



PERRY ★ LECOMPTON

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 343

JANUARY - JUNE ISSUE 2018-2019

The USD 343 Newsletter is published three times a year. The July-December issue will be distributed the first of July and will "look ahead" at enrollment and upcoming events. The January-June issue will be distributed the first of January and will "look back" over fall semester highlights. The May issue will feature highlights from the spring semester, including updates from the Superintendent. Please submit articles to Deb Brehm by the 15th of the month prior to the newsletter being published. Email articles to dbrehm@usd343.org or mail to USD 343 District Office, PO Box 729, Perry, KS, 66073.

A Note from the Superintendent...

Where did the time go?

This time of year, with the leaves absent from the trees and cooler weather bringing rain and snow, I am always drawn toward the thought of "Where has the time gone?" Every year, without fail, I am amazed at how fast the school year seems to pass us by, with October ushering in the holiday season, then second semester begins and ends with a flash, and summer is soon upon us again.

I find myself reflecting on the past semester – and my thoughts immediately turn toward memories made of our outstanding students and the growth they make every year by this time. Not only are they physically growing taller, but are also growing in the many facets of school activities they are involved in. From academics to athletics, the arts to vocational education, the many school clubs to community involvement, our students are the best students, and that can be evidenced daily in every one of our district buildings.

If you had the opportunity to see the PLHS band play for our community when the Nation's Christmas tree was at the Middle School, see the students performing *Shrek the Musical* at our High School in November, witness Middle School students successfully competing in fall sports this season, or even perhaps visited students in our elementary schools for Grandparents' Day or holiday parties, then I'm sure you share those same sentiments with me, that our students are our number one priority, and are fantastic. I am extremely proud of all the USD #343 students, and am sure I join staff, parents and community members in saying "Way to go!" in celebration of their current successes this last semester, and look forward to even more student growth this next semester! I hope to see you at some of our many student events planned for second semester of the 2018-19 school year.



The school year certainly started at a quick pace with the successful opening of our District Daycare at Perry Elementary in August this last summer. We have many students attending the daycare and taking advantage of this local opportunity.

Join me in welcoming Joey Meyer and Phil Katzenmeier to the USD #343 teaching staff! Joey will be teaching 1st grade at Lecompton Elementary this next semester. He comes to us from Fort Hays State University, and grew up in Scott City. Phil will be teaching 7th/8th grade mathematics at our Middle School. Phil has over 30 years of teaching experience, most recently from Eudora as a HS/MS Math, Biology and P.E. teacher for 18 years, and also brings with him a coaching background. We are excited to have them both as part of the USD 343 family!

I want to close with a reminder that it is never too late in the year to become involved in your child's school Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) or Booster Club. We always welcome parental help and useful feedback to keep our district moving forward with improvements in the education of our students. If you would like more information on joining a PTO or Booster Club, please feel free to speak to your child's principal.

Have a happy, healthy and safe 2019, and as always, my door is open if you would like to chat!

J.B. Elliott, Superintendent of Schools

NEWS FROM *JOSH WOODWARD*, DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

FAQ about MAP Assessments

For quite a few years now, our students have been completing the Measures of Academic Progress assessment, better known as MAP Testing. This newsletter addition, I thought I might address some common questions about MAP.

What is the MAP test?

MAP stands for Measures of Academic Progress. The MAP test provides an assessment of a student's ability, accurately measuring what a child knows and needs to learn in the areas of reading, math, language arts and science. As the child takes the test, the difficulty of the test is adjusted to the student's performance. Due to this feature, the difficulty of each question is based on the student's performance of the previous question. As the student answers the questions correctly, the more difficult the questions become. If a student answers incorrectly, the questions become easier. It is not a timed test. Within an optimal test, the student answers approximately half the items correctly and half incorrectly. The final score is an estimate of the student's achievement level.

What is RIT?

A RIT score is a unit of measure that uses individual test question difficulty values to estimate student achievement. Basically, the RIT score indicates what a student knows about the curriculum being taught and how much growth a student has made. A student's RIT score is derived by calculated the point values of the questions that the student answers correctly. For instance, the point value of a more difficult question is worth more than a less difficult question. Thusly, a student who answers more difficult questions correctly will have a higher RIT score. RIT scores range from about 150 –300 and these RIT scores make it possible to follow a student's educational growth from year to year. This ability to track student progress is why the test is given to PLMS students each fall, sometimes over the winter months and then again in the spring.

What is the RIT Range?

RIT ranges represent the possible range that a student may score if the student were to take the test again. For example, let's say that a student has a RIT range of 202 -208. If this student were to take the MAP test again, there is a good chance that they would score as low as 202, as high as 208 or somewhere in the middle.

What if the RIT score is in *Italics* or **Bold**?

If a RIT score is in *italics print*, it represents a possible area of concern for the student. If a RIT score is in **bold print**, it represents a relative area of student strength.

