

DERBY School News

SPRING 2026

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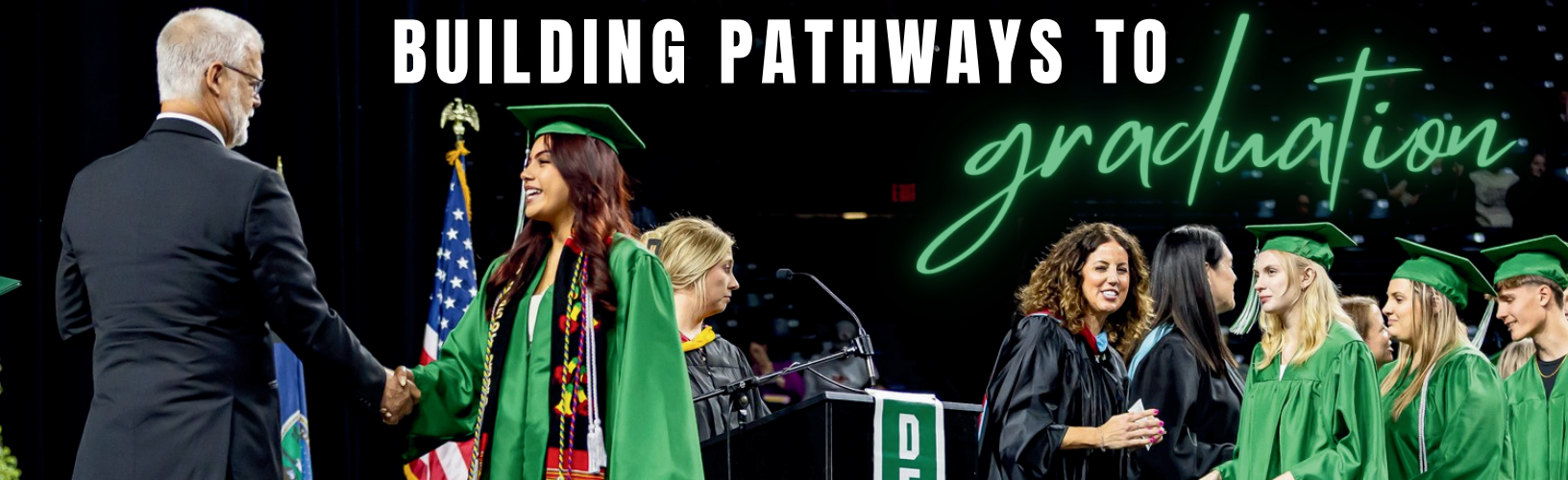


MILESTONE GRADUATION
Achievement
STRATEGIC FOCUS. HISTORIC RESULTS.



BUILDING PATHWAYS TO

graduation



With 95.2% of seniors in the Class of 2025 earning diplomas, Derby High School set a new record for its highest graduation rate to date. Kansas also achieved a historic milestone, with 90.5% of seniors graduating, which is the highest statewide graduation rate ever reported by the Kansas State Department of Education.

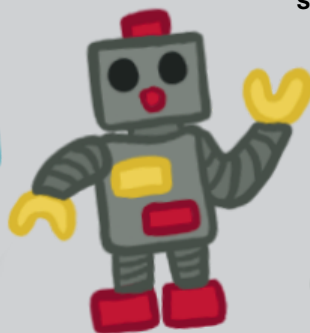
Statistics indicate that high school graduates earn more over their lifetimes than non-graduates. This progress reflects the intentional work happening across our district and state to ensure every student is prepared for postsecondary success.

"I am incredibly proud of the hard work and dedication of our students, staff and families," Gretchen Pontious, Derby High School Principal, said. "Graduation is truly a district-wide effort. It is the result of years of intentional, aligned work by an entire system. It begins the moment a child walks through our doors for the first time."

In early learning, Derby Public Schools focuses on building strong foundations. Our youngest learners are immersed in Science of Reading-aligned instruction, rich language experiences and intentionally designed learning environments. We are not simply teaching letters and sounds; we are building confidence, curiosity and a love of learning. As students progress through elementary school, the work deepens, making early intervention increasingly critical. Third grade is a pivotal milestone. It's the point where students transition from learning to read to reading to learn. Because of our intentional focus on literacy, Derby students outperformed the state average on the 2025 state assessment in English Language Arts, with nearly 57% proficient compared to nearly 52% statewide. Across grades K-8, we have fewer students identified as at-risk readers than the state average in nearly every grade level.

In Math, our third graders scored almost 45% proficient compared to the state's approximately 42%, and we continue to see fewer students in the lowest performance category. With the implementation of Math Bridges Tier 2 intervention, we are watching students grow out of those lowest levels on both ReadyMath and the state assessment. The hands-on manipulatives and small-group support are helping students better grasp concepts.

