

*"Where Success is
Measured One
Student at a Time"*

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EDUCATION
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Principal: Deanna Scherer

(913) 833-2240

Elementary School

Principal: Mandi McMillan

(913) 833-4420



*Happy Thanksgiving!
To You And Your Family*

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Unified School District #377

Atchison County Community Schools



N o v e m b e r 2 0 1 6

E f f i n g h a m , K S

The Winds of Change are blowing across Kansas - Redefining Student Success, the Kansans Can Initiative.

What you need to know about Kansans Can and how it will affect USD 377

A year ago, the Kansas State Board of Education adopted a new vision for education in Kansas - Kansas leads the world in the success of each student. A vision crafted after spending a year of canvassing parents, community members, educators, and business leaders across the state. Leading the charge for change is our new Commissioner of Education, Randy Watson - "We are excited about this endeavor, and we want you, your staff members, your students and your parents to be excited, too."

During the statewide visits, Kansans were asked to share their thoughts on education; particularly what they believe defines a successful 24-year old, and what are the essential characteristics and skills for an employee, and more. From these discussions, five outcomes were identified to help measure the progress toward achieving the new vision: 1) Kindergarten Readiness, 2) Individual Plans of Study focused on career interests, 3) high school graduation rates, 4) student social/emotional growth and 5) postsecondary attainment. What does this mean for Kansas schools? Let me offer the following example as a point of context for where we are heading.

Over the weekend, while eating out with my wife in Atchison, we ran into Tobin Warriner, an ACCHS graduate. I asked Tobin how he was doing and his response was priceless. When he spoke, there was a sense of pride and passion in his voice. To paraphrase, Tobin said he was doing great and that he is working as a carpenter down in KC. He then made a point to impress upon us, in a very passionate and inspirational way, how much better life is when your job is something that you love doing. It was a simple, yet very powerful message. Talk about a Tiger Pride moment.



So what does this brief interaction between a superintendent and former student have to do with educational reform in Kansas? It's all about how we define success. Tobin is an example of what success can look like. It is something we want for all of our children - to be happy, productive, and living life to its fullest. I think that too often education tends to focus on the wrong things or tries to guide or steer students down a particular path when we should concentrate on providing them with the tools needed to be successful in whatever endeavor they choose.

In this new era of Kansans Can, I am hopeful we can continue to focus on providing a rigorous academic program, while at the same time help our students develop personal characteristics they will need to succeed in life with less focus on high stakes testing. Personal characteristics such as valuing of hard work, perseverance, being responsible and accountable, showing up on time, and overcoming adversity and hard times. Most of all, we need to help our students discover not only what they are good at, but what they are passionate about, as well.

November 2016



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1 Graduation Orders Due JH WR Quad @ Oskaloosa 4pm JHGBB (H) Hiaw. 4:30p	2 After-Prom Mtg. 6pm	3 JHGBB (H) Perry 4:30pm	4 Highland College Visit 9am-1pm Fall Musical 7-9pm AfterProm Dinner 5-6:30pm	5 Fall Musical 7-9pm
6 Fall Musical 2-4pm	7 JHGBB @ Holton 4:30pm	8 JV Scholar's Bowl @ NC 4pm 4/5 Fall Music Program 7pm Winter Sports Parent Mtg. 6pm (BB & WR)	9 JSH Site Council 6pm 6th Grade HCC/BC College Visit	10 JHWR @ Onaga 4pm JHGBB @ Sabetha 4:30pm K-1 Music Program 7pm	11 Veterans Day Ceremony @ JSH 9-11am	12 District Honor Band Auditions Science Club Field Trip
13	14 JHWR Quad @ Perry 4pm JHGBB (H) Riverside 4:30pm BOE Mtg. 6:30pm	15 KU College Visit 9am-1pm Washburn Math Day JV Scholar's Bowl @ Desoto 4pm HS Scholar's Bowl @ Sabetha 4pm Elementary Site Council 7pm	16 FFA Leadership School 9-11am Fall Sports Athletic Banquet 6:30pm @ HS Commons	17 HS Scholar's Bowl @ JH 4pm JHGBB (H) RV 4:30pm	18 HS Science Club Movie Night 5:30pm	19 JHWR (H) 9am
20	21 JHGBB @ JW 4:30pm JHWR Quad (H) 4:30pm	22 2nd Grade Field Trip JDLA Early Dismiss	23	24 Happy Thanksgiving 	25 	26
27	28 JHWR Quad @ Oskaloosa 4pm JHGBB @ Hiaw. 4:30pm	29 HS Scholar's Bowl @ Desoto 4pm	30 FFA Horse Judging Winter Sports Pictures			

