

Kansans Can School Redesign Project

The Kansans Can School Redesign Project is an effort set forth by the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) to address the needs of teaching 21st Century students and the realities in the workforce. Members of KSDE visited twenty communities around the state and information was gathered on what Kansans expect from their public schools. In a few short years:

- Kansas needs 71% of workers to have a post-secondary certificate or degree
- Approximately 36% need to be bachelor degrees or higher
- Approximately 35% need to have a certificate or associate degree

Kansas school districts were invited to apply to become part of the school redesign project. After staff and USD 251 Board of Education voted in favor of redesigning their schools, the Northern Heights High School and NLC Elementary were both accepted as Gemini 1 schools and are developing plans to redesign the way that education is delivered in their school. Both schools will develop new education models based on the components of a successful high school graduate: academic and cognitive preparation, technical and employability skills, and civic engagement. The models will be based on the following outcomes: social and emotional growth, kindergarten readiness, individual plans of study (IPS), graduation rates, and post-secondary success. 21st Century skills, which include collaboration and teamwork, communication, critical thinking, and creativity will also be considered.

USD 251 has begun the redesign process by forming a Leadership Team from both buildings. The Leadership Teams have been attending workshops lead by KSDE, and have surveyed students and staff. We have learned that the Redesign Principals are Student Success Skills, Community Partnerships, Personalized Learning, and Real World Applications and what they entail. We have learned what research is telling us about 21st Century learners, are working to develop our mission, and set goals. At this time, a priority is to communicate with our stakeholder – you – to keep you informed about the exciting plans for redesigning our schools. Therefore, watch for future newsletter articles, Facebook and website posts, and information about community informational meetings. The USD 251 Leadership Teams will enthusiastically be sharing information about our redesign plans and progress.

I would like to leave you with a quote from Jim Porter, State Board of Education Chairman on the Kansas School Redesign project:

“The whole conversation here has changed. Almost every place I go, I'm hearing people talk about the needs of individual students, instead of just saying ‘this is how we've done it before.’ And that all comes back to how we got here. We went out and asked questions of the community. Not only did people talk to us, but we developed a program based on what they said. What I expected was pushback; instead, what I'm getting is ‘what took you so long?’ ”

Please be aware... the school district has installed a new district wide telephone system over the past few months. A final step is the change of our public phone numbers. The phone numbers that you should start to use to reach the buildings are as follows:

Main Auto-Attendant:	620-481-2015	
District Office:	620-481-2085	FAX 620-481-2017
NLC School:	620-481-2086	FAX 620-481-2054
NHHS:	620-481-2087	FAX 620-481-2028

These changes to the telephone system allows a unified district wide telephone system. We can transfer calls between buildings, something that we were unable to do in the past. It also allowed a telephone located in each classroom to help with both daily and emergency communications.

Please start to use the new phone numbers. Remember to change any numbers you might have programmed into memory on your mobile devices. The old numbers will be turned off sometime in the next few weeks.

These telephone numbers and our fax numbers may also be found on our website, <http://www.usd251.org>.

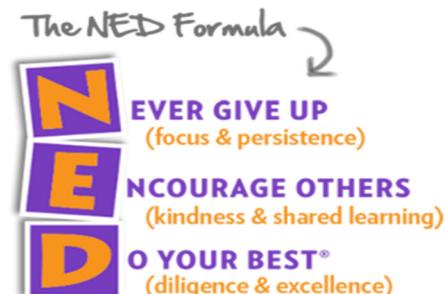


Principal's Perspective

By the time you are reading this, a quarter of our school year is behind us! Amazing how fast this school year is flying by! I want to update you on NLC Elementary's School Redesign. In case you didn't know, USD251 is officially a KSDE Redesign District as over 80% of our teachers voted for this because they know that today's educational system is not reaching today's students. We should be very proud of these teachers because what this vote meant was that they understand that the system that they are a part of is not serving kids and that we really need to look at what we are doing and change it! Change is NOT easy. Change requires an open mind and a willingness to take risks and be ok with a result that isn't perfect. It requires A LOT of discussion and input. That said, this is really the first time that KSDE, supported by the state board of education, has given schools full autonomy to figure out what their school and community's needs are and how best to address them. With all that said, NLC Elementary is digging in deep as to "Why" we need to redesign. All our staff - teachers, custodians, aides, paras, cooks, etc have taken a survey to allow them all to give input. Next, we surveyed our students (grades 3-8) to allow them to give us their input with questions like, "What does your ideal school day of learning look like?" and "List 5 things that you do not like about learning at school" and "How do you like to learn". Next, during parent teacher conferences, we will be asking these questions to our parents and then we will survey our communities to ensure that what we come up with is truly a shared idea of what direction we need to move in. After we identify our Why, next will be to begin looking into the actual changes we want to make. This will likely mean visiting schools and lots of professional development and collaboration. This will mean piloting various ideas to see how they work and changing aspects that just don't. The ultimate goal is that by next school year we are fully implementing our redesigned school, which is exciting and terrifying at the same time! So I hope you begin to hear about the changes in learning that we are making at NLC Elementary, as if not, then we really are not changing at all! I also hope that you support us with input and backing as the change process will have some bumps along the way, but the destination, which is to better serve our student's needs, is worth the trip!