Percentile - % Tile:

Percentiles are often used to compare students. A percentile score places a student in a line of 100. For example, a score of 99 means that a child scored as well as 99 out of 100 peers. A score of 5 indicates that the child scores as well as 5 out of every 100 peers.

Lexile Score:

The Lexile score is the readability of a text – the degree of difficulty of a particular literacy source based on the vocabulary used, complexity of the sentence structure, the length of sentences, and the length of paragraphs. The harder the text found in a book, the higher the Lexile score that goes with it. Today, many books include their Lexile level on the corner or within the description of the book. This allows the student or their parent to pick material for the student to read that may best fit them.

Teachers normally shared individual student RIT scores with parents during Parent-Teacher Conferences. For more information on MAP results, please ask your child's Math or ELA teacher at the February Parent-Teacher conference.

Kansas State Assessment Window Coming this Spring, 2019:

Each spring, Kansas students enrolled in 3rd grade through 8th grade, plus 10th and 11th grade, complete grade level appropriate assessments through the Kansas Department of Education. This year's assessment window will open on March 11th and close on Friday, April 26. As always, we encourage parents to avoid doctor's appointments and vacations during this assessment window. The window is set by the department of education and all students must be tested within this designated window. Below, please find a breakdown of subjects assessed at each grade level.

Grade 3 Mathematics and English Language Arts
Grade 4 Mathematics and English Language Arts
Grade 5 Mathematics, English Language Arts and Science
Grade 6 Mathematics and English Language Arts

Grade 7 Mathematics and English Language Arts
Grade 8 Mathematics, English Language Arts and Science
Grade 10 Mathematics and English Language Arts
Grade 11 Science

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NEWS FROM *JOSH WOODWARD*, DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Please note: The Kansas State Department of Education determines which grades are tested as well as what content/subject level is tested. All three assessment areas will include two test sessions. Schedules should be released via weekly building emails by the end of January and will be available on our District webpage as well. Please keep in mind that assessment dates are tentative and could change. [District Assessment Information Page](#)

As always, before completion of any type of assessment, we recommend students get a good night of sleep, eat a healthy breakfast the morning of the assessment, and of course make sure they are at school the day of the test, (unless they are sick). Make up assessment dates are scheduled for late April but are often times difficult to complete. Please make every attempt to have your child at school on their specified grade level assessment date.

Finally, it is important to note that state assessments are only a small part of what defines a student's success at Perry-Lecompton schools. Our staff strives to focus on the whole child, to help all kids grow and mature in non-assessed areas as well. These areas include, but are not limited to, artistic talents and musical abilities, physical health, becoming an independent and responsible person, ability to collaborate and communicate appropriately, become reflective so said student has the ability to evaluate his/her own progress or improvement, and develop good attendance habits.

GO KAWS!

SCHOOLS CLOSING INFORMATION DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

Should it become necessary to close schools due to inclement weather, road conditions, or other emergency situations, Perry-Lecompton USD #343 will make immediate contact by telephone using our automated parent communication system. In order to contact our parents, it is vitally important the school have accurate telephone numbers for each student's family.

Additionally, the school district will continue to make announcements through the following broadcast stations:

WIBW - Topeka - TV Channel 13 & wibw.com
WDAF - Kansas City - TV Channel 4
WIBW - Topeka - AM 580 & FM 94.5 Country

We recommend staying tuned to one of the stations or websites listed above in order to receive this information in a timely manner.

Other media that will be notified as time permits would be:

Lawrence Journal-World - Lawrence - ljworld.com
KLWN - Lawrence - AM 1320
KANU - Lawrence - FM 91.5
KSNT - Topeka - TV Channel 27
KTKA - Topeka - TV Channel 49

In all cases, the final decision regarding school attendance during inclement weather rests with the parents.



News from Perry & Lecompton Elementary Schools

Mark Lamb, *Principal*



We at Perry-Lecompton Elementary have had a wonderful first semester! We have had lots of change by adding our daycare, expanding our preschool, building extra playground fences, adding staff, and enjoying getting to know each other. It is amazing how many exciting things you can pack into such a narrow time frame. We have enjoyed KC Wolfe, BMX Topeka, the Egg Challenge, Halloween parties, Happy Bear, Star Spangled Banner Celebration, Veterans Day, Voting, Trooper Chase, Lecompton Fire, the Homecoming parade, Holiday concert and so much more. It is wonderful being in the Jr. Kaw Family.

PLES Principal

Fall Field Trips: Shaake's Pumpkin Patch, Lawrence Fire Station #5, O'Trimble Family Farm, American Royal, Sea Life Aquarium, and Kaleidoscope

Spring Field Trips will include: Topeka Zoo, Topeka Discovery Center, and the Topeka Capital

Important dates to remember for the Spring Semester:

- 2/26: 1st grade Music Program
- 3/11-3/15: Spring Break
- 3/22: Spring Pictures for PES and LES
- 4/10: 3rd grade Music Program
- 4/17 & 4/18: Kindergarten Screening
- 5/10: Kindergarten Music and Recognition
- 5/14: 4th grade Music and Recognition Program
- 5/19: PLES Field Day
- 5/22: Last Day of the 2018-19 School year.



