

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

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EDUCATION  
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Deanna Scherer  
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Elementary School

Principal:  
Mandi McMillan  
(913) 833-4420



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(913) 370-5889

Corey Neill

(913) 426-0769

Greg Smith

(913) 370-7700

# Unified School District #377 Atchison County Community Schools



N o v e m b e r 2 0 1 8

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

## **Preparing for the Needs of Today's and Tomorrow's Students through a Strategic Planning Process**

To ensure that USD 377 is fiscally responsible and focused on improvement, the district has embarked upon a thorough Long Range Strategic Planning process. The process began prior to the start of the school year by gaining insight from a contingent group of community members and will continue throughout the school year.

A group of 10 -12 community members met on June 11 & 18 to provide input into their perception of the schools. With the assistance from representatives of the Kansas Association of School Boards, the group discussed the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats of the school district. The information from the community group was then compiled into themes and presented to the School Board and administration for guidance during the completion of the plan.

Utilizing the information from the community group, the school board and administration identified three purpose statements for the school district moving forward.

**Provide Quality Educational Opportunities Designed to Produce  
Well Rounded Students with a Solid Foundation for Lifelong  
Learning.**

**Unite the Communities and Schools in Support of the Success of  
Each Student.**

**Provide Each Student a Stable, Efficient and Safe Learning Environment.**

The overall strategic plan is still a work in process and will be comprised of objectives that will guide the district in achieving these purpose statements. These objectives will contain both short and long term items to be accomplished. The plan will allow the district to budget for the appropriate use of resources and ensure consistent improvement.

# November 2018



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				<b>1</b> Kansas Honors Program @ Lawrence JHGBB (H) Everest 4:30pm HCC Visit for 9th Graders 9-11am HS Scholar's Bowl @ Topeka High 4pm	<b>2</b> Elementary Picture Re-takes	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> PLC Day/No School JHGBB @ P-Ridge 4:30pm	<b>6</b> KU College Visit 9am -12pm JV Scholar's Bowl @ NC 4pm WR Parent Mtg. 6pm	<b>7</b> District Site Council @ JSH Library 6pm	<b>8</b> JHWR Quad (H) 4pm Parents Night 8GBB @ Atchison 4pm 7GBB (H) Atchison 4pm	<b>9</b> Fall Musical @ JSH 7pm Dessert Bar @ Intermission	<b>10</b> SH District Honor Band Auditions @Eudora Fall Musical @ JSH 7pm Dessert Bar @ Intermission
<b>11</b> Fall Musical @ JSH 2pm Dessert Bar @ Intermission	<b>12</b> Veterans Ceremony @ JSH 9:30am SH BB/WR Parent Mtg. 6pm JHWR Quad @ Atchison 4pm JHGBB (H) St. Benedicts 4:30pm	<b>13</b> V Scholar's Bowl @ Prairie Hill 4pm BOE Mtg. @ JSH Library 5pm 4/5/6 Fall Vocal Concert @ JSH 7pm Washburn Math Day JV Scholar's Bowl @ Cair Paravel 4pm	<b>14</b> SH Fall Sports Awards & Banquet @ JSH Commons 6:30pm	<b>15</b> JV/V Scholar's Bowl @ JH 4pm JHGBB (H) JH 4:30pm	<b>16</b> Washburn College Visit 9am-2pm Positivity Assembly JSH 10am/Elem 1pm	<b>17</b> JH WR (H) 9am
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> JHWR Quad @ Silver Lake 4pm JHGBB (BCA) @ Oskaloosa 4:30pm	<b>20</b> JH/SR Winter Sports Pictures	<b>21</b> Thanksgiving Break No School	<b>22</b> Happy Thanksgiving No School 	<b>23</b> Thanksgiving Break No School	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> JHWR Quad @ P-Ridge 4pm JHGBB (H) McLouth 4:30pm Parents Night	<b>27</b> MO West College Visit 9:30am-2pm V Scholar's Bowl @ Desoto 4pm	<b>28</b> K-State College Visit 10am-1pm	<b>29</b> JHGBB @ JCN 4:30pm JV/VWR @ JW 5pm	<b>30</b> FR/JV/VBB (H) Oskaloosa 5pm	

## BOE News and Highlights

The USD 377 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, October 10th at 6:30 at the Board of Education Office.