COUNSELOR COMMENTS

The NLC Elementary and Junior High Students participated in **Anti-Bullying Week and Red Ribbon Week** during the month of October. Our themes for the weeks were **CHOOSE RESPECT** and **Our School has SWAG: Students Who Achieve Goals - Drug Free**. The students were given items to keep such as: pencils, bookmarks, stickers, red ribbons, and suckers to name a few. The students dressed up on the different days of each event. The students also participated in signing The Golden Rule Pledge to "treat others the way they want to be treated". Teachers showed videos in their classrooms about bullying, cyberbullying, how bullying makes others feel, and making healthy choices for their bodies when it comes to harmful substances. During the morning assembly a dice was rolled to see what kind act students and staff were going to do that day. The school participated in a Knock-Out Drugs Assembly where students and staff played knockout (favorite basketball game). Finally on Tuesday, October 23rd, the students in K-5 enjoyed an assembly called NED's Mindset Mission. It addressed never giving up, encouraging others, and doing their best. The students even enjoyed a few yo-yo tricks during the assembly. It was a month full of extra fun activities.



MRS. AIMEE LANDGREN - NLC ELEMENTARY K-8 COUNSELOR

Science-Mrs. Heins

Science has been anything but “Bohr-ing!” This past nine weeks while both the seventh and eighth grade classes have reviewed process skills and the scientific methods, the sixth grade was introduced to these topics. The skills gained or reviewed were put to good use by designing labs. Then as scientists, information was shared with the classes.

All middle school science classes are working on physical science standards. Each class has a unique focus. This includes:

The sixth grade has started their new science series STEMscopes. This is an online curriculum. Information will still be added to their INB, as well as some work being completed without the use of a computer, while other information-readings, tests, etc., will be on the computer. The goal at the end of our current unit “Forces and Motion” is for students to design a 3D maze game that incorporates numerous forces including electric, magnetic, and gravitational. Preliminary plans are in the works!

Don't trust atoms. They make up everything! This pun indicates the topic of the seventh grade who has been learning about the history of atoms, Bohr models and the periodic table. Element cards were made and 37 elements names and symbols were learned. Not only have the students completed 8 stations which included readings, models-both paper and interactive sites, videos, and constructed data tables to learn about the subatomic parts of an atoms-protons, neutrons, and electrons but also explored black boxes. To bring focus to the fact that everything is composed of elements, students are currently completing a poster and a Bohr model for 16 different items some of which include seawater, fluorescent light bulbs, alkaline batteries, steel, air, the sun, green plants, human body and a penny.

What show do cesium and iodine like to watch together? CsI! Eighth grade has echoed the same battle cry as the seventh while taking physical science to the next standard. They too, have made element cards to learn 56 element names and symbols. This class has reviewed atomic structure and the periodic table as well as made models of elements, molecules, compounds and mixtures. We are currently completing labs to review physical and chemical changes and properties. Once finished, we will complete labs on chemical reactions incorporating the topics of reactants, products, catalysts, balancing equations, and the law of conservation of mass. This will be followed with pH.

As you can see, science has been DyNAmITe! (Dysprosium, Nitrogen, Americium, Iodine, Tellurium)

News from Second Grade-Mrs. Hamlin

Second graders are busy learning about pumpkins, states of matter, and how to be good citizens. They are working on place value to the hundreds and getting our addition facts in our memory. They are learning about animals in different habitats. Our year is busy!!



Dr. Cottenmyre's Newsletter

For the first time ever the Renaissance Festival in Bonnor Springs gave free entrance tickets to 6-8 grade students that had all A's and B's the first couple of weeks of school. They allowed us to give 64 free tickets out to NLC Elementary School. Several students were able to take advantage and attend with their families. Great job NLC!





