





Andover Update

ANDOVER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 385

<u>WWW.USD385.ORG</u>







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Produced By: Nicole Gibbs. Alainna Broomes & Alice Collins

Andover USD 385 District Office

1432 N. Andover Rd. Andover, KS 67002 316-218-4660

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The mission of Andover Public Schools is to prepare learners for a lifetime of responsible living and learning in a changing society by creating partnerships, high expectations and meaningful educational opportunities.

Photos courtesy of Lifetouch and various photographers at Andover

For our students and teachers, we hope you will Raise a Star & donate to Andover Advantage!

andoveradvantage.org • 316-833-9446

The mission of Andover Advantage Foundation is to provide resources to assure a margin of excellence in the educational experience of all students through a partnership of community and Andover Public Schools. AAF IS A 510(C)(3) NON-PROFIT AND ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTABLE.

Because of the generosity of our donors, the Andover Advantage Foundation has:



Funded nearly 1,000 Academic Advantage Grants & 6 special district-wide projects



Given more than \$870,000 over the past 19 years



Awarded grants to every school in Andover, providing educational opportunities that would not have been funded otherwise













Interested in sponsoring? Call 316-218-4660 for details.



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Andover's 2016 Resolutions



With the start of every new year, we establish priorities in both our personal and professional lives. Being the superintendent of an outstanding district like Andover provides me the opportunity to reflect on what I'd like for us to accomplish in 2016. Here are my hopes for Andover:

In February, we began a comprehensive community engagement process to develop a new vision for Andover's facilities.

Several years ago, the Board of Education made the decision to build a new high school and middle school, creating smaller schools that provide more opportunities for students. It was a bold decision; not many other districts had split their high schools, but Andover led the way. If you look around now, many districts have followed in our footsteps. In a recent survey, most of you communicated that you like what we're already doing; this facilities study is a chance to make what we're doing even better. This year, with your support, I hope for us to establish a new, forward-thinking vision for our facilities and instructional programs. Read more about the facilities study on page 5.

I hope to see a renewed sense of cooperation between state legislators and public school advocates. Andover has a good relationship with our local legislators, but in 2016, I'd like to see that grow even stronger. When our governor says that school

boards are spending money in ways that are "highly inefficient, if not immoral," it strikes me as wrong. It seems both sides are working so hard to prove the other wrong that we have lost the reason we are really here: to provide the very best education for ALL students in Kansas. School districts are doing more with less than ever before and should be commended. In Andover, our efficient and responsible budgeting has led us to become the fifth most efficient district in the state. Our test scores are consistently high and success stories are abundant. It's clear that we are producing a tremendous value for taxpayers and students. If I was a private stockholder in the Andover schools, I'd be thrilled with our "return on investment." It is time we cut the political rhetoric and focus on what Kansas students need to be successful. In 2016, I hope our leaders in Topeka recognize that Kansas' schools do amazing things and that our dedicated staff deserve a big "thank you."

Finally, in 2016 I hope our school district continues to serve our community with the best educational opportunities in Kansas, but doesn't rest on its laurels. There are still many ways we can improve, and constantly striving to be the best is what makes our school district special. Andover is repeatedly selected as one of the country's best places to raise a family, and much of that is because of our schools. Whether it's innovative teaching, excellent facilities, or plans for the future, we are leading the way. We are Andover!

Thanks for your support as we strive to meet your expectations.



Greg Rasmussen, Superintendent of Schools rasmusseng@usd385.org; @AndoverSupt



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scholarships.butlercc.edu

Let's Take

ButlerCC.edu

PG 4 The Andover Update Winter 2016

Wichita State, Andover Create **Opportunities with CATIA**



Andover students, faculty and WSU professors report on CATIA to the Board of Education.

