

ANDOVER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 385 WWW.USD385.ORG

6.

#### Spring 2017

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Produced By: Nicole Gibbs & Greg Rasmussen

Andover USD 385 District Office

1432 N Andover Rd Andover, KS 67002 316-218-4660 www.usd385.org facebook.com/ AndoverPublicSchools @AndoverSchools

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In their Words

City of Andover

**Board of Education** 

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

MARCH 16, 2017: Andover Advantage Foundation will load up on school buses for the annual Great Grant Give! Check out the website to see when we will be in your school!



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## Looking to the future of Andover



Andover had a fantastic fall semester and I continue to be amazed by the talent of our students, the professionalism of our staff and the dedicated support of our community. USD 385 has an outstanding reputation of excellence and together, we continue to enhance that reputation. The accomplishments of our students and staff are many;

a few examples include the highest ACT scores in district history and some of the highest scores in Kansas, being named the #1 school district in the metro area by NICHE. com for the fifth straight year and the Andover Advantage Foundation almost reaching their historic goal of \$1.0 million in gifts to the district. The district has also recently completed a comprehensive long-range facilities study.

One area of Andover's excellence has always been our facilities, so the long-range study has been a priority for the district this year. We were pleased to see the level of community engagement and positive energy throughout this process. There were hundreds of people involved, at least 18 community feedback sessions, several surveys administered and based on all that, the Facilities Steering Committee developed a progressive vision for our future! Reinvesting in facilities and managing long term debt (bond/interest) are critical components of any successful organization, and schools are no different. Wise decisions made today will reap tremendous benefits in the future as the Andover area continues to grow, add amenities and enhance the quality of life for our patrons. In December, the Board of Education heard a report from the Facilities Steering Committee and on Jan. 30, the Board approved a resolution to hold a bond election on May 9, 2017. This issue of the Update includes information about the bond election, so please take time to learn more and vote on May 9. This is an important time for the future of our district and we want to do all we can to provide timely and relevant information.

The Kansas Legislature is almost two months into the session and it is imperative that we stay engaged with our legislators as they develop a new funding formula for public schools in Kansas. We are at a crossroads and decisions made in Topeka will have an impact on our future. I encourage you to get involved and support high-quality public education for ALL kids. Public education is the foundation of a strong democracy and we all have a stake in ensuring schools are adequately supported and funded by our political leaders.

Many of you may know, but I've decided to retire at the end of this school year. It has been an extraordinary privilege to work in the best school district in Kansas and I see nothing but a bright future for our school district and community. Andover has much to be proud of and we are working hard to continue "Building a Foundation of Excellence" for all students and families that we serve in Andover USD 385.

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



#### The Andover Update

#### 2017 District Bond Issue Overview



On Jan. 30, the Andover Board of Education voted to proceed with a bond election May 9, 2017.

The 2017 bond election is an affordable solution to improve safety and security, address district-wide necessary facility improvements, enhance academic choices and provide

equitable opportunities for all students.

#### Facilities Study: Identifying the Need

Andover has long been a leader in excellence as it relates to facilities, academic and athletic achievements. The district, in partnership with our community, has studied its facilities. We are committed to providing opportunities for our students to successfully learn and grow.

Over the last year, around 170 district staff, parents and community members participated in a facilities study process to identify district needs and dreams for the future. Participants evaluated solutions for the district and reviewed finance, demographics, technology, pupil transportation, infrastructure, community research and data for each building to develop a new vision for Andover's facilities. In December 2016, the Board of Education accepted the Master Facilities Plan that included renovating or expanding all ten district school buildings, support centers and athletic facilities. In addition, the plan proposed options to construct new campuses for Meadowlark Elementary and Andover High School. The cost of these new buildings and renovations is \$188.605 million, for which the district has covered in two propositions in the May 9 bond election.

#### Project Scope: Two Propositions to Consider

The 2017 Bond Election contains two propositions:

Proposition 1: \$168.8 million that results in NO tax increase and includes:

- Build storm shelters onto Cottonwood Elementary, Robert Martin Elementary, Sunflower Elementary, Andover Middle, Andover Central Middle & Andover Central High School.
- Add secure entrances and renovate Cottonwood Elementary, Prairie Creek Elementary, Robert Martin Elementary, Sunflower Elementary, Wheatland Elementary, Andover Middle, Andover Central Middle & Andover Central High School.
- Build a new Meadowlark Elementary on a new site.

