

Cardinal

Lawson R-XIV School District

Volume 28, Issue 1

Fall 2022

# CONNECTION



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**ON THE COVER:** Junior **Haley Hollon** cheers with mini-clinic attendees during their performance prior to the varsity football game against Mid-Buchanan on Sept. 16. The mini-cheerleaders learned their cheer and dance routines from the varsity cheerleaders during practices Wednesday and Thursday. *Photo by Karen Johnson*

Follow Lawson School District on our social media platforms, so you won't miss important announcements, updates, and special things going on!

**Lawson School District Facebook**  
Lawson.GoCardinals

**Lawson School District Twitter**  
@LawsonGoCards

**Lawson Cardinals Activities**  
@LawsonCardinalsActivities

**Southwest Elementary Facebook**  
@swelementaryschool

**Lawson Textcaster**—Text messaging platform for important alerts such as early dismissal, school closing, press releases, etc.  
Lawson @lerts

**Lawson School District Website**  
lawsoncardinals.org

**2022-23 School Calendar**  
<https://bit.ly/Lawson22-23Calendar>

## FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

So, we say ***We Are Lawson where Proud Traditions meet Endless Possibilities***, but what does that mean? This is a question you might have heard lately, or quite possibly, it is a question you have been asking yourself. The message is intended to identify and connect our school community together. So, let me help explain how we see it connecting us all as one. As you know, I am new to the school district and community, but I am not a stranger to what it is to be from Lawson.

My experiences over the past 30+ years as a student, educator, and coach in fellow KCI Conference schools have served me well in having an up-close view of what it means to be connected to the Lawson school community. Each of my past experiences has helped to prepare me to serve as the Superintendent of the Lawson R-XIV School District. The first thing I did after accepting the position was to begin meeting with groups of individuals connected to the school in multiple ways to gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be a Lawson Cardinal. Through these meetings and further work with our school leaders and the Board of Education, the message of ***We Are Lawson, where Proud Traditions meet Endless Possibilities***, was formed.

It goes without saying that Lawson is a place full of ***Proud Traditions***. Traditions of academic and athletic excellence. Traditions of longevity in professional service and lifetime commitment to the school and community by staff members who call Lawson home, regardless of physical address. Traditions of school pride and community support are

always on display: Lawson Cardinal flags flying as you enter the town or a sea of red at sporting events. All said, Lawson is a place like no other full of amazing people who cheer each other on in times of triumph and hold each other up in times of despair.

So then, what about ***Endless Possibilities***? Well, this too arose through the conversations with so many great people who believe in all the good of Lawson but also see our school community on

the cusp of even more excellent opportunities to accomplish many things that will continue to propel our community forward and maintain our standing as a great place to be as a student, parent, staff member, patrons, and visitors alike. So, this clarifies the ***Proud Traditions \* Endless Possibilities***, but what about the ***We Are Lawson?***

***We Are Lawson*** is a mindset that is found throughout our school community. It is based on principles we discuss daily throughout our schools and community, such as those on display at Southwest Elementary: Cardinals are Respectful, Responsible, and Safe. It is seeded into the fabric of our school when we talk about our school community as a "FAMILY." Ultimately, ***We Are Lawson*** is all around us through the relationships, shared ownership, mutual respect, and open lines of communication we provide for each other. ***We Are Lawson*** is far more than any one person, and it lives in the hearts and minds of each of us. So next time you see ***We Are Lawson, where Proud Traditions meet Endless Possibilities***, tell yourself, **YES, WE ARE**, and that you are part of the **FAMILY**.



**MICHAEL STEPHENSON**  
Lawson R-XIV Superintendent



Third and fourth grade students participate in the first Southwest Elementary Art Fun Night on Sept. 9. **Holly Spencer**, Southwest Elementary art teacher, hosts this event once a month through February. *Photos by Holly Spencer*



## Southwest Students' MASTERPIECES



**TURN DONUTS**

**INTO DONATIONS**

*Casey's* **REWARDS**

Did you know that you can turn your purchases at Casey's into a donation to our school? Download the Casey's App today and start earning points that you can redeem as a donation to one of our buildings! Visit <https://www.caseys.com/rewards> to learn more!