\*The agenda was approved as presented.

\*The consent agenda was approved as presented.

\*Leadership Reports:

Megan Gracey spoke to the board about health insurance open enrollment and upcoming audit fieldwork. Mandi McMillan reported on Elementary School happenings which included: Anti-bullying month and red ribbon week, Body Venture, Title I Reading and Math night, Parent-teacher conference participation and enrollment numbers. Cy Wallisch announced that the District would be 2A in all activities except music this year. Deanna Scherer gave a Junior-Senior High update which included: Reading Circles, Tier 2 reading class for the 7-9 grade students, Walk about Wednesday, Job shadowing and community service requirements, Parent-teacher conference participation and enrollment numbers. Dr. Gaddis gave an update on upcoming professional learning opportunities, Safety and Security night, Maintenance projects, ACT and Work Keys assessment, and Community engagement opportunities. Barb Chapman gave a Keystone update.

\*Strategic Plan Update:

Dr. Gaddis updated the Board on the progress he and the administrative team have made on the strategic plan objectives.

\*November Board Meeting Date/Time change:

Due to conflict with the elementary school fall vocal concert, the November 13th board meeting will be moved to the high school library and start at 5pm.

The next board of education meeting will be held on November 13th in the JSH Library at 5pm.



Please go to  
[usd377.org](http://usd377.org)  
for monthly  
Breakfast and  
Lunch Menus!

## 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.

If you are pregnant or have a child under 3, please contact Elize Cilliers at (620) 388-1825 for more information about this free program.

## NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

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To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) Mail: :U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

**Atchison County Community  
Schools Holiday Dinner  
For Senior Citizens  
Sponsored by KAYS  
December 5, 2018  
A Special Holiday Tradition**



It is our pleasure to extend this special invitation to senior citizens residing in the Atchison County Community School District to attend the Atchison County Community Schools Holiday Dinner for Senior Citizens. Last year senior guests were welcomed with a warm meal (Holiday meal with all the fixing's), colorfully designed placemats (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 26th**

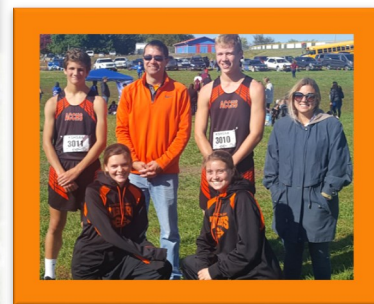
Senior guests are asked to mark Wednesday, December 5th, at 11:00 am on their calendars. Let us know that you plan to attend by calling the district office at (913) 833-5050 on or before November 26th to help our cooks and staff in their preparations. This special dinner will be held at ACCJSH School. A special sign-up sheet will be available at the "Town and Country" Senior Center in Effingham. (Alternate date will be December 6th)

**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 of schools.



# SNAPSHOTS OF ATCHISON COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



ATCHISON COUNTY



## JSH NEWS

By Deanna Scherer

I was driving west on Friday evening to watch ACCHS play football at Horton--what a spectacular sunset I was privileged to and I hope many of you were able to experience that one. Seeing the combines in the field against the sunset and then seeing the Tigers take a win over Horton was so satisfying. We always remember those things that make us who we are--rural, hard-working, ambitious, dedicated, and proud! Rock Steady, Tigers!

Been thinking lately about some of those attributes and the skills that our students learn from those who influence them the most--their parents, their friends and family, their neighbors, and their teachers. Problem solving skills are those that are modeled and demonstrated so we can learn from those who have experience. As a friend recently penned--those of us with experience have spirit, courage, and survival skills that we have learned along the way. One might call it, "we've all had to learn some from the school of hard knocks," borrowing an old cliché.

