

2nd Quarter
NEWSLETTER
2021-2022





Lansing Unified School District 469

200 East Mary Street
Lansing, Kansas 66043
913-727-1100
www.usd469.net

Superintendent Dan Wessel

Thank you for a great start to the 2021-2022 school year. Making our school activities as close to what we would perceive as normal has helped our schools have a tremendous start. Our connections with our parents and families that were strengthened through parent/teacher conferences need to continue to grow as we enter the second quarter of school. Get into the routine of asking your child one thing they learned every day! This should be an easy question for them to answer and will help them recollect on their learning.

As we move into a cooler season and the nights get shorter, think of additional ways to extend the learning from the classroom to your home. Play an educational game, ask your child what topic they would like to learn and research, or simply talk about things they see in our community that they would like to make better. Showing our children that learning never ceases and that we can make a difference in our community is one of the greatest gifts we can pass on.

We can all make a difference in our community by exercising our right to vote on November 2nd in our elections. We have four Board of Education seats up for election in our district. Take every opportunity to be informed and then VOTE! Local elections are the most important and have the most impact on our community.

Last week's lockout in our buildings is a good reminder for parents to be sure to check that you have the district app in order to receive instant notifications of things happening around our district. If you don't already have it, please consider downloading the Lansing USD469 app on the App Store (iPhone) or Play Store (Android) and check to be sure you have notifications turned on. Click here for more information about the [Lansing USD469 Mobile App](#).

Please take a moment to read important updates from across our district and outstanding student achievers in our 2021-2022 Second Quarter Newsletter below.

It is an honor to serve as the Superintendent of Schools for the best district in Kansas. The ability to empower educators and support families in education is a gift that I have been granted.

Please reach out if I can be of service.

Lansing USD 469 Superintendent of Schools

STUDENT SHOUT-OUTS!

We will be highlighting students who have done something exceptional in each of our quarterly newsletters. This quarter, we would like to highlight two groups of students who have gone above and beyond what was asked of them during the first quarter of school.

We would like first to recognize the following high school students who have joined the District Health & Wellness Committee: Reece Baker, Brooklynn Corral, Cole Hahn, Pete Hamilton, Connor Lessard, Khushi Patel, and Alexa Ymker. Lansing Elementary School Asst. Principal and Head of the District Health & Wellness Committee Dr. Jennifer Kolb reached out about the students' exceptional work and said, "It was exciting to engage in discussions about the Health & Wellness of the staff and students of our district. They are high energy, and they had great ideas."

Outstanding work, Reece, Brooklynn, Cole, Pete, Connor, Khushi, and Alexa!



Reece Baker



Brooklynn Corral



Cole Hahn



Pete Hamilton



Connor Lessard



Khushi Patel



Alexa Ymker

Our second "shout-out" goes to a group of students who stepped up after our Homecoming football game and voluntarily picked up trash left in the stadium. Lansing USD 469 Director of Emergency Preparedness attended the game and was there at the end to be sure everyone safely left the stadium. He noticed four students who had a trash bag and were picking up trash without being prompted. Two of the students had been on the Homecoming Court and were dressed in nice clothes.

Faye Elmer, Austin Howell, Makenzie Lagunas, and Riley Lagunas ... THANK YOU for your hard work and for being a shining example of what a Lansing Lion is! We appreciate you!



Faye Elmer



Austin Howell



Mackenzie Lagunas



Riley Lagunas

LANSING USD469 DEPARTMENT UPDATES

CURRICULUM



Miles Azzeh
Director of
Teaching & Learning

Hello, parents and community members! I'm so proud of the hard work, effort, determination, and commitment of the staff in our fine district. Without them, we wouldn't be as amazing as we are. Kudos to all of them!