## Ready to Recognize AMAZING STUDENTS AT SOUTHWEST

We are ready to recognize students in the building by continuing our program called "Cardinals S.O.A.R." that is led by our counselor, Mrs. Schmidt. "Cardinals S.O.A.R." is an acronym for:

- Show responsibility
- Own their actions
- Are safe
- Respect others

These traits align with our Southwest motto and give students the opportunity to show their Cardinal pride by being leaders among their peers. Each week, one student from each class will be selected as the S.O.A.R.ing Cardinal. Those students' names will be put up on the Cardinals S.O.A.R. bulletin board for everyone to see. We will also be taking a picture of all of the winners each week and putting that picture in the newspaper and on Facebook. Mrs. Schmidt has taught each class about the

program so that all of our students know the expectations. We will reference the program throughout the year to promote a positive climate among our students and staff. We are very excited to watch our Southwest Cardinals S.O.A.R. this year! Southwest will also continue to recognize students in many other ways too! We will continue our Golden Awards for good behavior in the hallways, lunch room, and recognize classrooms that keep their space picked up. We will continue to reward students who follow our motto of being Respectful, Responsible, and Safe. This is done a couple of different ways. Students can be recognized on the spot with a Positive Office Referral. Quarterly, we recognize a student from each grade level that represents the Southwest Motto of being Respectful, Responsible, and Safe.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT SOUTHWEST

### October

- 3—No School for Students – Teacher Collaboration Day
- 7—3rd Gr. Grandparents' Day 1 p.m.
- 14—End of First Quarter
- 20—½ day, out at 11:30; Parent/Teacher Conf. 1-8:30 p.m.
- 21—No School
- 22—PTO Trunk or Treat in conjunction with the Lawson Fall Festival
- 31—Fall Party 1:45-2:45 p.m.

### November

- 3—Donuts w/Dad 6:30-7:30 a.m.
- 10—3rd Gr. Music Program (SPAC) 7 p.m.
- 11—2nd Gr. Grandparents' Day at 1 p.m.
- 15—Mid-Term
- 17—Sr. Citizen Thanksgiving Dinner (HS) 12:30 p.m., SW Singers perform at event 1 p.m.
- 18—4th Gr. Grandparents' Day 1 p.m.
- 22—Kinder. Grandparents' Day 1 p.m.
- 23-25—No School – Thanksgiving Break

### December

- 1—4th Gr. Music Concert (SPAC) 7 p.m.
- 2—PTO Pancakes with Santa 5-7 p.m.
- 19—Winter Party 1:45-2:45
- 20—End of 2nd Qtr. & 1st Semester
- Winter Break*  
Dec. 21 – Jan. 3 – Winter Break  
Jan. 4 – Classes Resume – Start of 3rd Qtr. & 2nd Semester



# New Birds

## JOIN THE NEST

Lawson welcomes 18 admin, faculty and staff members to the district.



**MITCH COMSTOCK**  
Lawson Middle School  
Physical Education

**Yrs in a School Dist.:** 23  
**Sponsor/Coach:** 7th Grade Football and JV Basketball  
**Hobbies/Interests:** I love mountain biking and golfing.  
**When you think of the year ahead with Lawson School District, what are you most excited about?:** I'm excited to be a Cardinal! I can't wait to meet the students and start working with them.  
**What is your favorite part of this job?:** I love working with students and helping them achieve goals that they didn't think were possible.



**CLINT CULBERTSON**  
Lawson Middle School  
Math

**Yrs in a School Dist.:** 5  
**Sponsor/Coach:** Assistant HS Softball, 8th Grade Boys Basketball  
**Hobbies/Interests:** Baseball, going to concerts  
**When you think of the year ahead with Lawson School District, what are you most excited about?:** I have heard so many great things about the district that I am just

excited to be a part of it.  
**What is your favorite part of this job?:**  
My favorite part of the job is helping students reach their goals.



**MELINDA GRIMPO**  
Lawson MS/HS  
Nurse

**Yrs in a School Dist.:** 1  
**Hobbies/Interests:** Gardening, reading, yoga  
**When you think of the year ahead with Lawson School District, what are you most excited about?:**  
Meeting all of the staff and students, preferably in the halls and at activities not in the nurse's office!  
**What is your favorite part of this job?:**  
Developing a safe and healthy community is important. I want to be a part of the team that makes that happen for the students and staff in Lawson.



**JERICA GROW**  
Southwest Elementary  
Paraprofessional

**Yrs in a School Dist.:** 1  
**Hobbies/Interests:** I have a small hobby farm/homestead. I love to read. I usually have about three books going at a time.