Thanksgiving Break

BOE News and Highlights

The USD 377 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, October 12 at 6:30 at the Board of Education Office.

Presentations were given by ACCHS Audio-Visual Club and FFA.

Consent Items approved:

*Minutes from September 12, 2016.

*Activity Reports, Bills & Claims, Treasurer's Report.

*Gifts and Grants.

*Keystone Correspondence.

*Coaches Handbooks.

Action Items:

*Student Trips approved as presented.

*Personnel Recommendations Approved: Chris Willis—Emergency Sub; Adria Simecek—Teacher's Aide/Para Sub; Jason Floyd resignation; Bob Kiser—HS Baseball Coach; Drew Johnson—JH Boys Basketball Coach.

*Approved the purchase of new AV Equipment to provide the club with some much needed equipment.

*Approved to accept a federal REAP grant in the amount of \$27,893.

*Approved a request by Emily Henderson to conduct 10 hours of observation in Mr. English's classroom as part of her college coursework.

*Approved Kansas Education Systems Accreditation teams as presented.

*Approved a list of preferred vendors.

*Approved JSH Band Fundraiser.

*The next board of education meeting will be held on November 14 in the Board Office at 6:30pm.



SERC
Physical & Hand Therapy

Sports Medicine

 Injury Prevention
  Concussion Management

 Sports Performance
  Sports Med Evaluations

913-370-9500

PARENTS AS TEACHERS

From the beginning of life, developmental progress is continually influenced by choices parents make about nurturing the development of their child. Many parents know that early experiences are important for their child's well-being, but they may not know when, how, and what is needed to foster their child's development. PAT is here to help. If you are pregnant or have a child under 3, call Lisa Smith 913-370-3680 for more information about this free program.



Please go to
usd377.org for
monthly
Breakfast and
Lunch menus!

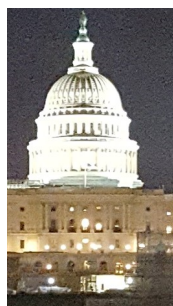


NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The Atchison County Community Schools, USD #377, Effingham, Kansas, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs or activities. Anyone having questions regarding compliance with Title VI, Title IX, Americans With Disability Act or Section 504 may contact: Steve Wiseman, Superintendent of Schools, 306 Main Street, P.O. Box 289, Effingham, KS 66023-0289 (Title VI, Title IX, ADA, and Section 504 Coordinator).

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

By Deanna Scherer



I recently had the opportunity to travel to Washington, DC, to attend a National Conference on Character Education. The conference itself highlighted exemplary practices in schools throughout the nation who have created a culture that emphasizes good choices, social justice, and educational equity. Atchison County Community schools emphasizes the importance of a rural community in their

creed and this conference gave me the chance to reflect on who our families are, what we hope for in our students, and what plans we have to get them where they want to go.

One can learn many things while in Washington DC that have to do with hopes, dreams, and reality. I share with you the top five things I took away from the conference and the trip that affect what I do as an administrator in our school district.

(1) The United States continues to be a melting pot of people, maybe more of a salad bowl, as we mix nationality, color, culture, and heritage. The Character Education conference hosted people from international countries and states throughout our nation. Washington DC hosts people of every nation each day. We can live and work together, and we emphasize this sense of community in our schools.