State Assessment Data Source: ksreportcard.ksde.gov



In Science, our fifth and eighth-grade scores also exceed the state average—evidence that strong systems and timely supports change trajectories. By middle school, the focus expands. Interventions and supports continue, but students also begin to develop their Individual Plans of Study (IPS), using Xello to explore careers and postsecondary pathways. They experience civic engagement opportunities and choose electives that spark new interests.

When students reach high school, their learning becomes increasingly personalized. Through IPS, Work-Based Learning, Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways, the Panther Learning Center, online options, and concurrent and dual college credit, we meet students where they are. Additionally, PrImeTime (homeroom) provides daily structure and built-in supports, including weekly IPS activities, along with the opportunity to build relationships and consistent support with the same teacher over four years. This structure helps foster meaningful personal connections and helps to ensure each student has a trusted adult to guide and support them throughout their high school journey.

“To our staff, your impact cannot be overstated. You invest countless hours, pour into our students each day and walk alongside them from their very first day to their last,” Pontious said. “I am honored to work beside such dedicated professionals. From learning to read in the early grades to late-night homework sessions in high school, student success truly takes a village.”



2025-2026 District Demographics



- ✓ Nine Elementary Schools, Two Middle Schools, One High School
- ✓ Alternative Support Programs: Panther Learning Center, Derby E-Academy, Online Tutoring
- ✓ Early Learning Programs: Parents As Teachers, Early Childhood, Pre-Kindergarten
- ✓ Transition Programs: Project SEARCH and Project LIFE

7,326 Total Students

34 Home Languages

1,298 Certified and Classified Staff Members

95.2% Graduation Rate

1,530 Students with Exceptionalities

47.6% Free/Reduced Rate

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

It's an exciting time to be part of Derby Public Schools. Thanks to the dedication of our students, staff, families and community, Derby High School recently achieved the highest graduation rate in its history, 5% above the state average. This accomplishment reflects the collective commitment to excellence that defines our district. As we celebrate these successes, we are also looking ahead. To continue building on the great work happening in our schools, Derby Public Schools initiated a comprehensive future planning study to develop a 10-year master plan. This in-depth review, which began in February 2025, examines enrollment trends, school capacity, programming needs and facility conditions as part of Strategy 5 of our Strategic Plan.

This committee-driven process will continue into June 2026, when a final plan will be presented to the Board of Education. Throughout the study, the district has focused on key areas including early learning opportunities, student programming at all levels, student activities/athletics and long-term facility needs. Regular updates are shared with the Board of Education to ensure transparency and alignment.

We hosted community input sessions in December and February, and we are grateful to those who participated. If you have not yet had the opportunity to join the conversation, we invite you to attend one of our upcoming Public Input Meetings on **Wednesday, April 22 or Thursday, April 23, 5:30-7PM**, at the district's Administrative Center, 1550 E. Walnut Grove Rd. The same information will be presented each evening, so you only need to attend one session. In April, discussions will focus on high school facilities, Career and Technical Education programs (CTE) and overall capacity needs.

This plan cannot truly represent our community if you are not part of the conversation. Our schools belong to our community, and the direction we set together should reflect the values and priorities of those who invest in and support them.

Our goal is to ensure that our resources, buildings, educational programs and staff are aligned to effectively meet the needs of every student, today and into the future. Thank you for your continued partnership. It's a great day to lead, and an even better day to shape the future of Derby Public Schools together!



**HEATHER BOHATY,
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: EVERY DAY COUNTS

Derby Public Schools is actively working to reduce chronic absenteeism, striving to provide students with consistent, uninterrupted learning experiences. Our goal is to lower the district's average absenteeism rate to 12-13%. Chronic absenteeism (missing 10% or more of school days, including both excused and unexcused absences) can significantly impact a student's progress. While we understand that some absences are unavoidable, scheduling appointments and trips outside of school hours when possible helps keep students on track. Every day counts toward your child's success, and Derby Public Schools is here to support you. Learn more and download a helpful attendance tracker at derbyschools.com/academics/chronic-absenteeism.



CELEBRATING THE MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Derby Public Schools proudly serves our military community, with over 10% of our 7,326 students connected to military families. Throughout April, we celebrate the Month of the Military Child with special activities, lessons, recognition displays and **Purple Up Day on Wednesday, April 15**. We invite our community to wear purple, a color representing all branches of the military, to show support for our military-connected students and families.

Derby Public Schools works in close partnership with McConnell Air Force Base leadership and the School Liaison Officer to support students during transitions and deployments. Our commitment has earned Derby Public Schools the Purple Star District designation, recognizing all 12 schools for their dedication to military families. The Military-Connected Educational Partnership Council continues to strengthen collaboration between the district and McConnell AFB. The next military-connected family forum will be held at **6PM on Wednesday, April 29**, at Derby Middle School (801 E. Madison).

