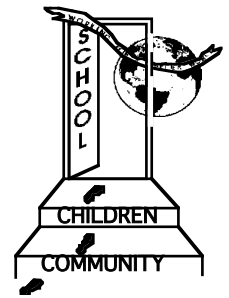


Unified School District No. 444 Little River-Windom

455 Prairie Avenue
Post Office Box 218
Little River, Kansas 67457

Brent Garrison, Superintendent
Randy Hendrickson, Principal
Jon Paden, Principal

EXCELLENCE
THROUGH
EDUCATION



July 2023

Dear Parent and/or Guardian:

After another busy summer at the district office, I am eagerly awaiting the return of staff and students for another school year. As always, several staff members have worked hard to prepare the buildings for the upcoming school year. Thanks to the support of the community and parents, and the excellence of our teachers, administrators, and support staff, I am confident that our schools will continue to be highly successful. It is an honor and a privilege to serve such a wonderful community and district. Please know that if I can be of any assistance anytime during the year, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Below are a few highlighted areas that continue to be an emphasis and priority for our district. Last school year a very committed group of staff members, community members, and parents met to discuss the district's mission and vision along with priorities for the coming years. A strategic plan was devised that serves as a guiding document for staff and district leaders. Highlighted below are the main aspects of our strategic plan and areas that will remain and continue to be our focus for our district. Of course, we have other measures and goals to obtain, but the following are keys that this group felt was important for our district to focus on to be successful for years to come and to best prepare our students. Our mission is to prepare ALL students to make a positive impact in their life and community after high school. It is our goal that 100% of our students leave our district prepared to become successful in whatever endeavor they choose with the skills necessary to be successful.

- **Community Engagement and Partnerships** - USD 444 will continue to strive to strengthen and enhance school and community partnerships when appropriate and possible. The district is committed to seeking outside funding per grants to assist and enhance learning opportunities. USD 444 is always looking for work-based opportunities for our students and looking for ways to communicate with all stakeholders and utilize community resources and partnerships to better our community and schools.
- **Student Success** - Of course, one of our primary functions as an education institution is to prepare our students academically. Our staff is diligently and intentionally looking to personalize learning when possible and appropriate to make it meaningful and engaging. It is our goal to create meaningful learning opportunities for all students at all levels. USD 444 will also continue to look for work based opportunities for our secondary students. Our district is committed to continuing to look at academic student measures that best measure student success and evaluating what that looks like for all students. The district uses a variety of measures to ensure our students are prepared.

- **Retention and Recruitment of Quality Staff** - *The board of education is committed to developing ways to retain and retain high quality staff. We are very fortunate in that our staff is a quality staff that is committed to the success of your child and we want to continue to increase marketing of our great district and provide the necessary resources and professional growth opportunities in the future so that our staff is best prepared and positioned to serve your child.*
- **World Class Facilities** - *Thanks to a very committed community that understands and cares deeply about our children, we are blessed with world class facilities that are new or recently remodeled. It is our job and desire to now maintain and keep our facilities first class. The district will look at ways to develop a long term Capital Outlay plan along with an ongoing facilities plan and audit to keep the facilities in top notch condition.*

A few annual reminders for parents. Our website (www.usd444.com) is available to provide the necessary information to parents, students, and all stakeholders in a quick and user-friendly format. Facebook at:

(<https://www.facebook.com/Little-River-Junior-Senior-High-School-271857683554/>

and <https://www.facebook.com/groups/windomelementary/>), Twitter

(<https://twitter.com/USD444>) and our district app (USD444 Little River - Windom), are also ways to keep up with events at the school. I encourage you to utilize every avenue we provide to maintain a positive level of communication with your district, your respective school and especially with your child's teacher.

As we work together toward our common goal of the success and well-being of our children, I look forward to another wonderful school year and the daily accomplishments of our students and staff.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve your students and this community. I understand the very important role all of our staff plays in the lives and futures of our children. I also understand that USD 444 has a staff that is willing to serve our students and to successfully guide them toward the goal of graduation and post-secondary success.

Sincerely,

Brent Garrison

Brent Garrison
Superintendent