Here are some highlights of the work buildings have been engaged in the past quarter:

Lansing Elementary School teachers have really stepped up their game regarding the early literacy skills that are vital to becoming a great reader. With the help of supplemental resources called Heggerty and 95% Group and the existing ELA curriculum (Open Court/Wonders), students are improving their phonemic and phonological awareness every day. There is nothing more beneficial in education than being a proficient, capable reader, and the administration and staff of LES are committed to this becoming a reality. Here are some staff members on its benefits:

"I'm very excited with the progress we've made in the short time that Heggerty and 95% Group have been implemented. They help us with our explicit phonological and phonemic awareness instruction. Students are engaged in the routine daily, and we know that providing this systematic and sequential instruction supports their orthographic mapping (learning and storing words into long-term memory) to become proficient readers." - Jenny Nickelson, Instructional Coach

"Heggerty is a very robust phonemic awareness curriculum that teaches those important early reading skills systematically. Students are already becoming much more fluent with blending, segmenting, identifying, adding, deleting, and substituting phonemes. We attribute that to the format and pacing of the lessons, the repetition, and the hand motions that Heggerty uses. 95% Group is more rigorous than previous intervention materials. It provides students with plenty of repetition so they can master the phonics skills systematically." - Holly Kane, Interventionist

"The 95% Group lessons are providing my students with a structured and sequenced approach to improving their phonics skills. Each lesson my students are involved in reading and writing activities that allow them to practice and apply the skills multiple times. The repeated practice is crucial for helping struggling readers solidify their learning and make progress. The Heggerty Phonemic Awareness lessons have also been an important component of my intervention lessons. The students are already receiving the Heggerty lessons during their core reading instruction in the classroom, but reinforcing the same phonemic awareness concepts during intervention provides my students with more individualized instruction with these important foundational reading skills. Overall I think both of these resources provide our school with a consistent approach to instruction in the classroom and instruction in our MTSS groups. Consistency is so important for our students, especially those that need the most support." - Erin Ardon, Interventionist

"I would say the visual cues that both Heggerty and 95% Group provide along with the consistency and repetition within the delivery of instruction is proving to be most beneficial to my students." - Jennah Flynn, Interventionist

Great job, LES!

Lansing Intermediate School is really "taking the baton" when it comes to instilling a love of reading as students progress through elementary school. Students are still engaging in daily, independent, self-chosen reading during DIRT (Daily Independent Reading Time) and OTTERS (Our Time to Enjoy Reading). I cannot put into words the magic of seeing students' excitement when they are allowed to get lost in a book and enjoy the words the author has written for them. It's incredible. Here are some quotes from staff and students about how much they enjoy it:

"I love silent reading because it allows students and staff to read for pleasure. Students are always excited to share what they read with me at lunch."-Caroline Reynolds, Instructional Coach

"My favorite part of dirt time is reading good books, and it's finally quiet and peaceful."-Sandi Luebbert, 4th grade

"I like DIRT because you don't have to do work."-Preston Wessel, 4th grade

"I like reading because it is quiet and calm."-Morgan Jenkins, 5th grade

"I like reading new books."-Allison Murphy, 5th grade

"My favorite part of otter time is I get to take a break from class."-Cortland Worrall, 5th grade

"I like that we get at least 15 minutes of reading time."-Quintin Mack, 5th grade

"I love being able to read for enjoyment!"-Mr. Engle, 4th grade teacher

"My favorite part of otter time is watching students read and then sharing with friends about the book."-Mrs. Watkins, 5th grade teacher

Way to go, LIS!

Secondary (6-12)

Becky Jones (Band director at Lansing Middle School) has led the charge in helping elective teachers 6-12 align their curriculum to ensure students are progressing well as they go through our secondary system. We often overlook our elective classes, such as foreign languages, art, drama/theater, band, choir, technology, etc., but these classes are equally important to creating a well-rounded student. Here is a quote from Becky about the work:

"The secondary music staff at Lansing Middle School and Lansing High School are currently engaging in the process of reviewing our curriculum to ensure that our students leave Lansing with the knowledge they need to succeed as a musician at whatever level they choose, and to advocate for music education and appreciation. Meeting as a district team allows us to examine our current practices and assessments to ensure they align with our state music curriculum and verify that we are teaching concepts in a logical sequence. These meetings also allow us to share lessons, activities, and assessment strategies that will continue to ensure the future success of our students and programs."