April is a special time to recognize the sacrifices military families make and to celebrate the strength and resilience of their children. In Derby Public Schools, we are proud to stand beside them, not just in April, but every day. Learn more about available resources and supports for military families at derbyschools.com/district/military-families.



Derby School News is published by the Derby Public Schools Communications Department for patrons of the district. Questions or comments may be sent to: Communications Department, 1550 E. Walnut Grove Rd., Derby, KS 67037 or by email to informationusd260.com.

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EXPLORE EARLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Derby Public Schools is proud to offer a variety of early childhood learning programs designed to support young learners in building a strong foundation for future success. Early learning is critical as it helps develop essential social and academic skills that set the stage for lifelong learning. Our programs are tailored to meet the varying needs of children, ensuring they are prepared for kindergarten and beyond. Explore the opportunities below to see how our district can support your child's early educational journey and determine if they may qualify. Visit derbyschools.com/academics/early-childhood to view specific qualifications and costs (if applicable) for each program.

- **Early Childhood Special Education** (serves ages 3-Kindergarten entry)
- **Peer Model Program** (serves ages 3-Kindergarten entry)
- **Full-Day Pre-K** (must be 4 prior to **August 31, 2026** • **Applications open April 30!**)
- **Early Childhood Block Grant Program** (must be 4 prior to **August 31, 2026**)
- **TOP Early Learning Center** (must be 4 prior to **August 31, 2026**)
- **Parents As Teachers** (from pregnancy to age 5)
- **Wee Panther Pals** (serves ages 3-Kindergarten entry)



FREE DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS

Project KIDS (Kids Interactive Developmental Screening) is a free developmental screening led by Derby Public Schools staff that identifies children, two years and nine months to five years of age, with developmental delays. Children will be screened in the areas of hearing, vision, self-help, thinking, coordination, social/emotional and speaking. Screenings take approximately one hour and are completed in a relaxed environment with staff who specialize in early childhood. Parents are required to stay while their child is screened. Childcare is not provided.

If your child is between two years and nine months to five years of age and you have concerns about their development or would like to assess the skills they currently have, we would be happy to help. Please call our Special Services Department at (316) 554-8004 to schedule your free screening. Screenings during the school year are held at the Carlton Learning Center.

PARENTS AS TEACHERS: FREE SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM

Parents As Teachers (PAT) is a free school readiness program for families living within the Derby Public Schools boundaries. Families with children prenatal to age 5 may enroll. PAT is a nationwide early childhood program designed to give children from prenatal through age 5 the best possible start in life. The mission is to build strong communities, thriving families and children who are healthy, safe and ready to learn. Families enjoy the information, support and encouragement they receive from their parent educator. PAT also provides special offerings for families, such as Cookie Bookie club (a literacy group connection), Music & Movement, Wee Panther Pals preschool classes (ages 3-5 with a small enrollment fee) and much more! Questions? Please call (316) 554-0110. Check out Derby Parents As Teachers on Facebook to see event highlights.



Ready for Kindergarten?



Secure Your Child's Seat • April 20-30, 2026

If your child will be five years old on or before **August 31, 2026**, the first step to enrolling is completing Kindergarten Intent to Enroll between **April 20-30, 2026**. Don't miss this important window to secure your child's spot and start their exciting journey in Derby Public Schools!

Kindergarten Intent to Enroll Checklist

- Visit derbyschools.com/Kindergarten to find the intent to enroll form, required paperwork and school readiness resources.
- Complete the quick Intent to Enroll form between **April 20-30**.
- Bring a copy of your child's birth certificate and proof of residency (current water, gas or electric bill) to your child's school office between **April 20-30**.
- Fill out your child's Ages & Stages Questionnaire online before **September 18, 2026**.
- Considering a school transfer? If you live within USD 260 boundaries and wish to request a transfer to another Derby elementary school, you must complete both the Intent to Enroll form for your home school AND submit an in-district transfer request.

*Note: If you do not complete the intent to enroll form and bring in the required documentation between **April 20-30**, you will not be guaranteed a spot at your child's home attendance/neighborhood school.

Learn more at
derbyschools.com/Kindergarten

Mark Your Calendars...

- Each elementary school will host an optional special visit and school tour opportunity on **Tuesday, April 21, from 6-7PM**.
- Finalize enrollment and pay school-year fees in July during the district-wide enrollment period (dates to be determined).
- Join us for Elementary Back-to-School Conferences on **Monday, August 10, 8AM-12PM and 4-7PM**, to meet teachers and explore your child's school. (Schools will communicate how to schedule a time.)
- The 2026-2027 school year kicks off on **August 12, 2026!** Your school will provide a special schedule for the first two days to help your child transition smoothly. Find the 2026-2027 school year calendar at derbyschools.com/Calendar.



