



Purpose - Passion - Pride

**ST. JOHN-HUDSON
SCHOOLS, USD 350
505 N. BROADWAY
ST. JOHN, KS 67576
(620) 549-3564**

Josh Meyer
Superintendent
Alisa Fisher
Board Clerk
Jennifer Fischer
Board Treasurer

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to ensure that students will find their purpose and become successful, lifelong learners and positive contributors in a changing world.

Board of Education

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USD 350 St. John-Hudson

2024-25 Back-to-school Newsletter

August 2024

Notes from the Superintendent

Josh Meyer-Superintendent

As I'm writing this article, we are in the midst of the summer Olympic Games. These events bring us together with national pride. There are no political divisions, we are just all cheering for Team USA. I enjoy watching these elite athletes perform at the highest levels and accomplish personal bests. It was exciting to see a Swedish pole vaulter set a new world record in the pole vault. His first time to set a new world record was in 2020. Since that time he has broken his own record an additional 8 times. That is an impressive feat and makes me wonder how that is possible. How does one continually break a record like that? The answer is pretty simple: you just have to raise the bar. You do as well as you think you can and keep raising the bar. That is the theme for our new school year: "Raising the Bar." Just as in pole vault or high jump, we cannot achieve at higher levels unless we keep raising the bar and establishing higher expectations. We need to keep raising the bar for expectations with things like: how we treat one another, how hard we work in the classroom and on the field, behavior, and attendance. One area of raising expectations in our schools is where

the use of cell phones is concerned. Students are in school to learn and cell phones have proven to be a major distraction and source of discipline problems. Our goal is to remove that distraction from them during the school day. While cell phones are a useful tool for a lot of things, in the school setting they get in the way. We will be communicating the specifics of our solution to this problem in the coming weeks when it is ready to roll out. The restroom and concession facility at the football field is coming along. We had a lot of people contribute to this project which has helped our district complete this project. Very soon we will have a much better space for students and patrons with handicap accessible restrooms. The overall condition of our facilities is in dire need of improvement. We've been working on a potential bond project for a few years now. That has been on hold with the potential for significant cuts to water rights that could do severe harm to our community. You may have heard that Quivira will not be calling for more restrictions in 2025. This is good news in the short term. However, we will need to know the long-term solution before moving forward with any major project. I am hoping we will know more toward the end of the calendar year. I'm looking forward to another great school year full of purpose, passion, and pride and raising the bar.

Online Student Enrollment

Student registration is done through an online process and started in late July. Information about enrollment and links for the online enrollment portal can be found on our website homepage. If you have not enrolled yet, there is still time.

Parents of returning students should have received an email in July. This email contained instructions and a special code needed for the enrollment process. If families do not have a valid email in our system, a letter was mailed to parents with detailed instructions and this special code. If you did not get an email or letter about the registration process, please contact the office.

Parents of students who are new to the district will need to create an online account to start the process. See our website for the link.

There is an option to pay online or you can choose to mail payment. If there is a discrepancy with any dollar amount that is owed, just choose the cash/check option and it will be corrected in the office.

Proof of identity must be provided for students enrolling in a school district for the first time. Proof of identity can be a birth certificate, SS card, a copy of a court order placing a child in the custody of DCF, or a certified transcript or similar pupil records from another school district where the student was previously enrolled.

A doctor's physical is required for students who are enrolling for the first time in the state of Kansas. Students who were previously enrolled at USD 350 or another Kansas school do not need to have an additional physical exam. You should contact the Health Department or your doctor if an exam is required.

To enroll in kindergarten, a student must be 5 years old on or before Aug 31st. To enroll in first grade, students must be 6 years old on or before Aug 31st OR have completed an accredited Kindergarten program. These age limits are established by state law and the school district has no flexibility to adjust these requirements.

Contact the school office for assistance with the online registration process.