- Build a new Andover High School on the same site and keep existing gyms.
- Add additional preschool programming.
- Upgrade district athletic facilities including middle school tracks and tennis courts, Andover High School stadium, locker rooms & parking and enhance Andover Central High School stadium to host home events.
- Build a district tennis complex.
- Address district-wide necessary facility improvements.
- Renovate existing Meadowlark building for District Office, Support Services & Andover eCademy.

Proposition 2: \$19.805 million that results in a 2.3 mill tax increase\* and includes:

- Build a district pool to provide a place for curriculum and swimming & diving teams.
- Construct new career & professional studies center.
- Add artificial turf to varsity softball and baseball fields.

\*The tax increase on a \$100,000 home for Proposition 2 would be \$26.45 per year, just over \$2 per month.

#### Financial Plan: \$0 or \$2 Tax Increase

The proposed bond election is for a 17-year bond that will be paid off in 2034. Interest rates are estimated at 3.5 percent, which are near historically low levels for the past 50 years. Current legislation says the state will pay 24 percent of the principal and interest of the bond issue, totaling \$45,312,000. Proposition 1, which includes projects that the district believes are the highest need and priority, consists of \$168.8 million and results in NO tax increase, where Proposition 2 includes additions consisting of \$19.805 million worth of projects and would result in a 2.3 mill tax increase. The tax increase on a \$100,000 home would be 2.3 mills - \$26.45 per year, just over \$2 per month.

#### Voter Information: Vote May 9

The bond issue election will be held May 9, 2017. You may request an advance ballot NOW through May 1. The last day to register to vote is April 19. Early voting will be held in the Sedgwick County Election Office during regular business hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, beginning April 26 and ending May 8 at noon. Butler County will have two voting locations: Andover United Methodist Church and St. Vincent De Paul Church. Sedgwick County will have three voting locations: Holy Cross Lutheran Church, East Evangelical Free Church and Church of the Magdalen. On May 9, all polling locations will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

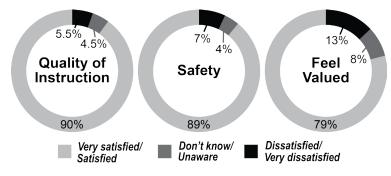
## 2016-17 District Climate Survey Results

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 AndoverPublicSchools

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survey analyzes the atmosphere of Andover Schools. The information from the survey guides the district's constant improvement efforts.

With nearly 4,000 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 of Instruction, Safety and Feeling Valued. These were determined based on feedback from the Superintendent's Student Advisory Team, district leadership teams and administrators.



The survey shows 90 percent of parents and secondary students are "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with the quality of instruction. Regarding school safety, 89 percent of parents, secondary students and staff said they are "very satisfied" or "satisfied." Finally, 79 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. 13 and are posted at <u>www.usd385.org</u> under District Info. Each school's individual data is posted on its website under Resources.

#### Brett White named new Superintendent



In December, Andover Schools Superintendent Greg Rasmussen announced his intention to retire at the end of the school year, effective July 1, 2017. Rasmussen joined USD 385 as superintendent of schools in July 2013 and is credited with cultivating student success, creating district-wide operating efficiencies and building lasting relationships

throughout the district and community.

"Greg Rasmussen has been a tremendous leader and advocate for our district and for public education throughout the state of Kansas," USD 385 Board President Melinda Fritze said. "His vision and drive for excellence have promoted student achievement and educator effectiveness while putting our district in a position to be among the most efficient in the state when it comes to operating costs. Greg has truly built a foundation of excellence during his tenure as superintendent, which will allow us to continue to grow as a district."

Brett White, USD 385 Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, has been promoted to replace Greg Rasmussen. The Board of Education finalized and formally approved White's contract during its Jan. 9, 2017 meeting.

"The Board carefully considered the leadership skills and commitment to excellence needed from the next superintendent in Andover as we promote student achievement and success," Melinda Fritze said. "Brett White shares our vision and is committed to student achievement, educator effectiveness, operational efficiency and overall excellence. We believe he's the right person to lead our district into the future."

