



Douglass Unified School District No. 396,
921 East First Douglass, KS 67039

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The Bulldog Growl

December 2019



What's the deal with this "new math"?

By Christina Dunham

An explanation for parents struggling to understand why the approach to teaching math has changed.

All too often we hear parents' frustration with trying to help their child with math at home. Many parents wonder why students can't just, "learn the way we learned in school". Some parents feel that the instruction students are given is "too complex" and "has too many steps" to complete the problems. The biggest hurdle both teachers and parents face in learning how to comprehend, teach, and support students with the current state/national standards is that it is very different from the way they learned math.

In school, you probably learned how to do arithmetic using simple algorithms. You were told what to do with the numbers given using a specific procedure. You also probably learned various "tricks" to solve problems; think: "go next door and borrow ten more". The problem with learning mathematics in that way, is that for many students, there is never a deep understanding or "conceptual understanding" as to why you are completing that procedure or algorithm. If the lesson is about addition with regrouping, you were told how to do the problem, the steps in which to solve the problem, and that was it.

An article featured in Forbes and Apple News by Peter Kruger explained it like this: from decades of data and analysis of assessment scores, what researchers found was students were able to learn mathematics by rote memorization of particular algorithms, but could not apply that knowledge to advanced mathematics. Students lacked what researchers understood to be "number sense" or the intuitive understanding that numbers are made up of other numbers and that numbers relate to each other. In other words, students could perform basic mathematics easily enough, but algebra, trigonometry, or calculus became failure points because students had no understanding of how to manipulate equations in order to simplify or solve them. Students would get frustrated and give up because there weren't any simple methods or formulas anymore.

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In a recent KSDE conference, it was stated by the Kansas Commissioner of Education Dr. Randy Watson, that ‘the level of mathematical learning that we were taught using just traditional algorithms would equate to a “level 2” score on the state assessment’. Our goal is for students to score at a “level 3 or 4” on the state assessment. This would show that students are able to demonstrate an understanding and application of the mathematics needed to be college and career ready, and not just basic mathematics knowledge. In other words, students would be able to understand their mistakes in order to correct their work and explain what they have done and why.

Projected ACT Scores for Grade 8 KAP Performance Levels		
English Language Arts		
KAP	ACT Reading	ACT English
Level 1: 220–264	1–16	1–14
Level 2: 265–299	16–23	14–21
Level 3: 300–333	23–30	22–29
Level 4: 334–380	30–36	29–36
Mathematics		
KAP	ACT	
Level 1: 220–273	1–18	
Level 2: 274–299	18–22	
Level 3: 300–335	23–29	
Level 4: 336–380	29–36	

As teachers and administrators, we completely understand and sympathize with parents’ frustrations and concerns in regards to how math is being taught. We have had our fair share of “learning pains” right along with the students. Our district is committed to providing continuous professional development to support teachers with these instructional shifts. We want our students to learn at that deeper conceptual level and we will continue to support students through this process. We encourage parents to keep an open mind when helping students with math homework and assignments. Please reach out to your child’s teacher if you have any questions or need additional support with any of the mathematics concepts your child is learning. We appreciate your support as we continue on this journey through your child’s education.

BOE BRIEFS

The Douglass Board of Education met in regular session Monday, November 11, 2019 in the District Administrative Office

*approved donations:

Pizza Hut - \$164.70 – Elementary School

PTO - \$1,000.00 – Gold Card/Mystery Bash

*approved the Seal of Biliteracy

*offered employment to Todd Martin-High School Assistant Wrestling Coach



TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Elementary School	747-3350
Middle School	747-3340
High School	747-3310
Central Office	747-3300
Transportation	747-3370
Internet:	www.usd396.net

An Equal Employment/Educational Opportunity Agency

Douglass USD 396 does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, handicap, or age in admission or access to, or treatment of employment in, its programs or activities. For any questions regarding the district's compliance, please contact: USD 396 Superintendent of Schools, 921 East First, Douglass, KS 67039. (316)747-3300.

