



# K-4 Connection

## Partners in Education

August—September 2021  
From the Principal's Desk

Hesston Elementary Families:

Our school year is off and running. It is awesome to have students back at the building. They have been working hard learning grade level expectations and reconnecting with classmates. We welcome kindergarten families, new students, and previous students to the building. We also welcome several new staff members to H.E.S.: Mrs. Hannah Reber joined the first grade team, Mrs. Rozalyn Frey is our new literacy specialist, Mrs. Melissa Carlson is our ESOL paraprofessional, along with two new Special Ed. paraprofessionals, Mrs. Laura Krehbiel and Mrs. Marilyn Noll, Mrs. Diana Regier is supporting in the library, and Mrs. Danielle Flaming transitioned to first grade this year.

Safety is a top priority at Hesston Elementary. I have a few reminders to help make our school safe for all students. The alley to the west of the school is reserved for **buses only throughout the school day. It is not to be used as a drop off or pick up point for students.** Students and families should not be riding their bikes up the alley, as this is a bus drop off zone. Also, if your child has to cross Amos Street to get to the front of the school, an adult must assist them across the street. Your help with these procedures is greatly appreciated. We also thank our volunteer crossing guards, who keep students safe to and from school. Thank you for all of your assistance in keeping our students safe.

Having two drop off and pick up lines has reduced the amount of time parents have to wait. We ask your help to keep the process moving quickly, by not leaving your vehicle unattended. If you need to exit your vehicle, please find a parking spot in the lot. Students are asked to be dropped off and picked up only in the designated pick up lane. Students should not be walking between cars or through parking lots to get in the car or to their parents.

The official start time of the school day is 8:00 a.m. Please be aware, students need to be **in their classrooms by the 8:00 a.m. bell.** If they arrive in the classroom after 8:00 a.m., they will be marked tardy. Please refer to the student-parent handbook for the tardy policies. Thank you parents for ensuring your child is at school on time and off to a positive start each day.

We appreciate the support of our parents at Meet the Teacher Night and the Parent Open House. Each of these events provided opportunities for families to get into the building and to build a relationship with teachers and staff. We also appreciate your support in reading and practicing math facts each evening. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to address them with your child's teacher.

We also appreciate the support of our parents as we navigate strategies to keep our students healthy. There are several elements I want you to be aware of. Visitors will continue to be limited to the front office and must wear a mask into the building. We ask parents not to join us for lunch and for birthdays in the classroom at this time. We will continue to evaluate this practice as the year progresses. The fundamental safety practices will continue with good hand washing practices, social distancing, disinfecting high touch areas, and staying home when sick.

Thank you for your continued support as we work to educate your child, while keeping them safe. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at [alisa.krehbiel@usd460.org](mailto:alisa.krehbiel@usd460.org) or at 620-327-7102.

**Hesston Elementary School**

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## Counselor's Corner

Mrs. Dawn Lafferty

Hello! My name is Dawn Lafferty and I am the Counselor here at Hesston Elementary. This is my 5th year as counselor and my 24th year in education! As the school counselor, I provide educational activities for students related to academic, career and social emotional development skills. I teach whole group lessons during the wheel, meet with small groups and provide individual student support. You can find out more about what a school counselor does on my [website!](#) I have included many resources for families on my website. Be sure to take a look!

We are excited to be back together here at school. The theme at HES this year is #bettertogether. We are truly better when we work together! To be proactive in supporting the mental well-being of our elementary students, last year USD 460 adopted the Character Strong curriculum. The elementary portion of the program is called Purposeful People. Students will once again be learning about one character trait each month through lessons taught by their classroom teacher. I will also be teaching lessons during the wheel that support the word of the month. We began the year by focusing on the word RESPECT, which is: "Seeing the good in people and things and treating them with care." Be watching Class Dojo for monthly updates and videos that talk about the word of the month. You will also receive a home handout each month with many ideas and conversation starters. We enjoyed making our monthly character videos last year and we will continue to do this again this year. Stay tuned to see how Banana and T-Rex practice their character skills!

