

Growing Creative Minds and Caring Hearts Heusner Elementary



A Note from the Principal

Heusner Parents,

We know that attendance matters! Tardies and absences equal missed learning opportunities and social emotional experiences. Missing school can make it harder to build relationships and develop healthy routines. Students can fall behind if they just miss 1 or 2 days every few weeks.

Being late to school can cause students to feel anxious, frustrated or embarrassed. A pattern of being late can lead to poor attendance or students being reluctant to go to school. We have noticed an increase in tardies at Heusner in the last month. So, we have decided to set a school-wide challenge goal focused on students being on time to school. We need your help setting your student up for success. Please have your student here by 8:20 a.m. Our goal is to have less than 10 kiddos arriving late each day.

When students arrive on time they get to participate in things like High Five Fridays - where various community groups High Five our students as they come in, Morning Meetings - where they connect and play games with their classmates, and Pride Family Time - where they meet with cross-aged groups of students.

Thanks for helping us to make school a priority. Attendance matters!

Mrs. Munsell

Communicate with the School

If your child must stay home due to illness, call the office by 9:00 a.m.
785-309-4200 or email
heusner.attendance@usd305.com



BUT IT'S JUST 10 MINUTES

- • How do you feel when you are late for work,
- • an appointment, a movie, or plans with
- • family or friends?
- • We have all been in these situations and
- • understand that being late can make us feel
- • anxious, nervous, embarrassed, or even frustrated.

Attendance Matters

- • Being just 10 minutes late per day for school
- • can really add up.
- • That's about an **HOURLY** per week
- • OR
- • **1 1/2 WEEKS** per school year
- • OR
- • **1/2 a SCHOOL YEAR** over a school career.
- • Building good habits, such as being on time,
- • can help your child accomplish their goals.
- • • • • • • • • •



MEET HEUSNER'S NEW OFFICE ASSISTANT Cindy Soldan



ABOUT ME:

I have lived in Salina all my life. I graduated from Salina South High School.

Birthday: August 18th
Hobbies: Camping, E-biking, & kayaking
Favorite food: Mexican
Drink: Pepsi
Book: Romance
Movie: Holiday Movies
Color: Red
Pets: None
Children/ages: 2 grown adults

FUN FACT:

On my bucket list, I would like to see every national park in the United States.

If you need to pick up your student before school gets out at 3:25 p.m., please call the office when you are on your way. You will need to come inside and sign them out in the front office. This helps us know the student is leaving with the correct person. Thank you for your understanding.

If your student returns after an appointment, please come inside and sign them back in. Make sure to get a doctor's note while at the appointment. If you forget, just call the doctor's office and have them fax it to Heusner.

Fax Number: 785-309-4201

WINTER WEATHER AHEAD

This is the perfect time to make sure your contact information is up to date. Sign into Skyward and update your phone number and current e-mail address. See next page for directions.

ATTENTION HEUSNER PARENTS!!

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD'S COAT OR JACKET ARE LABELED WITH THEIR NAME! OUR LOST & FOUND IS QUICKLY FILLING UP WITH SEVERAL ITEMS AND IT IS TOO COLD THIS TIME OF YEAR FOR STUDENTS TO BE WITHOUT THEM.

IF YOU ARE MISSING A COAT, PLEASE COME AND CHECK THE LOST & FOUND AREA!

LOST & FOUND

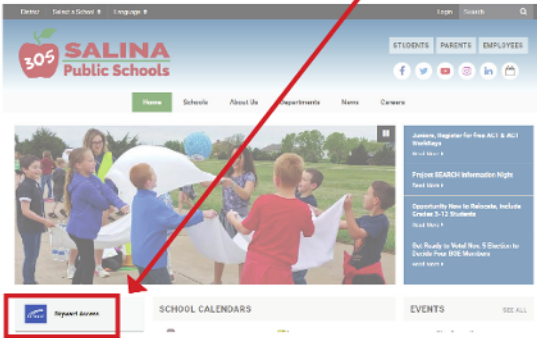
Need to Update your Contact Information?



How to access Skyward and update contact information

To update guardian contact information and message notification preferences, the guardian must access Skyward using a web browser.