USD 396 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Brent Nispel	President
Les Braddy.....	Vice President
Mike Shirley	Member
Spencer Linville	Member
Becky Mitchell.....	Member
Troy Starr.....	Member
.....	Member
Rob Reynolds.....	Supt. of Schools

Policy on School Closings Due to Bad Weather

It is that time of the year again to remind everyone of our school closing policy:

If adverse weather conditions exist which threaten student transportation safety before school begins, the announcement will be sent out on the districts automated SCHOOL MESSENGER SYSTEM. School Messenger allows us to make an actual recorded phone call to every parent phone number in our school data base. We also make calls to several radio and television stations who will announce the closing information on the air. OUR MAIN CONCERN IS THE SAFETY OF ALL OUR PEOPLE!

Every effort will be made to finalize the decision no later than 5:30 a.m. of school closing due to adverse weather conditions. On mornings when icing is a concern, and forecasts suggest clearing, school may be delayed with a late start time of 10:00 a.m.

Decisions on school closings are made at the district level based on National Weather Service Data, county-wide school weather hotline, and early morning observations by the superintendent and transportation director. Please do not call before 5:30 a.m., as we will be analyzing data, making observations and preparing to make the decision.

School will not be dismissed due to storm conditions that arise during the day as long as it is feasible for students and staff to remain at school safely. The district is extremely reluctant to dismiss school early if the weather is severe.

Listed below are the radio and television stations that will be notified:

KFDI (101.3 FM) KAKE 10
KKRD (107 FM) KSNW - 3
B98FM/KFH (1330 AM)
KWCH - 12
KZSN (102.1 FM & 1480 AM)

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

ART SPOTLIGHT

Greetings again from the art room! I hope you enjoyed last month's Art Spotlight. We have one round of art each nine weeks. Each time, every grade gets the opportunity to work on two to three different projects. We will be starting our next round of art at the beginning of December and will work on some winter themed pieces and one of my favorites: Christmas presents! I won't get to show you what we've finished until January. However, with all of the great art that is produced with these kids, I have some more Best In Show pieces to share with you from our last round of art class. In 5th grade, one of our projects is actually more science than art. We build rockets. They do get to decorate them, and so I'm spotlighting one of their rockets as well. One of the best things about working with kids in art is seeing how incredibly creative their minds can be. Even though all of the projects are taught the same, each kid sees their piece differently. I always enjoy seeing the finished products. I hope you do as well!

Kndg – Hannah Edwards

1st – Cheyanne Bahm

2nd – Leif Winters

3rd – Bearick Adams

4th – Lucy Garrelts

5th – Lillie Crose

1st – Brylee Wixon

2nd – Hudson Plett

3rd – Jensen McCosh

Cheyenne Bahm - 1st



Leif Winters- 2nd



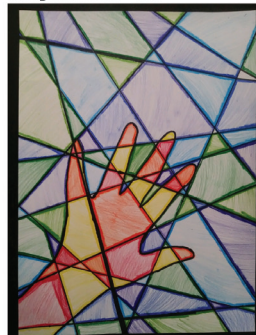
Bearick Adams - 3rd



Lillie Crose - 5th



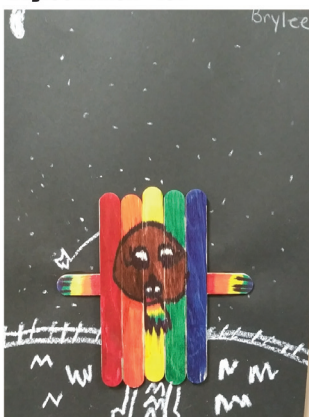
Lucy Garrelts- 4th



Hannah - Kndg.



Brylee Wixon - 1st



Hudson Plett - 2nd



Jensen McCosh - 3rd



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS



Breakfast At School

Mornings can be really crazy! The alarm doesn't go off, the kids don't want to get up, there's no time to eat breakfast before the bus comes or they're just not ready to eat. Or maybe your teenager grabs a can of soda and a candy bar on the way to school. If this sounds like your house, we have good news for you.