There really are four steps in problem solving, even though we sometimes get caught in one or more and never get through them all...

1. identify and define the real problem
2. generate some solutions or alternative solutions
3. select which alternative we are going to use
4. implement the solution

We could add a 5th one which would be (5) start all over again if 1-4 don't work. Hmmmm? Maybe the problem wasn't correctly identified, or maybe the alternatives weren't the best alternatives, and lastly, maybe the solution that was chosen wasn't the real solution.

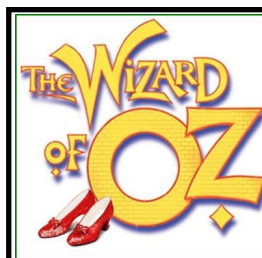
Now this could be where some failure comes about. Some people just aren't so good about their problem solving skills. We like to help our students by educating them in problem solving: math problem solving, scientific reasoning, how to set up and write a good essay, how to build a worthwhile project, how to analyze a political party or a strategy used in a war regime, maybe even how to correctly position their weight lifting stance. There are also skills that students learn while in school to help them with their problem solving including creativity, research methods, team work, risk management, and decision making.

As John Foster Dules, Former US Secretary of State once said, "The measure of success is not whether you have a tough problem to deal with, but whether it is the same problem you had last year." These are probably good words for all of us to think about. Learn from our problems, Learn to solve our problems, and Learn not to have the same problem over and over again.

Enjoy the month of November and Happy Problem Solving ahead. With the holidays approaching us, we probably all



have something to work out and solve before those big family gatherings. Help your students to problem solve on their own--let them experience some of those things you did, those which helped you to become who you are today.



Don't miss out on the JSH production of  
**The Wizard of Oz!**

November 9th--7pm

November 10th--7pm

November 11th--2pm

A dessert bar will be featured during intermission at each performance.

## BAND NEWS

By Alicia Kerwood

October has been a busy month for the band this year! The Tiger Pride Band hosted the 4th annual Alumni/Junior High Band night with double the participation from last year! We welcomed recent grads as well as not so recent grads back to the field on October 12th as well as the junior high band members to entertain the crowd for halftime of Senior Night. Just the very next morning sophomore snare drum player Tanner Buttron participated in the K-State Drumline Day clinic. His day started at 3:30 am and ran until 3:30 pm! He participated in the K-State marching band early morning rehearsal, a clinic, and then played in the halftime of the K-State football game. It was a great experience for him and he stated that "The biggest thing was the confidence." He felt like he gained new skills to bring back to the rest of the drumline. He was able to watch the K-State game for free and was able to sit with the band throughout the game.

On the next Saturday (October 20th), five other members of the high school band took a trip to Topeka to watch the Kansas Bandmasters Association Marching Band Competition. Bands from Kansas City, Topeka, and Wichita all competed in a ranked competition for title of Grand Champion. Noah Gregory, Samantha Wingo, Austin Acheson, Keegan Lott, and Cassandra Reynolds, enjoyed the evening of the finals, watching various bands perform everything from 1938 Radio Hour, to the winning show Spirit of Winter. They gained a lot from watching these bands play, from how important it is for everyone to know their role in the band, to what marching bands look and sound like from a distance and how exaggerated movements sometimes seem small from far away. It got them excited and ready for our next few weeks!

This month the band will also be performing in our first marching band festival at Mission Valley High School on October 24th. They have been working hard all season on their show and will receive ratings from two judges. The combined JSH band will also be performing in two Halloween parades, the Atchison Halloween Parade on October 27th and the Hiawatha Halloween Parade on October 31st.



## NOVEMBER ELEMENTARY NOTES

November is one of my favorite months of the year. The temperature is finally to the point where it is cold in the morning and beautiful during the day. The fall colors are in full swing and the smell of the leaves fills the air. November kicks off the holiday season that is focused on family, gratitude and kindness for others.