**When you think of the year ahead with Lawson School District, what are you most excited about?:**

Progress not only for myself starting a new career path but to be a part of Lawson School District's students progress and achievements as well.  
**What is your favorite part of this job?:**  
What better way to be a part of a community than to work with it's youth. Students at our district are our community's future. They will be the ones to not only continue Lawson's legacy and traditions but bring new inspiration and growth to the community as well. My favorite part of my job so far is seeing the excitement and pure joy the students at SW Elementary have each morning. They are excited to learn and have so much to share.



**AMBER JACKSON**  
Lawson High School  
Math

**Yrs in a School Dist.:** 11  
**Hobbies/Interests:** I love anything water related... the lake or the ocean makes me happy.  
**When you think of the year ahead with Lawson School District, what are you most excited about?:**

I'm most excited to be "home" to teach!! The community of Lawson is special to me and I'm excited to invest my time and energy giving back to the town I grew up in.

**What is your favorite part of this job?:**

I know it's "cliché" but I love investing in the future and in the kids lives.



**JENNY JESSE**  
Southwest Elementary  
4th Grade

**Yrs in a School Dist.:** 7  
**Hobbies/Interests:** Reading, walking and watching my kids play sports

**When you think of the year ahead with Lawson School District, what are you most excited about?:**

Creating a family within my class.  
**What is your favorite part of this job?:**  
I love kids! They are pure and still have a joy for life.  
**Anything else you would like to add?:** I have been married for 17 years. I graduated from Lawson and I have five kids.



**KAREN JOHNSON**  
Lawson High School  
English/Journalism

**Yrs in a School Dist.:** 20  
**Hobbies/Interests:** Reading, photography, basketball  
**When you think of the year ahead with Lawson School District, what are**

**you most excited about?:**

I'm most excited about developing a yearbook program and building English II curriculum. All while getting to work with amazing colleagues and great students.

**What is your favorite part of this job?:**

My favorite part of the job is continuously learning. I also love building relationships while encouraging and challenging myself and others to be our best.

**Anything else you would like to add?:** Shameless plug: Buy your yearbook! Go to bit.ly/LHSYearbook for info about yearbook orders, ad sales, senior salutes, senior portraits and everything else yearbook-related.



**MELISSA JONES**  
Lawson Middle School  
8th Grade English

**Yrs in a School Dist.:** 2  
**Hobbies/Interests:** Kayaking, watching my kids play sports, yoga, reading, watching movies  
**When you think of the year ahead with Lawson School District, what are you most excited about?:**

Diving into great literature with the students and helping them to develop good writing skills.  
**What is your favorite part of this job?:**  
It is a strong community supported school district. My favorite part of this job will be working with these great kids to help them to develop the ELA skills they will need when they go into high school.



**TYLER MARTIN**  
Lawson R-XIV  
Technology Support Specialist

**Yrs in a School Dist.:** 1  
**Hobbies/Interests:** My interests include spending time with my family and friends, watching Chiefs football, live music, live comedy, and playing old-school video games with my kids.

**When you think of the year ahead with Lawson School District, what are you most excited about?:**

I'm excited to come to Lawson to be closer to my family every day and to be part of a great community while continuing the career path that I enjoy.

**What is your favorite part of this job?:**

My wife has been a teacher with the district for many years and enjoys it and our three kids attend school at Southwest so it was a fantastic opportunity to be closer to them.



**DANICA MAYNE**  
Lawson Middle School  
6th Grade Reading

**Yrs in a School Dist.:** 6  
**Hobbies/Interests:** Reading, volleyball, singing/music, acting, family history, outdoor activities

**When you think of the year ahead with Lawson School District, what are you most excited about?:** Helping students become lifelong learners!

**What is your favorite part of this job?:**

Further developing relationships in the

community and getting to know the students. I'm so grateful for this opportunity!



**DAVID MAYNE**  
Lawson High School  
Social Studies

**Yrs in a School Dist.:** 11  
**Hobbies/Interests:** Sports, agriculture, family, faith

**When you think of the year ahead with Lawson School District, what are you most excited about?:**

The chance to help students develop a tool box that will serve them throughout life - helping them thrive in society and in all they hope to achieve

**What is your favorite part of this job?:** It's our community and an amazing school. We live here, my wife teaches here, my kids go to school here. There isn't any other place I would rather be.