Breakfast is available at school! Take advantage of this option to ensure your child eats a nutritious breakfast. Recent studies show a link between nutrition and learning. A nutritious breakfast helps students be more alert, so they can actively participate in class. Breakfast has vitamins and nutrients for a strong and healthy body.

Breakfast at school is affordable, too. A full breakfast costs less than convenience store items. If you qualify for free and reduced-price meals, you also qualify for the breakfast program, with no additional paperwork. If you must pay, you'll find that breakfast often costs less than three dollars. Nowhere else will you find a balanced breakfast at such a low cost.

So, take advantage of this opportunity to start the day on the right foot. Your child will find breakfast at school provides not only a nutritious meal but also a relaxed atmosphere for socializing with friends and siblings.

We offer breakfast before school at Seal Elementary from 7:35 to 8:00 am. The Middle School students can either get a **grab n go breakfast** from our breakfast cart, **STARTING SEPTEMBER 16 AT 7:30 AM IN THE Middle School HALLWAY**, or **before school in the Middle School/High School kitchen**. High School students have two opportunities also for breakfast, before school or **2ND CHANCE BREAKFAST BETWEEN 1ST AND 2ND HOUR EACH DAY!**

Sisk Middle & Seal Elementary School

YEARBOOK ORDER FORM

ORDER BY:
02/14/2020

To purchase online, go to
jostensyearbooks.com.

Please Make Checks Payable to USD 396.
Please Note that Tax is not included, and you have to add it in at the bottom, so the total price of the book is \$25.00 (without any extras like personalization)

STEP 1: SELECT YOUR PACKAGE

Yearbook **\$23.04**

SIGNATURE PACKAGE \$38.04

Includes Yearbook, 1 Line of Personalization, Color Autograph Section and 5 Multicolor Signing Markers

★ STEP 2: PERSONALIZE YOUR YEARBOOK FOR \$6.45

Choose one personalization option: name, monogram or crest

☐ NAME

(29 characters max.)

☐ MONOGRAM

Mon 1

Mon 2

Mon 3

Mon 4

☐ CREST

Cre 1

Cre 2

Cre 3

Cre 4

Name for Crest 1, 3, 4 (9 characters max)

Crest 3 second line (12 characters max)

★ STEP 3: ADD ICONS* FOR \$4.61 EACH

***IMPORTANT:** To add icons, you must first purchase personalization in Step 2.

Enter the 4-digit icon code from the chart below into the boxes provided.

Icon 1

Icon 2

Icon 3

Icon 4

5236	5237	5238	5239	5240	5241	5242	5243	5244	5245
5246	5247	5248	5249	5250	5251	5252	5253	5254	5255
5256	5257	5258	5259	5260	5261	5262	5263	5264	5265
5266	5267	5268	5269	5270	5271	5272	5273	5274	5275
5276	5277	5278	5279	5280	5281	5282	5283	5284	5285
5286	5287	5288	5289	5290	5291	5292	5293	5294	5295
5296	5297	5298	5299	5300	5301	5302	5303	5304	5305
5306	5307	5308	5309	5310	5311	5312	5313	5314	5315
5316	5317	5318	5319	5320	5321	5322	5323	5324	5325

If you have questions, please call Customer Service at 1-877-767-5217.



34651 / 2020

STEP 4: ENTER YOUR INFORMATION AND TOTAL YOUR ORDER

Student Name: _____
 Grade: _____
 ID#: _____
 Homeroom: _____
 Contact Phone: _____
 Contact Email: _____

	Price	Quantity	Total
Enter Your Package Price			
Personalization	\$6.45		
Icon(s) ea.	\$4.61 x QTY		
Autograph Section	\$6.00		
Clear Protective Cover	\$6.00		
Photo Pockets	\$6.00		
Donate a Yearbook	\$23.04		
Flashbox	\$6.00		
World Beat	\$6.00		
Subtotal			
Tax	8.5%		
TOTAL			

YAY! THANKS FOR ORDERING! © 2018 Jostens, Inc. 181848A

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

PTO News

Congratulations goes to the family of Kayman Maness who won the Great Wolf Lodge package on November 1st! Thank you to all of the families who supported this fundraiser for PTO!