This year, in partnership with Wichita State University (WSU) and the National Institute of Aviation Research (NIAR), the high schools in Andover became the first in the United States to offer CATIA classes. CATIA, also known as Computer Aided Three-dimensional Interactive Application, supports multiple stages of product development, including conceptualization, design, engineering and manufacturing. This program facilitates collaborative engineering across disciplines in its 3-D experience platform, and delivers the unique ability to model any product in the context of its reallife behavior. CATIA is used by many leading organizations.

There is an exponential need for engineers in the workforce who have the abilities to solve everyday problems. This makes having CATIA in the classroom a source of many benefits and opportunities. It allows the 20+ enrolled junior and senior students to take college level coursework while still in high school. Working in CATIA builds a solid foundation in engineering basics, gives invaluable insight into industry leading software and enhances problem solving, math and communication skills, giving students an edge as they enter the engineering field.

This unique and prestigious partnership with Wichita State University's Innovation Campus makes our school district stand apart. With Andover faculty working side by side with two engineering and CATIA professors in the classroom

daily, this applied learning model builds relationships that will aid students throughout their careers. WSU granted Andover a \$20,000 scholarship, allowing students to finish their CATIA courses with six hours of college credit at no cost to them. While taking this class, students are also able to visit NIAR to tour the facility and take advantage of their resources.

CATIA will be offered again in 2016-17 for interested students. In order to enroll, students must be juniors or seniors and complete the math requirement of Algebra II. For more information, please contact your high school's counseling office.

In Their Words: Meadowlark **Elementary Comic-Con**

By students Abby Becky, Ridgely Sinclair, and Phoenix Smith



At Meadowlark Elementary, the last week of school in December was a special time. We celebrated all things comic-related! We participated in DC and Marvel superhero and supervillain-themed activities. We celebrated Star Wars and the release of Star Wars: The Force Awakens.

At our STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) campout, we had stations that taught STEAM in a fun way, such as track building, droid drawing and coding.

We also Skyped with an artist and learned how to draw characters for comics. All teachers and several students dressed up like superheroes and Star Wars characters, which made this like another fun Halloween!

ANDOVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS There's an app for that!







PG 5

What's new at Andover Schools

State Assessment Scores

In 2010, the Kansas Department of Education adopted the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards (KCCRS). In addition to being more rigorous than any previous standards, the KCCRS emphasize the need for students not only to know the content being taught, but also to be able to demonstrate their knowledge through the ability to reason and think critically in order to craft solutions to problems.

Last spring marked the first time Kansas students were assessed in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics using the new Kansas College and Career Ready Academic Assessment. For 2015, all students in grades 3-8 and grade 10 took untimed computerized assessments.

These new state assessments, fully aligned to the KCCRS, are much more difficult than in previous years. Andover student assessment scores are some of the highest in Kansas and the dedication of students, educators, staff and parents shine through in these results. Andover students are performing 21 percent higher in math, 17.7 percent higher in ELA and 14.7 percent higher in science than the state average and are on target to be college and career ready.

The district's building report card can be found at ksreportcard.ksde.org. The district is pleased to see the new state standards raising expectations for all Kansas students. Society is demanding more from schools and students. Andover schools have high expectations for students and staff and look forward to rising to this new challenge.

Comprehensive Facilities Study

As detailed in the 2015-16 district goals of Student Achievement and Fiscal Responsibility, we are committed to providing facilities for our students to learn successfully. We have a history of proactive, thorough planning to meet the facility needs of our community.

After gathering data on the current facilities' condition, the board approved to proceed with a comprehensive facilities study. This study will analyze each building, collect demographic data and actively engage the community to develop a new vision for Andover's facilities and student learning environments. In February, the Board of Education selected Schaefer, Johnson, Cox, Frey (SJCF) architecture firm to partner with Andover and lead this process.