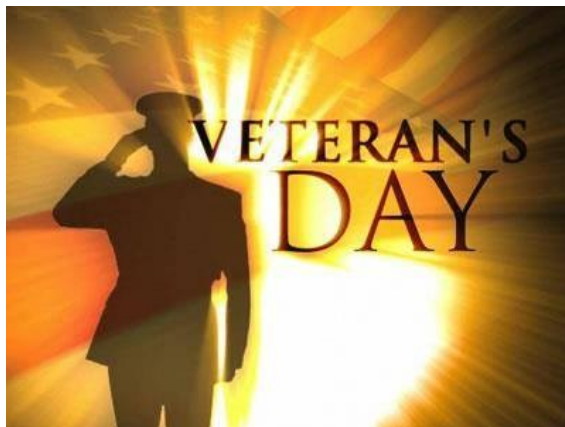
(2) Patriotism Prevails while in DC. Seeing all of the federal buildings, walking in the footsteps of those influential leaders who have gone before us, visiting the stunning memorials (Korean War, Vietnam War, World War II, Lincoln

Memorial, Washington monument, and the list goes on), and seeing how the dignity of Arlington National Cemetery is maintained moved me to tears many times over and renewed my sense of patriotism. As we prepare for our Veteran's Day ceremony in our building, I am reminded how important this day of remembrance should be.

(3) Diversity is Bountiful. The Character Conference had many sessions providing guidance and understanding for teachers in working with diverse students. Diversity allows us to see the difference in people—money, status, academic intelligence, virtue, privileges, cultural, and many more. The trip exposed me to diversity from the time I boarded the plane in Kansas City, throughout the time at the conference and in DC, and all the way back home. People are still people, everywhere you go.

(4) Patience and Politeness go a long way in winning the race. People were running, standing, bicycling, honking, driving, speeding, and moving somewhere all hours of the day and night. I am pretty sure I completely wore out a pair of shoes with all of the walking. I know we will have students who will be a part of this movement in their future.

(5) There's no place like home. The beauty of Washington DC, the beauty of hearing success stories out of people from North Carolina, Italy, Florida, Michigan—you get the picture—still doesn't compare to watching a setting sun where combines and overflowing grain trucks crawl through the horizon towards the end of their day. Our Mid-western character still holds my heart.



The ACCHS chapter of the National Honor Society will host a Veteran's Day ceremony on Friday, November 11, 2016, at 9:00 am in the JSH Gym. If you are a Veteran and would like to be a part of the ceremony, please contact Ms. Jenna Hawk at the JSH at (913) 833-2240 by Friday, November 4th. Local citizens, survivors of veterans, and the community are invited to join us as we honor our local veterans.

In order for us to provide proper seating, please arrive fifteen minutes early so we may start the program promptly at 9:00 am.



Senior Citizens Holiday Dinner

Superintendent's Fifteenth

Annual Invitation

December 7, 2016

A Special Holiday Tradition

It is my pleasure to extend this special invitation to senior citizens residing in the Atchison County Community School District to attend the fifteenth annual Senior Citizens Dinner. Last year 82 senior guests were welcomed with a warm meal (Holiday meal with all the fixing's), colorfully designed place-mats (provided by the elementary school students) and table decorations that were given away as door prizes. This is one celebration that no senior citizen can afford to miss (free to all senior citizens).

Please RSVP by Monday, November 28th

Senior guests are asked to mark Wednesday, **December 7, at 11:00 am** on their calendars. Let us know you plan to attend by calling the district office at (913) 833-5050 on or before November 28th to help our cooks and staff in their preparations. This special dinner will be held at ACCJSH School. A special sign-up sheet will be available at the "Town and Country" Senior Center in Effingham. (Alternate date will be December 9th)

Building Character & Community Pride

Atchison County Community School employees are working hard to keep our community of schools strong. Staff members work each and every day toward the goal of educating a new group of graduates who are able to serve as worthy stewards of our community trust. Our students need this community event to help them understand the importance of character and pride. Please come and share in this sincere demonstration of appreciation by our students, staff and administration for a lifetime of hard work and dedication that the USD 377 senior citizens contribute to our community to schools.

