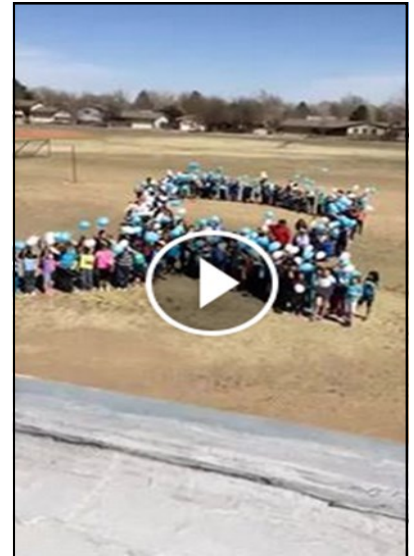


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USD 480 Special Education Department Autism Team

The USD 480 Special Education Department is comprised of multiple staff members who provide service for all aspects of students with exceptionalities including physical, mental, and emotional. A growing population of students who receive these services are students with Autism. Autism is caused by a group of complex disorders of brain development. These disorders are characterized, in varying degrees, by difficulties in social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication and repetitive behaviors. The USD 480 Special Education Department has formed an Autism Team in order to better serve this group of students. The Autism Team is comprised of staff members from across the district who serve in additional roles both in and outside of classrooms and have received specific training to serve on the team. They administer screenings and evaluations for students who may possibly have autism in order to provide early intervention and services for those students and their families. The Autism Team also works to increase awareness of Autism not only throughout the school district, but throughout the community, as well. They conduct family nights and have created an extensive lending library of resources for parents, school staff, and students to gain a greater understanding of Autism. To learn more about Autism and how USD 480 and the Autism Team are working to increase awareness visit: <http://www.usd480.net/page/autism>



April is Autism Awareness Month. Click the play button to watch the balloon release at MacArthur Elementary in recognition of Autism Awareness Day 2014.

Links to USD 480 District Information

[USD 480 Home](#)

[2014-2015 Calendar](#)

[March Calendar](#)

[School Board
Agenda \(Click on
Meeting Date\)](#)

[PowerSchool Login](#)

[Breakfast & Lunch
Menus](#)

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Speech Pathologist, Holly McCarter, School Psychologist, Dayna Reinhart, and IRC Teacher, Brandi Fowler presenting facts about Autism.



Ms. Fowler addresses students at West Middle School to increase their awareness of the impact Autism can have on a student and the obstacles a student with the disorder may face throughout the school day. The Autism Team visits campuses across USD 480 to increase this awareness and provide information for better understanding.

Campus Spotlight: McKinley Elementary

McKinley Elementary is a very active campus. From Kindergarten through 3rd grade, there are learning activities, community involvement events, and celebrations. The entire campus celebrated Read Across America Day with classroom doors decorated with inspiration from Dr. Seuss. The Seward County Community College Women's Basketball Team visited on this day to read Dr. Seuss books to every class, and to end the day all students went to the gym to enjoy a Dr. Seuss video with popcorn. The week ended with the students swapping classes and doing activities such as making green eggs and creating balloons of the places they will go. McKinley Elementary students and staff also did many shark related activities in preparation to attend the Megalodon *Largest Shark That Ever Lived* exhibit at the Liberal MidAmerica Air Museum. This special field trip was sponsored by Southern Pioneer Electric and many other generous businesses in Liberal. To follow up the Megalodon adventure, McKinley students will also be attending the Baker Art Center Live Shark Exhibit coming next month. Also in April will be the Fun Family Festival. The event takes place on April 16th, and parents are invited to come play games outside on the playground at McKinley Elementary, earning tickets as they go (to be turned in for chances to win prizes) followed by the drawing for prizes and eating pizza in the gym. Parents were also able to hear the sounds of the 2nd grade music class at their concert on March 10th. It is important to celebrate student success, and at McKinley Elementary this happens regularly. The Go Getter Awards are given to hard working students on the last Friday of the month. Character Kid Awards are also given on this day. BUG (Bringing Up Grades) awards are given to students who have made great improvements on their grades at the end of every 9 weeks. Awards for the A and B Honor Rolls are also given at the end of every 9 weeks. Visit the campus website at: <http://mkes.usd480.net/>



Ms. VanWyhe's class Skypes with a shark expert.



SCCC Basketball team members visit on Dr. Seuss Day.

Bond Project Progressing: Two Sites Taking Shape

Phase I - Eisenhower Middle School: Work has begun in the gymnasium/locker room area. Each building is divided into separate zones to better sequence the construction process. From Western Ave and/or the live web streaming, construction trailers, materials delivered and stored on site, heavy equipment, and contractors working can all be seen. There were several weather related delays in January and February, but progress continues. March has allowed the district to aggressively proceed with the sequencing of work to be performed. Mass excavation and grading of the site is ongoing and shall continue for several weeks. The process of imbedding and routing the deep underground plumbing and electrical utilities has begun and will continue as completion moves from one designated area to the other. Excavation and placement of the footings is scheduled, and once that is complete, the next step will be to place rebar and pour concrete. At that time the footprint of the building will begin to take shape. Following the concrete footings will be the masonry starter course, and then there will be walls! This process shall be repeated in each area until the structure is encapsulated. Live streaming of Eisenhower construction can be seen at: <http://www.usd480.net/page/12456>

The projected completion date for the Eisenhower Middle School is June 2016.

