



**Monday, March 10, 2025**

**Superintendent Report to the Board of Education**

**Lawrence Public Schools**

Hello Members of the Board, Staff and Community,

Today is the first day of the fourth quarter of the school year; we wrapped up the end of the third quarter Thursday. Students were out of school on Friday, so our teachers could spend that time recording and reporting student progress ahead of parent-teacher conferences this week.

**Conference Week**

Our staff look forward to meeting with families in conversation this week about their students' progress. Since conference schedules include evening hours, there is no school Thursday for early childhood through grade 5 students, and no school Friday for all students, early childhood through grade 12.

**Spring Break**

Next week, of course, is spring break. We wish all students, staff, and school families an enjoyable and restful break.

**Student Honors**

Congratulations to our **high school wrestlers**. You will see a list of their accomplishments on the screen. Additionally, I want to note that Free State senior Grayson Hagen completed his career as the winningest wrestler in Firebird history, and Lawrence High junior Goldy Stephens is the first girls wrestler in LHS history to medal at state. Congratulations to these students on their accomplishments!

Free State business teacher Kimberly Hawks took six student members of the school's **Distributive Education Clubs of America**, or DECA Club, to the state Career Development Conference in Manhattan. What a wonderful opportunity for these young people to learn more about business and finance.

### **Farm to School**

Our Farm to School program has received several grants, including an \$11,200 grant from Frontier Farm Credit to support us in rebuilding the **greenhouse at the Juvenile Detention Center**. It will serve as a resource for growing plant starts to support all of our district gardens, as well as provide agricultural training to learners at the J-D-C Day School.

This grant also included transportation funding for the **fourth grade "Day on the Farm"** field trip.

Lisa Ball, LHS science teacher, and her school earned a \$1,000 grant from the Grassland Heritage Foundation's Sustaining Prairies Fund. They will use these funds to develop a seed saving station in conjunction with the **LHS CTE Agricultural Research Station**. LHS also will enhance its prairie library, as students develop a mobile prairie exhibit featuring a series of photos and air dry clay pressed prairie plants.

Julie Schwarting, Free State science teacher, also received a \$1,000 Grassland Heritage Foundation Grant for **prairie restoration** safety jumpsuits for students to wear when working in the prairie grasses. They will also add informational signage to the prairie.

The Kansas State Department of Education also recognized us for **"Farm 2 School Intensity,"** meaning we dedicate the resources needed to have a vibrant Farm 2 School program. We look forward to continuing to enhance this programming.


### **Latest Podcast**

If you haven't had the chance to listen to our latest Lawrence Public Schools Podcast, I invite you to hear Andrew Beaven and I chat with the **Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence Youth of the Year**, LHS senior Arabella Gipp, and Junior Youth of the Year, Sunflower fifth grader Aiden Kong. They are both impressive young people with important things to say.

### **Communications Outreach**

This is an update of our communications outreach through our digital newsletters and podcasts. I appreciate the community for reading, tuning in, and staying informed!

Thank you, Board Members, for the opportunity to share this Superintendent Report; it is an honor to serve the Lawrence Public Schools.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeanice Kerr Swift". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'J' and 'S'.

Sincerely, Jeanice Kerr Swift  
Interim Superintendent  
Lawrence Public Schools

[Slideshow](#)