Donuts with Dad was a huge success again this year! The gym was filled with dads eating breakfast with their kiddos before school. Thank you to the moms who set up, served donuts, and took photos, Mrs. McCune for picking up donuts super early in the morning, and the Airmen from the Kansas Air National Guard for sitting with students who didn't have dads available.

Have you seen that the Playground Equipment arrived? While the installation of it will take quite a bit of time, the area has been blocked off and the process has begun!

Our final project before the end of 2019 is the Teacher Wishlist trees. Look for the trees outside of the gym and choose an ornament for your teacher's Christmas present. We have ornaments for the classroom teachers, specials teachers, speech, resource room, and office. Please deliver the gifts on or before December 20th.

PTO wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Katie McCosh
PTO President



SADD Members Attend Crime Stoppers Conference



Members attending were Emma Carr, Lauryn Gilpin, Ereka Hiser, Melissa Lehrman, Emily and Elvis Elder.

On Tuesday, November 19th, a group of SADD members attended the area Crime Stoppers Conference hosted by the Kansas and El Dorado Crime Stoppers Association. Area students gathered at Butler Community College for a fun and engaging day.

In the morning, keynote speaker David Crook spoke about bullying and the ways we can stop this in our schools. Speaker Russ Tuttle followed with a very enlightening address about online and human trafficking taking place in Kansas. Students learned about the danger signs and how to be aware of suspicious online activity.

In the afternoon, students worked in groups with students from other schools to create poster presentations about effective change in our schools. Judges awarded prizes for the top 3 presentations. Throughout the day, door prizes were given out and everyone went home with something.

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS



STUDENT COUNCIL CELEBRATES KINDNESS MONTH!

In October, the students listed below were nominated by staff members to be recognized for displaying exceptional kindness at DHS. All students also had the opportunity to send kind notes to one another. We are thankful for all the students and staff that make this school a great place to be!!

Nove Brockman
Jewella Cokeley
Courteney Dunagan
Hannah Grimmett
Lauren Henderson
Kaden Higdon
Natalie McCosh
Tessa Martin
Nate Moore
Charles Pearson
Emily Powell
Jon Scott

LEAGUE STUDENT COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Sixteen student leaders from DHS attended the annual League Student Council Workshop on Thursday, November 20th at the Independent School in Wichita. The Head of Upper School from Independent shared some great insights on being a good leader.

A good leader ...
has integrity.
listens.

puts others ahead of themselves.

Is not above any job or task.

understand that they're only as good as the
people around you.

takes responsibility for mistakes.

Being a good leader is about being a good person!

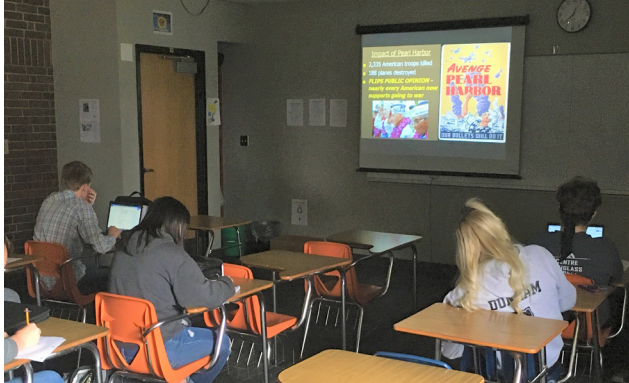
Following this opening speech, students had the opportunity to rotate through sessions to share ideas and discuss items such as community service, fundraising and budgeting, school spirit, and other activities with students from seven of the other schools in our league. It was a great day of learning, brainstorming and networking!

Lyndie Glidewell
Douglass High School



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Veteran's Day Study



Students learned about the attack on Pearl Harbor today and the sacrifices of those veterans that were there as part of our WWII unit in US History.