Northern Heights High School

PRINCIPAL'S PEN

**“If Everyone is Moving Forward Together, then Success Takes Care of Itself”
Peggy Fort**

The fall season has come to an end and the winter season will begin soon. Basketball practice will begin November 12th. The basketball coaches will be meeting with the athletes when all fall sports are completed.

The fall play will be presented on Saturday, November 10th. The Northern Heights High School Theatre's production is *The House of the Seven Gables*. The evening will begin at 6pm with a chili/soup supper fundraiser to purchase floor microphones to improve the acoustics for music and theatre performances in the gymnasium. The cost will be \$5 for a bowl of chili or soup, dessert and drink. The show begins at 7pm. Tickets are \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children/students.

FBLA will be hosting their Veterans Day Program on Monday, November 12th, beginning at 2pm. The afternoon will be filled with a program honoring our Veterans. Please pass this information to any veteran you may know. November is a slow month for activities. Take time to relax before the winter activities begin in December.

**Happy Fall!
Peggy Fort**

NHHS CALENDAR

November 1st	NHHS Picture retakes NLC basketball game at NHHS - 4:30
November 2nd	ACT Registration due for December 8, 2018 FBLA National Fall Leadership Conference
November 4th	Daylight Savings Time
November 5th	Buffer Week - No High school student athletic practice - Nov. 5th - 9th
November 6th	Scholars Bowl at Burlington - 4pm
November 10th	NHHS play - dinner at 6pm and play begins at 7pm
November 12th	Veterans Day program at NHHS at 2pm NHHS Winter sports practice begins
November 14th	USD 251 Board of Education meeting at Americus
November 19th	FFA Leadership - Mission Valley NHHS Scholars Bowl at Osage City - 4pm
November 20th	NHHS Winter sports pictures
November 21 -23	No school - Thanksgiving Break
November 28th	Career Fair at NHHS
November 30th	West Franklin at NHHS basketball - 4:45pm
December 4th	BB- NHHS Wabaunsee Tournament begins Scholars Bow at Santa Fe Trail - 4:00pm

Students Dominate State Writing Competition



Three NHHS Juniors earned writing honors at the Kansas Authors Club State Convention held in Salina the first weekend of October. NHHS took home three of the five awards edging out competition from all over the state. The students entered the contest as the real-world sharing component to their PBL projects in Mr. Becker's English class last spring. "In my mind, this is what PBL is all about," Becker told Kansas Authors Club Members. "Students work hard to find answers, think outside the box, and produce award winning pieces such as these." After returning from the convention, Becker recognized the winners at an assembly in the NHHS gym. He challenged students to enter the 2019 competition and encouraged NHHS students to dominate poetry and non-fiction. Students did not enter these categories in 2018. Pictured are Kylee Sull (Honorable Mention), Southern Hall (3rd Place), and Debbie Sparks (2nd Place).

NHHS VOLLEYBALL

The NHHS Volleyball team ended their season at sub-state October 20th, at Herington. The team lost their last match in the semi-finals against a good Wabaunsee team. The girls had a wonderful season. Congratulations to our team and coaches.



SENIOR RECOGNITION

Northern Heights High School recognized the seniors and parents of cross country, band, and football before the football game against Wabaunsee on October 19th, 2018.



SENIOR GOVERNMENT-MR. WILSON

The senior government classes are currently in the midst of their KS mock election project. Our objective with this project is to strip away party affiliations, real world names, and real world faces to see which candidate would win an election among NHHS students based on their positions alone. Five different groups were each randomly assigned one of the five candidates on the ballot for governor, (Kobach, Kelly, Caldwell, Kloos, Orman). Each group has selected a pseudonym and fictional character to represent their candidate and have embarked on getting their candidate's message out to the students in the form of campaign posters, digital commercials, and debate response videos. The 6th hour US government class is tackling the US House 1 district race between Alan LaPolice and Roger Marshall. These students are taking a slightly different approach and have come up with the plan of creating a candidate primer issues vid that would introduce where both candidates stand on issues, interspersed with student responses to those same questions. As of this writing, the students have made contact and received feedback from both the LaPolice and Marshall campaigns in reference to their project, and I am excited to see where the students go from here! The project will culminate with a school wide vote for governor and house seats on Tuesday, November 6. After the vote is counted, it will then be revealed to the student body which fake candidates represented which real world candidates. Stay tuned!