White has served as assistant superintendent in Andover since 2012. He has led the district's safety committee, successfully implemented partnerships with the Andover Police Department and enhanced school safety policies. Prior to his role as assistant superintendent, he served as principal at Andover Middle School and led the successful transition into two middle schools when the district split into Andover and Andover Central schools in 2001.

"I am deeply honored and humbled to be selected as the next USD 385 Superintendent," Brett White said. "Andover is an extraordinary district and it has been my privilege to serve in the district for nearly sixteen years. I look forward to the opportunity to work with our Board of Education, staff, students, parents and community to build on the foundation of excellence in the Andover District."

## **Kindergarten Roundup March 28**

It's almost that time for kindergarten roundup for the 2017-18 school year! Roundup is at your student's school Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. If you are unsure of your school, check the School Assignment Locater at <u>www.usd385.org</u>. To be eligible for Andover kindergarten, students must reside in Andover USD 385's boundaries and be five years old by Aug. 31, 2017.

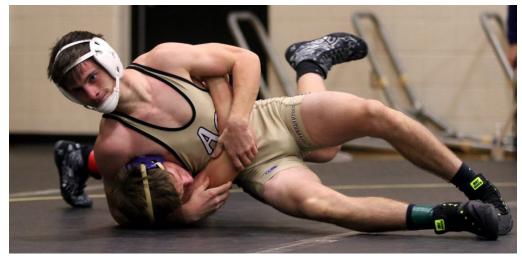
Come to kindergarten roundup to learn more about Andover's kindergarten programs and speak with teachers, transportation personnel, Parent-Teacher Organizations, Andover Advantage Foundation and the YMCA Latchkey program! You can also find out about immunizations and other requirements for students, learn how to be actively involved in the school and receive an information packet.

Please bring a copy of your student's birth certificate, immunization records and a proof of residency to kindergarten roundup. Applications are available at <u>www.usd385.org</u> under the Parents tab.

#### The Andover Update

#### Spring 2017

# CINC SCHOOL



Andover Central High School junior Bryant Page wrestled against Valley Center in January. The team won the Augusta Invitational after five Central wrestlers earned individual titles. Andover High School's wrestlers took first at their home tournament by over 17 points.



PG 6

Andover High School's boys basketball team earned second place in the Salina Invitational Tournament. Another Andover win came from Andover Central High's girls team, who placed fifth in the Newton Invitational Tournament.



Andover Central Middle School students in Mrs. Wiens' Spanish class Skyped with students in Ecuador. One of the topics they discussed was the meaning of their names.



Each year the elementary schools hold a Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl. This year, the Meadowlark Elementary team took second place in Andover.



Wheatland Elementary students learned about different body parts while going through the Body Venture exhibit in the gym.



In November, fifth graders at Sunflower Elementary School participated in a mock election to learn about the electoral college.



In November, the district held its first ever Andover Central High School/Andover High School boys swim meet. The teams used Newton's facilities to host the meet.



The Andover Advantage Foundation sponsored a Cardboard Challenge as part of the Andover and Renwick School District "Conference Like a Pirate" Professional Learning Day. The goal of the challenge was to create arcade games.



Andover Central High School sophomores used the new "CPR in Schools Training Kits" generously donated by the American Heart Association.

#### Spring 2017

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Cottonwood Elementary received a \$3,000 Westar Energy STEM Innovative Curriculum grant to offer more opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math.



Students from Robert Martin Elementary brought Holiday Cheer to the staff at District Office before the Winter Break.



Andover Middle School was visited by the FireShark Gaming Virtual Reality truck where students were able to rotate between the truck and a virtual reality station inside.



Fourth graders at Prairie Creek Elementary put on a Living Wax Museum. Students researched famous people and taught visitors about what they learned.



Andover High School students had more opportunities in Mr. Fonseca's pottery class after receiving a new kiln from an Andover Advantage Foundation grant.



Students from Andover Central Middle and Andover Middle School honored veterans in the annual Veteran's Day Assemblies. CIA Director Mike Pompeo was the keynote speaker at Andover Middle School.



Students at Andover eCademy and each elementary school participated in a spelling bee. The winner from each school competed in the Butler County Spelling Bee.



Andover Central High School's Lady Jags and Gent dance team earned Kansas' "Best of the Best" award for the third year in a row. The Andover High Trojanettes earned the Gussie Nell Davis Award of Excellence.