We have much to be grateful for here at Atchison County Community Elementary. We have a wonderful and caring staff; from our custodians, classroom aides, paraprofessionals, office staff and cooks to all of our teachers. I am grateful every day for the opportunity to work with all of them and I know your children are in good hands with our staff. We have supportive parents and community, along with a giving PTO and engaged BOE. We would like to express our thanks for all that you do to make ACCES the school it is today. Finally, thank you to our incredible students who challenge themselves every day to learn and be engaged, while also challenging us to become better people. They are why we are here every day!

We want to invite our community to become more connected to ACCES. Please make sure our office has the correct email for you. You should receive a weekly email update from us. If you don't, then we want help make sure that you do. For some of you, it may be that your email settings block our messages and for others, it may be that we do not have accurate information. If you are interested in receiving weekly announcements via email, please send your address to [bartlett.corey@usd377.org](mailto:bartlett.corey@usd377.org) and you will be added to the list. The elementary does have their own tab on the district website, [www.usd377.org](http://www.usd377.org), and we post on Facebook as well. We try to keep information up to date through social media, yet several classrooms send newsletters and information in your child's bookbag, too. You may have to open the bag and *dig deep* as I've noticed some students shove papers to the bottom of their backpack when it comes to information you, as a parent, may find important.



You are invited to join students for our traditional Thanksgiving lunch. This is a fun event and we love to welcome families to our Thanksgiving feast.



Our menu will include: roast turkey, mashed potatoes with gravy, glazed carrots, peaches, rolls and an apple pie cookie.

*Lunch shift times for this special event:*

*KG and 1<sup>st</sup> 10:45-11:20*

*2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> - 11:30-12:10*

*5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> - 12:15 - 12:50*

*Lunch prices: \$3.70 per adult and \$2.45 per child.*

*More information will be in your child's backpack on Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup>.*

## KINDERGARTEN NEWS

The first 9 weeks of Kindergarten have been exciting and busy. The students are continuing to learn and focus on classroom expectations as well as being respectful and responsible in the classroom. This year we have begun teaching Pathways to Reading, which focuses on letters, sounds and sight words. The letters and sounds we have learned so far are: m, n, f, v, p, and, b. We have learned 15 sight words so far and we are well on our way to making our goal of knowing over 50 sight words for the year! This Pathways program will continue to introduce students to new letters and sounds throughout the year to increase each students' phonemic awareness. Our focus in Writing has been generating ideas for narrative writing pieces, and learning how to tell a story with the use of pictures and labels. Students have been working hard in Math learning to represent and count numbers 1-10 as well as comparing sets. This month we will dive into the exciting world of addition! Science and Social Studies subjects have had our students focusing on Earth Science and well as Roles and Responsibilities.

Our first class party on Halloween was extremely fun and we want to thank all the parents that stepped up to help make it a success. Be sure to check out some of our recent artwork at the Effingham Senior Center this month!



## USD 377 Atchison County Community Schools

The Atchison County Community High School chapter of the National Honor Society will host a Veteran's Day Ceremony on Monday, November 12, 2018 at 9:30 am in the JSH School Gym. If you are a veteran and would like to be a part of the ceremony please contact the High School at (913) 833-2240 by November 2nd.

Local citizens 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 9:30am.



USD #377 is currently looking for individuals to fill substitute positions for Teacher, Teacher Aide, Custodial and Bus Driver.

If you would like to apply for a substitute position, please apply online at [usd377.org](http://usd377.org) under job listings. USD #377 does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age.

The next Board of Education Meeting is scheduled for November 13th @ 5 pm at the JSH.



# SERC

**Physical & Hand Therapy**

**Sports medicine**

**Injury Prevention**

**Concussion management**

**Sports Performance**

**Sports Med Evaluations**

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