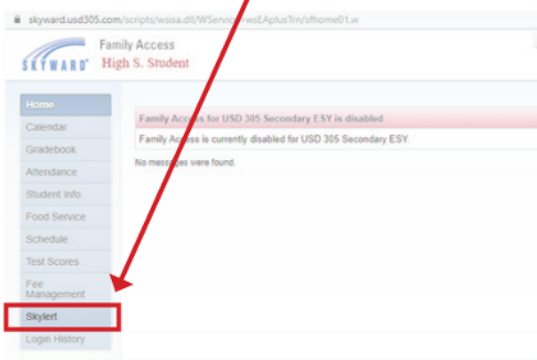
1 Find the the Skyward Access link on the usd305.com homepage and click on it.



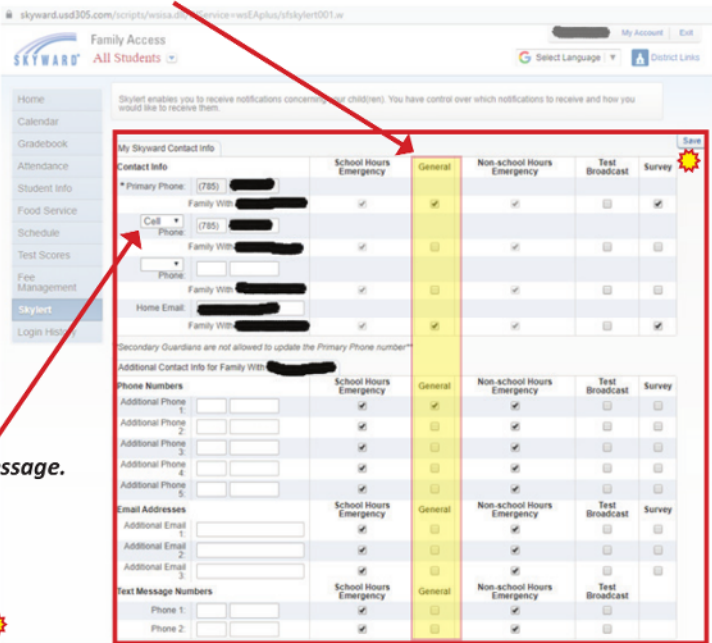
2 Login with the ID and Password received at enrollment.



3 Click on the Skylert link in the left hand vertical menu.



4 Update phone numbers and email as necessary. Check the box to select which type of messages each will receive. **Please Note: The majority of messages are sent "General." We strongly recommend checking this box.**



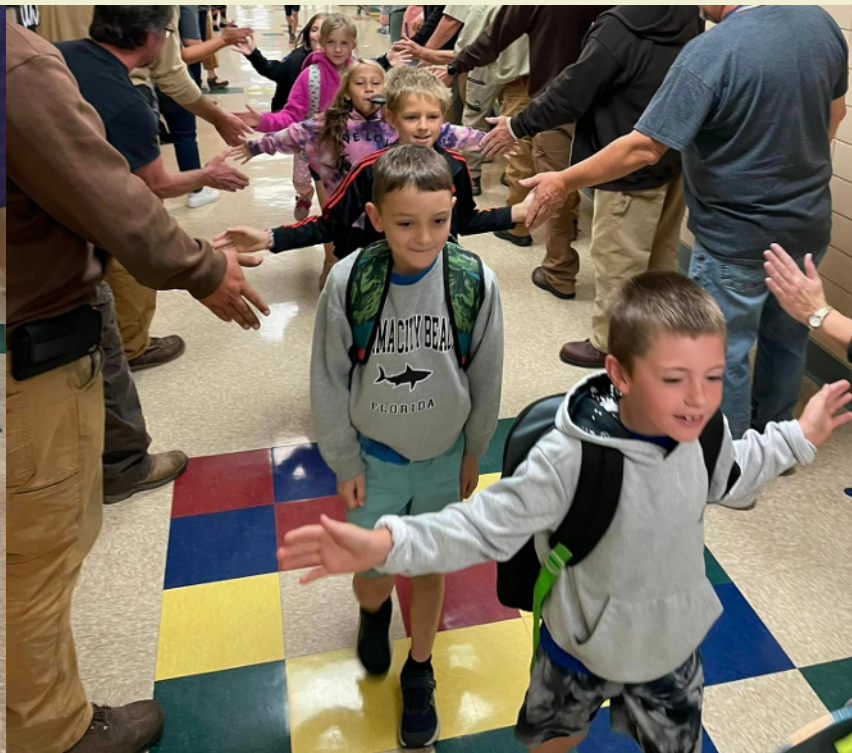
Update or add cell number(s) to enable text messaging. You will need to opt-in via text message.