If you've been to a recent high school basketball game, you've likely noticed the student sections sporting themes, like this "America" theme at a home Andover High School game.

#### In their Words: Inauguration Trip

By Anna Wilson, senior at Andover High School

From Jan. 18-22, 2017, I was with my class and history teacher, Mr. Schaefer, in Washington D. C. for the presidential inauguration. I was very excited, yet filled with nervous anticipation for the trip. We signed up for the event over a year in advance, and so as history students, we were all very excited to see this historic event. There have only been 58 presidential inaugurations in United States history! With the election turn out, my classmates and I knew that this inauguration would be different. Personally, this was special to me because I turned 18 in October, so not only did I get to vote in this election, but I was also able to witness the peaceful exchange of power - in person!



The inauguration itself was not what I expected. Since I was young, I imagined the inauguration to be a grand event that went on for hours and hours. In reality, we exited the National Mall an hour after the ceremony began (11:30 a.m.). The part that surprised me the most was how much security was in place to simply get onto the National Mall. We entered through the one gate for public admissions, which took us two hours to navigate through before we actually made it onto the mall. Being squashed by an enormous amount of people in the security lines made the day for me both more exciting but also anxietyridden. There were a significant number of students, excited for the historical event like us, interspersed with many demonstrators. To be able to witness the ceremony in person, rather than on the news, made the morning so much more surreal. However, while it was an extraordinary event to observe, the festivities were more low-key than I'd anticipated.

For me, the day after the inauguration ended up being even more impressive. No matter what one's political views are, the sheer amount of people using their constitutional right to assemble and protest was amazing. That is what our Founding Fathers created our system of government for and to see people using their rights was an awesome observation. The Women's March on Washington consisted of over 500,000 people and my class and I were there to see it all. The streets were alive, and no matter what I personally believed, walking with them felt empowering. As the biggest protest in U.S. history, it was such a breathtaking event that I know someday I will get to tell my grandchildren about. Watching the enormous amount of people and thinking about Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, in which 250,000 people attended, I was in awe of the sheer amount of people who poured through the streets of our nation's capital.

This experience was definitely one I will never forget. I never thought that I would care so much about history and governmental processes before I began high school. I have to give all the credit to Mr. Schaefer, for not only teaching me history, but also for making me care about the world I live in. It has lead me to become a more successful student of our nation's institutions.

## In their Words: District Professional Learning Day

By Traci Holder, District Professional Learning Coordinator

Jan. 16 was an energizing day of learning for Andover educators! Remington School District staff and Andover PreK-12 general education teachers, aides and paraprofessionals "Conferenced like a Pirate" at Andover Central High School. Teams collaborated to "chart a course" for student innovation and creativity by completing learning challenges, attending breakout sessions and exploring resources.

K-12 special education teachers and paraprofessionals attended an engaging event at Andover Central Middle School called "C<sup>3</sup> - Collaborating, Connecting and Communicating for Student Success." Educators attended a variety of sessions focused on instructional technology tools, behavior supports and collaborative planning.

We want to thank the greater Andover community for their generosity to help us with our conference. The donated delicious food and fabulous prizes were shared with attendees throughout the day. Without your support, our conference would not have been such a success!



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#### Board of Education Meeting Recap

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

Nov. 14, 2016

- Assistant Superintendent Jill Lachenmayr, Professional Learning Coordinator Traci Holder and teachers spoke on Elementary Literacy Instructional Materials. The Literacy Team unanimously agreed that Journeys was the strongest of the programs reviewed. Phase I of the Journeys implementation is occurring during the 2016-17 school year in 23 elementary classrooms across the district and phase II will occur throughout all K-5 classes in 2017-18.
- Superintendent Greg Rasmussen and BOE President Melinda Fritze presented the Board Governance and Operating Procedures. The document is intended to capture the essence of board operating procedures and expectations. The Board approved to adopt the document 5-0.

Dec. 12, 2016

- Business Manager Sherame Kneisel presented the 2016-17 Capital Outlay Plan for projects and purchases. Items included are based on building and department requests, the Long Range Facility Plan and the Strategic Technology Plan. The district will seek bids and move forward with purchasing those items. The Board approved the plan 7-0.
- Assistant Superintendent Brett White presented the proposed 2017-18 and 2018-19 district calendars for consideration. He also reviewed the results of the calendar survey completed by staff. The calendars were approved 5-0 in January 2017.
- The Facilities Committee presented the Board with the Master Facilities Plan that was created in partnership with SJCF Architecture.