Meet Our BOARD OF EDUCATION



James Hanford

- Served since January 2026
- Occupation: Airline Pilot
- Education: Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, Texas A&M University; Master of Business Administration, Colorado State University; Master of Science in Logistics, Air Force Institute of Technology
- Community Involvement: Rotary Club of Derby
- Fun Fact: "I was born in Arizona, but during my 20 years in the US Air Force, I have lived in seven different states."

Jennifer Neel (DHS Class of 2000)

- Served since January 2022
- Occupation: Family Nurse Practitioner and Structural Heart Program Coordinator at Wesley Medical Center
- Education: Master of Science in Nursing, Board Certified Family Nurse Practitioner, Wichita State University
- Community Involvement: St Mary's Catholic Parish, Kansans for Life, multiple healthcare leadership initiatives, Former Girl Scout Leader (6+ years), Kansas Tobacco Free Coalition, Derby Health Collaborative (former)
- Fun Fact: "I'm happiest when life is busy - balancing a career in healthcare, serving my community and spending time with my big family as a proud mom and nana."



Tanya Jacobucci, Vice President

- Served since January 2024
- Occupation: Education Consultant/Adjunct Instructor
- Education: Associate Degree, Garden City Community College; Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, Southwestern Oklahoma State University; Master of Science in Curriculum & Instruction, Reading Specialist, Wichita State University
- Community Involvement: Former District 5 County Commissioner Advisory Board Member
- Fun Fact: "I rodeoed when I was very little all the way through college."



Our seven-member Board of Education, elected at-large to serve four-year terms, provides leadership and oversight for Derby Public Schools. Stay informed and involved by scanning the QR code or visiting derbyschools.com/BoardofEducation for meeting dates, agendas, board packets, contact information and more.

Cathy Boote

- Served since January 2024
- Occupation: Retired Wichita Public Schools Teacher
- Education: Bachelor of Arts in Education, Wichita State University; Master of Arts in Education, Baker University; KAKE Golden Apple Award Recipient, USD 259 Distinguished Classroom Teacher Award Recipient, 2018 Semifinalist for Kansas Teacher of the Year
- Community Involvement: Newspring Church, Eisenhower Excellence in Public Service Series Class of 2026, Derby Precinct Committeewoman, Founding Member of Derby Republican Women
- Fun Fact: "I have completed six half marathons and two full marathons."

Mark Boline

- Served since January 2024
- Occupation: Information Security
- Education: Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education; Master of Management Information Systems; Master of Information Security
- Community Involvement: Woodlawn United Methodist Church
- Fun Fact: "I taught first grade in El Dorado for five years."

Anne Phillips

- Served since January 2026
- Occupation: Retired US Air Force
- Education: Master of Business Administration in Operations and Supply Chain Management, Southern New Hampshire University; Bachelor of Communications, University of North Dakota; Associate of Applied Science in Aviation Maintenance Technology, Community College of the Air Force; Project Management Professional (PMP) Certification
- Community Involvement: Rotary Club of Derby, Lions Club of Derby, volunteer at Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center, Derby Food Pantry, Save The Kitties and Starkey Inc.
- Fun Fact: "I enlisted in the Air Force at 16 years old. I also lived in England for four years!"

FOR THE FUTURE



Melanie Turner, President (DHS Class of 1992)

- Served since January 2024
- Occupation: Physical Therapist
- Bachelor of Science in Biology and Master of Physical Therapy, Rockhurst University
- Community Involvement: Derby 4-H Club Community Leader, Derby Historical Museum Board Member, Sedgwick County 4-H Program Development Committee Member
- Fun Fact: "I was in the first high school class to learn typing on a computer instead of a typewriter."



As we build on the momentum of recent successes, Derby Public Schools reflects on a powerful example of community partnership: the inaugural Garage Sale with a Purpose: No Child Goes Hungry, held in June 2025 in partnership with the Derby Rotary Club. Created to address rising meal assistance needs among the district's more than 7,000 students, the event supported the Community Assistance Lunch Program, ensuring students have access to nutritious meals. More than 700 community members contributed donations and volunteer hours in support of the cause. Held during Derby's city-wide garage sale and followed by a Fill-A-Bag event in September, the initiative raised **\$41,672.87**, with every dollar directly supporting student meals.

Students in the Project LIFE program prepared items for the sale, gaining hands-on life skills experience. Students across grade levels volunteered through clubs, Derby High School Air Force JROTC and athletic programs, and through restorative and community service efforts. Community partners, local businesses and organizations, such as Walmart and Rhea Lana's Children Consignment, strengthened the effort. Remaining donations were provided to various charitable organizations and to Cooper Elementary. Clothing items were offered through the "Cooper Boutique," a free shopping opportunity for families during parent-teacher conferences last semester.

