



USD 257 NEWSLETTER

Newsletter

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Welcome to our District Newsletter. We are excited to begin providing articles to the community about the great things happening in USD 257. At this point, the first semester of classes are ending and before we realize it, classes will resume in January. It has been a busy time with Winter Sports beginning, Holiday programs in full swing, and instructors finishing coursework for Fall classes. We hope everyone has a safe, restful, and enjoyable Holiday season.

Mr. Stacey Fager

USD 257 Superintendent



Calendar of Events

- Dec. 21 - Jan. 3 - Winter Break
- Jan. 4 - Classes Resume
- Jan. 15 - No School
- Feb. 2 - IHS Winter Homecoming
- Feb. 5-8 - Parent-Teacher Conference
- Feb. 8-9 - No School
- Feb. 19 - No School



JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY

Special Lunch Guests

By: Lori Maxwell

The students at Jefferson Elementary have enjoyed the company of some special lunch guests during November. Having family and community members visit the school is such a positive relationship-building experience for everyone.

On November 13th we had many of our community heroes at school during "Lunch With Heroes". We had representatives from the Allen County Sheriff's Department, Iola Police Department, Iola Fire Department, Kansas National Guard, and the 911 Emergency Management Center. Brian Donovan, OPAA Director, organized this event with the various local agencies. Students enjoyed talking with our hometown heroes, and loved giving high fives. Replica military dog tags, and Allen County Sheriff's medallions were given to students who had specially marked lunch trays.

Parents and families were invited to have Thanksgiving dinner with their children on Wednesday, November 15th. Jefferson staff hosted over 70 guests for lunch, and the students loved having their family members join them for the Thanksgiving meal. Schools are always looking for ways to include families, and engage them in their child's education. This event was a popular way to bring parents into the school in a positive way. We appreciate those who were able to make time to join us, and we hope to have more events like this one in the future.





LINCOLN ELEMENTARY



MR. JASON BATES

New Lincoln Elementary School Physical Education Teacher. Attended college at Labette Community College where he wrestled and Emporia State University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education.

Mr. Bates has a Master's Degree in Special Education and has worked for the ANW COOP at Lincoln Elementary School the past two years as the Behavioral Program Teacher. During this time, he has also been the head wrestling coach for Iola High School and Middle School.



MRS. DARCI LISHER

New 4th Grade Teacher at Lincoln Elementary School

Graduated from Iola High School. Attended Emporia State University where she received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education. She then attended Pittsburg State University where she earned her Master's Degree.

Mrs. Lisher had previously taught 4th grade at Lincoln before having to relocate for her husband's job. She stated that she is "excited to be back home and teaching 4th grade at Lincoln again!"



MRS. NICHOLE SIGG

New 3rd Grade Teacher at Lincoln Elementary School.

Graduated from Pittsburg State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. She was a cheerleader at Pittsburg State University while she was there. Her interests include crossfit, shopping, family, and teaching. A quote that she gave that sums up her first nine weeks of teaching is "Do small things with great love".



MISS KELSEY LARSON

New 3rd Grade Teacher at Lincoln Elementary School. Grew up in Iola and graduated from Iola High School.

Graduated from Ottawa University with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. She played basketball for Ottawa while she was in college.

When asked for a quote, Miss Larson stated "Being in my first year, you learn something new everyday. Most of the time it's something I don't know, so having a great mentor and support staff has been very helpful."



MRS. DARYL SIGG

Has taught in the classroom for 27 years and this year is the new librarian for Lincoln Elementary School.



MCKINLEY ELEMENTARY



Fun with 5th Grade Buddies

Each month, the Fifth grade students come to McKinley for 2 hours of educational fun. There is always a buzz of excitement as Kindergarten students anxiously anticipate their monthly visit with their Fifth Grade Buddies. What began two years ago as a cross-grade mentoring opportunity has developed into a tradition of genuine friendships and positive role modeling.



Activities are varied, with planning responsibilities shared by the Kindergarten and Fifth grade teachers. They include, but are not limited to, reading library books and taking Accelerated Reader tests, putting together puzzles, playing board games, working on the iPads and Chromebooks, crafts, assistance with classwork, and playing on the playground. The students also enjoy special celebration days including gingerbread activities, Kansas Day, spring activities, field day, and a visit to the middle school at the end of the year.



There are many benefits to both the Kindergarten and Fifth grade students. Older children embrace the sense of responsibility they feel for their younger buddies and serve as positive role models. All students benefit from the development of social skills, oral language, cooperation, and collaboration.



IOLA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Iola Middle School welcomed many new students and staff this year. New staff include: Mrs. Graham - 5th grade Extensions class, Mrs. Brite - 6th grade Language Arts, Mrs. Johnson - 7th grade Social Studies, Mr. Sherman - 7th grade Science, Mrs. Hayes - 8th grade Math, Mrs. Foster - special education, Ms. Flippin - PE, Mr. Bates - PE, Ms. Wahlmeier - Band, Mrs. Peeper - Service Learning, Mr. Calahan - Intro to Industrial Tech.

Don't forget to order your students yearbook. Yearbooks are \$20 this year, you can pay Mrs. Baldwin in the office or go online at www.ybpay.lifetouch.com the school ID is 13380118.

We have had a great start to the school year and look forward to the semester. Some dates of interest for the second semester include.

- January 4, 2018 - students return to class and 1st semester grades are mailed home
- Scholars Bowl competitions begin
- IMS Spelling bee will be January 12, the Allen county Spelling Bee will be January 26
- We will be talking with students about a new incentive program when we return from the winter break. I think the kids will really like it.
- 8th grade students, don't forget to send in your baby picture for the yearbook if you have not already.

Parents, we need your help. During the 1st semester we have had over 530 tardies to first hour. The majority of these tardies are students arriving late to the building. Just a reminder that students are to be in class when the bell rings at 8:00. Thank you for your help with this.



IOLA HIGH SCHOOL

The school year started out with several changes this year that I am excited to tell you about! Seminar time became “Academic Advisor” time. This is based on a model that has been shown to increase student success and build positive, encouraging relationships between students and teachers. Students spend time with their Academic Advisor on Monday and Friday, and are able to travel to other teachers for subject matter help on Tuesdays and Thursdays. As with all change, there is a period of time where “different” doesn’t seem better. However, as we have recently completed the first quarter, the majority of staff and students are giving the Academic Advisor model very positive reviews.

Another change at IHS this fall was the implementation of the Drug Testing Policy adopted by the school board last spring. We are currently testing a computer generated random sample of students every month. There are NO academic consequences to a failed drug screen, instead a student will face consequences that relate to school activities that are not academic in nature. This is another activity that has been embraced by the staff and students alike as a positive factor in creating a good school climate at IHS.

Most recently, the school board voted to allow IHS to implement a new incentive program for students. This program is call “Early Release Friday”. All students will have the opportunity to leave school early on Friday afternoon if they meet certain requirements. Qualifying students will be able to leave school at 3:07 instead of 3:34 on Fridays. The qualifications are:

- 1.Perfect attendance (no tardies, no absences of any kind except a school activity)
- 2.Student must be passing all classes for the week
- 3.Students must have no discipline issues for the week (office referrals)
- 4.Parents must give permission for the student to participate

We are hoping that this will help students to make good choices on a weekly basis and choose to attend school, stay out of trouble, and keep their focus on passing classes.