Jan. 9, 2017

Assistant Superintendent Jill Lachenmayr presented

Youndup

KINDERGARTEN

Tuesday, March 28, 2017 - 6:30 pm



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

the 2017-2018 District Goals, which have remained consistent over the past several years as the district intentionally focuses on achieving its long-term goals. The goals were approved 5-0.

Jan. 16 & 23, 2017

 The Board held two special meetings to discuss the master facilities plan and how they would like to move forward.

Jan. 30, 2017

• The Board held a special meeting and authorized a bond election on May 9, 2017 with a 7-0 vote.

Feb. 13, 2017

- The Board reviewed the Data Dashboard Executive Summary for the second quarter. The Dashboard helps the district monitor and gauge progress in achieving the District Goals of Student Achievement, Educator Effectiveness and Culture and Climate.
- The Board passed a resolution 7-0 to extend the term of current board members to January 2018. The resolution coincides with the state-mandated move of board elections to Fall 2017 (instead of Spring 2017).

Roundup is at Your Student's School!

For Andover School District residents only. Students must be 5 years old by Aug. 31, 2017.

<u>usd385.com/kindergarten</u> for Half-Day and All-Day Kindergarten.

PG 9





## **Update from City Administrator Mark Detter**



Looking back at all that was accomplished last year, 2016 was an exciting and productive year for the City. First off, thank you to everyone for your patience while driving through the cones on Andover Road during much of the year as we worked with Westar to bury the power lines. We are confident that this improvement will make it less likely for ice and wind storms to take out power for our residents.

Mark Detter City Administrator

You may remember that a 0.75

percent sales tax was approved by voters in April 2015. This tax was to support the construction of a new City Street Shop, new restrooms in Central Park and the purchasing of a new ladder truck. We are happy to report that all three projects were completed in 2016 and even happier to report the 0.75 percent sales tax will be ending early! While we don't have a definite drop off date yet, we know it will not go on to the 2020 date that was originally proposed.

While rain put a bit of a damper on our annual Concert in the Park, we still had over 7,500 people in attendance. Greater Andover Days (GAD), the Police and Fire Festival and Hometown Christmas in Central Park all had great turnouts as well. We hope you will continue to take part in these festivities that the City staff and volunteers work so hard to make a success!

Some of the projects lined up for 2017 are looking to be just as impactful as those completed in 2016. One of our major projects, the Amphitheater in Central Park, will be sure to be a widely used venue once completed in late 2017 or early 2018.

A continued work in progress, the Redbud Trail will be extended going east from Meadowlark to US Highway 400. This rural section of the trail will be opened for bikers and runners to utilize later this year. Also, the City of Wichita has announced it will be extending the trail from Woodlawn in Wichita all the way to east 159th, where the Andover portion of the trail begins. This connection will make the

trail an even more valuable asset for our community.

Improvements are slated to be made to the ball diamonds at the 13th St. Sports Park. Because baseball and softball are by far the most popular sports Andover's recreation program offers, we are making improvements to the fields as well as adding new scoreboards.

As always, thank you for your continued support in our efforts to ensure Andover continues to be a great place to live, work and play!

## **Police & Fire Festival**



The Andover Police and Fire Departments will host their annual Festival on Saturday, June 3 from 6-8:30 p.m. in Andover Central Park. This family friendly, fun-filled event will feature live music from a local band, games and prizes for people of all ages, various demonstrations and much more! Hamburgers and hot dogs will also be

provided with our very own Police and Fire Departments manning the grills. Come meet your local first responders and enjoy a night of free food and fun!



An Andover Police Officer demonstrates one of the many tools used by the Andover Police Department.

PG 10







## Andover Road Building Improvement Grant Program

The Andover City Council has set aside \$15,000 in the 2017 budget to be awarded to businesses on Andover Road. The goal of this program is to support local businesses by subsidizing improvement projects such as: exterior building repairs or facade improvements, replacing legally non-conforming signs, increasing landscaping specifically in areas adjacent to sidewalks, ADA compliance improvements and any other improvements to the exterior of the business that makes the environment more pleasant for non-motorists. Awards will be limited to \$5,000 per project annually and business/property owners must provide an equal or greater amount of funding for the project.