The Social Studies departments at both LMS and LHS have been working hard to not only align their curriculum 6-12 but to also ensure that all students are receiving rich, rigorous, and deep instruction when it comes to the standards. Here is Ann Andrews talking about it:

"Curriculum mapping ensures that all teachers of that topic have access to the same resources and assessments so that students have the same instruction, no matter which teacher they have."

I'm so proud and lucky to work alongside great teachers and administrators who are dedicated to providing our students with the best education possible!

TECHNOLOGY



Chris Fletcher
Director of
Technology

The summer and the first quarter are always busy times for the Lansing Technology Department. This summer, we transitioned all student iPads to a new management system.

We have taken significant steps to integrate multiple systems with Skyward. These integrations require data, specifically the user ID and email address, to match across all systems. With the help of many staff members, we worked to ensure system-wide consistency was established. The goal is that when a student enrolls, access to necessary accounts and resources will be created by the next day.

The primary goals of our automation initiative are creating accounts and simplifying the login process. Below are some examples of Skyward integrations we have completed.

Integrations completed last year:

- FastBridge
- Apple School Manager/Managed Apple ID's
- Mosyle Manager for staff devices

Integrations completed this year:

- Mosyle for student users/devices
- McGraw-Hill nightly sync via API
- Google Classroom grade sync via API for all staff
- IXL for middle school - single sign-on
- HMH upload via OneRoster

We expect that repetitive and unnecessary tasks will be eliminated for staff through automation, allowing greater focus on their instructional roles.

This quarter we have also worked to improve or resolve issues with the high school press box audio, high school digital sign, and audio/video systems. We have also assisted the security department in upgrading our video security systems at the middle school and high school. The upgrade will provide staff with easier access to cameras.

Through technology, we strive to improve our systems and adapt to the many needs of our district.

COMMUNICATIONS



Sharon Burns
Director of
Communications &
Marketing

We were excited to release our first Lion Lowdown videos with Superintendent Dan Wessel in September and October. To view our first two episodes, [click here](#). We plan on shooting a video every month and would love feedback on future topics to cover. If you have a subject you would like featured; please email it to lionlowdown@usd469.net.

With the coordination of our District Nurse Coordinator Kristen Dilka and the Leavenworth County Health Department, we will continue to communicate positive COVID-19 cases in our district through our district app, website, social media, and Skyward. As a reminder, we only report positive cases that require contact tracing by our district. If a student or staff member contracts COVID-19 outside of our facilities and does not require us to contact trace, we do not report those in our daily totals. [Click here to view our current positive COVID-19 numbers since the start of the school year.](#)




Kristen Dilka
District Nurse Coordinator

Flu season is upon us!

Thank you to our District Nurse Coordinator, Kristen Dilka, for organizing a flu clinic through Walgreens for staff on October 6th. We had a total of 113 staff members receive flu shots. If you haven't already gotten your flu shot, now is the time to do so.

If your child becomes sick with the flu, they must remain home for five (5) days from the start of symptoms or until they are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-relieving medications, whichever is LONGER.

Although Leavenworth County is "High" in Community Transmission of COVID-19, we feel fortunate that our district numbers continue to stay low. At our last school board meeting, the Board of Education passed the following Gating Criteria for removing the mask requirement. We will be following the CDC's recommendation on mask-wearing based on Leavenworth County's Transmission status. Families can monitor the CDC's COVID Data Tracker at any time by clicking [here](#).



Lansing Unified School District 469

200 East Mary Street
Lansing, Kansas 66043
913-727-1100 www.usd469.net

Superintendent Dan Wessel

GATING CRITERIA FOR MASK MANDATE

Approved by Lansing USD 469 on 10-11-2021

I am recommending we follow the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#)'s guidance regarding masks. The CDC's recommendation is as follows:

"People, including children older than 2, should wear a mask in indoor places if they are:

- Not fully vaccinated
- Fully vaccinated and in an area with substantial or high transmission
- Fully vaccinated and with weakened immune systems"

As of October 11, 2021, Leavenworth County is considered an area of high transmission based on the CDC's website:

Leavenworth County, Kansas

[State Health Department](#)

7-day Metrics | 7-day Percent Change

Community Transmission ● High

Everyone in **Leavenworth County, Kansas** should wear a mask in public, indoor settings. Mask requirements might vary from place to place. Make sure you follow local laws, rules, regulations or guidance.