Prairie View Elementary School: The same zone and phasing procedures shall be used for all the new facilities. JE Dunn's job trailer is now located on the property. Site clearing, mass excavation and grading are ongoing. Looking south from Highway 54, the Flor de Sol apartments located on Pine Street are now clearly visible. The City of Liberal has begun a sanitary and sewer upgrade which borders this site. Existing electrical, telephone and cable utilities are being re-located. These public services must be completed before additional work on the school can be scheduled. These projects are on-going and should have no effect on the projected completion date.

The projected completion date for the Prairie View Elementary School is June 2016.

Both facilities are projected to be complete for the 2016-2017 School Year.

Seymour Rogers Elementary School: This campus will share the same site as the Prairie View Elementary School.

Work is scheduled to begin August 2015 with a projected completion date of January 2017.

Phase II - Meadowlark Elementary School: The eminent domain process is concluded and USD 480 now owns the property. The land owner has entered into the appeal process and adjudication will be determined by a jury trial.

Work is projected to begin March 2016.

MacArthur Elementary School: No work to date.

Work is projected to begin March 2016.

The projected completion date for Phase II is June 2017.

Both facilities are projected to be complete for the 2017-2018 School Year.

Points for Parents — Help your young reader turn struggles into success

Help your young reader turn struggles into success Reading can be challenging for some elementary schoolers, but there are things parents can do at home that really help. If your child struggles with reading, begin by reassuring him that you believe he will be a reader. Next, help him practice the skills that research links to reading success. These include the ability to:

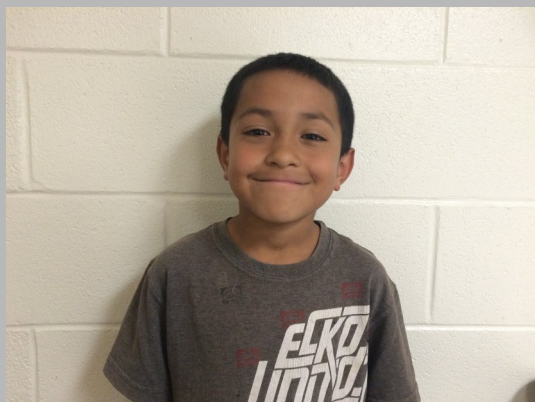
- **Recognize and use sounds.** Talk about how words are made of parts. For example, bat is made of buh, aaa and ttt.
 - **Learn the sounds that letters represent.** Look at printed letters with your child. Name their sounds. Also point out pairs and groups of letters, such as gr or ing. What sounds do the combined letters make?
 - **Remember a lot of words.** The more words your child knows, the more he'll recognize and comprehend when he reads. Try to use new words often and repeat them frequently. Make sure their meaning is clear.
 - **Use comprehension strategies.** Asking questions can improve your child's understanding. You might ask him, "How would you tell the story in your own words?" or "What would you do in that situation?"
 - **Read quickly and correctly.** This takes time! As your child gains more experience with reading, this will become easier.
- Simply reading together will make a big difference! Source: "Reading Tips for Parents," U.S. Department of Education, www2.ed.gov/parents/read/resources/readingtips/part_pg5.html.



Student Showcase:

McDermott Elementary

South Middle School



"My favorite thing about McDermott is that we get to do math and reading. I like it because it's fun to do. I like to learn interesting stuff from reading. I like McDermott because there are a lot of people who are special to me. My teacher, Ms. Binns is special to me, Ms. Avila, Ms. Lujan, and Ms. T, because they all help me when I have trouble. I want to be in the Navy someday because I want to be a hero."



"My favorite thing about the 8th grade is knowing that it's my last year in middle school before I go on to something bigger. Mr. Brooks is my favorite teacher because he makes history fun and interesting. I'm unique because I stay positive. Even though I fail sometimes, I get back up and do something better than I did before. This year I would like to improve many things like making wise decisions."

U.S.D. 480 Liberal Public Schools

Online Learning Activities for Families Learn while you play! What could be better?



Visit <http://powermylearning.org/> to discover thousands of super fun games, videos, simulations, and more that can help students learn any subject. Having trouble understanding something taught in class? Want to advance in a subject or investigate a topic? PowerMyLearning is the answer! Just create a [free account](#).

Students Take Ownership of Learning: The student interface, called Wizmo World, encourages kids to take charge of their learning as they spend time on educational activities. To motivate children, parents can set goals tied to real rewards and track progress together online.

PowerMyLearning reinforces classroom learning and inspires new interests. When kids finish schoolwork on PowerMyLearning, studies show they stay on the site to explore their own interests and spend less time watching TV. A strong home learning environment can have a

big impact on a child's academic achievement. PowerMyLearning makes that easier. Finding activities online to help kids with school is challenging. Online searches turn up tons of results! The team of educators at Power My Learning has evaluated thousands of free activities and identified the ones that are most fun and effective. Activities are tagged by subject, grade, standard, and more, and they are all easy to find and use. And it's free!

Create Your Free PowerMyLearning.org Account

Explore thousands of the best online learning activities from across the web - all for free! It's easy to get started. Just choose an option below.

I am:

A Student

A Parent

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