



Renwick USD 267

Newsletter

September
2016

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From the Desk of Mr. Bourne
Superintendent of Schools

I hope since school has been in session for roughly a month that students, staff, and parents are settling into a routine. We have had an outstanding start to the school year, and it is a credit to everyone involved. There are several new initiatives occurring in our district, which I feel will have a positive impact on how we educate our students.

We purchased new curriculum for the first time in over ten years. This curriculum is aligned to the Kansas College & Career Readiness Standards, which will assist our teachers in ensuring that our students are prepared for their post-secondary plans. This curriculum is also digital, which will allow us to implement our new Chromebook initiative. We have been investigating what technological device and platform would be the most effective (both educationally and cost effective) for our students. As we researched all of the options it became apparent that Chromebooks were the way to go. Each high school student has been assigned a Chromebook, while the middle school students have access to them through classroom carts. I am pleased to hear how well both of these initiatives are going, and even though all new programs deal with some struggles they have been relatively minor to this point.

We recently received our state assessment and ACT scores for the 2015-2016 school year. We continue to be above the state average on the state assessment, and at or slightly above the national average on the ACT. Our administrative team is currently analyzing the results to see where we can improve our systematic approach to student achievement. Buildings will also analyze results to see if there are instructional practices that will improve our student performance on these assessments. It is important to realize that these tests are a piece of the overall picture that shows student growth. The state is making a concentrated effort to de-emphasize state testing, and has made a pledge to reduce state testing time by 60%. Districts are also being encouraged to simply teach the standards, and let the students understanding of those standards show up on the assessments. In the past districts have spent far too much time preparing for state assessments, rather than concentrating on teaching the standards. I am excited that our students continue to do very well on these assessment, but even more excited to get back to spending our whole focus on instruction rather than testing.

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As many of you know the state must craft and implement a new K-12 educational funding formula during the upcoming legislative session. The governor has asked for Kansans to send in their thoughts on what should be included in this formula. I am working on a survey that we will send to district patrons to gather this information. This information will be presented to our BOE and sent to the state for consideration. I will also send out an email address that individual patrons can send in their personal thoughts if they so desire. This is important to everyone associated with Renwick, and it will determine how our district receives funding for the foreseeable future. I look forward to gathering this information and making sure Renwick has a voice in this process.

I hope you are as excited as I am about all of the great things going on in our district. We plan to build on these with additional support from our new strategic plan. I am working on plans to share this vision in October, and look forward to unveiling it to our patrons. I am thankful every day to be able to work in such a passionate and caring district. We have much to be proud of, and yet strive to be even better. I look forward to a great school year, and as always welcome feedback from our patrons. Thanks for making Renwick a great place to work, and educate students.



2016 AHS Internship Program

This year Andale High School's new senior internship program is off to a great start with a total of 17 interns for the fall semester, all of which are placed at businesses in the Wichita and surrounding areas. If you have a chance to visit these businesses at any point please thank them for allowing not only Andale High School, but the Renwick School District to become a part of their daily schedules, and share their knowledge and expertise with our high school interns. You can find a list of our mentors businesses on our AHS Senior Internship blog found on Google Blogger.

While interns are only starting their third week it has allowed them to get a true understanding, and glimpse at what goes on behind the scenes within their occupations and careers. Our interns have a wide range of career pathways that are currently being explored; these include five physical therapists, one civil engineer, one plumber of new homes, two nurses, one police officer, one

veterinarian, one museum curator, one event planner, one hospice nurse, one telecommunications/cloud storage salesman, and one speech pathologist. It's been fun and exciting to hear the stories and experiences these interns are encountering as it's something we cannot always duplicate in the classroom. Students have shared experiences such as tasks they were allowed to do, patient/mentor interaction that brightens their days, and even an event planner that is truly coordinating an event venue! Either way whether a student finds out that they want to continue to pursue their specific career pathway, or decide it's not for them we've achieved success either way by allowing them to experience a new learning environment in the "real job world".

Stay tuned for more exciting experiences from our interns and for the dates of our final presentations in December. Intern presentations will be open to teachers, business mentors, community members, and of course any students!