Elementary School News

Angela Petersen-Elementary Principal

Prepare for a "Groovy" Year at St. John Elementary

I hope you've had an incredible summer break filled with sunny days and lots of adventures! As we gear up for the start of another fantastic school year, I wanted to send a warm welcome to our returning students and a big hello to all our new families joining us. Our elementary theme for this year is "learning is groovy." Be prepared to be dazzled by the creativity of our staff when you visit the building this fall!

Exciting Updates and Happenings

We've been moving and grooving over the summer, getting ready to kick off a year packed with engagement and learning. Our core curriculums in reading and math will remain the same this year and we look forward to continuing our success with these materials. We do have a new social emotional learning program, called Core Essentials, that will be guiding our monthly character focus initiative. We hope that the students will continue to be excited about learning these "soft skills" alongside improving their academic skills.

Please also give a warm welcome to our new certified staff members: Whitney Brummer in 1st Grade, Jorge Caleros and Lisa Rotert in SPED, and Dayton Long in a student teaching role. We can't wait to enjoy all of the

gifts and talents they will bring to our school district.

Get Involved and Let's Have Some Fun!

We love it when families are present in our school! Whether it's volunteering for Active Learning Days, field trips, or other special activities; joining our PTO crew; or showing off your dance moves at our monthly character assemblies, there are so many ways to join in on the fun and support our school community. Be on the lookout for volunteer opportunities throughout the year or shoot me a message if there is ever something you'd like to be a part of.

Stay in the Loop

There are several ways to stay connected with all the latest happenings at USD 350. Our primary form of parent-to-teacher communication will be Seesaw. If you aren't connected to your students, please reach out to their classroom teacher and we'll get you hooked up. Staff emails can also be found on our school website if you need to reach us that way. You can also follow us on social media- where you can stay up to date with district happenings and read about achievements from our amazing students.

Let's Make This Year the Best One Yet!

I'm beyond excited to embark on this new school year journey with you. Together, we'll make memories, learn new things, and have a blast every step of the way. If you have any questions or just want to say hi, feel free to swing by my office or drop me an email. I'm here to serve our school community.

Here's to a year filled with smiles and laughter, personal growth, and endless possibilities. Let's make it incredible!!



Jr/Sr High School News

Travis Callaway-Jr/Sr High Principal

I hope everyone had a great summer and were able to enjoy the extra family time that the summer season creates. As the calendar turns from July to August we get to shift our focus to this upcoming school year and all the excitement that brings. On a personal note this is an exciting school year for me as I begin my first year here at USD 350.

As school starts you won't see many major schedule changes other than LS time will now be called advisory time. Other than that the bell schedule for the Junior/Senior High will stay the same as last year. One minor change for the kids to be aware of is there will no longer be second breakfast pick up time. There will still be grab and go breakfast for kids to pick up at 7:50.

For the High School kids one change that could affect them is students will not be able to leave the building during lunch if they have a "F" in any class. Parents will be notified on the Friday before that their student will not be able to leave the school for open lunch the following week. This will last all of the following week and if after the next week's progress report is ran the next Friday and there are no "F" grades their student will be able to leave for open lunch.

As cell phone use continues to be a hot topic in school nationwide we as a district are going to implement the use of Yondr pouches for the 24-25 school year for

grades 7-12. The purpose of the pouches is to help eliminate student distraction during the school day and to maximize the learning environment. Each student will receive a bag at the start of the school year and will be required to lock their cell phone/smart watch in their pouch at the start of first hour. High School students that are not on the ineligible list will be able to have the phones unlocked during lunch time. At the start of sixth hour the phones will then be locked in the pouches till the end of advisory time. Students leaving for the day for various reasons will be able to have their phones unlocked in the office before they leave for the day.

Finally, I would like to touch on attendance. We would like to hit the goal of having every kid in school every day of the year. With that being said we understand that situations in life happen and kids will have to miss school from time to time. As a school we ask that when a kid is going to be absent from school that parents please reach out and let the office know about the absence as soon as possible.

