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Campus Spotlight: USD 480 Pre-School Program

Washington early learning classrooms are designed to provide children with a center-based, child-driven, and discovery-learning environment. The classroom activities and learning opportunities are designed to meet the developmental needs of all children, and are intended to be intellectually engaging and provide a stimulating responsive environment. When visiting these classrooms teachers can be seen providing children with a rich variety of experiences, projects, materials, problems and ideas to explore and investigate, to ensure activities are worthy of the child's attention and are developmentally appropriate.

The staff models literacy skills in the classroom, encourages children to explore books, identifies environmental print, and plays games with letters, words and numbers to further enhance the development of early literacy skills by following the Literacy First framework. Students learn to use language to communicate ideas and feelings and solve problems. The classroom is print rich with classroom labels and a variety of reading and writing materials. There are many opportunities to explore and participate in literacy games, activities, and listen to both fiction and non-fiction text.



Superintendent of Schools, Paul Larkin, visits with pre-school students as they eat breakfast.

The social-emotional, physical, cultural and aesthetic developmental needs of the children in the program are met by providing the children with exposure to a well-defined developmentally appropriate setting. Specifically, classroom centers meet the developmental needs of all children by encouraging students to differentiate between themselves and others, appropriate personal exchanges, and forming friendships. Centers are designed to meet the five developmental domains: fine motor, gross motor, sensory, dramatic play, and reading/literacy.



A pre-school student practices letter recognition through a matching activity using colored blocks and a letter chart.

Links to USD 480 District Information

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[School Board Agenda](#)
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For more information regarding Early Childhood Education at USD 480 visit:
<https://www.ksheadstart.org/elc/liberal>

For more information regarding the importance of Early Childhood Education visit:
<http://www.nea.org/home/18226.htm>

District Leaders and BOE Members Take the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge !

Click on the photo to watch the USD 480 District Leaders and Board of Education Members accept the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge issued by Dr. Dennis of USD 457 in Garden City. Superintendent Larkin issues a challenge to the City of Liberal, Seward County, and Seward County Community College and Technical School. "It's a very worthwhile cause, and I was glad to be a part of it," said Donna Sill, USD 480 Director of Data and Testing.



USD 480 Family Resource Center Information

The Family Resource Center, located within Washington Elementary, provides parents, teachers, and community members with the resources needed to support children's learning experiences, as well as offering parenting support through a variety of services. Over 1,000 items including educational toys, children's books, videos, and parenting resources are available for check out for a two week peri-

od. Parents can also sign up for monthly workshops covering a variety of topics. While some provide a "make and take" activity, others focus on providing information and resources for parenting support. Most workshops are offered at no charge, and pre-enrollment is encouraged. The Family Resource Center also offers craft supplies and die cuts. Materials such as construction paper, poster

board, counter pieces, folders, tissue paper, card stock, stickers, tag board, foam, colored printing paper, Velcro, and magnetic sheets are available at a reasonable cost. There is also a laminating system, sticker maker, poster maker, printer, copier, and a binding machine. The Family Resource Center also features a computer lab that offers the Rosetta Stone program which provides the opportunity for

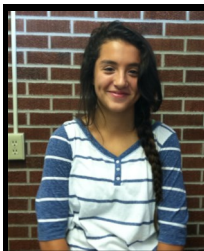
learning or improving English speaking skills. The Family Resource Center is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Saturday openings are posted on location at 840 N. Washington St. inside Washington Elementary School. For more information, call Alex Gutierrez, Assistant Coordinator, at (620)604-2139.



Student Spotlight: MacArthur Elementary West Middle School



"My favorite thing about being in 3rd grade is learning things, and also the teacher, Ms. Wyrick. She teaches us a lot. She's very helpful and also kind. I wouldn't change anything about my school because it's actually already awesome! My favorite subject is Math because I'm so good at it, and in some ways it's fun. You learn things that you need to know. I'm not sure I have a favorite teacher because they are all just as good to me. The subject I hope to learn more about this year is Math, of course! I'm not sure about my plans for the future. I think I might like to be a librarian. I like Liberal because most of the people here are kind of nice. The skies look awesome in the morning! Sometimes they're pink, orange, purple, or all of those colors at the same time. When I'm not at school I like to watch TV, play video games like Raving Rabbits, and go outside to play, basically just relaxing."