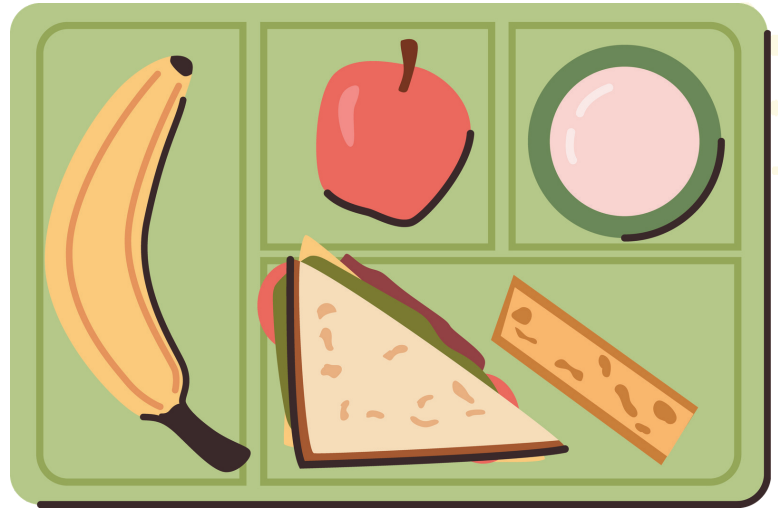
The Garage Sale with a Purpose reflects the strength of Derby Public Schools and the community, working together to support students and ensure no child goes hungry.

GARAGE SALE

DERBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

JUNE 4-6, 2026

WITH A PURPOSE





SHOP AND

Support



Garage Sale Dates

Thursday, June 4 • 6:30AM-6PM

Friday, June 5 • 6:30AM-5PM

Saturday, June 6 • 6:30AM-4PM

Educational Support Center,
222. E Madison, Derby

Upcoming Donation Drop-Off Dates at 222 E. Madison, Derby

Wednesday, April 15, 7-8:30PM

Thursday, April 30, 3-5PM

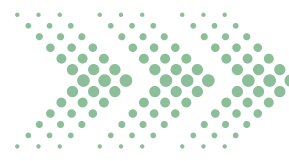
Saturday, May 2, 4-6PM

Thursday, May 14, 3-5PM

OR drop-off at BRG Precision
Products, Inc. 600 N. River Street
in Derby, March 16-May 15
(Monday-Friday) 8AM-4PM.



Want to make a difference?
Lend a helping hand by
volunteering. Scan the QR
code to get started!



CONNECTING STUDENTS TO REAL-WORLD CAREERS

Through Work-Based Learning (WBL), Derby High School provides students with hands-on career experiences that help them explore their interests and prepare for future success. As part of the Individual Plan of Study (IPS), WBL connects classroom learning to real-world careers, allowing students to make informed decisions about high school courses, programs and postsecondary education.

Through internships, both paid and unpaid, students develop essential workplace and employability skills while gaining valuable exposure to various industries. To participate in WBL, students must meet the following criteria: Be at least 17 years old; Maintain a 2.0 GPA; Have completed at least two Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses; Complete 60 hours of WBL per semester to receive credit.

WBL serves as a "test drive" for potential careers, helping students confirm or reconsider their career choices before committing to further education or training. Internships are made possible through partnerships with leading organizations and businesses. Students gain experience in a variety of industries, including the City of Derby (*pictured below left*), Textron Aviation, various construction companies, Championship Martial Arts (*pictured below right*), Derby Recreation Commission and Oaklawn Activity Center, Citizens Bank of Kansas located inside DHS, various childcare facilities, Wesley and Via Christi Hospitals, AmeriCorps (paid teaching internships in elementary schools), Derby Public Schools Communications Department and Operations Department, and more.

Many WBL internships are student-driven. Students with existing jobs in qualifying industries may also be eligible for a work-based learning credit. Derby Public Schools is committed to expanding these experiences by building strong partnerships with local businesses.

"My time interning at Championship Martial Arts of Derby has meant the world to me," senior Reese Draney said. "I've been able to further my knowledge in the business world, making calls and new connections every day, as well as learning about revenue and sales. I've also been able to make my students better every day. Seeing them all grow is a gift and I'm so excited to see what is to come."

Together, we can equip students with real-world skills that prepare them for successful careers. If you are interested in collaborating with us to offer a Work-Based Learning opportunity for Derby High School seniors, please contact: Sandy Barton, Career Exploration and Individual Plan of Study Educational Leader, at sbartoneusd260.com or (316) 788-8478.



PROJECT LIFE: A BRIDGE TO INDEPENDENCE

Project LIFE is a vocational experience designed for students with disabilities, ages 18 to 21, who have completed their core academic requirements in the traditional school setting. This comprehensive program combines classroom and life skill education with authentic work experiences to prepare students with disabilities for a self-determined future.

The Project LIFE curriculum was adopted ahead of the 2024-2025 school year, with its main pillars focusing on life at work, life at home and life in the community. Students build independent living skills by practicing everyday tasks such as cooking, doing laundry, cleaning, grocery shopping and paying for purchases. These hands-on experiences help foster confidence, responsibility and self-sufficiency.