Anxiety is something that more and more children and families are facing, especially with the ongoing COVID concerns. Anxiety can be defined as "worries or fears that are frequent and overwhelming." The feelings don't have to be caused by anything specific. The following information from [www.counselorchelsea.com](http://www.counselorchelsea.com) is a great resource for families dealing with anxiety. I have found the "what to say" and "what not to say" part very helpful.

Please reach out to me if your student is having trouble managing their worries, going through family changes at home or if they just need a check in with me. I am here to help! You can reach me by phone, email or ClassDojo.

Dawn Lafferty

620-327-7102 ext. 4004  
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You can also find me in Class Dojo!



## Kindergarten

Mrs. Bauerle Mrs. Kaufman Mrs. Soeken

Kindergarten is off to a wonderful start! The students have enjoyed getting to connect with new friends and learn what school is all about! Our days together have been full of learning, including practicing routines, singing songs, writing our name, learning our friends' names, counting, reading books together, learning about respect, and much more! We have many more exciting learning activities coming up and are looking forward to more adventures in kindergarten together! We cannot wait until we are together for full days beginning September 7!



## Team I

Mrs Flaming Mrs. Gunden Miss Nikkel Mrs. Reber

Welcome to a new 1st grade year! We are excited to welcome two new first grade teachers to our team. Your support helps your child learn and thrive in the classroom. We appreciate the snacks, supplies, and the re-filled water bottles! First grade is a big learning year so please take the time to work with your child on sight words as well as math facts...this lays the foundation for lots of learning to come! Also reading to your child and having him/her read to you helps progress the literacy process. Don't forget library checkout day is on Thursday so help your child remember to bring back his/her library books.

## Team II

Mrs. Frick Mrs. Heinrichs Mrs. Jaso

2nd grade is off to a great start this year: This year's team is a dream!

As classes establish routines, we've started our curriculum in Math, Science, and Social Studies. Literacy Labs began this week, and will officially start our NEW E.L. curriculum next week, with the focus being Schools & Communities. We plan to celebrate our community with the annual 2nd Grade Camp Day and head outdoors to explore even more! Thanks, families, for sharing your precious children with us. We're Better Together!

**Team III**      Mrs. Swartzendruber      Mrs. Boese      Miss Minkevitch

Welcome back! Third graders have had a wonderful start to the year.

We have already jumped into our curriculum, but are still taking time to learn new routines and get to know our classmates. We are excited to explore our new language arts curriculum, EL Education. Our first module focuses on overcoming learning challenges near and far. During math we have been looking at the relationship between multiplication and division and are working to become fluent with our multiplication facts. Our first social studies unit will focus on Hesston history, learning about the important events and people that have shaped our town. We are so excited to continue learning and growing together throughout the year!

**Team IV**                      Mrs. Boles      Miss Unruh      Mrs. Stucky

The first couple of weeks have flown by! Fourth graders have been working hard, getting settled into the routines of fourth grade, and learning new things in order to be prepared for middle school.

In reading, the students have learned about genres and how to pick good books for themselves. Rock cycles and Earth's processes are the topics we're studying in Mystery Science. Ask your 4<sup>th</sup> grader if a mountain will last forever! In math, we have been learning about place value--reading and writing numbers to the millions place. We have also started to talk about math facts and the expectations for fourth graders. In order to make math a lot easier this year, your child should be practicing math facts on a daily basis.

Thank you for all you're doing to help make this a great year for your child!

**Music Notes**

Mrs. Dianna Funk

**Take me out to the ballgame, take me out to the crowd...!** The students of HES are off to a great start making music in a sports themed room this year. I am thrilled to be singing and dancing with the students one again. The music room is full of **TEAM** work, where you will hear sounds varying from beautiful voices to strumming ukuleles.

During the first few weeks of school, the students have been learning to sing echo patterns, distinguishing between steady beat and rhythms, and learning about different styles of music. The students have enjoyed playing the boomwackers, xylophones and several other instruments. Fourth grade students have had the privilege of playing ukuleles. Learning the names of each string, as well as strumming and plucking strings have been part of their first ukulele lessons. Thank you to the H.E.L.P organization for purchasing the ukuleles for music class. Second and third grades will have an opportunity to play ukuleles later in the year.