"My favorite thing about being in 8th grade at West is sports. I like cross country and track. If I could change one thing about school it would be the time we start because it's too early! My favorite class is PE because I like to play the games and learn about the human body. I don't have a favorite teacher. I like all my teachers because they're all good at what they do. I'm not like most teenage girls because I'm more calm. I don't like drama. I worry about myself not anybody else. I hope to get better at math because I'm not very good at it, but I try! Someday I hope to get a cross country scholarship to KU and be a mechanic. I like to learn about cars. If there aren't guys around we (girls) have to learn about different stuff. I know how to check the oil. I like Liberal because it's small, and we all know each other. When I'm not at school, I like to long board at the skate park, and I have done mixed martial arts, boxing and jujitsu. They are good sports to get out your frustration."

District Spotlight: USD 480 Newcomer Center

The Newcomer Registration Center is the point of entry into the Liberal Public School System for all new students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Language Proficiency tests are administered at the center to determine whether immigrant students qualify for services in the USD 480 District English as a Second Language Program.

In addition, the Newcomer Center provides a variety of services for new students and parents prior to enrollment at appropriate schools in the district. New students and their families have access to the following services:

- Parent/student orientation
- Language assessment
- School and grade placement
- Evaluation of transcripts
- School information
- Bus information
- Community resource information and Immunization information



The USD 480 Newcomer Center is located next to Lincoln Elementary School at 1002 W. 11th St. (11th & Tulane)

Parent/Student Orientation

The Newcomer Registration Center provides orientation for new students and their parents which will include information about the following:

- Residential zones
- Attendance rules
- Homework help
- Transportation
- Testing Requirements
- Graduation Requirements
- Community Resources

To register, parents and students must bring:

- Proof of birth
- Proof of residence in Liberal
- Proof of guardianship
- Immunization records
- School records

For more information, contact:

newcomer.center@usd480.net
604-1621



Sara Carrillo (left) and Veronica Nunez (above) provide information and support for parents and families at the USD 480 Newcomer Center.

U.S.D. 480 Liberal Public Schools

Points for Parents: Get Ready, Get Set, Get Back to School with Ease



School has started again! That means it's time to introduce (or reintroduce) the routines that will make your family's lives run smoothly. These same routines, research shows, can also help your child do better in school. Consider calling a family meeting to brainstorm better ways to accomplish necessary tasks. To get the ball rolling:

- **Ask your child** what daily efforts were the toughest last year. Did he find himself racing for the bus? Arriving at school without something he needed? Could he finish homework and still have time to play?
- **Make a plan together.** Don't start by changing everything—focus on one or two things that will make a real difference.
- **Establish an evening routine.** List the things everyone should do before bedtime. That's the time to find gym shoes. Your child should also make sure his homework is in his folder, the folder is in his backpack, and the backpack (with the gym shoes!) is on a "launchpad" by the door.
- **Set a reasonable bedtime.** It's the best way to have a happier and more stress-free morning. And your child will be relaxed and ready to learn when he gets to school.

Source: Michigan Department of Education, "What Research Says About Parent Involvement in Children's Education," niswc.com/ready

Online Learning Activities for Families

Elementary/Intermediate- activities for elementary



ABCya.com is the leader in free educational kids computer games and students to learn on the web. All children's educational computer activities were created or approved by certified school teachers. All educational games are free and are modeled from primary grade lessons and enhanced to provide an interactive way for children to learn.

Secondary- You don't have to be a genius to understand the work of the Nobel Laureates. These games and simulations, based on Nobel Prize-awarded achievements, will teach and inspire you while you're having FUN! Visit <http://www.nobelprize.org/educational/>



District Contact Names and Numbers

Central Office

401 N. Kansas Ave.
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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
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Gloria Quattrone, Principal
Washington Elementary
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Traci Mettlen, Principal