A key component of Project LIFE is its strong partnerships with local businesses. Through internships, students gain valuable employability skills while contributing to the local workforce. We are proud to partner with Jimmy's Egg, Dillons Marketplace and Buffalo Wild Wings, whose teams provide mentorship, guidance and meaningful job training opportunities for our students.

"Project LIFE is more than a program; it's a bridge to independence," Beth Parker, Project LIFE Instructor, said. "I get to watch students discover strengths they didn't know they had, build real workplace skills and grow in confidence every single day. We focus not only on employment, but also on independent living skills, from managing daily routines to making informed choices. Students leave us better prepared for adulthood. It's about preparing them not just for a job, but for a meaningful, self-directed life."

Through these experiences, students leave Project LIFE feeling valued, capable, confident and prepared to live more independent lives. These partnerships not only support student growth but also reflect the strength and inclusiveness of our community.



If you are interested in becoming a community partner to support student growth, please contact Beth Parker, Project LIFE Instructor, at bparker@usd260.com.



LEARNING AMERICA'S HISTORY

Kindergarteners at Park Hill Elementary recently finished their American History Social Studies unit, learning about the American flag and other historic symbols. Working with partners, students discussed observations from their booklets, including how the 50 stars on the flag represent the 50 states, as well as the meaning behind the flag's colors. Students also explored the history of the Statue of Liberty, state symbols and flags, Mount Rushmore, the bald eagle and the national anthem. We are proud of our kindergarten students across the district for growing in their understanding of our nation's history.



Derby High School Wellness and Nutrition

NEW CURRICULUM INCLUDES LIFESAVING SKILLS

By Emma Searle / Work-Based Learning

Derby High School's Wellness and Nutrition course provides a strong foundation in essential health principles. The course equips students to make informed and responsible decisions about their physical, mental and social well-being.

In 2018, the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) incorporated cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), basic first aid and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training into the Kansas Health Standards. Derby Public Schools has aligned with those standards since their adoption, ensuring students receive instruction in these lifesaving skills through Health and Physical Education courses.

This school year, the district strengthened that commitment by implementing an updated Wellness and Nutrition curriculum that enhances student learning and includes formal CPR training. To support this, the district invested in instructor training for teachers, resuscitation manikins, AED trainers and instructional supplies. Thanks to grant funding for this school year, students currently enrolled in the course can earn full certification through the American Red Cross in CPR, First Aid and AED.

Students have learned CPR protocol through hands-on demonstrations, videos and discussions. Learning these skills can help students respond to an emergency situation with confidence and care. Students who meet the American Red Cross criteria receive the chance to become certified. Freshmen Camdyn Kuntz and Kinley Brownlee are pictured demonstrating CPR and AED use.

"When watching medical shows, most people don't know exactly what is happening," Kinley said. "But I got to learn how those things work, and it's really cool to understand all of that."

In addition to being a vital life skill, this certification supports students' readiness for employment in areas like education, healthcare, childcare, coaching, lifeguarding and emergency services.



FRESHMAN EARNS 6A STATE TITLE

Derby High School winter sports teams delivered an impressive postseason, highlighted by Presley Beard, who captured the 6A State Championship at 120 pounds. Beard finished an incredible 32-0 season and made history as the first Derby girls freshman to win a state title. She was also named the 6A regional wrestler of the year. We also celebrate our many teams and student-athletes who made significant playoff runs and earned top state placements—an outstanding finish to the winter season!



Photo Courtesy of KSHSAA

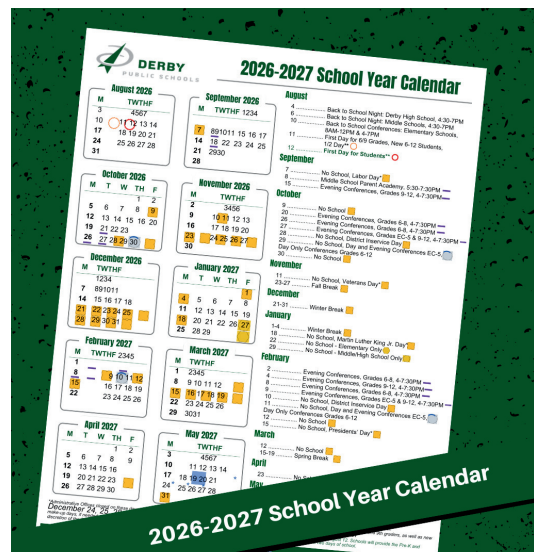
STUDENTS ADVANCE TO INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Derby High School's Drama Club had an outstanding showing at the 2026 Kansas Thespian Festival in January, a statewide event celebrating student achievement in theatre. Thirty-one Derby students attended, with 13 competing in the Kansas Thespian Excellence Awards. Eleven students earned Superior ratings, one of the highest honors, and qualified for the International Thespian Festival June 21-26 in Bloomington, Indiana. This marks the largest number of Derby students to qualify in a single year.