In September, students will be learning about tempo (fast/slow) and dynamics (loud/soft) sounds of music. In addition, students will work on performing ostinato patterns. We have had a great start to the year. I look forward to working with your students and helping them grow as musicians throughout this school year.

**P.E.**

Mrs. Brandy Coker

**REMINDERS FOR THE YEAR...**

My policy is that everyone participates everyday! If someone does not feel well, I might ask them to "try their best today." If a child is not going to participate in P.E. for any reason please send a note with them stating this so I am aware of the situation. If it is for an extended amount of time please indicate when they are able to return. I do believe that if a child can play at recess they can participate in my class and will ask that they do try their best! Please also send your child to school with tennis shoes on or to change into...flip flops, sandals, boots and dress shoes aren't safe for PE!

**COMING UP...**

September means it's time for Bike Safety!

Students will have the opportunity to learn about bike safety rules and practice riding their bikes and scooters in class. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders will have the chance to participate in the Bike Tour.



Bike Tour Dates:  
Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> grade  
Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

**Library**

Mrs. Rhonda Unruh

**Welcome Back from the K-4 Specials****LIBRARY Reminders**

This school year is off to a great start in the HES library! Here are a few items and activities to be aware of...

**Wheel Checkout Day:** Just as we have done in past years, all classes have a designated "checkout day" once a week during their library wheel time. On this day students return ALL their library books either for check in or renewal. This process helps minimize the number of lost books, gives me the opportunity to focus on other lessons during the remaining library classes of the week, and encourages students to checkout new books more often. Students are welcome to visit the library on other days for individual checkout as well if they return their books early.

**Save the Date:** Please mark your calendar to join us in the HES library during the Fall Book Fair on October 21-28! We're looking forward to a fun-filled year of reading and learning in the library!

## **Hesston Elementary Parents = H.E.I.P.**

Hello everyone! I hope it's been a fantastic first few weeks of school so far. H.E.I.P is the parent/teacher organization for Hesston Elementary. When you join H.E.I.P you join a community that encourages student achievement & enriches the learning environment. We believe in building partnerships between our families and our school. This year we hope to be able to hold more events this year but will be making those decisions based on the current COVID numbers and following the school guidelines as well. We are currently working on the plans for Donuts with Dad! We are planning to hold it at King Park and the start time will be 7:00a, a little earlier than usual. We are so excited to be able to have this event this year! If you haven't already, please let us know if you are wanting to volunteer for any of our events. These events can't run smoothly without all of you!

If you missed your chance to purchase a staff Jean Pass you may do so throughout the year at the front office. Ordering for shirts and sweatshirts is still open. You can go to the link to order and they will be delivered to your child's classroom. Here is the link: <https://imprintsshirts.com/collections/hesston-swathers>. Don't forget about school pictures coming up on September 8th. Families are encouraged to order online. Look for the return of the Book Fair in October, it's always a student favorite!

If you haven't liked our Facebook page, please do so, Hesston Elementary Parents H.E.I.P. This page provides great information all year on events, reminders like picture day, fundraisers, school closings and more. Please contact a member of the H.E.I.P board at [hes460parents@gmail.com](mailto:hes460parents@gmail.com) if you ever have any questions. Thank you for all your support, you help make our school a fun learning environment for our children



Madeline Epp - Coordinator  
 Sarahanne Unruh - Asst. Coordinator/Fundraiser Chair  
 Desi Adkins - Communication Chair  
 Vanessa Grieser - Family Events  
 Emilie Nedrow - Staff Appreciation

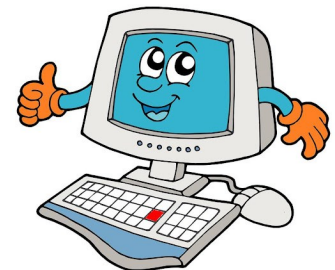
## **Keyboarding— Third and Fourth Grade**

Mrs. Jessica Pickney

WELCOME BACK 3rd and 4th grade!! I am so excited to kick off Keyboarding!! I have LOTS of awesome things planned for the kids this year, while we continue sharpening those typing skills. This year 4th grade will be working in Type to Learn 4 and learning how to navigate Google docs, sheets, and sharing. 3rd grade will spend a lot of time in Type to Learn and really practicing the home row.