5 Be sure to click the Save button once you have updated your contact information!

Heusner High Five Fridays



Each Friday, various community groups come to Heusner to "High Five" students and staff. Thanks for bringing such positive energy to the Heusner Community.





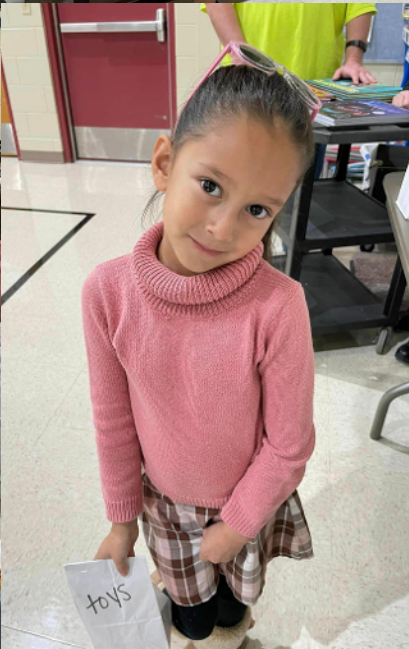
Halloween 2023





Heusner Family Bingo Night

Bringing Families Together! We had over 200 parents and students attend this event.





Creede Repertory Theatre at Heusner
Heusner students got to experience a true theatre performance.



Library

Can you believe it's already December Heusner families? At the end of November/beginning of December in the library, we celebrated Native American History month by reading books by Native American authors and illustrators. In December, we will explore book genres through a book tasting and we will celebrate holidays from around the world. To that end, I've included photos of some of the fun things we do in mobilizing our library learning consistent with the Kansas Department of Education's library standards.

As the year comes to a close, thank you for your communication in response to my weekly notices for any overdue books. Please keep in mind that—consistent with our district policy—Skyward billing takes place for books not returned at the end of semester (December 19) that are a month or more overdue. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. Best wishes for a wonderful holiday break.

Sincerely,
Mrs. J.



P.E.

In December we will start a short unit on striking with equipment. Our unit will be on lacrosse! The fastest sport on two legs! Students will practice how to hold the stick properly and practice the following skills. Students will practice passing the ball, catching, cradling, and scoring. Please bring shoes to P.E ! We don't want your student to miss out on our activities!




On PE days
please wear
the correct
shoes!



Science

Brrrrrr...It's getting cold! We have a lot of exciting things going on in the science lab! This chilly month of December we are learning so much about weather and climate in **Kindergarten and third grade**. We are headed into space to learn about space systems in **first grade**. In **second grade**, we are finishing up how land changes over time. We will be digging into fossils and energy in **fourth grade**. And last but not least, we will finish up earth systems in **fifth grade**.



Lego Team

Special Note: This is the first year for Heusner to have a Lego Team. It was opened to fourth graders. They had to apply and the team was chosen based on the applications.

We started a small, after-school team to compete in the FIRST LEGO League competition held at Lakewood. This team has worked so hard at fulfilling all the requirements to do this. They are so excited to compete with their robot against other schools on December 2, 2023.

If your student is in third or fourth grade and would be interested for next year, they should come to Lakewood and support Heusner and check it out on December 2 from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Have a wonderful holiday break!

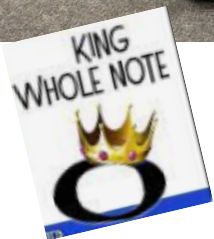
Mrs. Hoover

Music



The months of November and December are very busy in the music room. **Preschool and Kindergarten** classes are singing and moving to songs about turkeys and loud and quiet.

First graders are continuing to review quarter notes, eighth notes and quarter note rests. We have been matching pitch on so/mi and using our singing voices to see if we can match pitch. We played tambourines, triangles, hand drums and sticks along with the steady beat.



Second graders were just introduced to KING WHOLE NOTE, and we learned that the whole note takes up the entire measure or 4 beats. Bar lines and time signatures will be a continuing skill used throughout this year. We are currently working on playing different rhythm patterns while singing an African American Spiritual at a fast tempo.