Superior ratings were earned by Hunter Clark (costume design); Ellie Swindle (makeup design); Cassandra Anderson, Sydney Vaughn, Kota Tucker, Maxwell Smeltzer, Payten Wren, Gabriel Wallace and Kevin Rhue (ensemble acting); Alaura Miller and Cassandra Anderson (duet acting); and Braden Sell and Sydney Vaughn (duet acting).



The Drama Club was also recognized as a Gold Honor Troupe for excellence in performance, leadership, community outreach, fundraising and commitment to thespian standards.



The 2026-2027 school calendar is now available! The calendar was thoughtfully developed to prioritize student learning, meaningful staff collaboration and professional development aligned with district initiatives, while also considering the needs of our families. It includes all no-school dates, administrative office closures, and the start and end times for each school.

Scan the QR Code, subscribe to the Derby Public Schools Google Calendar or download a calendar PDF at derbyschools.com/Calendar.



COMING SOON! HOMESCHOOL DISCOVERY CLASSES

Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, Derby Public Schools will offer Homeschool Discovery Classes at the elementary level designed to support homeschool families with meaningful learning and connection opportunities, all led by our dedicated district staff. Students can choose to engage in daily Art and Music experiences that integrate Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM), and enjoy library time and crafts with peers. Cost will be a one-time \$75 enrollment fee for the entire year. Days/times vary by grade level and schools with space available. Non-resident students accepted. Supplemental online reading and math learning platforms will also be available with the enrollment fee. Stay connected for more details coming later this summer at derbyschools.com. We can't wait to share this new opportunity with the community!



LIVE ANYWHERE. LEARN IN DERBY: NON-RESIDENT ENROLLMENT AND TRANSFER INFORMATION

Kansas law requires school districts to allow non-resident students to enroll in and attend the schools of a district if the board's capacity determination finds there are open seats, provided they are in good standing. (Based on BOE Policy JBCC and the district's Non-Resident Enrollment Report.)

Derby Public Schools is planning for all 2025-2026 currently enrolled students to be in attendance for the 2026-2027 school year. If you are a current in-district transfer student or non-resident student attending the school of your choice, no application is needed at this time for the 2026-2027 school year. Continued enrollment will be allowed as long as the student is in good standing.

Current families who wish to request a new transfer to a school outside of their home attendance area or currently enrolled school will be required to go through the non-resident lottery process. When the number of in-district applications exceeds the school building, program or grade level capacity, the district will randomly select students through a confidential lottery process conducted by the Superintendent of Schools or designee on or before **July 15, 2026**.

Notification will be shared with families confirming their attendance for the 2026-2027 school year. Learn more at derbyschools.com/Enrollment.



Now Hiring! Join Our Team

We have a variety of opportunities available, including full-time, part-time and substitute positions in areas such as Food Service, Bus Drivers, Latchkey and more. Enjoy competitive benefits such as paid holidays, paid time off, free admission to middle school and high school home games, a Derby Recreation Commission (DRC) membership and even convenient morning transportation from your job site to your child's school. Learn more and apply at derbyschools.com/DerbyWorks.

FREE HYGIENE RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR FAMILIES

When we meet students' basic needs, we open doors to learning, confidence and opportunity. Because of generous partnerships, Derby Public Schools families have access to free essential hygiene products.

Giving The Basics is a non-profit organization based in Kansas City, KS. They serve over 2,500 non-profit organizations and schools, including all Derby Public Schools. Giving the Basics provides the necessities of life that many people take for granted, such as laundry soap, shampoo, deodorant, toilet paper and other personal care hygiene products to registered and approved locations. Every month, each of our schools receives a shipment of the hygiene products available.

Simply Hygiene, based in Park City, Kansas, currently distributes to over 210 schools and 100 organizations in the greater Wichita area, providing over 95,000 people with access to hygiene essentials each month. They distribute free hygiene products through a consistent monthly ordering process. Simply Hygiene also works with nurses, teachers, social workers, counselors, administrators and police officers to determine how they can best serve children and adults in our area. School nurses submit an order for Simply Hygiene products each month, based on the needs of the buildings they serve.

If you have a student enrolled in Derby Public Schools and could benefit from these resources, please contact your school office.

Serving Beyond the Classroom

Derby Public Schools joined forces with the Derby Chamber of Commerce and the Derby Lions Club for our 11th annual community-wide food drive, rallying together in support of Derby Community Family Services, which operates the Derby Food Pantry. Through teamwork and generosity, our schools and community made a meaningful difference for local families in need.

The food drive was filled with energy and school spirit across the district. From Granny Basketball at Derby North Middle School to Oaklawn Elementary's "Spring into Giving" where students who donated items received flower seeds to plant in a school garden, to Derby Hills Elementary's themed days such as "Soup-er Hero" day and even staff members being pied in the face at Wineteer Elementary, our students and staff found fun, creative ways to give back.