For more practice at home, I encourage them to use Typing Club.

Parents if you have any questions please call : 620-327-7102



## Art

Mrs. Shea Neufeld

Welcome back to the ART room! I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to see all the bright and eager faces as we have returned to school.

First graders started off by reading the book “ish” by Peter Reynolds before creating their very own “ish” drawings. It’s fun to think “ish” ly. I love their imaginations! We will begin to review the color wheel, and have some fun mixing primary colors to create secondary colors. Messes are made in the art room and these kids are excited!

Second graders created themselves as crayons after reading the book, “The Crayon Box that Talked.” October is around the corner and that means fall projects. One of my favorites is creating symmetrical witches!

Third graders were asked to draw a picture “Looking back on Summer.” So many fun adventures were had. This week, we will begin to create a city silhouette.

Fourth graders designed their individual hand while reviewing the Elements and Principles of Art. We will begin studying Pablo Picasso. He is such an interesting artist!

All-day Kindergarten is around the corner and that means they get to come to ART! I will read the book, “The Dot” by Peter Reynolds to each class. Afterwards, each student will receive a small sticky dot and will be asked to create it into something else. So many neat ideas will form - be on the lookout for this project in their take-home folders! We will begin studying “lines” and “shapes” and then primary and secondary colors. So much to learn!

I look forward to a great school year. Please reach out if you have any questions.



# IMPORTANT DATES

Sept 6—NO School  
Sept 7—All Day Kindergarten Begins  
Sept 8—Fall Picture Day  
Sept 13—No School, School Improvement Day  
Sept 13—HELP Meeting/Pizza Hut Night/BOE Meeting  
Oct 11—HELP Meeting/Pizza Hut Night/BOE Meeting  
Oct 15—No School, School Improvement Day  
Oct 21-28—Fall Book Fair  
Oct 21/25—P/T Conferences  
Oct 29—No School



#BETTERTOGETHER

The MENU can be found on the Hesston Elementary website.

The USDA has approved FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH FOR ALL USD 460 STUDENTS until further notice. This does not include a purchase of milk only. Milk by itself is considered an ala carte item and student accounts are charged for that item.

Milk—\$ .75

**ATTENTION LUNCH VISITORS!!**

Our students love having guests in the lunchroom. However, at this time we are not allowing guests in the building due to COVID restrictions.





**Nurse**

**Mrs. Tammi Krehbiel**

This year has gotten off to a running start! I would like to start by acknowledging that HES parents have been doing a SPECTACULAR job of keeping their children home when they are not feeling well. Thank you! I also want to say a huge thanks to everyone for their patience and willingness to do what it takes to keep our kids in school as we navigate another year of battling COVID.

**Dental Screens:** Dr. Dillner's office will be returning to HES this year on Sept. 10 to provide free dental screens. They will also be offering free fluoride treatments. Fluoride treatment does require a signed consent form. Watch your child's backpack this week for more information.

And finally, a reminder that a good day starts with a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast. It's the best way to fuel your body and stay healthy!

**Make sure your child gets plenty of rest:**

Kids ages 6 to 9 need about 10 hours of sleep a night, while children ages 10-12 need a little over 9 hours a night. Since not every child needs the same amount of sleep, it is up to parents to judge the exact amount of rest their child needs and make sure they get to bed in time for them to have the required amount. Lack of sleep can cause kids to be irritable, have a hard time concentrating on schoolwork, and even physical symptoms like headaches and stomach problems.

**Feed your child a good breakfast:**

A healthy breakfast refuels the body and replenishes blood sugar (glucose), giving a person the energy needed to start a new day. Children who don't get breakfast have a hard time concentrating in class, and often come to the health office complaining of stomach-aches. A hot breakfast is offered at school every day of the week, so if your morning is too busy your child can eat at school.