- The comprehensive facilities study will take six months and will engage community members to share their vision and priorities for the district facilities.
- Nine different teams will be created to turn the vision into
- The first four teams (one each for elementary, middle, high, and support facilities) are education specific. Team members will be community members, parents, school district staff and administration, and Board of Education

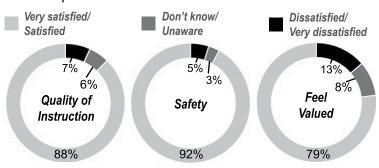
- members. The education teams will create a conceptual plan of what Andover's future educational environment should be.
- Four planning teams will review the education teams' proposals and develop a detailed plan. The planning and education teams then report to the steering committee, consisting of neighborhood representation, city government officials, parents, business leaders, faculty, administration and Board of Education representation.
- The steering committee will review finance, demographics, technology, pupil transportation, infrastructure and the community.
- After processing the information from the planning teams, the steering committee will gather community input and make a recommendation to the Board of Education.

Over the next six months, you can find information about this process on our district website at www.usd385.org.

2015-16 District Climate Survey Results

The Andover climate survey is given annually to employees, parents and students. Aligning with the district goal of Culture & Climate to provide a positive, safe environment to optimize student and staff success, the survey analyzes the atmosphere of Andover Public Schools. The information from the survey guides the district's constant improvement efforts.

With over 4,200 responses, the district is pleased with the participation from staff, parents and students. As various groups have viewed the results, three areas on the survey have been identified as the top priorities to stakeholders. The areas of utmost importance are Quality Instruction, Safety and Feeling Valued. These were determined based on feedback from Superintendent's Student Advisory Team, district leadership teams and administrators.



The survey shows 88 percent of parents and students are "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with the quality of instruction. Ninety-two percent of parents, students and staff are "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with school safety. Seventy-nine percent of parents, secondary students and staff feel connected to their school and valued by the district.

These results were shared with the Board of Education on Feb. 8 and are posted at www.usd385.org under District Info. Each school's individual data is posted on its website under Resources.

Andover Middle School was represented by five eighth graders in the Pioneer League Spelling Bee. AMS students Camden Baxter and Israel Fairback clinched the top two spots

Winter 2016



Wheatland Elementary had a visit from K.C. Wolf, the mascot of the Kansas City Chiefs. K.C. taught students the A-B-Cs of attitude. behavior and character.



Princesses, prisoners and many more took part in Sunflower Elementary's fall parties, complete with snacks, crafts and games of



Andover eCademy students met former Mission Specialist Sam Gemar from NASA! He flew three missions and his stories of zero gravity and close calls had students in awe!



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Andover Advantage Foundation hosted a Founders and Friends reception in January. honoring AAF's starting and current members. They looked back at why AAF was started and all that has been accomplished. Plans for the future were also discussed as well as a 20th anniversary celebration. Visit www.andoveradvantage.org to learn more.



Prairie Creek Elementary instructors learned about Breakout EDU, a creator of ultra-engaging learning games for people of all ages. Games, or breakouts, teach teamwork, problem solving, critical thinking and troubleshooting by presenting participants with challenges that ignite their natural drive to problem-solve.



PG 7

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Cottonwood Elementary first-graders reached an important milestone: 100 days of school! To mark the one hundredth day, the students dressed as if they were 100 years old.



Robert Martin Elementary fourth graders celebrated Kansas Day by taking part in a living wax museum. Students dressed up as famous Kansans and shared their life stories with visitors.



For the first time in Andover Central High School history, the Jaguars football team made it all the way to the 4A state title game. The Jags faced off against Bishop Miege on Nov. 28 in Topeka. Congrats to Andover Central sub-state champs on their record-breaking season! Photo by Matt Flynn.



The Andover High School student council did their part to make sure those in need didn't go without during the holidays. They helped more than 450 families with donations to the Andover Food Bank and Wichita Children's Home, giving 1,900 food items and 5,700 hygiene items.



Meadowlark Elementary first graders greeted a helicopter from EagleMed as it landed near the school. An EagleMed doctor, along with local EMTs and firemen, taught students about first aid and community jobs.



After receiving top ratings at band festivals, the Andover High School band was invited to perform in the Port of San Diego Holiday Bowl Parade. What an honor for this talented group of musicians!