How is community transmission calculated?

	October 11, 2021
Cases	108
% Positivity	6.88%
Deaths	<10
% Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated	62.2%
New Hospital Admissions	3

Determining Transmission Risk

If the two indicators suggest different transmission levels, the higher level is selected

	Low	Moderate	Substantial	High
New cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days*	<10	10-49.99	50-99.99	≥100
Percentage of positive NAATs tests during the past 7 days**	<5%	5-7.99%	8-9.99%	≥10.0%

It is my recommendation to monitor CDC's recommendation each Monday and follow their guidance regarding the mask requirement in Lansing USD 469 for all students and staff. There is a link to the Leavenworth County, Kansas Community Transmission Dashboard on our website, so that parents can track our current Community Transmission at any time.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



Kevin McCarley
Director of Emergency Preparedness

We want to send a huge thank you to Lansing USD 469 Director of Emergency Preparedness Kevin McCarley and School Resources Office Leif French for organizing our first Active Shooter Drill during the September 20th Staff Professional Development Day. It was a huge undertaking to coordinate efforts with Lansing Police Department, Leavenworth Fire District 1, and Leavenworth County EMS. We received overwhelmingly positive feedback from staff about the drill and plan to build on the training in the future. For more information about the drill, [click here](#).

October is Fire Safety Month, so remember to check your fire detector batteries and know the difference between a smoke alarm and a carbon monoxide alarm.

Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety

Is there a beep or a chirp coming out of your smoke or carbon monoxide alarm? What does it all mean? Knowing the difference can save you, your home, and your family! Make sure everyone in the home understands the sounds of the smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and knows how to respond. Learn the sounds of your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms by checking the user guide or search the brand and model online.

What is your alarm telling you?

SMOKE ALARMS

- A continued set of three loud beeps—beep, beep, beep—means smoke or fire. Get out, call **9-1-1**, and stay out.
- A single “chirp” every 30 or 60 seconds means the battery is low and must be changed.
- All smoke alarms must be replaced after 10 years.
- Chirping that continues after the battery has been replaced means the alarm is at the end of its life and the unit must be replaced.

CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) ALARMS

- A continuous set of four loud beeps—beep, beep, beep, beep—means carbon monoxide is present in your home. Go outside, call **9-1-1** and stay out.
- A single chirp every 30 or 60 seconds means the battery is low and must be replaced.
- CO alarms also have “end of life” sounds that vary by manufacturer. This means it’s time to get a new CO alarm.
- Chirping that continues after the battery has been replaced means the alarm is at the end of its life and the unit must be replaced.

Make sure your smoke and CO alarms meet the needs of everyone in your home, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.

Some tips:

- ✓ Install a bedside alert device that responds to the sound of the smoke and CO alarms. Use of a low frequency alarm can also wake a sleeping person with mild to severe hearing loss.
- ✓ Sleep with your mobility device, glasses, and phone close to your bed.
- ✓ Keep pathways like hallways lit with night lights and free from clutter to make sure everyone can get out safely.

Hear a Beep, Get On Your Feet!
Get out and stay out! Call 9-1-1 from outside.

Hear a Chirp, Make a Change!
A chirping alarm needs attention. Replace the batteries or the entire unit if it's over 10 years old. If you don't remember how old the unit is, replace it!

NFFPA FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

For fire safety tips, visit firepreventionweek.org and sparky.org
Sparky® is a trademark of NFFPA. ©2021 National Fire Protection Association®

[Click here to watch a video about how families can plan an escape from their home in the event of a fire.](#)

TRANSPORTATION



Jim Slapper
Director of
Transportation

In August of 2011, the Lansing Transportation Department celebrated its 10th anniversary. In May of 2011, Lansing took over the transportation duties from Durham, an outside contract agency. We started with just a building. Throughout that summer, we hired all the bus drivers, monitors, and crossing guards. By the first part of August, all 23 of our buses were in the parking lot, and we were ready to go.