The 2018 PLES Spelling Bee was held on December 14th, 2018 in the Lecompton gym. The Spelling Bee lasted 27 minutes and concluded on the 106th word. The Jefferson County Spelling bee will be held on January 30th @ 7:00pm in the PLHS auditorium.

Third graders: Karson Weissend, Joel Brown, Zach Blitch, Kendall Craig, Lydia Baranski, Jazlyn Amerine, Brayden Vaughan, Tatum Calovich, and Sophia Marshall.

Fourth graders: Jalie Paslay, Ryan Heston, Ella Powell, Lilly Newman, Chris Burgess, Kenyon Doleman, Kate Parnell, Wyatt Hepner, Estella Carmichael, and Elaira Sanford.

**Congratulations to
Kenyon Doleman,
Lecompton Elementary
Spelling Bee Champion!**



The first semester for Perry and Lecompton Elementary school ended with the Winter Music program held in the PLHS gymnasium. This event is always well attended and the children enjoy sharing their talents!



**We hope you had a very relaxing, safe and enjoyable holiday break!
Welcome 2019!**



News from Perry-Lecompton Middle School

Mike Maloun, *Principal*

Eryn Moland, *Assistant Principal*

Rhett Scrimsher, *Assistant Principal*

It has been a busy fall at Perry-Lecompton Middle School! It seems like just yesterday we were arriving at school in 95-degree heat and suddenly we are done with the first half of the year and are showing up each morning with freezing temperatures! One of the changes we made this year was to try starting each day with our EL period. The idea was to give our PLMS students a chance to get into the school day and think about what they needed to complete before the day started. We also started using a socio-emotional program called Second Step to help teach kids how to solve conflicts, how to keep an open mindset about your abilities, and how to persevere through challenges. Although we have seen some growth in these areas and some positives with the EL change, it has also presented some challenges with the overall schedule. So starting 2nd semester EL will return to the end of the day. We will still be doing the Second Step lessons and maybe even adding some team challenges to the weekly schedule to help build cooperation and teamwork within our students.

As many of you already know, our students had the unique opportunity this year to see the National Christmas Tree as it made its way from Oregon to our Nation's capital. The tree's only stop in Kansas was here at PLMS/PLHS. A big "thank you" to the Perry Pride Committee for organizing this community event that attracted people from across the area.



One other change coming for second semester is our 7th and 8th grade math teacher. Mr. McLaren has decided to not return for second semester for personal reasons. Mr. Phil Katzenmeier will replace him. Mr. Katzenmeier comes to us after retiring from Eudora public schools last May. He is excited to be coming back to the math classroom and will be here to start the second semester. We wish Mr. McLaren well and welcome Mr. Katzenmeier to the PLMS family.

Below is some other news from around the school. As always, if you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail or phone at PLMS.

Thank you,
Mike Maloun, PLMS Principal

From the PLMS Classrooms:

In 6th Grade math Mr. Tennyson's students completed research on each state in the US and compared populations of ages, genders, and densities of each state. They used their knowledge of ratios and fractions to compare that data.

In Science class, the students completed research on different parts of the world and how each sphere (geosphere, biosphere, atmosphere, and hydrosphere) interacts with one another. These are great ways for kids to apply what they are learning to real life situations.

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News from the PLMS Classrooms:

7/8 grade CSI solved a "School Crime Scene" where the students had to work through a mock crime scene using the scientific methods they had learned throughout the semester to find which made-up student committed the crime.

Mrs. Mehl's 5th grade class has been doing mystery hangouts this semester. Mystery Hangout is a social game played with two groups of students. It's a mix of Battleships and 20 questions. Two classes prepare by writing clues or questions about their geographical location for the other class. Classes do a G+ Hangout. They take turns giving clues about where they are or asking questions about the location of the other class. The first class to guess the other's location wins. Also Mrs. Mehl's class rode on a trailer while going on a red-bellied snake hunt and a spider hunt. They didn't find any snakes, but found lots of spiders.

Mr. Winchester and the Intro to Industrial Tech students worked this semester to complete units in safety, rocketry, power tool safety, small project construction, measuring and mechanical drawing. Students completed a wall shelf and coat rack.

STUCO and the PLMS students once again raised money for Children's Mercy. They set a goal and if the students reached the goal they could dress up for Halloween. For the second straight year, our students did meet their goal and the halls were filled with fun costumes the day of Halloween. This is a great way to teach our students about giving as well as having some fun on Halloween.



From the Music Classrooms:



7th and 8th grade band and choir have presented two concerts this year. Both have been outstanding and are showing how the kids are progressing and growing as musicians. We are fortunate at PLMS to have two very talented and dedicated teachers in the music department. This year Miss. Klaassen was recognized as the NEKMEA outstanding young choral director of the year. She was presented this honor at the district choir concert on December 1st. Congratulation to her as well as to the students that performed that day.