Wheatland Elementary fourth graders took a field trip to Topeka, Kan. where they toured the Kansas Museum of History and the State Capitol building. Students also saw the Senate and House chambers and met Gov. Brownback.



Andover's middle schools hold annual Veteran's Day assemblies, honoring our nation's troops and thanking them for their service and sacrifice.



Fresh from their performance at the Sugar

numerous awards and honors, including

Bowl, the Lady Jags competed at the Kansas

Spectacular Dance Competition and received

Best In Class, Best Overall Technique, Best

Overall Choreography, Judges Awards for

Winners Circle, and an invitation to perform

Team Jazz, Lyrical and Hip Hop, Kansas

in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

First graders at Prairie Creek Elementary had a pajama party, complete with pancakes and the holiday movie, Polar Express. It was a perfect, cozy start to the winter break!



Annually, students at both Andover and Andover Central Middle Schools participate in a financial literacy project called Reality U. They were given fictional families and careers and visited stations that taught how to care for a family, manage a budget, make investments and more.



www.usd385.org





all kinds!



Andover's Award-winning Coaches



Andover strives for excellence in all areas, including athletics, and we couldn't succeed without our incredible coaches! Our district is home to three state coaches of the year and two division coaches of the year.

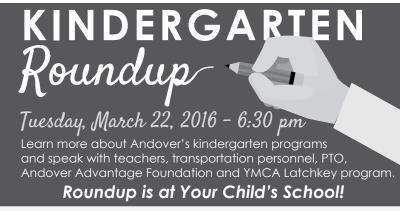
Tom Audley of ACHS was named the 4A Football Coach of the Year. Audley is the only coach in the history of the Jaguar program. Under his leadership, the team had their first ever state title appearance in November.

Janet Glaser of ACHS was named the 4A Girls Tennis Coach of the Year by the Kansas Tennis Coaches Association. Janet has been head coach at Andover Central for two years and had four players medal at state.

Kevin Wiebe, head cross-country coach at ACHS, coached the girls' cross country team to its most successful season ever, and received the honor of being named 4A Girls Cross-Country Coach of the Year.

Justin Hill was the league's Division II Boys Cross-Country Coach of the Year. Hill has coached for three seasons in Andover and in the 2015-16 season, six Trojan runners placed in the top 16 for a second-place team finish.

Chris Lemons was selected as the league's Division II Boys Soccer Coach of the Year by the leagues' coaches. Lemons, an Andover alumnus, has coached soccer at Andover High School since 2011 and saw his team advance to the state semi-finals in the fall.



Learn about our All-Day Kindergarten option!

For more information, visit www.usd385.org

Board of Education Outstanding Service Award Nominations

We need your help! Do you know a staff member or volunteer who has made a difference with their outstanding service? Don't let their contribution go unnoticed! Starting Feb. 29, nominate these hardworking individuals for Board of Education Outstanding Service Awards.

The Board of Education Awards program recognizes individual employees and volunteers for outstanding service. The awards boost morale through appreciation of performance, and encourage community involvement.

The selection committee annually chooses an individual or group from the nominees in each award category for recognition by the Board of Education. Awards are the Golden Apple, given to an educator who has taught more than four years in Andover and demonstrates effectiveness and ability to inspire; the School Bell, awarded to a classified staff member who has made outstanding contributions to the district and provides support with zeal; the Helping Hand, given to a volunteer from each school who makes a difference in his or her building; the Golden Key, given to an individual, business, or organization that has impacted students; the Bright Red Apple, awarded to a new educator in Andover who shows great promise; and the Spark Award, for a staff member who plays an instrumental role.

Nominations are received from staff, parents, students and patrons at www.usd385.org. Nominate someone today!

McMains Receives Horizon Award



Congratulations to Kelly McMains, first grade teacher at Prairie Creek Elementary, for being named a 2016 Kansas Horizon Award winner! The Kansas Horizon Award Program, sponsored by the Kansas State Department of Education, identifies and recognizes representatives of excellent instruction in the classrooms of the state.