Applications are required along with a pre-project meeting with City staff. To apply, visit <u>www.andoverks.com/</u> <u>ecodevo</u> and click "Local Incentives," or call 977-9412 for more information. Andover City Hall will be accepting applications March 1-31.

## Andover Amphitheater

Visitors to Central Park will soon be able to utilize a new addition to the park with the Andover Amphitheater. The design process for the municipal Amphitheater is nearing completion as the design committee has been working with LK Architecture to finalize the plans. Members on the design committee represent Andover from a variety of backgrounds, including members from the school district's music program, the park planning committee and local businesses.

The Amphitheater will serve the community by hosting everything from small events, such as band and theatre performances, to the Concert in the Park and Greater Andover Days. The Amphitheater will also be available to rent for private events such as weddings and family reunions. An important goal for the design committee is to blend the Amphitheater's aesthetics, function, and size seamlessly into the park without altering the park's natural beauty.

The design will be made public in March and a Groundbreaking ceremony is being planned for June 17, 2017 at the fifth annual Concert in the Park. The project is estimated to take under 1 year to finish, with completion to be before the sixth annual Concert in the Park in 2018. Funding for the project will come from four sources:

- 1. Tower rental from cell phone companies
- 2. Fireworks tent rental fees
- 3. Liquor tax
- 4. Hotel bed tax

Once completed, the amphitheater will be a beautiful landmark for the Andover community and a destination for tourists to visit.

## **Citywide Cleanup**

It's that time of year again - time to get rid of some of those bulky items just taking up space. The Community Cleanup Day will be held April 8 from 8 to 11 a.m. in Central Park.

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

The event is sponsored by Waste Connections, Butler County Public Works and the City of Andover Park and Stormwater Departments. For additional information, please contact Rick Lanzrath at 316-977-9416 or visit our website at <u>www.andoverks.com</u>.

## 2017 Concert in the Park

While we can't tell you who will be performing in this year's Concert in the Park, we can give you a few important details! The concert will be held June 17. We will announce the name of the performers in April, which is also when tickets will go on sale. Tickets will be available for purchase online only and will cost \$10. Stay tuned for additional details.

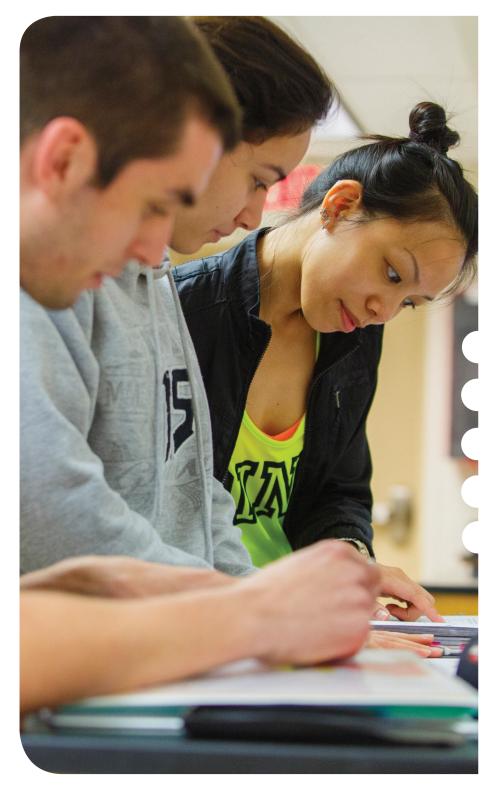


The crowd waits for the 2016 concert to begin.

Andover Public Schools 1432 N. Andover Road Andover, KS 67002

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# **EXPERIENCE** BUTLER

## Early College Discovery Day – March 31

Learn how high school juniors can earn an Associate Degree while finishing high school. Our Academies offer eight areas of focus. *www.butlercc.edu/discovery-day* 

## Grizzly Junior Day – April 26

High school juniors are invited to come and visit our campus and learn about our exciting programs. Registration opens April 1. *www.butlercc.edu/junior-day* 

Learn about our Real College Experience. Schedule a Visit Today and Let's Take Tomorrow!

For more information go to **www.butlercc.edu/highschool** or contact admissions at 316.322.3255



Let's take **TOMORROW**