Today, ten years later, we are up to 36 buses. We have 11 employees that started with us in 2011 that are still here today. Jim Slapper, Sam Bryant, Lisa Findeisen, Janie Gates, Nicole Kerr, Rob MacNell, Cheryl Savala, Janine Shields, Dianna White, and Ernest

Littrice.

Over the last ten years, we have added some new helpful technology to our buses. We have a camera system on our buses that allow us to see the bus in live time. These cameras also allow us to zoom in and out and have audio. Each bus is equipped with student scan cards that the students use to swipe on and off the bus. When the student scans their card, it gives us live GPS information, including the date, time, and location that the students got on and off the bus. Parents and students have an option to use the companion app to track the bus. This tool is handy for parents and students to have. It lets them see if the bus is on schedule and allows the parents to see if their student made it to school or home.

Our school buses are moving pretty much all day long, evenings, and weekends. We provide a shuttle for students during the day that runs them between buildings. Day trips have returned this year, and activity trips go out most evenings and weekends throughout the state.

This year we have close to 1,350 students who signed up to use the transportation services.

NUTRITION SERVICES



Jennifer Zule
Director of
Nutrition Services

Despite the [nationwide food shortage](#), our Nutrition Services staff have continued to do an incredible job providing nutritious meals to our students and staff. Primary food distributors dropped many of their contracts at the beginning of the school year due to a lack of employees. Our Director of Nutrition Services, Jennifer Zule

Services Jennifer Zule has done an incredible job overcoming the challenges and keeping adequate food supplies.

In September, they served 13,317 breakfasts and 31,824 lunches to students across our district.

Lansing Middle School 8th grade Peer Leaders wanted to show their appreciation of LMS Nutrition Services staff in October. Led by sponsor Jennifer Bishop, students worked the HOCO extravaganza, held a middle school fundraiser, and worked numerous concession stands for our middle school football games to make money to purchase a gift basket with a Lansing tumbler, lanyard, soft blanket, and candy.

"We hope we made their day, and they feel appreciated because we know how hard they work!" – Mrs. Jennifer Bishop, LMS Peer Leader Sponsor



CUSTODIAL / FACILITIES AND GROUNDS DEPARTMENTS

Our custodial / facilities and grounds staff has the monumental task of cleaning and maintaining approximately 850,000 square feet and 80 acres of Lansing USD 469 properties. Adding the additional cleaning required due to the national pandemic, these employees have a vital and often overlooked job. We can't thank them enough for their continued efforts!

THANK YOU!



LANSING EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION



Kara Thompson
Director of Lansing
Educational
Foundation

Lansing Educational Foundation (LEF) is excited to announce Kara Thompson as their new Director. Ms. Thompson has an extensive background in Event Coordination and serves as an Account Executive with J. Schmid & Associates. We are thrilled to welcome her into the Lansing USD 469 family!

LEF is currently taking registrations for their first Mane Event Rugged 5k, held at Lansing High School on November 14, 2021. To register, click here. All proceeds will go towards grants that directly benefit the students in our district.

This week, board members will visit the schools to surprise grant recipients in their annual Pride Patrol, which is always a favorite event for the foundation. LEF has granted over \$400,000 to Lansing USD 469 since its inception in 2004, with over \$42,000 in grants this school year alone.



Lansing Educational Foundation

Event Sponsors:
*Mike Nielsen
*Seebeck Homes
*Butler Muffler
*Citizens National Bank

MANE EVENT

RUGGED 5K
NOVEMBER 14, 2021 - 10AM @ LHS

\$25 USD 469 Staff & Students	\$35 Register BEFORE 11/5/21	\$40 Register AFTER 11/5/21
---	---	--

ENTRY FEE INCLUDES T-SHIRT, POST-RACE REFRESHMENTS, TIME RESULTS, AND AWARDS FOR TOP FINISHES!

REGISTER NOW:
<https://lansing-educational-foundation.square.site>

*See Featured Items!

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT LEF & LANSING SCHOOLS!