As we approach the start of the school year here are some important dates to remember:

Thursday, August 15th @ 6:30 p.m. Fall Sports Parent

Meeting

At this meeting we will assemble as a group to discuss some general topics. The we will break out in coaches can talk about policies, procedures and expectations. There will be an opportunity for students to get sports physicals during this time if they haven't had one previously.

Monday, August 19th Fall Sports Practice Begins

Fall sports practices begin. All students must have a completed physical on file in the office before they can practice and will be

New Faces at USD 350

What makes our school district great is the people that work every day to ensure our kids get the best education possible. Each year we have a few new additions or changes to our team and we wanted to highlight a few of those folks joining the Tiger family recently. Many of them are graduates of Sr. John High School.

Jorge Calleros will be teaching elementary special education. He is a graduate McPherson College. This will be his first teaching position.

Lisa Rotert is also a St. John High School graduate. She has worked in the special education department as a paraprofessional and will be transitioning to the other elementary special education teaching position.

Whitney Brummer student taught at St. John elementary last fall and filled in as a full-time substitute for the special education co-op in the spring. She replaces Mrs. Wycoff as a first grade teacher.

Brenna Talbot and Destiny Huffman will be working as special education paraprofessionals. Both have experience as paraprofessionals in our school.

Dayton Long will be student teaching with Mrs. Taci in the 4-year-old preschool classroom this fall. Tracy Davis has been hired as the new nurse and elementary secretary. Tracy has been subbing in the nurses office for a few years and is excited to fill this new role for us.

Inocencia Valadez is our new custodian. She is working on the elementary side of the building and lives in Stafford. Haylee Gillespie has been hired as instructional aide for the elementary school. Tom Fischer will be working part time for us as a bus driver and transportation maintenance.

Alyson Rice started with us last spring as the Jobs for Americas Graduates (JAG) specialist and has moved into that as a permanent position.

Our football programs are seeing a bit of a shift. Scott Krehbiel is the new head high school coach. Reuben Martin is moving up as a high school assistant and Jordan Hickel is the new junior high assistant coach.



Meal Prices

The cost for meals for the 2022-23 school year are listed below. Extra milk will cost 50 cents.

Breakfast:

Grades K-12	\$2.25
Adult/Guest	\$2.50

Lunch

Grades K-4	\$3.25
Grades 5-12	\$3.50
Adult/Guest	\$5.00

*Free/reduced price lunch applications are available in the office and online. Contact the office with questions.

Jr / Sr High News Continued

required to complete a concussion and heat exhaustion course.

Thursday, August 22nd First Day of School

The 24-25 school year begins at 8 a.m.

Friday, August 23rd High School Volleyball Jamboree @ Ingalls

The High School Volleyball team will travel to Ingalls to participate in a Jamboree with Ingalls and Liberal.

Saturday, August 24th Back to School Bash

More information will be available closer to the date.

Monday, August 26th Barton Community College Enrollment

BCCC enrollment for students who are taking dual credit course during the day. Mrs. Hacker will organize this and inform students what they need.

Monday, August 26th Tiger Pride Night

More information will be available closer to the date.

Friday, August 30th High School Football Jamboree @ Skyline

The High School Football team will travel to Skyline to participate in a Jamboree with Ashland, Macksville, and Skyline.

As the school year gets close watch for updates on our social media pages. Our teachers and staff are really looking forward to making the 2024-25 school year a great year.

Early Education at USD 350

It is the goal of USD 350 to provide preschool for all children starting at age 3. Preschool students attend either a morning or afternoon session Monday through Thursday and on some Fridays. The first day of preschool is the same as all other students on Aug. 22nd.

Preschool students are subject to the same \$50 book & material fee that applies to all other students. Those that qualify for free lunch will have this fee waived.

Our preschool is operated jointly by USD 350 and the special education cooperative in Pratt. Students must go through the screening process to be eligible to attend preschool. If you missed the spring screenings, you can call the school office or the special education cooperative at 620-672-7500 to make an appointment.

For the most part, children must also be toilet trained before attending preschool. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the elementary office.