First Grade News!

Wow, first quarter has flown by! First grade is ready to take on the challenge of the 2nd nine weeks! This year we've implemented a Guided Reading Program, which provides our students with balanced reading opportunities appropriate to their reading levels. Guided reading functions as differentiated small-group instruction, assessment, and independent practice.

At the beginning of the school year, each classroom took a couple weeks to establish routines and procedures as well as what is to be expected of the student during independent and small-group instruction. After Labor Day, we dove full force in to our Guided Reading Program. The students have a specific teacher for their reading level and rotate between four groups during Guided Reading, which takes place from 8:05am to 9:20am. During small-group instruction, students are teacher lead using decodable books build fluency, work on comprehension and phonics. The students have been and will continue to bring home books we read during small-group instruction in their Kiwi Bags. Please continue to read these books with your child.

While a group of students are working during small-group instruction, students may be working independently or with their peers. During this time they work on writing, word work, and silent reading or listening to books on audio. Writing during guided reading rotations consists of student free choice or topics chosen by the teacher. Word work consists of spelling word practice, phonics and phonemic awareness skills, and sight words.

Please continue to assist your child with their reading in the evenings! It's a great time for you to work together with your child to see how they're progressing. Happy Fall!



November News!

We had a great start to the 2016-17 school year! Students and staff have settled in and the year is moving quickly. It's hard to believe Thanksgiving is right around the corner.

As we begin our holiday season please remember to communicate with the office for planned family vacations. This will allow our teachers to communicate with you about upcoming activities and assignments. The holiday season is an exciting time at our elementary school. Teachers and students enjoy holiday themed units filled with crafts, stories, and activities that highlight this special time of the year.

Please continue to access our building's website for upcoming events and special notices.



Reading Competition!

ACCES students held a word reading competition during the first 9 weeks of school. It was boys vs. girls! The challenge was to read as many books as they could, and take (and pass) an Accelerated Reader test on that book. The words per book were tallied by AR per student in 2nd-6th grade. The results were tallied last week—Boys—2,243,037 Girls—4,372,921. What an incredible feat everyone accomplished! The 2nd-6th grade Girls earned an ice cream sundae party. The next challenge has begun! It's students vs. teachers. This competition will end just before Winter Break! Ready, Set, Go!



SNAPSHOTS OF ATCHISON COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



2016 Homecoming Royalty

Pictured above are Ashley Pieper,
Queen Bailey Buttron, Savanna
Cohorst, Noah Domann, King Lane
Bowen and Jacob Chalfant.



Varsity Football Pink Out!!



The 2nd-6th grade girls ice cream party!



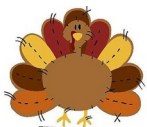
FFA NEWS

Our FFA chapter had a wonderful learning opportunity this morning to listen to a presentation with Doug Grimm from Grimm's Garden about proper fruit tree installation. Students learned how to properly dig the hole, place the tree and how to care for it for the upcoming months to years

of the trees life. They also had the opportunity to watch as he performed the actions he was describing to the students. The presentation offered a wealth of information for our students. Our FFA members had the opportunity to assist Doug in planting the first fruit tree



for the ACCHS Outdoor Learning Campus. There will be 12 total fruit trees, a combination of apple and pear, that will be planted over the course of the next few days.



Happy Thanksgiving

The next Board of Education Meeting is scheduled for November 14 @ 6:30 pm.



USD #377 is currently looking for individuals to fill substitute positions for Teacher, Food Service, Teacher Aide, Custodial and Bus Driver. If you would like more information or would like to apply for a substitute position, contact USD #377 Board of Education Office at (913) 833-5050 or drop by at 306 Main St., Effingham, KS. USD #377 does not discriminate on the basis or race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age.

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