**KRISTIE MILLER**  
Lawson Middle School  
Paraprofessional

**Yrs in a School Dist.:** 7  
**Hobbies/Interests:** Camping, cruising!  
**Think of the year ahead with Lawson School District, what are you most excited about?:**

Getting to build positive relationships with peers and students.  
**What is your favorite part of this job?:** I choose to work with kids because they are our future. I absolutely love to see when a kiddo gets it, when they have realized they learned something and are excited!



**DANIEL NUTTER**  
Lawson Middle School  
Special Education

**Yrs in a School Dist.:** 18  
**Sponsor/Coach:**

Assistant coach for varsity football and basketball  
**When you think of the year ahead with Lawson School District, what are you most excited about?:**

Watching my kids play sports. Lawson is a great place to raise a family. I'm excited to be a part of this school district.

**What is your favorite part of this job?:** Helping kids reach their full potential



**EMILY ROSE**  
Lawson Middle School  
7th Grade Math

**Yrs in a School Dist.:** 3  
**Hobbies/Interests:** Being outside, being with my family, music

**When you think of the year ahead with Lawson School District, what are you most excited about?:** Being in a community that is welcoming and willing to support.

**What is your favorite part of this job?:** I LOVE my kids they make me laugh, they make me a better person and I love to not only teach them content, also life skills as well.

Not only are the adults welcoming but the kids are welcoming and are so willing to accept you into their world it makes you truly feel loved and accepted.



**MARY SELLERS**  
Lawson Southwest Elementary  
2nd Grade

**Yrs in a School Dist.:** 16  
**Hobbies/Interests:**

Walking, boating, boarding  
**When you think of the year ahead with Lawson School District, what are you most excited about?:** I am most excited about working with the children and the families and teachers in Lawson.

**What is your favorite part of this job?:** My favorite part of the job is watching the students grow and blossom.



**MICHAEL STEPHENSON**  
Lawson R-XIV  
Superintendent

**Yrs in a School Dist.:** 20  
**Hobbies/Interests:** I am a cable news junky, working, helping others, attending sporting events, spending time with my family

**When you think of the year ahead with Lawson School District, what are you most excited about?:** The endless possibilities we each have to develop relationships with students, staff members, community, members.

**Why do you choose to work in a school district?:** Lawson is a district with proud tradition, and I wanted to be a part of a school community that is focused on academic excellence and community involvement.

**What is your favorite part of this job?:** Having the opportunity to

work with incredibly gifted individuals who love what they do and want to make a POSTIVE IMPACT on students.



**JAYME TAYLOR**  
Lawson Middle School  
Secretary

**Yrs in a School Dist.:** 7  
**Hobbies/Interests:** Shopping, baking & hanging out with family & friends.

**When you think of the year ahead with Lawson School District, what are you most excited about?:** I'm excited to learn more about my position and getting to know the staff & kids.  
**What is your favorite part of this job?:** I love the atmosphere, love working around the kids & with the administration.



**TRAVIS ZAHL**  
Lawson Middle School  
Asst. Principal & District A.D.

**Yrs in a School Dist.:** 20  
**Hobbies/Interests:** Fishing, watching Nebraska football  
**When you think of the year ahead with Lawson School District, what are you most excited about?:**

Excited to see students develop, mature, and represent Lawson!  
**What is your favorite part of this job?:** To build strong relationships with faculty and students. To lead and have long lasting impact on students and faculty. Offering support and leadership to faculty and students.



# Anxiety & ADOLESCENCE

**SUSAN EDWARDS**  
Lawson Middle School Counselor

There is substantial evidence that the pandemic has increased the number of middle school and high school students dealing with stress and anxiety, not to mention the overloading pressure from social media.

If your adolescent shows signs of not handling stress or anxiety, here are a few “daily” strategies:

**1. SLEEP.** (This seems like common sense, but teens are not getting enough sleep). Teens need a MINIMUM of eight hours of sleep every night. Eleven- and 12-year old’s need at least nine hours per night.

**2. EXERCISE.** Physical activity is the premiere stress reliever. Go for a walk, run in place, simulate boxing, yoga, etc.

**3. GET OUTSIDE.** Nature is a natural cure all. People who are in “green” spaces consistently have lower rates of depression and stress.