Middle School Holocaust Lesson

On Wednesday, September 14, the St. Marks middle school students and teachers had the pleasure of hearing Holocaust survivor, Marion Blumenthal Lazan, at Augusta High School. She shared her message of racial and religious intolerance during the Nazi reign of the 1930's and 1940's.. Lazan shared her story of painful devastation in Nazi Germany and her experience in prison camps such as Westerbork in Holland and Bergen-Belsen in Germany. Mrs. Lazan has co-authored a book titled *Four Perfect Pebbles*, and her story was also told in a 2003 documentary *Marion's Triumph*. Because of this experience, SMS students will have a better understanding of the harsh realities of those who lived at the time of the Holocaust in their future studies.

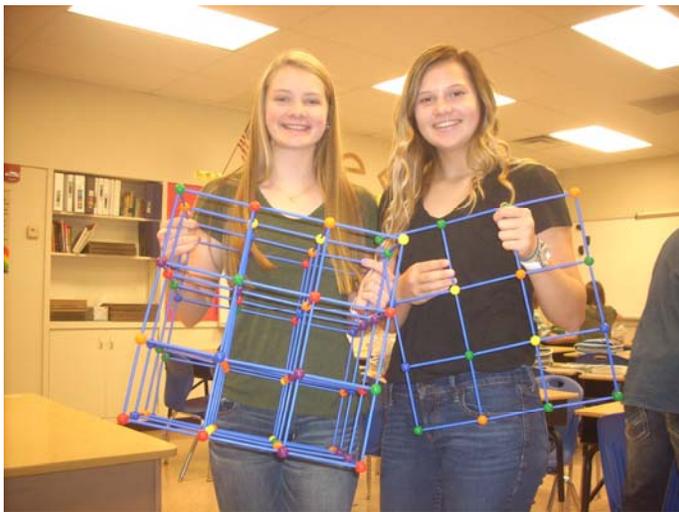
Plant Science

The St. Mark's Elementary second grade classes weeded and planted daffodils around the trees and flower garden in our recess area as a community project and extension of our Living Plants Science Projects.



Math Models

Andale Elementary 8th graders created models of cubes and squares and had to prove that they are what they say they are by using cubes, cube roots, squares and square roots. It gave them a good 3D image to work with and the lesson turned out pretty well. They had a great time building the structures.



Mascot Update

Thanks to the generosity of the Garden Plain State Bank and bank President Pat Walden, the Garden Plain Owl mascot has a new look. The entire Owl Nation is very appreciative of the support shown by the bank's donation which made the purchase possible.



The Renwick School District is in need of school bus drivers!



The district is hosting a School Bus Driver Challenge on October 1st from 9:00-11:00 for anyone with a valid driver's license (at least 18 and out of high school), and who is interested in testing their skills. Renwick bus drivers will be available to assist potential drivers during the morning.



There will be a drawing for a \$25 gift certificate for those who participate in the challenge.



The locations for the challenge are: Andale High School, Colwich Grade School, Garden Plain High School, and

Announcements...

The Kansas Department of Education invites you to attend a free “Count Your Kid In” screening. The purpose of the screening is to assess children, age birth through five, in the areas of walking, talking, seeing, hearing, and learning. Call today and schedule a **free appointment**.

The staff will assist you in the identification of any needs your child may have, and in locating services to

For children ages 0-5 that reside in the following districts: Maize, Burrton, Sedgwick, Renwick, Cheney, Conway Springs, Clearwater, Goddard, Valley Center. This is not a “Kindergarten screening”

**To schedule a free appointment, call
794-8641
(Monday-Friday 7:30 am-4:30 pm)**

Contact Lisa Morch with questions @ 794-8641

Sponsored by: Sedgwick County Area Educational
Services

Inter-local Cooperative.

620 Industrial Road, Box 760

Goddard, KS 67052



Renwick Weather Hotline

Dial

866-3000

Then wait for the prompt and dial

8099

Any items, other than technology, that are for sale through the district can be purchased by contacting the District Office at 444-2165.

Vendor Bid Requests

If you are interested in getting on the Renwick School District vendor list, please go to www.usd267.com and click on Vendor Registration.

Choose Maintenance or Technology depending on the services you offer.

Fill out the form and click Submit.