KAY Members Attend Regional Conference

On November 5th, Maize South hosted the annual KAY Regional Conference for Area 6. The theme this year is "Everyone can be a Hero." With over 20 schools in attendance, our representatives had the opportunity to share ideas and learn how KAY clubs can make a positive impact in our communities. Break out sessions focused on leadership, service and community involvement.

For the fourth year in a row, the Douglass High KAY Club was awarded the Gold Service Bar for the 2018-2019 school year. Awards are based on a culmination of community, state, national and world service. The Gold Award is the highest award presented at the Regional Conference.

Members attending the conference were Abby Strouth, Melissa Lehrman, Avery Roberts, and Kassie Davis.



DHS Visits Butler Community College

On November 11th DHS students enjoyed taking a campus tour, visiting with admission representatives and getting more information about specific programs at Butler Community College. DHS partners with BCC for dual credit courses and Early College Academies. Currently, we have 11 students earning their associate degrees through the Early College Academy and 13 students that are taking dual credit courses. We will be enrolling for spring semester on December 5th at 9:00 am in the DHS North Multi Purpose Room. We appreciate all the opportunities that BCC provides for our students.



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

High School Counselor

December

- 2-13 DHS Food Drive
- 5- Butler Community College Enrollment for Spring Semester
- 14- ACT Assessment @ DHS
- 20- End of First Semester-early dismissal at 1:00 p.m.

January

- 6- Second Semester Begins
- 10- Registration Deadline for Feb. 8th ACT
- 15-22KS Communities That Care Survey for Sophomores and Seniors
- 25- ACT given to all Juniors at DHS. Paid for by KSDE.

What Is a FAFSA?

All college students are expected to contribute towards their education costs. How much you and your family will be expected to contribute depends on your financial situation — and is what's called your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the form the U.S. Department of Education (ED) requires to determine your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The government conducts a "need analysis" based on financial information, such as income, assets, and other family information, which you (and your parents if you are a dependent student) will be asked to provide. Your application is examined by a federal processor and the results are sent by computer to the financial aid offices of the colleges you've chosen. The FAFSA is the application most colleges use to determine eligibility for federal, state, and college-sponsored financial aid, including grants, educational loans, and work-study programs.

Federal Financial Aid Steps

Be sure to fill out the FAFSA even if you think you won't qualify for federal aid.

1. Go to www.fafsa.gov to apply for a FAFSA ID. (Both the student and parent need to apply)
2. When you get your FAFSA ID go to www.fafsa.gov to complete the FAFSA
3. Follow up on your FAFSA. After you complete the FAFSA you will receive a SAR-Student Aid Report by email or mail. Go to www.fafsa.gov "check the STATUS of a submitted FAFSA".

BE AWARE OF DEADLINES: You may have to meet application deadlines, depending on your college and where you live. State and school deadlines are usually earlier than federal deadlines.





**Douglass High School
Toy and Food Drive
for the Douglass Ministerial Alliance
December 2nd - December 13th**

All items collected will go to the residents of Douglass

*Peanut Butter

*Soups

*Spaghetti Sauce

*Canned fruit and vegetables

All donations can be left at the HS/MS Offices.

