

WELLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

Fall-2017



FULL “STEAM” AHEAD FOR USD

353!

The 17-18 school year is promising to be monumental as the district embarks on many new initiatives and projects. These initiatives include a complete instructional redesign at Wellington High School and Kennedy Elementary, new curriculums in all schools, and a new one to one computer initiative at Wellington Middle School. School redesign is at the forefront of district initiatives.

School Redesign

In June, 2017, the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) announced a competitive application for whole school instructional redesign. Under the leadership of State Education Commissioner, Dr. Randy Watson the state has a new vision for Kansas Public Education: *Kansas will lead the world in the success of each student.* School Redesign is meant to support this new vision.

Dr. Watson and many Kansas educators recognize the world is changing in dramatic ways, and schools must adapt to meet the needs of each



Pictured above, students at Kennedy Elementary recently enjoyed a day of science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) activities.

student. Acknowledging this need for educational change, the USD 353 Board of Education authorized administration to apply for selection as a school redesign district. USD 353 was chosen as one of only seven districts in the state to participate in the initiative.

Currently, teams of teachers at Kennedy Elementary, and WHS are exploring innovative instructional models. Each respective school will develop a new instructional model for roll out in the fall of 2018. The district plans parent/community meetings to gather input regarding school redesign in the near future.

See pg. 2 for more “STEAM”.

Parent/Teacher Conferences Slated for Oct. 24th and 26th.

Some changes are in store for parent/teacher conferences this year. In order to better serve families, the district has expanded conference hours.

On Tuesday, Oct. 24th schools will be open 4:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. On Thur. Oct. 26th, schools will be open for conferences from 8:00 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. There will be no school for students on the 26th and the 27th.

Additionally, Wellington High School will be conducting “student led conferences” for the first time.

See “Conferences pg. 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Fall High School Play -pg. 2
- New Curriculum and Technology- pg. 2
- Inclement Weather Procedures- pg. 3
- District Vision – pg. 3



FALL PLAY PROMISES LAUGHS GALORE!

Wellington High School's "Crusaders of the Stage" are set to perform *Fools* by Neil Simmon. *Fools* is scheduled for two performances including Oct. 21st at 7:00 p.m., and Oct. 22nd at 2:00 p.m. *Fools* is under the direction of Jessica Coldwell, WHS drama instructor. Tickets will be available at the door. Come out and support WHS students in this hilarious play!



(STEAM continued from p. 1)

New Curriculum

This year the district has adopted a new math curriculum in grades K-8 and new math and reading intervention materials as well. Eureka Math currently under implementation at all elementary schools and WMS has an excellent rating from the United States Department of Education.

Eureka Math is a conceptual model and builds deep understanding of complex math concepts. Traditional math programs tend to focus heavily on procedures, yet do little to help students understand the “why” of the concept. Students taught to understand math conceptually tend to apply math skills more effectively in complex

problem sets and perform much better in higher-level math. Additionally, new intervention materials promise to help district students scoring below grade level to fill skill deficits.

Each school has set aside an intervention block for both math and reading. Students scoring below grade level are provided intensive tutoring in small groups using highly structured curriculum that targets specific skills.

For more information regarding new curriculums, be sure to ask your student's teacher during upcoming parent/teacher conferences. If you are a WMS parent be sure to ask about the school's new computer initiative.

New Technology

Wellington Middle School rolled out a new “One to One” Computer initiative during the first quarter. Beginning with sixth grade, WMS provided each student with a Chrome Book early in September. Then over the next few weeks the school rolled out computers to all 7th and 8th grade students as well.

Students participated in special training for care and operation of the Chrome Books and many teachers are moving to a full digital platform including digital textbooks. The district plans to provide all high school students with computers next fall.

Indeed with school redesign, new curriculum and new technology. USD 353 is FULL STEAM Ahead!

(Conferences continued from p. 1)

Students have been preparing for conferences during the advisory hour and will share their first quarter work and data with parents. Teachers will be on hand to answer question as usual. Please plan to attend and show support for your student.

Inclement Weather

Snow and ice are soon on the way and we want to ensure parents have timely information on school closures. If school should close due to inclement weather, the district will send out an alert call as early as possible. We will also alert local and Wichita media. Finally, we will post the information on the district at: www.usd353.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, October 20

7:00pm Homecoming

Football: Varsity Game vs Mulvane (Home)

Saturday, October 21

Fall Play 7:00pm

Sunday, October 22

Fall Play 2:00pm

Monday, October 23

5:00pm

Football: Freshman Game vs Mulvane (Away)

6:00pm

Football: JV Game vs Cheney (Away)



UPCOMING EVENTS

(continued)

Tuesday, October 24th PT Conferences
4:00-7:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 26th PT Conferences
8:00-7:30 p.m. (NO School)

Friday, October 27th, No School

Saturday, October 28

Cross Country: Varsity/JV 4A State vs Wamego (Away) 2:00pm

Volleyball: Varsity 4A State vs Tba (Away)

Thursday, November 2

7:00am

NHS blood drive

8:15am

MS Fall Sports Assembly

Saturday, November 4

Debate tournament

Football: Varsity 4A State Championship - TBD

A New Vision for the Twenty-First Century

During the spring semester of 2017, the USD 353 Board of Education adopted a new vision for district schools. The district vision states: **USD 353 will be leaders of innovative, future-focused learning by bringing schools, community, and students together to adapt to the changing world.**

The vision was developed after gathering input from students, parents, educators, and community members. The vision will guide school redesign and virtually all initiatives and programs going forward.