"Kelly is not afraid of hard work, particularly when it involves what is best for students," said Prairie Creek Elementary Principal Shelley Jonas. "Kelly puts in many hours each day to make sure she is providing a learning experience for her first graders that is top of the line. It has been a pleasure to work with a new teacher with such promise of being a master teacher."

These are not the official meeting minutes. To see official minutes, please visit BoardDocs.com/ks/usd385/Board.nsf/Public

Board of Education Meeting Recap

Oct. 12, 2015

 Andover conducted a study to examine the state of our current facilities and to begin exploring future opportunities to continue providing excellent facilities and learning environments. Executive Director of Operations David Jackson gathered data on the condition of district facilities, including deferred maintenance costs. The board approved to engage in a comprehensive facilities study to identify the future vision of Andover Public Schools.

Nov. 9, 2015

 Assistant Superintendent Jill Lachenmayr presented on a study conducted on teacher collaboration. The team explored options for district-wide collaboration time that could be built into school days, often referred to as "early release" or "late start." The results of the study showed that parents and students support the need for educators to collaborate, but prefer to continue collaboration during professional learning days instead of implementing early release or late start.

Dec. 14, 2015

Director of Technology and Innovation Stacy
 Hudson gave an update on the Technology Strategic
 Plan development and next steps. This 3-5 year
 plan outlines the district technology vision, an
 implementation timeline and a plan for sustainability.
 Hudson spoke on the major components of the plan:
 student and staff needs, 1:1 initiative and learning
 management system.

Jan. 11, 2016

 Assistant Superintendent Brett White provided an update on the district wellness committee's initiatives.
 As part of the health insurance renewal, the district negotiated a \$50,000 wellness stipend from our health



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L-R: President Melinda Fritze, Vice President Josh Wells, Matt Forney, Marci Fugarino, Carly Haynes, Dr. Linda Hope, Scott Wilson

insurance provider. The wellness committee developed a plan for discounted health club memberships and Prairie Fire Marathon registration for employees to start the wellness campaign, "Live Well: Mind, Spirit, Body."

Feb. 8, 2016

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- The district has been exploring contracting transportation service for several months. In January, the board concluded that contracting transportation services was the district's best option. With contracting, the district can enhance services, upgrade the bus fleet, add staff and increase employee hourly wages while not increasing district costs. In February, Durham School Services was selected as the preferred provider. The board authorized district staff and legal counsel to enter into final contract negotiations with Durham to provide transportation services beginning July 2016. Once the transition begins, current staff will have the opportunity to be hired by Durham.
- Following the October decision to engage in a comprehensive facilities study, the district selected Schaefer, Johnson, Cox, Frey (SJCF) architecture firm in February to partner with Andover in this process. The study will take about six months to complete.



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What's happening in

the City of Andover



Update from City Administrator Mark Detter



Mark Detter. City Administrator

A number of projects were completed successfully last year and 2016 is off to an electrifying

Westar Energy has begun its latest collaboration with the City of Andover in burying power lines. When the project is completed, there will be no remaining overhead power lines on Andover Road between 13th Street and Highway 400!

The first phase of the project will occur between 13th Street and Central Avenue on the west side of Andover Road. This phase includes installation of underground lines between 13th Street and Willow Road. Installation of underground lines will occur on the east side of Andover Road behind properties facing Andover Road. North of the Dollar General Store, the underground power lines will jog back to the west and continue to Central Avenue along Andover Road.

Completion of the first phase is projected to be April 2016. Westar Energy is projecting the second phase of the project will be completed by August 2016.

Along with the obvious aesthetic benefits of the burial of the power lines, we believe the underground lines are a more reliable power source for Andover residents. Overhead lines are vulnerable to high winds and hazardous weather conditions. Downed power lines not only create widespread power outages during weather events, they are also a major safety concern.

