln Leaders. Each month, the teachers and students focus on one of the character traits. These character traits stem from lessons taught by school counselor, Mike Johnson. As students model these character traits, they may receive a ticket on which they put their name and class. At the end of the month, a Lincoln Leader is drawn from those who have demonstrated that trait. The students drawn receive a certificate and other items to congratulate and recognize them for the job well done.



Kristine Patton, Horizon Award Nominee and Melinda Cline, Lincoln Elementary Principal

Breaking Ground: USD 480 Bond Projects Begin

The USD 480 Bond Project is well underway. Five new schools will be built upon project completion. One building, MacArthur Elementary, will keep the name, although a new building will be built on the site. Suggestions for the other four new building names were submitted by students throughout the district. The four other new buildings will be: Prairie View Elementary, Meadowlark Elementary, Seymour Rogers Middle School, and Eisenhower Middle School. Following a ground breaking at the Seymour Rogers Middle School/Prairie View Elementary Site on December 9th, man power and equipment have begun to move. "It's really getting exciting as we get to the point of actual construction gearing up. The ceremonial groundbreaking was nice, but I'm excited the equipment is moving in to do the real work," said Paul Larkin, Superintendent of Schools. According to Vanessa Jones, Bond Project Manager, physical work has begun on two of the five sites. At the Seymour Rogers Middle School / Prairie View Elementary School, site clearing for access roads and right of way for utility service re-location for AT&T, Southern Pioneer and Zito Media is complete. Re-location of these services is expected to take 5-7 weeks weather permitting. This will allow USD 480 to meet their projected start date of March 2, 2015 for construction of the Prairie View Elementary School. At the Eisenhower Middle School site, the construction trailer for JE Dunn has been delivered, and equipment for preliminary earthwork is on site. Excavation, grading, and leveling of existing contours to meet design specifications has begun and is expected to take 4-6 weeks weather permitting. Temporary fencing, facilities, construction parking, staging areas and access roads are forth coming. The acquisition of land for a third site is in the process. Jones also provided information regarding the Meadowlark Elementary School progress. "USD 480 is proceeding with the eminent domain procedures to acquire the property located at the intersection of Eleventh & Calvert referred to as the Smith Site. The appraisals for the site are due in court February 5, 2015." Meanwhile, district staff and administration have begun to plan and prepare for the transition process. "A 'West Middle School Task Force' has been created to determine what courses will be offered on that campus once it becomes a part of Liberal High School. A 'Sixth Grade Task Force' has also been formed to shape what sixth grade will look like at the new middle schools," explained, Renae Hickert, Deputy Superintendent of Schools. For more information regarding the USD 480 Bond Project visit <http://www.usd480.net/page/bond>.



Points for Parents — Resolve to help your child make (and keep!) academic resolutions

Resolve to help your child make (and keep!) academic resolutions It's New Year's resolution time again! This year, encourage your child to come up with a few school-related resolutions for herself. If she's stumped about where to start, suggest she make resolutions regarding:

- **Projects.** If your child typically puts off big assignments until the last moment, help her turn over a new leaf. The next time a book report or a research paper looms, she should break it into small parts and assign a deadline for each part. That way she can tackle one piece at a time.

- **Homework.** If your child's study habits are haphazard, refine them. Instead of letting her hit the books "whenever and

wherever," help her designate a single work area. She can resolve to keep it organized and, if possible, use it only for studying. Look together at her after-school schedule. Figure out the best time for studying and make that part of her daily routine.

- **Extracurricular activities.** If your child signs up for every team or club that comes her way, she may be spreading herself too thin. As she begins the second half of the year, talk about which activities can stay and which should go. And remember: School comes first. No activity—regardless of how much she enjoys it—should interfere with academics. *Helping Students Learn, The Parent Institute, January 2015.*



Student Showcase:

Washington Elementary

Liberal High School



"My favorite thing about school is learning cursive because my mom's really proud of me. I'm really good at math and science, and when I show my mom, she says, "That's interesting."

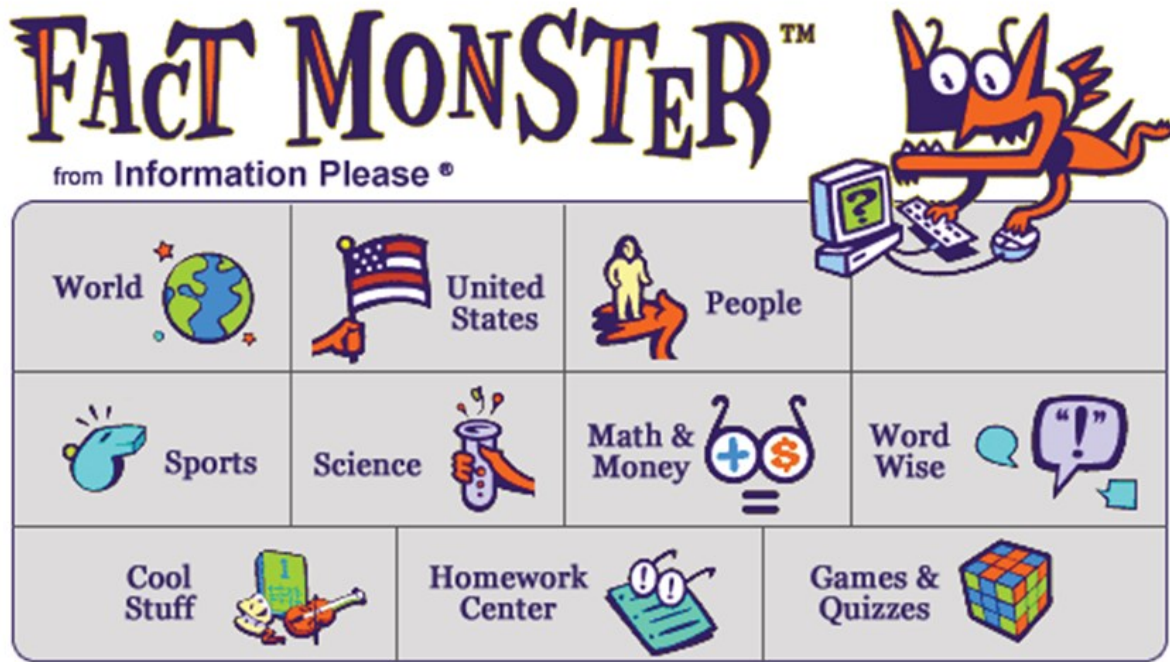


"My favorite thing about Liberal High School is that the teachers are hands on. If you need help, they make sure you understand everything. I'm planning to attend Colorado Springs University and study Sports Medicine."

U.S.D. 480 Liberal Public Schools

Online Learning Activities for Families

Fact Monster provides educational resources for students of all ages! Find it at www.factmonster.com or click the boxes below to access specific areas of the site.



Find USD 480 on Social Media



USD 480 social media posts can be seen on Facebook as Liberal Public Schools and on Twitter @USD480. 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.



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