PLMS was represented by six middle school students selected for the Middle Level Choir and 11 PLMS sixth graders selected for the Elementary District Choir.

Additionally, all 5th and 6th graders attended a performance by the Kansas City Symphony at the Kauffman center for the performing arts in Kansas City.



Sports News:

Sports and activities are important for kids. Research shows that students that are involved in sports and other extracurricular activities do better in school and are more emotionally balanced, as well as provides a way for kids to be healthier and away from gaming devices and cell phones. This year PLMS had many 7/8th grade students out for fall sports - 55% of our 7/8 graders participated in the fall. There are quite a few students who did not participate in the fall, but are participating in winter sports. Twelve students were out for cross-country, 24 out for football and 31 girls were out for volleyball. Seventh Grade Volleyball took 1st in the PLMS invitational tournament and were 3rd at the league tournament this year. Many other successes in both wins as well as fundamental growth were achieved in all of our fall sports setting these students up for success next season and beyond.





News from Perry-Leocompton High School

Mike Maloun, Principal

Eryn Moland, Assistant Principal
Rhett Scrimsher, Assistant Principal

As the first semester has ended at PLHS it is always good to reflect back on the year and share the accomplishments that have been happening at PLHS both in the classrooms as well as all activities and sports. I was a MS/HS teacher for 24 years before moving to administration, and yet I continue to be amazed at how busy and dedicated our students are at PLHS!

ACT scores from last year were released in October and once again PLHS has scored well. This is a testament to last year's graduating class. Our average score for the 2018 class was 22.8 which is 1.2 points higher than the state average of 21.6. Also compared to our other league schools PLHS placed 3rd highest in the league. This year the state of Kansas is giving the opportunity for all juniors to take the ACT for free. The test will be given on Feb. 20th during the school day. We currently have several students signed up to take advantage of the ACT test that day.



As many of you already know, our students had the unique opportunity this year to see the National Christmas Tree as it made its way from Oregon to our nation's capital. The tree's only stop in Kansas was here at PLMS/PLHS. Big thank you to the Perry Pride Committee for organizing this community event, which attracted people from across the area. Our own PLHS



students helped with this event. The PLHS brass section provided music and the Nutrition and Wellness class helped our kitchen staff with Christmas cookies for the event.



Seven students were honored this fall by the University of Kansas as Kansas Honor Scholars. They were recognized in an event at the Lied Center by the University of Kansas for their academic success. Congratulations Spencer Funk, Sara Haggard, Jolie Hirsch, Shane Quinlan, Talisa Stone, Samantha Worthington and not pictured Connor Anderson.

I have really enjoyed my first year as the High School principal. We have a great staff here that care deeply about preparing kids for the next stage in their life. They work with kids through the individual plan of study conferences, and really try to help kids make decisions that will benefit them entering the workforce or college. I am looking forward to a great second semester, and as always, if I can be of assistance to you or your students, please do not hesitate to reach out to me by calling or e-mailing at your convenience. Keep reading this newsletter for more exciting news from PLHS classrooms!

Thank you,
Mike Maloun, PLHS Principal

News from the PLHS classrooms:



Junior U.S. History students engaged in a WWI trench warfare simulation. Students utilized paper "ammunition", table trenches, and navigated "no-man's land" that contained chairs as obstacles. Students had a great time while experiencing some of the tension/emotions associated with Trench Warfare.



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The 10th grade English classes created children's books that incorporated elements of things our 1st grade students are working or going to work on. The students then went over and shared these with 1st and 3rd grade classes at PLES.



The Family and Consumer Science students have been very busy this year. Community Connections students planned and hosted the annual Careers on Wheels (COW) day for our 3rd graders. This is an annual event that allows students to see careers in the transportation areas. This year we were even fortunate to have the LifeStar helicopter and crew land at PLHS



so the students could learn about what they do to save lives. Each student in Community Connections has been on two job shadows and each student has completed an off-campus Mock Interview.

Fifteen students in Family Studies have passed their skills testing and now hold a two-year American Red Cross certification in Pediatric and Adult CPR, AED, and First Aid.

FCL worked with the residents at Meadowlark Estates to decorate for the winter holidays. The FCL SAFE team has completed monthly SAFE (Seatbelts are for Everyone) pledge cards and educational activities ranging from posters around the building to the creation of a Public Service Announcement that was viewed by our student body during a seminar class. Each month our students sign a pledge card to wear a seatbelt, their name is put in a drawing, and then FCL students draw four names to be awarded gift cards. FCL also had daily activities during Red Ribbon week in October - they had wear red day, leave your finger print to pledge against using drugs and alcohol, red Lifesavers, etc.



The FCL Good Vibes team has been working on encouraging a positive school environment through all populations. They had small treats for every student on Halloween, sent handcrafted thank-you cards to some of our classified staff members, and they planned the Winter Dance. Monies collected from the dance will be used to help fund the CTE Scholarship.