**4. JOURNAL.** Write it down. Write about what is stressful and possible solutions...but always end your writing with positive thoughts. Writing down who you love, what makes you happy, things you are proud of has an impact on your mindset.

**5. PUT AWAY THE CELL PHONE.** Take a break from social media and technology. Spend a couple of hours disconnected.

**6. CUT DOWN CAFFEINE.** (It doesn’t just rev up adults).

If your adolescent is feeling overly anxious/panicked, here are some immediate coping skills:

**A. ICE, ICE, ICE.** Hold an ice cube in your hands (for as long as you can or until it melts). The “cold” will help ground you and move your focus.

**B. BREATHING EXERCISES.** There are many techniques for focusing on breathing (you can Google “box breathing,” “flower breathing,” “ocean breathing”), but they are all ways to slow our breathing. Basic steps are: Breathe in for the count of five and then breath out for the count of five.

**C. 5,4,3,2,1** Focus on your senses. Say out loud: “5” things you can see, “4” things you can hear, “3” things you can touch, “2” things you can smell, and “1” thing you can taste.

**D. SQUEEZE IT.** Grab something and give it a tight squeeze (stress ball, play dough, sponge, empty water bottle).

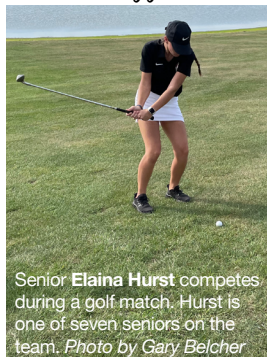
**E. I AM TENSE.** This is helping with muscle relaxation: Squeeze/tense your feet...hold for 5 seconds...relax. Repeat, but with legs, then stomach, and, finally, arms.

**F. TALK IT OVER.** Share your feelings with someone you trust.

**988** SUICIDE & CRISIS  
LIFELINE

24/7 CALL, TEXT, CHAT

## GOLF Tees Off Season



Senior Elaina Hurst competes during a golf match. Hurst is one of seven seniors on the team. Photo by Gary Belcher

The 2022 Lawson Girls Golf team is off to a good start.

There are 13 girls participating in the program this season, including seven seniors, two juniors, two sophomores and two freshmen. The team held the Lawson Invitational Tournament on Wednesday, Sept. 7, hosting 17 other schools for a total of 93 participants.

Head Coach **Gary Belcher** said he’s extremely excited to announce that Lawson will host the Class 1 District 4 Tournament on Monday, Oct. 10, at Hidden Valley Golf Course.

Belcher said the program has a great group of young ladies participating and he looks forward to watching them compete, learn and grow together over the course of the rest of our season.

## Health Room HIGHLIGHTS

It is nice to be back at school with old and new friends. We are excited to welcome nurse, Melinda Grimpo, to the MS/HS health room this year. She brings lots of knowledge and experience that will benefit both students and staff. If you have not already completed and returned Student Health and Emergency Information forms please do so. This information helps us to provide the best care for your students.

### MEDICATIONS

- It is always best to medicate your child at home before or after school, but if that is not possible, a Medication Authorization Form (for prescription and non-prescription medication) must be completed and returned to the nurse’s office before a medication can be administered at school.
- Prescription medications must be in the original bottle with a label attached by a pharmacy that shows: name of student, name of medication, dosage/dosing instructions, date purchased (must be a current prescription) and prescribing physician’s name.
- If your student will require non-prescription medication, it should be delivered to the nurse’s office in the original sealed bottle.
- All medication must be delivered to the school by a parent/guardian or other responsible adult—it should not be sent on the school bus or with the student.

### COLDS / FLU / COVID-19

- As we start spending more time indoors together it is very important for everyone to take steps to prevent the spread of germs/infections.
- Along with frequent hand washing and covering coughs/sneezes, it is

recommended that parents perform a daily/morning assessment of their student(s) to help keep students and staff healthy and safe.

- If students have a temperature greater than 100 degrees and/or any symptoms that might spread germs or would keep them from being able to participate in class (vomiting, excessive coughing, etc.), please keep them home until they are symptom free for at least 24 hours without the aid of medication.
- Getting the influenza and COVID-19 vaccines can help prevent or lessen the effects of these illnesses.

