

USD 353 Newsletter Summer 2018

Back to School Time

There is an excitement growing in the air as parents everywhere anticipate the “back to school” season. Although children may not be quite as excited for the new school year, the staff of USD 353 are eagerly awaiting our students’ return to the classroom, and many exciting things are in store for our students and families. These exciting things include “online enrollment”, school redesign for two district schools, increased STEM opportunities, and an expanded laptop program as well. Since school starts in only one month, the district’s online enrollment process is currently on the front burner.

Online Enrollment

Parents will be excited to learn they can enroll students from the comfort of their home using a smart phone, tablet, or computer. This means no more long lines and dozens of paper forms. Please visit www.usd353.com and click on the enrollment button to get started. For returning students, it takes about five minutes. If you are new to the district, you will need to sign up for a “parent portal” which is available on the district website as well. If you still need help with enrollment, please visit the high school for all grades on August 7th (1:00-7:00 p.m.). While you are on the district website, check out our information on “school redesign”.

School Redesign

Fourth and fifth graders at Kennedy, and 9th and 10th graders at WHS will be involved in school redesign this year. In the redesign classrooms, students will continue to have lessons taught by licensed teachers every day, but they’ll also be able to work digitally on laptops each day. Additionally, students involved in school redesign will be working on real-world project based learning. Please visit the district website for more information on school redesign. The district’s expansion of laptops for students will make digital learning possible for all students.

One to One Laptop Program

Last year, WMS began a one to one laptop program and every student was assigned their very own laptop. This year, the program is expanding to the high school, and the district is also expanding access to laptops for most of our elementary students. Expanded access to technology will allow for greater personalized learning for all students. Additionally, increased access to technology will allow district schools to place more emphasis on STEM activities.

STEM

Science, technology, engineering, and mathematic or (STEM) will continue to be emphasized in USD 353. Increasingly, the jobs waiting for our students will require more knowledge in the STEM areas. This past year we saw elementary students in some schools building computers, writing code, and working with robotics. All schools will see a greater emphasis in this area.

So as the excitement continues to grow as the new school year draws closer, we look forward to working with our parents and the community to ensure every student is future ready. If we can assist you in any way please call the district office at 620-326-4300. It’s going to be a great year!

Upcoming Important Dates

August 7th Visa Cards Available at WHS (1:00-7:00 p.m.)

August 20th (1:00-7:00 p.m.) Open House at All Schools

August 21st First Day of School