FALL PLAY

Please join us on Saturday, November 10th for Northern Heights High School Theatre's production of *The House of the Seven Gables* by David John Preece adapted from the novel by Nathaniel Hawthorne. We will begin the evening at 6 PM with a Chili/Soup Supper Fundraiser to purchase floor microphones to improve the acoustics for music and theatre performances in the gymnasium. Cost will be \$5 for a bowl of chili or soup, dessert, and drink. The show begins at 7 PM. Tickets are sold at the door, and are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students/children.

The drama tells the story of the conflict between the Pyncheon and Maule families. After refusing to sell his land to rich landowner Colonel Pyncheon, Matthew Maule is hanged for witchcraft and places a curse on Colonel Pyncheon before he dies: "God will give you blood to drink!"

Cast of Characters (In order of appearance)

Khylee Massey.....	Townsperson 1, Customer
Bobby Rathke.....	Townsperson 2, Young Jaffrey Pyncheon
Kaley Boyce.....	Townsperson 3, Collins
Wayde Burton.....	Townsperson 4, Uncle Jaffrey Pyncheon
Olivia Barrett.....	Townsperson 5, Housewife, Relative
Tee Preisner.....	Matthew Maule
Taj Bailey.....	Colonel Pyncheon, Judge Jaffrey Pyncheon
Caleigh Smart.....	Dixey
Hayden Centlivre.....	Hepzibah Pyncheon
Tanner Boyce.....	Holgrave
Sophia Arens.....	Aunt Venner
Daisy Murphy.....	Phoebe Pyncheon
Jarrett White.....	Clifford Pyncheon
Darrett King.....	Gervayse Pyncheon
Ethan Hansen.....	William Matthew Maule, Young Clifford Pyncheon
Debbie Sparks.....	Alice Pyncheon

Stage Crew for *The House of the Seven Gables*

Emma Barnett.....	Business Manager
Logan Centlivre.....	Lighting Director
Makenna French.....	Makeup Designer
Trysta Hahn.....	Costume Mistress
Kermit Hunter.....	Sound Director
Brooke Mealman.....	Stage Manager
Samantha Myers.....	Props Mistress
Brett Malcolm.....	Spotlight Operator

STATE BOUND!!!!!!



Northern Heights High School Cross Country boys team won their regionals at Wabaunsee. They ran at Wamego on Saturday October 27th, in the Kansas State Cross Country meet. State information will be available in our December Newsletter. Congratulations to the Northern Heights High School boys cross country team and Coach Lanzrath on winning regionals with a total of 70 points. Taj Bailey medaled fourth today! Congratulation Taj!



Taj Bailey medaled fourth in the Regional Cross Country meet at Wabaunsee. He will compete with his team at Wamego at the Kansas State Cross Country Meet. State information available in the December Newsletter. Good Luck to Taj and the team!

Mobilizing Literacy

The **Preschool Tuition Assistance** Program provides tuition assistance for families who reside within USD 251. The preschool child must be at least 3 years old and attend a qualifying preschool regularly. If you have a child attending preschool, please contact Becky Mayes at 620-443-5116 or mayesb@usd251.org to discuss preschool options and Preschool Tuition Assistance.

Families are encouraged to make reading with their children part of their daily routine, beginning at birth.

Ask Your Own Questions

“Will the little elephant make a friend?” “How many volcanoes are there in the world?” Asking and answering her own questions can boost your youngster’s comprehension as she reads or listens to a book. Suggest these strategies for each stage of the reading process.

Before

Encourage your child to think of questions before she even opens the book. Say there’s a girl with a bike on the front cover, and the back cover says she got a job to pay for the bike. Perhaps your youngster will wonder, “What kind of job did the girl get?” or “How much did her bike cost?” Looking for the answers will help her pay attention to details in the story.

During

Wondering about a book’s topic can keep your child focused on the text. Try this guessing game. Read a page, and think of a question (“How big do sharks get?”) Say, “Guess what I wonder” and give hints (I’m wondering something about size”). Once she guesses your question, it’s her turn to read while you figure out what she wonders (“Do sharks sleep?”)

After

Together, brainstorm questions to ask after finishing a book. For fiction, your youngster might list “What problem did the characters solve?” or “What would I do in this setting?” For nonfiction, she could suggest, “What did this book make me want to know?” This helps her better understand and remember the story or the information.