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News from the PLHS classrooms

The Entrepreneurship Class presented their business ideas to the First State Bank. This included their business plan and a request for a loan. This is a perfect opportunity for our students to learn how in the real world a start-up business would obtain funding including building a business plan to sell your ideas.



The College and Career Readiness class took their annual trips this fall. One to KSU and another to Baker to learn more about life on a college campus and the differences between a large major college and a smaller private university.



Industrial tech students in Cabinetry and Furniture Design 1A completed a small bedside table. In addition to their own individual projects, Cabinetry and Furniture Design 1B and 2A students also assembled and placed shelving in Mr. Smith's classroom, and the kitchen storage room. These students also built the stage for the National Christmas Tree ceremony, and recently completed a portable storage closet for the Perry-Lecompton Booster Club. Small Gas Engines students learned engine systems, and disassembled and reassembled a four-stroke small gas engine. Drafting and Drafting/CAD 1 students completed introductory drafting units in basic skills, orthographic projections, dimensioning, and section views.

SkillsUSA continues to collect recycling for PLHS. In addition, SkillsUSA successfully supervised the Homecoming Parade and directed parking at the National Christmas Tree ceremony.

Music:



Sixty students were involved in the Fall production of "Shrek the Musical". Shrek was a large undertaking with costumes and staging, and once again our students and staff pulled off an outstanding musical that would rival schools twice our size. Improvements were made to the sound system this year, which really helped with the sound throughout the theater.

Three high school students were selected for NEKMEA High School District Choir. This is an audition process involving hundreds of other students across NE Kansas. Seven band students were selected for the District band and will be headed to Salina, Kansas in January to audition for the KMEA All-State band.

PLHS Singers were selected, through live audition, to sing the Star-Spangled Banner and the KU Alma Mater for a KU Women's Basketball Game in January.



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News from the PLHS classrooms:

Art:

PLHS Artists have been on a roll 1st semester! All classes have produced excellent work in a variety of media. Projects in Art History began with creating Paleolithic cave art, then moved on to Egyptian cartouche brass repousse, ceramic Ancient Greek Vases, and have just completed Renaissance frescoes in the style of Michelangelo. All Intro to Art students have greatly improved their drawing skills. They are now tackling the challenge of painting and, for neophytes, doing amazingly well. Painting students have mastered color theory and are now able to compose realistic acrylic works. The stellar Drawing class has gone beyond the call of duty in all projects this semester. Their skills were especially apparent in portraiture, the most difficult drawing subject. 3D artists just finished plaster craft sculptures which combine 2-3 different animal forms into one work: all sights to behold! Fall 18 has been most successful for the art department. We look forward to 2nd semester classes, which will surely have equally talented students!

Sports News:

Our fall sports teams all had outstanding seasons this year. Football ended 7-3 with the final loss coming to the eventual state champions Sabetha. 1st team all-league honors went to Dalton Kellum, Colton Mallonee, Spencer Funk, Collin Rossillon, Scott Urban, Blaine Patton and Grant Roush. Honorable mention went to Cole Logan, Hayden Robb, and Sean Urban. All State first team honors went to Dalton Kellum and Spencer Funk, honorable mention Scott Urban and Colton Mallonee. Dalton Kellum was selected to participate this upcoming summer in the 2019 Shrine Bowl.

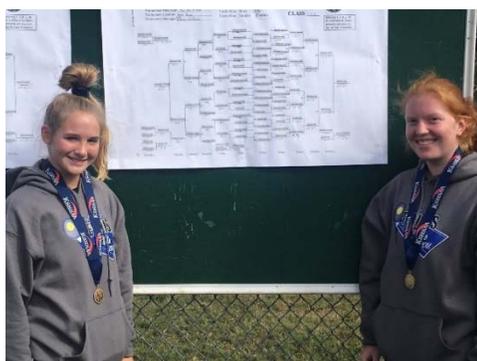


Volleyball went 25-14 losing in the regional to state runner up Burlington. All league first team honors went to Talisa Stone. Honorable mention went to Jenna Keller and Cali Coleman. Highlights of the season included winning the McLouth invitational tournament.

Cross Country team had several highlights this season PLMS girls finished 3rd at the league meet. Blaise Ball finished 9th and Jolie Hirsch finished 12th, Boys finished 2nd in the league with Josh Mitts in 6th, Reece Sollars was 10th, and James Bartlett was 11th.



Calvin McPherson was 13th, and Jesse Schumann was 15th. Josh Mitts qualified for state.



The PLHS Tennis team had 15 kids out this year and showed tremendous growth from all the girls. The doubles team of Samantha Worthington and Gracie Folks qualified and finished 5th in the 3A state tournament.



NEWS FROM *CRAIG UNDERHILL*, NUTRITION SERVICES DIRECTOR

First, some information about the District's Food Service partner OPAA! Food Management: OPAA! is not an acronym for anything, rather it is a Greek word used as an exclamation of joy, often shouted during celebrations with food, friends, and family. The word was chosen for the name of the company because of what it represents; the closest translation in English would be Hooray! That is fitting, because there is always reason to celebrate in the Perry-Lecompton District!

