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Campus Spotlight: South Middle School



South Middle School encourages parent involvement. Parents can attend parent nights, visit with teachers, or learn a second language through the Rosetta Stone program offered on campus. Jesus Villalobos, Parent Coordinator, has done a tremendous job of working with parents to increase participation in a variety of parent nights and projects. Both Mr. Villalobos and Yanira Torres, Secretary, take pride in providing the service and support to make parents feel welcome.

The South Middle School staff

The faculty and staff have also worked to provide students more opportunities to get involved in extra-curricular activities. The Family and Consumer Sciences teacher, Ms. Walters, recently started the FCCLA club. The students competed at the district level, and 14 students advanced to the state level competition. At state, 3 students qualified for Nationals. Everyone at South is proud of Mrs. Walters and her students' hard work and dedication. Robotics club is also new this year. Ms. Martin took her club to the local competition at the Mid-America Air Museum.



is especially proud of the student centered atmosphere the team has developed. Teachers collaborate often to improve instructional strategies and better support students. The teachers also make the most of the talent of their peers. Through professional development sessions, the team shares ideas and learn from each other's strengths. It is common for teachers to present strategies in small group sessions or staff meetings.

Teen Leadership, Spanish Class, Band/Choir/Show Band, and AVID.

The Core Subject teachers (English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies) have worked hard to transition to the new Common Core curriculum and Common Assessment format. This dedication will pay off as they continue to implement the curriculum and enter the next school year. Recently, the South Middle School and West Middle School Leadership Teams came together to establish a schedule that would allow core teachers to have common times for collaborating in the future. The two groups look forward to being able to meet to set common goals, support one another, and learn from their peers. The administration, faculty, and staff greatly appreciate the parental support they receive. Without it, South Middle School would not have such a high level success. They would like encourage continued parental involvement at South Middle School and the support it shows to the students.



Links to USD 480 District Information

[USD 480 Home](#)

[2013-2014 Calendar](#)

[May Calendar](#)

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

[PowerSchool Login](#)

[Breakfast & Lunch
Menus](#)

[Building Schedules](#)

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District Spotlight: Teachers of the Year



Jennifer Hofferber, Sunflower Intermediate, USD 480 Elementary Teacher of the Year, "I am both honored and humbled by being selected as this year's District Elementary Teacher of the Year. I would like to recognize my two co-workers who were also nominated, Mendy Stevens and Dane Parcel. I feel it is a testament to the strength of our program that we were all nominated. Without their support, assistance and friendship, I could not be the teacher I am. I wish all three of us could have won. The Sunflower IRC department works as a cooperative team to provide the best education possible for the students of Sunflower. I have been told many times that teaching special education takes a special, patient person. While I don't disagree with that, I feel that being a 'special, patient person' is a choice I have to make daily. I have to take many deep breaths to get through a day, and I have to make the choice to be the teacher that my students need me to be. It is a high-stress job, but the rewards of making a difference in the life of a child



Jodi Malick, Liberal High School, USD 480 Secondary Teacher of the Year, "It is such great honor to be recognized by my peers and community knowing that my hard work hasn't gone unnoticed. Teaching to some might be a job, but to me it is a passion. It feels so good to know that people see my love of teaching in action."

"Teaching is not a profession; it's a passion. Without passion for your subject and a desire for your students to learn and be the best in the world, then we have failed as a teacher and failure is not an option."

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Kathe Goodwin, Southlawn Elementary, "I am honored to be chosen as TOY at Southlawn."



Michele Crossman, Garfield Elementary, "I work with a lot of GREAT teachers and AMAZING kids!! My job is fun to come to everyday so being Teacher of the Year at Garfield is another added bonus of why I love my job so much!!"



Alaina Sill, Washington Elementary, "I am honored to have been chosen as Washington's Teacher of the Year. Education is the one thing that no one can ever take away from you; therefore, I work hard to provide our future with the best education possible. I am humbled that someone noticed this and chose me as the Teacher of the Year for Washington Elementary."



Chrystal Watson, Lincoln Elementary, "I work with a great group of people at Lincoln. To receive this honor has made teaching worthwhile!!!!"



Alice Swanson, Cottonwood Intermediate, "I feel very honored to have received Teacher of the Year for Cottonwood, but more so that I am able to work with such an amazing staff that has guided me to become a better teacher."



Betty Clifton, MacArthur Elementary, "It is a special distinction to have been nominated for MacArthur Teacher of the Year by parents of such exemplary students and to have been selected from among such admired and dedicated MacArthur colleagues. Teaching is my passion!"



Catherine Martin, South Middle School, "Everything I plan, implement, and create for South is all for the success of my students. I know my students; I can see their futures; and, I expect their experiences and knowledge to carry them far. The honor of being named South Middle School Teacher of the Year would never have been made possible without the blessing of my students and the camaraderie of my colleagues."