Back-To-School Newsletter

School Contact Information

ST. JOHN ELEMENTARY



Angela Petersen
Principal
Tracy Davis
Secretary / Nurse
(620) 549-3518

ST. JOHN JR/SR HIGH



Travis Callaway
Principal
Stephanie Smith
Natasha Mawhirter
Jr/Sr High Secretaries
(620) 549-3277



Stafford County Drug School Supply Giveaway

PRESCHOOL - 6TH GRADERS

Visit Stafford County Drug during business hours (M-F 9am-6pm) to pick up free school supplies

STAFFORD USD 349 AUGUST 1, 2, 5
MACKSVILLE USD 351 AUGUST 6, 7, 8
ST. JOHN-HUDSON USD 350 AUGUST 9, 12, 13
ANYONE AUGUST 14-16

Sorteo de útiles escolares de Stafford County Drug

LOS ESTUDIANTES DE PREESCOLAR A 6º GRADO

Visitan Stafford County Drug durante el horario comercial (de lunes a viernes de 9 a.m. a 6 p.m.) para recoger útiles escolares gratis para cualquiera en agosto

STAFFORD USD 349 AGOSTO 1, 2, 5
MACKSVILLE USD 351 AGOSTO 6, 7, 8
ST. JOHN-HUDSON USD 350 AGOSTO 9, 12, 13
ANYONE AGOSTO 14-16

Fall Sports Information

*Parent Meeting, Thursday, August 15th 6:30 pm in the main gym.

All JH/HS students who will be participating in a fall sport should attend with their parents.

*All athletes are required to have a new physical exam completed each school year (after May 1, 2024). Athletes must have a state-approved physical form turned into the office before they may participate. Free physicals will be provided at the school following the 8/15 parent meeting.

Practices begin August 19th

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Applicants for admission and employment, students, parents, employees, sources of referral of applicants for admission and employment and all unions or professional organizations holding negotiated agreements or professional agreements with the district are hereby notified that this district does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities. Any person having inquiries concerning USD 350's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, and Americans with Disability Act of 1990 is directed to contact the coordinator(s) who has been designated to coordinate the educational institution's efforts to comply with the regulations implementing these laws. Specific complaints of alleged discrimination under Title IX (gender) and Section 504 (disability) should be referred to: TITLE IX COORDINATOR & SECTION 504 COORDINATOR, Josh Meyer, Superintendent, 505 N. Broadway, St. John, KS 67576, 620-549-3564.

Title VI, Title IX and Section 504 ADA complaints may also be filed with the Regional Office for Civil Rights. Address correspondence to: U.S. Department of Education, Region VII, Office for Civil Rights, 10220 N. Executive Hills Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64153

Se notifica a los solicitantes de admisión y empleo, estudiantes, padres, empleados, fuentes de remisión de solicitantes de admisión y empleo y todos los sindicatos u organizaciones profesionales que tienen acuerdos negociados o acuerdos profesionales con el distrito que este distrito no discrimina por raza, Religión, color, origen nacional, sexo, edad o discapacidad en la admisión o acceso, o tratamiento o empleo en sus programas y actividades. Cualquier persona que tenga preguntas relacionadas con el cumplimiento de USD 350 con las regulaciones que implementan el Título VI, Título IX y la Ley de Americanos con Discapacidad de 1990, se dirige a contactar al coordinador que ha sido designado para coordinar los esfuerzos de la institución educativa para cumplir con las regulaciones que implementan Estas leyes.

Deberá remitirse a las quejas específicas de supuestas discriminaciones bajo el Título IX (género) y la Sección 504 (discapacidad): TÍTULO IX COORDINADOR Y SECCIÓN 504 COORDINADOR, Josh Meyer, Superintendente, 505 N. Broadway, St. John, KS 67576, 620-549-3564.

Título VI, Título IX y Sección 504 Las quejas de la ADA también se pueden presentar ante la Oficina Regional de Derechos Civiles. Dirección de la correspondencia a: Departamento de Educación de los Estados Unidos, Región VII, Oficina de Derechos Civiles, 10220 N. Executive Hills Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64153