One of last Fall's big events was the solar eclipse road trip, and this year saw the visit by the US Capitol Christmas Tree. For the tree stop at the PLMS/PLHS campus, OPAA! and USD 343 partnered to provide cookies, hot chocolate, and coffee for visitors. (There was a period of about an hour and a half during the festivities that those serving refreshments refer to as "the hot cocoa apocalypse!") We also provided a hot lunch for the crew of 18 that was traveling with the tree on its journey, and were told that Perry was the first stop where they were offered a meal!

The KAW KITCHEN

Perry and Lecompton Elementary Schools were awarded the HUSSC Silver Level recognizing the District's efforts to improve participation levels and overall program strength in areas of meal service and nutrition and wellness education. Each school received banners certificates, along with monetary awards were presented at a recent Board of Education meeting.

Another reason to celebrate was the Day Care start-up, with Food Service called upon to provide breakfast, lunch, and snacks for the attendees. Staff began training over the summer to be prepared for the new meal requirements of the age groups, while trying to keep the menu full of healthy items that the younger children will eat!

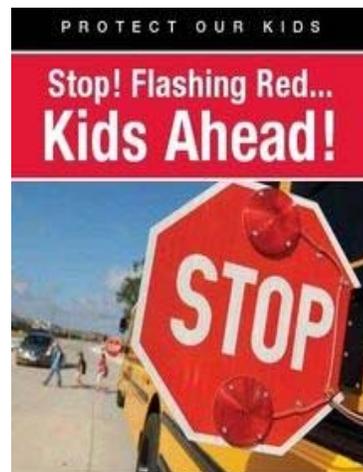
The recent Romaine lettuce E coli outbreak prompted some good questions about what we do in food recall situations. Along with the elderly and pregnant women, school age children are considered a high risk group in the event of food-borne illness. Both Federal and State officials communicate with us immediately, and OPAA!'s distribution network is charged with making sure we receive only what has been deemed safe and approved to use by the FDA. We may have to scramble and substitute and discard product, but we will do whatever it takes to keep the food supply and the students safe!

Children learn better when they are nourished; studies have shown that eating breakfast leads to higher test scores. Please remember that if your student is eligible for free or reduced lunch, they are also eligible for free or reduced breakfast. If you have any questions about your child's lunch status through the federal Child Nutrition Program, please contact Deb Brehm at the District Office at 785-597-5138. If you have any questions about Perry Lecompton's Kaw Kitchen, please call Craig Underhill, Director Nutrition Services, at 785-597-5872.

NEWS FROM *RHETT SCRIMSHER*, TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

With winter weather upon us, it's that time of year to review a few simple guidelines to ensure safe transportation for your child. Please call Mr. Scrimsher, USD #343 Director of Transportation, at 785-597-5124 ext. 1012, if you have specific questions regarding transportation.

- Please remind your child to dress appropriately for the possibility of inclement weather. Kansas weather can change rapidly through the school day. In the unlikely case a bus has to be evacuated or experiences engine failure, it is important students dress for the season. Hats, mufflers, gloves and warm foot wear are strongly encouraged.
- Please remind your child to remain clear of the bus as it approaches pick-up points and the brakes are applied. Depending on road conditions the surface may not be treated and could have become slick.
- Please contact your child's school office by 2:30 pm. with changes in their transportation for that afternoon/evening. Drivers cannot accept text messages from a parent to a child for a transportation change.
- It is important that our schools have up to date information on a plan your child will follow if we are required to close school early due to inclement weather.
- Please be sure that your child's school has updated phone numbers on file. The School Messenger phone system will be utilized in the event that we need to send students home early due to inclement weather.



NEWS FROM *ABBY MARTIN*, DISTRICT SCHOOL NURSE

I am fortunate this year to be employed by the district, and be in the district full time, five days a week to provide nursing services. This opportunity has allowed me to spend more time with our students and staff. I have enjoyed working with staff on CPR/AED/First Aid education, emergency procedures, and we coordinated with the Epilepsy Foundation as they presented to our elementary staff to offer more education on seizure training. Working with students at all age levels has allowed me to cover many health related topics in the classrooms.

This year, we have started to work on the requirements for freshman for CPR/AED/First Aid, as well as working with the elementary students on hygiene and healthy habits, and preparing for next semester health classes at the middle school. Reflecting on the fall 2018 semester, we have completed our vision, dental, and hearing screenings.

Douglas Dental came out and provided dental care including x-rays, fillings, and other dental work for students that enrolled in the program. They will be back in the spring, as we continue to offer dental screenings once a year and provide an opportunity for dental care every 6 months for families that qualify.