The city's partnership with Westar Energy is a forward thinking approach to improve the appearance of Andover and the overall reliability of power transmission. The City and Westar look forward to working with all property owners in the affected construction areas.

If you have any questions about the project, please call Westar Energy's customer relations department at 1-800-383-1183 or the City of Andover at 316-733-1303.

Andover Park Improvements

The Parks Department has been busy over the last few months installing various improvements around town. Be sure to check out the upgrages and take advantage of them when the weather warms!

- · A dog park for dogs of all sizes has opened in the south end of Central Park, More amenities, including water fountains, will continue to be added this month.
- Ten additional parking stalls have been added on the east side of the **Andover Community** Center (13th Street Sports Park).
- · An outdoor multiuse/basketball court has been added to Cornerstone Park.
- Bike racks, benches and trash cans have been added throughout the city including in front of City Hall and at 13th Street and Andover Road.

All of these improvements have been paid for with Park Improvement funds and were approved by the Park Planning Committee and Andover City Council on July 28, 2015.



Basketball court at Cornerstone Park



Bike rack in front of City Hall

Police and Fire Festival



Police Chief Keller and other first responders tend the grill.

The Andover Police and Fire Departments will host the family friendly, fun-filled Police and Fire Festival Saturday, June 4 from 6-8:30 p.m. Featuring live music from a local band, the evening will also have games and prizes for people of all ages, as well as hamburgers and hot dogs grilled by our very own Police and Fire Departments. Come join us for a night of food and fun and meet your local first responders!

April Burn Ban

According to the Kansas Administrative Regulation, open burning restrictions for certain counties during the month of April are in support of the State of Kansas Flint Hills smoke management plan. The plan was formally adopted by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment on Dec. 29, 2010. The purpose of this ban is to avoid accidental fires.

The following types of burns will be banned during April: residential trash barrels, yard waste, crop residue, open land clearing and construction projects.

Campfires and bonfires for cooking or ceremonial purposes on private or public lands regularly used for recreational purposes will be allowed as long as the fire is no larger than 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height.

Any open burning seen must be reported immediately to the Andover Fire Department at 316-733-1863 so the fire can be addressed and contained.

Citywide Clean Up

Every year in April, the City holds a community cleanup day in Central Park to give community members an opportunity to dispose of some bulky items. This year's clean-up day is April 9 from 8-11 a.m.

Acceptable items include BBQ grills, furniture, large appliances and up to four tires per residence. Items that will not be accepted include household trash, tree limbs or yard waste, construction debris, hazardous waste (paint, oil, etc.), refrigerators and freezers.

This event is sponsored by Waste Connections, Butler County Public Works and the City of Andover Park and Storm Water Departments. For more information, please contact Rick Lanzrath at 316-977-9416 or visit our website at www.andoverks.com.

Tornado Anniversary

On April 26, St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, the City of Andover, Butler County Emergency Management and the National Weather Service will present a special program at St. Vincent highlighting the 25th anniversary of the 1991 Andover tornado. Doors open at 5 p.m. so guests can look at pictures and other artifacts before the event begins at 6 p.m.

The program will feature several guest speakers, including Mike Smith, Senior Vice President of AccuWeather Inc., Dan Dillion and John Wright, formerly of KFDI radio, along with National Weather Service meteorologists and emergency responders who were on the scene of the disaster.

The program will cover the events that occurred that day, the recovery since then and the importance of public safety. Meteorologists will present a safety and preparedness program demonstrating how to recognize, prepare for and survive severe weather events.

Please mark this date on your calendar and join us as we remember the tragic event of 25 years ago, learn how it shaped our community and discover how we are better prepared for the future. If you or your family have memorabilia from the tornado event you wish to display, please contact Emergency Management at 316-733-9796 or email jschmidt@butlerma.org or contact Phil Benedict at phil.benedict@outlook.com.







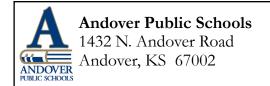












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