Sponsored by KAY Club



Douglass

December, 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 HS Food and Toy Drive- 2:39pm HS IClass Club Meeting - Spirit Club- 4:30pm Basketball- G/Middle School Colwich Middle 5:30pm Basketball- B/Middle School Colwich Middle 6:00pm-7:00pm ES PTO Meeting- @ Elementary Library	2 HS Food and Toy Drive- 7:00pm 3/4 Vocal Concert and 5th Band Concert- @ HS Auditorium	3 HS Food and Toy Drive-	4 HS Food and Toy Drive- 7:00pm MS Band/Choir Concert- @ HS Auditorium	5 HS Food and Toy Drive- 8:00am-8:55am Student Athlete Leadership Team Meeting- @ HS Library 3:00pm Wrestling-Varsity/JV Valley Center vs. Multiple Schools 4:30pm Basketball-G/JV Norwich 4:30pm Basketball-B/JV Norwich 6:00pm Basketball- B/Freshman/Sophomore Norwich 6:00pm Basketball- G/Varsity Norwich 7:30pm Basketball-B/Varsity Norwich	6 9:00am Wrestling-Varsity/JV McPherson vs. Multiple Schools 9:00am Wrestling-G/Varsity McPherson 9:00am Wrestling-Varsity/JV Wichita-Southeast
8 HS Food and Toy Drive- 2:39pm HS IClass Club Meeting - FBLA- 2:39pm HS IClass Club Meeting - Art- 4:30pm Basketball-G/Middle School Kingman 4:30pm Basketball- B/Middle School Kingman 4:30pm Basketball-B/JV Sedgwick 4:30pm Basketball-G/JV Sedgwick 6:00pm Basketball- B/Freshman/Sophomore Sedgwick 6:00pm Board of Education Meeting- @ District Office 6:00pm Basketball- G/Varsity Sedgwick 7:30pm Basketball- B/Varsity Sedgwick	9 HS Food and Toy Drive- 5th Grade AR Caroling- 4:30pm Basketball-G/JV Fredonia 4:30pm Basketball-B/JV Fredonia 6:00pm Basketball- B/Freshman/Sophomore Fredonia 6:00pm Basketball- G/Varsity Fredonia 7:30pm Basketball- B/Varsity Fredonia	10 HS Food and Toy Drive- HS Picture Days- MS Picture Days-	11 HS Food and Toy Drive- 4:30pm Basketball-B/Middle School Garden Plain 4:30pm Basketball- G/Middle School Garden Plain 5:00pm Wrestling-G/Varsity Chase County 5:00pm Wrestling-Varsity/JV Chase County 6:00pm Basketball- G/Varsity Belle Plaine 7:30pm Basketball- B/Varsity Belle Plaine	12 HS Food and Toy Drive- HS NHS Community Service Hours Due- 7:00pm HS Band/Choir Concert- @ HS Auditorium	13 HS ACT Test Date- 9:00am Wrestling-Varsity/JV Great Bend 9:00am Wrestling-G/Varsity Great Bend 9:30am Wrestling- Varsity/JV Douglass vs. Multiple Schools	14
15 HS Food and Toy Drive- 2:39pm HS IClass Club Meeting - STEM- 4:30pm Basketball- B/Middle School Conway Springs 4:30pm Basketball-G/Middle School Conway Springs	16 4:30pm Basketball-G/JV Conway Springs 4:30pm Basketball-B/JV Conway Springs 6:00pm Basketball- B/Freshman/Sophomore Conway Springs 6:00pm Basketball- G/Varsity Conway Springs 7:30pm Basketball- B/Varsity Conway Springs	17 11:00am CPMSL League Meeting-	18 ES Ugly Christmas Sweater Day- @ Elementary School Vocal Department Caroling- 10:10am ES PreK AM Christmas Party- @ Elementary School 2:15pm ES Christmas Parties- @ Elementary School 4:30pm Basketball-B/JV Marion 4:30pm Basketball-G/JV Marion vs. Multiple Schools 4:30pm Basketball-G/Middle School Wichita Independent 4:30pm Basketball- B/Middle School Wichita Independent 6:00pm Basketball- B/Freshman/Sophomore Marion 6:00pm Basketball- G/Varsity Marion vs. Multiple Schools 7:30pm Basketball-B/Varsity Marion	19 Early Dismissal - 1:00pm- End of Semester- 3:00pm Wrestling-Varsity/JV Marion	20	21
22 Gyms Closed - KSHSAA Buffer Week-	23 Gyms Closed - KSHSAA Buffer Week-	24 Gyms Closed - KSHSAA Buffer Week-	25 Gyms Closed - KSHSAA Buffer Week-	26 Gyms Closed - KSHSAA Buffer Week-	27	28
29	30	31				