### IMMUNIZATIONS

- 7th graders—need the Tdap and meningococcal immunizations prior to 8th grade.
- 11th graders—need the last meningococcal immunization prior to entering 12th grade.
- Sometimes these vaccines are in short supply during the summer months. If you have the opportunity to go ahead and get these immunizations during this school year, you can provide a copy to the nurse office at any time in order to update records.
- The Ray County Health Department holds a clinic every fourth Friday of each month at the Lawson Community Center from 1 to 3 p.m.
- The Health Department also does immunizations by appointment at their office in Richmond, Mo. (816-776-5413).

### CONTACT INFO

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact **Tina Murdock**, RN at 816-580-7272 or **Melinda Grimpo**, RN at 816-580-7279/7270.



Daniel Petet, principal, and Tara Crawford, assistant principal, take on new roles this school year after former principal **Scott Harrold** and former assistant principal **Clint Ross** retire. Petet served as LMS assistant principal and district A.D. for the last three years. Crawford was a math teacher at LHS for the last nine years. Photo by Karen Johnson

# Same Faces, NEW PLACES

LHS admin team already familiar with the district.

**DANIEL PETET**  
Lawson High School  
Principal

**Yrs in a School Dist.:** 12  
**Hobbies/Interests:** Watching KC Chiefs, and spending time with my family

**When you think of the year ahead with Lawson School District, what are you most excited about?:**

I’m excited about the opportunities that we provide our secondary students. Not only academically but also life skills that prepare them to transition into young adults.

**What is your favorite part of this job?:**

I choose to work in education because of the relationships with our students. Like most people, I credit much of who I am to the educators

who worked with me and helped me grow as a person. That’s why my favorite part of my position is being around all the students each day and trying to make an impact on their future.

**Anything else you would like to add?:**

Lawson has an incredible reputation in the Northwest region because of the great community we have that has supported the tremendous administrative and teaching staffs that have come before. It is an honor to be apart of the Lawson School District and community. I look forward to continuing the rich tradition of the Cardinal Nation.

**TARA CRAWFORD**  
Lawson High School  
Asst. Principal

**Yrs in a School Dist.:** 13  
**Hobbies/Interests:** Cooking and home improvement projects

**When you think of the year ahead with Lawson School District, what are you most excited about?:**

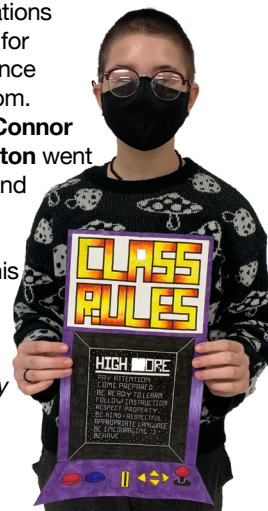
The new challenges that come with a new position. Also being able to create connections with students in a new way.

**What is your favorite part of this job?:**

I chose to work in a school district so I could teach and coach which put me in a position to help students reach goals they had set. I have always enjoyed helping others and this job provides me the opportunity to do that every day.

## TAKING RULES to a New Level

In **Lori McNeely**’s classes, students made Positive Behavior Expectations posters for the science classroom. Senior **Connor Harrington** went above and beyond and made this poster. Photo by Lori McNeely



## Meet the New Middle/High School LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST

**Hometown:** Marshall, Mo.

**Favorite Book:** *The Giver* by Lois Lowry

**Favorite subject in school:** PE

**Favorite Food:** Nachos!

**Hobbies:** Reading, hiking, and quilting

**Why are you a librarian?:** I want to help people.

**How long have you been a librarian?:** This is my ninth year, but I took a three-year break to teach science when I moved to Lawson.

**Anything else you would like to add?:** We have tons of books, free wifi, comfy couches, school supplies for sale and smiling faces. Come by and see us!



**KATIE BERGER**  
Lawson Middle/High School  
Library Media Specialist

**LMC HOURS:**  
7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Mon., Weds. and Fri.

7:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Tues. and Thurs.

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Saturday



Sophomores **Madisyn Nutter**, **Audrey Trout** and **Jocelyn Calvert** start reading the books they selected for English II independent reading books while in the LMC. Photo by Katie Berger



# Lawson High School

## STUDENTS WORK TOWARD A+ BACKGROUND

Lawson High School has been a proud A+ designated school since the early 90's, providing 1000+ LHS students with the opportunity to pursue post secondary education without the cost of tuition. The graduating class of 2022 included 40 members whom met requirements and qualified for the A+ Scholarship Program

### DEADLINE

- Students must sign up for the A+ Schools program by Dec. 1 of the student's senior year.