The Early Child Care Center, has allowed us to screen children sooner as we work with the Lions Club to catch concerns sooner with additional services available such as the “See to Learn” program. Our Wellness Committee will also be offering a health fair in March, which will provide many opportunities for health promotion with a variety of resources and vendors attending, beyond those we currently are working with. Watch for more information to come! The addition of students to the Wellness

Committee has been very enjoyable as they share their thoughts on health promotion and have been involved in the blood drive, health fair planning, and improving standards of Workplace Wellness. The Wellness Committee focuses on health promotion with more opportunities to live healthier lives.



We were awarded the Blue Cross Blue Shield grant to begin work on the “Kaw Kourse,” a walking path from the elementary school to the high school. As we continue to try to live healthier lifestyles, we must remember, too, that this time of year there are many illnesses going around. Please refer to our school policy on illness. We must follow these policies to avoid the spread of illness. If you have any questions or concerns about health related matters and your student, feel free to email me, Abby Martin at amartin@usd343.org or contact your child’s school and I will return your call.



Helpful e~Funds Information

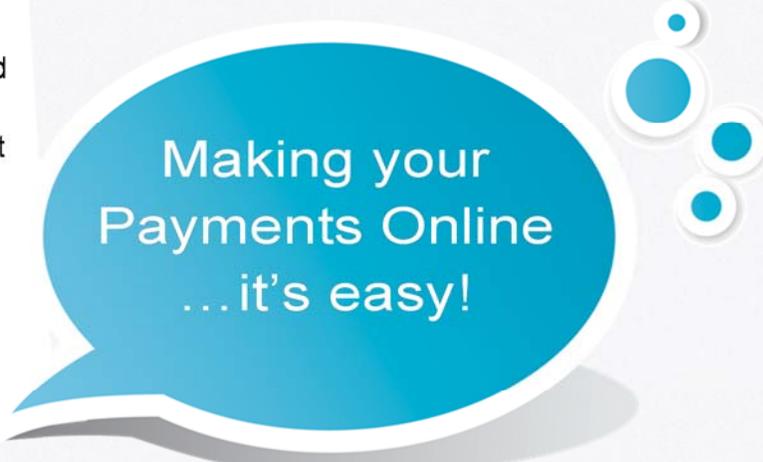


Creating a New **ACCOUNT**

1. Visit our school website at www.usd343.net and click on the Parents-Students Tab and select e~Funds for Schools' portal.
2. Click on "Register Here"
3. Provide requested information
4. Click "Sign Up!" after you have read and agreed to the Terms of Service and Privacy Policy
5. You will be brought to the Student Management webpage
6. Use the Student Number you school has provided your, along with your student's last name and click "Add"
7. Once all students have been added, click "Continue to Account Overview"

Step-by-Step

e~Funds for Schools! This service will allow you to make payments on behalf of your student(s) for all school related needs such as lunch payments, student fees and more!

A large blue speech bubble with a white outline and a drop shadow is centered on the right side of the page. To its right are several smaller blue circles of varying sizes, some with white outlines, arranged in a cluster.

Making your
Payments Online
...it's easy!

MAKE A ONE-TIME PAYMENT

1. Sign in to your account
2. Under "Payment Options," click "Make a Payment"
3. Enter your Checking Account OR Credit/Debit Card information
4. Click "Save"
5. Click "Return to Payment"
6. Choose student(s) and/or item(s) you would like to pay for
7. Click "Continue"
8. Verify your payment information is correct and accept convenience fee(s)
9. Click "Submit" and print the receipt for your records

VIEW PAYMENT HISTORY

1. Sign in to your account
2. Under "Payment Options," click "View Payment History"
3. Your past 30-day history will be displayed
4. Click the drop down menu on the right to view payments for your current or previous school year

SCHEDULE RECURRING PAYMENTS

1. Sign in to your account
2. Under "Payment Options," click "Schedule a Pre-Authorized Payment"
3. Select the student you wish to schedule payments for
4. Enter the dollar amount you would like to deposit for each student
5. Select the date in which you would like to start your payments
6. Choose the frequency in which you would like the dollar amount deposited
7. Select the last payment date
8. Click "Continue"
9. Verify your payment information is correct and accept convenience fee(s)
10. Click "Submit" and print the receipt for your records

ADD LOW MEAL BALANCE PAYMENTS

1. Sign in to your account
2. Under "Advisory Services," click "Low Meal Balance"
3. Enter a Minimum Balance and Replenish dollar amount
4. Check the box under "Notice" to receive emails when your student's account is low
5. Check the box under "Auto Replenish" to automatically have the Replenish Amount added to your student's account when the Minimum Balance is low
6. Click "Apply Low Meal Balance Settings"

Availability of Services for Students with Special Needs

Your local school district and all public schools in Kansas provide free special education services for eligible exceptional children ages 3 through 21 or high school graduation. Parents are encouraged to seek assistance from teachers, principals or other professionals if they have questions regarding their child's progress in school. Children with autism, emotional disturbance, giftedness, hearing impairments, specific learning disabilities, mental retardation, orthopedic impairments, other health impairments, speech or language impairments, traumatic brain injuries, or visual impairments may be found to be eligible and in need of special education or related services. In addition, children ages 3 through 9 who are experiencing developmental delays may also need these services. The related services, which is not an all-inclusive list includes: assistive technology devices and services, audiology, counseling services, early identification and assessment of disabilities, interpreting services, medical services for diagnostic or evaluation references, occupational therapy, orientation and mobility services, parent counseling and training, physical therapy, recreation including therapeutic recreation, rehabilitation counseling, school health services, school nurse services, school psychological services, school social work, speech and language, special education administration and supervision, transportation, vocational/transitional, and other developmental, corrective or support resources.