Third graders were excited to share their music program *The High Seas* on NOVEMBER 16. There were pirates, sea creatures, mermen/mermaids and sailors



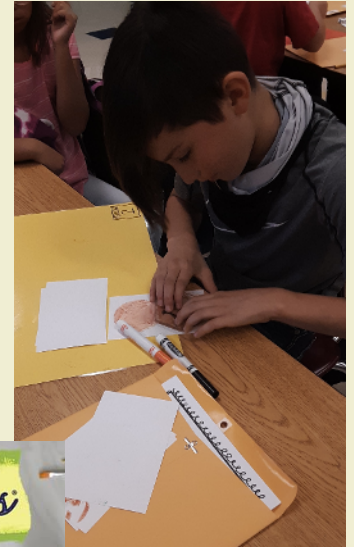
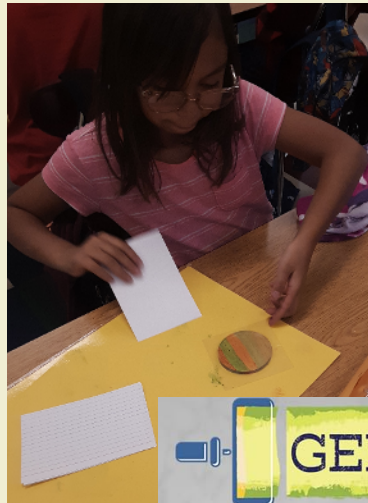
Fourth graders were excited to share their recorder skills on NOVEMBER 16. We are focused in on G-A-B and E. December has us learning a few winter songs on our recorders that we will get to share with the entire building on the day before winter break.



Fifth grade students are finishing up our ukulele unit and are now moving onto rhythmic activities on bucket drums. We are excited to play bucket drums for the entire school on the day before winter break. We are focusing on staying together as an ensemble and listening to each other to keep a steady beat while playing a variety of rhythms

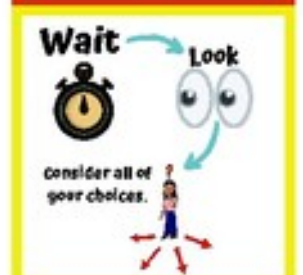
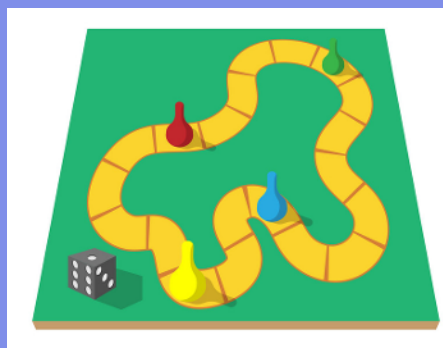
Art

In the art room, **first grade** classes are creating an animal farm by making origami animals. **Second grade** classes are using texture plates to create texture rubbings for their ice cream mosaics that are inspired by Jim Bachor. Students have found different textures in a scavenger hunt to decide what they would like on their mosaic. **Third, fourth, and fifth grade** classes are all using gelli plates to create textures and patterns for their mosaic piece that is inspired by Jim Bachor. **Third and fourth grade** are going to be making their names with fourth grade focusing on balance in their piece. **Fifth grade** will be creating the school mascot.



Social Emotional Team

As we enter December, we will be focusing on Response Inhibition. Response Inhibition is the ability to stop and wait, or stop and think, before making a decision. We talk about how to handle exciting activities happening in the classrooms, and how to be in control and have fun at the same time. Ways to strengthen your child's skill of response inhibition at home include providing opportunities to wait, promote delayed gratification, and pre-teach expectations. All board/card games provide the opportunity to strengthen this skill!



Math Corner

Math Facts Fluency:

We definitely want to keep children's math facts fresh over holiday breaks. Play mental math-counting games in the car, math war at restaurants, or have a math family game night so the efficiency and accuracy don't slow down. Here's a fun game that can be played at home with just a deck of cards. It can be played with addition and subtraction or multiplication and division!

HOW TO PLAY

SALUTE: A MATH FACTS CARD GAME

Set-Up and Preparation:

Get into a group of three. Each group needs a deck of cards, with the face cards and jokers taken out (just keep the numbers 2-10).

Player #1 and Player #2 sit facing one another, with the deck of cards between them. Player #3 sits off to the side so that he/she can see both players' faces.