Gloria Willimon, McDermott Elementary, "It is such great honor to be recognized by my peers and community knowing that my hard work hasn't gone unnoticed. Teaching to some might be a job, but to me it is a passion of mine and feels so good that people see my love of teaching in translation."



Indira Arredondo, McKinley Elementary, "I feel honored to have been chosen as Teacher of the Year at McKinley Elementary. I truly believe that teaching is a work of heart and I enjoy doing what I do!"



Katherine Hansen, West Middle School, "With this being just my 3rd year of teaching – and especially working in a building that is filled with respected, veteran teachers – I felt very honored and humbled to be named teacher of the year for WMS."

District Spotlight: Project BEST-ROCK-SOAR Summer Programs



USD 480 is excited to extend summer learning opportunities for our students with the 21st CCLC Project BEST-ROCK-SOAR Summer Camps. The enrichment camps will be held Monday-Thursday, June 2-26 from 8:30-12:30 daily at Cottonwood Intermediate School for students in grades 1-6. Students will also receive lunch and breakfast daily. The cost for the summer camp is \$20.

The BEST-ROCK-SOAR Summer Camps consist of four weeks of fun and educational thematic activities in the areas of science, theater, reading, writing, leadership, engineering, technology, problem solving and physical activities. Weekly field trips to local attractions are planned!

For more information please contact Sheri King at sheri.king@usd480.net or 604-2407. Registration forms are located [here](#) on the USD 480 webpage or from classroom teachers at the schools.



District Spotlight: Summer School Information

**Summer School Dates - June 2, 2014 to June 26, 2014
(Monday-Thursday)**

Prekindergarten to Grade 3

School starts at 8:15 a.m. and will be dismissed at 12:45 p.m.

Students in grades PK-3 will attend Summer School at Washington Elementary.

Intermediate, MS, HS

School starts at 8:00 a.m. and will be dismissed at 12:30 p.m.

Students in grades 4-6 will attend Summer School at Cottonwood Intermediate.

Students in grades 7-8 will attend Summer School at Liberal High School.

Summer School Administrators

High School: Mr. Keith Adams

Middle School: Mr. Gib Rito

Intermediate: Mr. Jon Schneider

Elementary: Mrs. Traci Mettlen



Students may be required to attend Summer School due to academic and/or attendance issues. For more information contact the student's campus administrator.

U.S.D. 480 Liberal Public Schools

Points for Parents: To Get the Most Out of School, Your Child Has To Be In It

Several school districts have adopted a slogan that goes something like this: "Every day matters." It was true on the first day of school and it's true now, as classes wind down. It is critical that your child be in school every day at this time of year. Classes and tests that play a role in the grades a student gets for the entire year are occurring now. A student's ability to pass a difficult class may be at stake. Attendance *does* matter. Here's why: **Teachers are still teaching** new material. If your child is absent, she won't be exposed to things she will be expected to know. **It's review time.** At the end of the year, teachers devote some class time to preparing students for exams that cover the whole year's material. Often, students prepare for two tests per class: a state exam and the class final. Class review work is strongly linked to exam results. **Exam schedules are set.** Make-up dates for state exams and finals are limited. It is important that your child be present on scheduled test dates. **Projects are due.** Some teachers require end-of-year projects. If your child is out, she will not hear about due dates and resources for these projects. Nor will she be able to ask teachers for help if she is stuck.

Source: T. Jaeger, "District Reminds All That Every Day Matters," Amphitheater School District, www.amphi.com/media/1025044/every%20day%20matters.pdf.

Online Learning Activities for Families

Elementary/Intermediate- TryScience.org is your gateway to experience the excitement of contemporary science and technology through on and offline interactivity with science and technology centers worldwide. Science is exciting, and it's for everyone! That's why TryScience and over 400 science centers worldwide invite you to investigate, discover, and try science yourself. TryScience is brought to you through a partnership between IBM Corporation, the New York Hall of Science (NYHOS), the Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC), and science centers worldwide. New interactive content is added regularly to these areas- Adventure: Thematic interactive experience; Experiments: Hands-on (offline) activities with an online component; Field Trips: Interactive science center features, plus a science center locator; Curious?: Short polls and activities based on a hot topic question, plus related news links; Live Cams: Live views from webcams at science and technology centers worldwide. Visit often and explore the resources science centers contribute to this site!



Secondary- HippoCampus.org is a free, core academic web site that delivers rich multimedia content-- videos, animations, and simulations--on general education subjects to middle-school and high-school teachers and college professors, and their students, free of charge. Teachers project HippoCampus content during classroom learning and assign it for computer labs and homework. Students use the site in the evenings for study and exam prep. Users do not need to register or log in to use the site.



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
Keith Adams, Principal

South Middle School

950 S. Grant St.
(620)604-1300
Gilberto Rito, Principal
West Middle School
500 N. Western St.
(620)604-1400
Troy McCarter, Principal
Cottonwood Intermediate
1100 W. 11th St.
(620)604-2700
Donna Sill, 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