Special education is not meant for all children experiencing problems in development or trouble with schoolwork. Some students who are experiencing difficulty benefit more from the individual attention of a general education classroom teacher, the guidance counselor, and, of course, concerned parents. Your school district makes an effort to screen students for possible disabilities by carefully monitoring their progress on daily work and on achievement tests. Special education professionals, as part of school student improvement teams, sometimes work with regular education teachers and students to help solve problems students experience in learning. When classroom interventions are not successful, a referral for an initial evaluation is made. In addition, free screening clinics for children ages birth to five are held on a monthly basis in the area, and any parent with a concern is welcome to bring their child to be screened. School counselors, psychologists, and social workers are available to visit with teachers and parents regarding any concerns they might have. Parents who are concerned that their child may have an undetected disability are asked to notify the principal of the child's school in writing regarding the concerns.

Parents and their exceptional children have a number of rights under the law with regard to special education. For each of these rights, there are certain responsibilities both for parents and for the school. The school system is responsible for safeguarding children's rights, including the right to benefit from the regular curriculum, to receive educational services in the least restrictive environment, and the right to participate in nonacademic and extracurricular activities. In addition, the school system is responsible for obtaining parental consent before evaluating a child or providing him/her special education services, for maintaining the confidentiality of all personal information regarding the child, and for making all educational records available to the parents. Parents should assist the school system by keeping them informed of things that affect the child's education, attending conferences concerning their child's educational program, and by keeping the lines of communication open. Together, parents and school personnel can help children grow and develop into capable adults.

Your school district is a member of Northeast Kansas Education Service Center (NEKESC), also known as Keystone Learning Services, an organization that enables eight school districts in Atchison, Leavenworth and Jefferson counties to collaborate in the provision of special education services. Participating districts include the following: Valley Falls USD #338, Jefferson County North USD #339, Jefferson West USD #340, Oskaloosa USD #341, McLouth USD #342, Perry USD #343, Atchison County USD #377 and Easton USD #449. In addition, early intervention services for eligible children age birth to three in these districts are available through Keystone.

Official records for all students receiving special education services in the above school districts are maintained at Keystone Learning Services central office at 500 E. Sunflower Blvd., Ozawie, KS 66070. Special education teachers maintain files in their classroom on students with whom they are working. Any parent of a student, or student who has reached age 18, has the right to review these records without unnecessary delay. This right includes having someone explain documents in the records, obtaining copies of the records at reasonable or no cost, and allowing a representative of the parent (with signed permission) to examine records. In cases where records might contain information on more than one student, the parts pertaining to other students will be deleted. Upon request, Keystone discloses educational records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, as allowed by federal law.

Anyone who wishes further information concerning services for exceptional students may contact the Keystone office in Ozawie at 785-876-2214. Information is available also through the Kansas State Department of Education at 785-296-3869, or the "Make a Difference" Hot Line at 1-800-332-6262.



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leads the
world
in the
success
of each
student.

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The Kansas State Department of Education and its districts are the best of state, with a commitment to equity, diversity, and respect for progress and the highest quality of education for all. We are committed to the development of all people. The following information is provided for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be a legal document. For more information, please contact the Kansas State Department of Education, 1000 S. Lincoln, Topeka, KS 66603-1000, or call 785-235-1000.

Perry USD 343

Mission

Preparing students to become successful citizens.

Updated and Adopted by the USD 343 Board of Education on December 12, 2016

Perry USD 343

District Beliefs

Our focus is on being a UNIFIED school district.

Our schools must be centers of OPPORTUNITY.

Mastery of READING and MATH is fundamental to a quality education to obtain quality 21st century skills.

PRIDE IN SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY is an important element in a quality school experience.

The success of our schools is accomplished because all stakeholders accept RESPONSIBILITY.

For students to learn effectively, they must have a school environment that demands RESPECT FOR THE DIGNITY AND SAFETY OF THE INDIVIDUAL.

The EFFECTIVE USE and APPROPRIATE APPLICATION OF TECHNOLOGY is essential for the success of our schools.

GOOD CITIZENSHIP and RESPECT FOR COUNTRY by staff and students are important cornerstones of our educational system.

The partnership between SCHOOL and FAMILY is a key to a child's success.

Note: District Beliefs are listed in random order. Updated and Adopted by the USD 343 Board of Education on December 12, 2016

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Unified School District 343
PO Box 729
Perry, Kansas 66073