How To Play:

- Player #1 and #2 each pick up a card, and without looking at it, place it on their foreheads. They can see what each other has, but they do not know which card they are holding.
- Player #3 (who can see both cards) mentally adds the cards together and says the sum out loud. For example, if Player #1 is holding a 6 and Player #2 is holding a 10, Player #3 says "16."
- Once Player #3 has said the sum out loud, Players #1 and #2 each try to figure out what card he/she is holding. So if the sum is 16, and Player #1 can see that Player #2 is holding a 10, he can perform a mental subtraction equation to figure out what he has ($16 - 10 = 6$). The first player to correctly state which card they are holding keeps both cards. The player with the most cards at the end of the game wins.

Differentiation Tip: This game can also be played with multiplication/division.



Heusner Parent Advisory Council

Did you know that Heusner has a Parent Advisory Council that meets several times during the year? We want to ensure that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included in decision making to assist their education of their student. The Parent Advisory Council is made up of parents and teachers who get together to reflect on family engagement at Heusner Elementary.

This committee...

- sets a focus goal and helps Heusner build capacity to create even stronger family-school partnerships.
- helps to increase parent involvement by identifying barriers to participation in activities and helping to design parent involvement activities.
- helps to create the Parental Involvement Policy at Heusner.

To access the Heusner Parent Involvement Policy:



Notice of Assessment

Our school receives Title 1 funds. Schools that receive these funds are expected to provide to each parent information on the level of achievement and academic growth of the student, if applicable and available, on the Kansas Assessments. Students in grades 3-5 take the Kansas Assessments each Spring. Your child's Kansas Assessment Results will be sent home in your child's grade card at the end of the school year.

The results of the Kansas Assessments are important to our school because we use them to evaluate the effectiveness of our educational programming. As a parent/guardian, you do have the right to opt out of the Kansas Assessments by sending a written request to the building principal stating that you wish for your child to not be tested. Please contact the building principal for more information.

Additional assessment information, including our building and district report cards and a list of assessments given at each grade level, is available on the district website. Follow the steps below:

- USD305.com
- Departments
- Educational Programs
- Assessments in USD 305

Heusner is a Title 1 School

We qualify for federal dollars to support the education of our students. Annually, Title 1 schools must notify parents of a Title 1 school of the following: As parents or guardians you may request information regarding the professional qualifications of your student's classroom teachers, including, at a minimum, the following information:

- Whether the teacher has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.
- The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

Please contact Mrs. Lori Munsell, 309-4310, if you have any questions regarding our Title One Services at Heusner.

Kansas Parent Information Resource Center

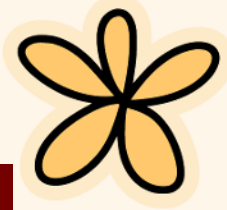
The Kansas Parent Information Resource Center (KPIRC) promotes meaningful family engagement at all levels of education and provides information and resources to help parents, educators and other organizations promote the educational success of every Kansas child.

Check out their website at

www.ksdetasn.org/kpirc/kansas-parent-information-resource-center



Heusner Presents



Authentic Presentations

KINDERGARTEN: CHRISTMAS FEAST 2:45-3:20

1ST GRADE: LETTER PRESENTATIONS 3:00-3:20PM

2ND GRADE: IMAGINARY PLACE DIORAMAS 3:00-3:20PM

3RD GRADE: BREAKFAST (ASK YOUR TEACHER FOR DETAILS)

4TH GRADE: WAX MUSEUM HEROES 2:45-3:20PM

5TH GRADE: WILD WEST PRESENTATIONS 3:00-3:20PM

Our students have been learning a lot in reading this semester. Please join us on Monday, December 18th to get a glimpse into what they have learned!



Heusner December Calendar

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

December 4 PTA Meeting - 7 p.m.

December 19 Winter Class Parties 2:45 p.m.

December 4-8 5th Grade STARBASE


December 20 - January 3 Winter Break

December 18 Authentic Presentations (see previous page for times)

January 4 Back to School

Contact Us

Lori Munsell - Principal
 Sandi Renz - Lead Teacher
 Melissa Williams - Secretary
 Main Office Phone Number: 785-309-4200

 Heusner Elementary

 @HeusnerPride

 School Website

 District Website

#HeusnerPride
#305GrowsGreatness