### REQUIREMENTS

- Attend a designated A+ School at least two (2) years prior to graduation.
- Graduate from a designated A+ School with a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- Maintain at least a 95% average attendance record during all four years of high school.
- Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoidance of the unlawful use of alcohol and drugs.
- Perform at least 50 hours of unpaid tutoring or mentoring for younger students.
- Complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the funds that do not require repayment. (Parental income and financial need are NOT factors for A+ tuition incentives reimbursement. The FAFSA must be completed during the senior year.)
- Score Advanced or Proficient



Freshman **Jackson Shields** works with third grader **Everlee Hicks** as part of his A+ tutoring at Southwest during summer school. Photo by Karen Johnson

on the Algebra I End of Course Examination or complete a state approved alternative to the Algebra I End of Course Exam.

- Note: All funds for the A+ Schools Program are subject to annual state budgetary appropriations.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact **Tara Crawford**, A+ Coordinator, at Lawson High School (580-7270).
- Paperwork regarding the program and enrollment may be picked up in the high school office, or by visiting the [www.lawsoncardinals.org](http://www.lawsoncardinals.org) and clicking on the Student Tab, then the A+ link. The A+ link will then redirect you to a wide variety of helpful resources.

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## SINGING SUCCESS



### MCDA Summer Youth Honor Choirs

For the first time in three years, the Missouri Choral Directors Association hosted its Summer Youth Honor Choirs. Fourteen students from LMS and LHS earned selections to the ensembles. The students auditioned through an online process in March and those selected rehearsed several times over the summer with **Amanda Covey**, Lawson R-XIV Vocal Music Director. On July 26, they traveled to Springfield where they spent the day rehearsing with students from across the state of Missouri and concluded the evening with a concert.

The 4/5/6 Honor Choir was under the direction of Sandy Knudson from the University of Oklahoma. Members included: **Destiny Dreesen, Zayda Matney, Alexandra O'Connor, Bailey Payne, Isabella Pinson, Lillie Templeton, Sadie Templeton, Emma Thompson and Joanna Wood.**

The 9/10 Honor Choir was under the direction of Brandon Williams, an Assistant Professor of Choral Music and Choral Music Education at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. 9/10 Honor

Choir Members were: Allison Hochwender, Haley Lewis, Jacklyn Thompson, Emerson Yarbrough and Lila Tucker.

### NW All-District Choir

Twenty-one Lawson Select Choir students traveled to MO Western in St. Joe to audition for the Northwest All-District Choir. Only Kearney and Platte County had more students audition. Not only did Lawson break records with the number of students auditioning, but with the number of students selected as well. Eighteen students were chosen for the 2022 NW All-District Choir. These students will travel to Platte County HS on Oct. 29 where they will rehearse all day and put on a concert at 5 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public.

Those students selected for this year's All-District Choir were: **Ava Briegel (11), Cara Siebert (10), Carsyn McPheeters (12), Haley Hollon (11), Jacklyn Thompson (10), Joanna Mayne (9), Jocelyn Hazlett (11), Kimberlin Ballard (11), Aleah Johnson (9), Allison Hochwender (10), Haley Lewis (10), Lola Bolinger (9), Cade Shafer (11), Hunter Thompson (10), Waylon Templeton (10), Xander Veverka (9), Connor Long (11), and Powell Bolinger (10).**



Lawson R-XIV School District  
(816) 580-7277  
Michael Stephenson, Superintendent  
David Allgaier, Board President  
Tyson Miller, Director Special Services

Southwest Elementary  
(816) 580-7272  
Megan Owens, Principal  
Christina Cross, Asst. Prin. & District P.R.

Lawson Middle School  
(816) 580-7279  
Tammy Dunn, Principal  
Travis Zahl, Asst. Principal & District A.D.

Lawson High School  
(816) 580-7270  
Daniel Petet, Principal  
Tara Crawford, Asst. Principal & A+ Coord.

Karen Johnson, Newsletter Compiler

### Cardinal Connection

Lawson R-XIV School District  
4th & Allison  
Lawson, MO 64062

Cardinal Connection is a publication of the Lawson School District. To comment, write to the above address, or call 580-7270.