After a week of collection efforts across all buildings, our grounds team gathered donations and transported them to the food pantry for sorting and counting. Students from Project LIFE and Project SEARCH proudly led the tallying of contributions, resulting in 16,037 items!

The Chamber of Commerce also organized a pancake feed to support the efforts, while the Lions Club rallied local businesses to contribute donations, raising nearly \$5,000.


The Derby Food Pantry, located at 4902 South Clifton Ave. in Wichita, provides essential support to residents within the Derby school district boundaries. Learn more at derbyfoodpantry.com.




COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

Even if you do not have a student currently attending Derby Public Schools, there are many benefits of school facilities for community members. From private indoor or outdoor facilities rentals for youth practices, fine arts performances, special events or utilizing community open hours of three walking tracks, three tennis court locations and nine Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible playgrounds, the community can benefit from these beautiful spaces. To learn more, visit derbyschools.com/district/wellness.


Walking Tracks



Panther Stadium
[Read More](#)




Derby High School Track
[Read More](#)




Derby North Middle School Track
[Read More](#)


Tennis Courts



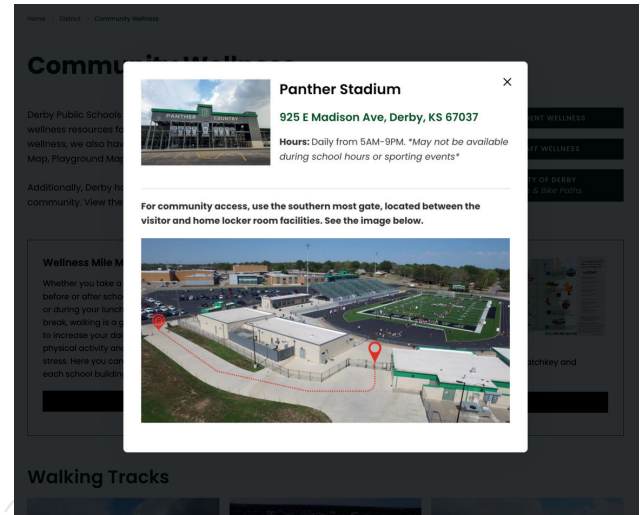
Derby High School Tennis Court
[Read More](#)



Derby Middle School Tennis Court
[Read More](#)




Derby North Middle School Tennis Court
[Read More](#)



Panther Stadium
925 E Madison Ave, Derby, KS 67037
Hours: Daily from 5AM-9PM. *May not be available during school hours or sporting events*

For community access, use the southern most gate, located between the visitor and home locker room facilities. See the image below.



DERBY

PUBLIC SCHOOLS AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND MAP

MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO COMMUNITY SUPPORT OF THE 2018 BOND



COOPER ELEMENTARY
4625 Juniper • Wichita KS
Hop a ride on the express train at the Early Childhood playground or enjoy kicking a soccer ball around at Cooper's upcoming irrigated soccer field.

OAKLAWN ELEMENTARY
5000 S. Clifton • Wichita KS
Use your imagination to slide, climb and jump or learn the alphabet in sign language all under a canopy of shade at Oaklawn.

STONE CREEK ELEMENTARY
3012 N. Triple Creek Drive • Derby KS
A two-story jet plane, ADA turf zone and double racing zipline awaits at Stone Creek's aircraft-themed playground.

SWANEY ELEMENTARY
501 English • Derby KS
Rock or surf, and hold on tight to this play structure at Derby Hills, or spend time at the General Store.

WILDCATS
Enjoy two full playgrounds at Swaney, including one that is fully ADA compliant while making music at many instruments placed around the play area. Prior to the 2018 Bond, Swaney was the only playground with ADA equipment.

WINETEER ELEMENTARY
8801 E. Ent • Wichita KS
Challenge yourself on an obstacle course or play on ADA accessible wheelchair merry-go-round at Tanglewood's wellness-themed playground.

HUSKIES
Show and expand your musical talents by playing the piano, drums, xylophones and more at Park Hill's music and movement-themed playground.

Come **swing, slide and play** at one of our nine elementary playgrounds!

LOCATIONS

- COOPER ELEMENTARY**
4625 Juniper • Wichita KS
- DERBY HILLS ELEMENTARY**
2230 N. Woodlawn • Derby KS
- EL PASO ELEMENTARY**
900 E. Crestway • Derby KS
- OAKLAWN ELEMENTARY**
5000 S. Clifton • Wichita KS
- PARK HILL ELEMENTARY**
1500 E. Woodbrook • Derby KS
- STONE CREEK ELEMENTARY**
3012 N. Triple Creek Drive • Derby KS
- SWANEY ELEMENTARY**
501 English • Derby KS
- TANGLEWOOD ELEMENTARY**
850 Ridgcrest • Derby KS
- WINETEER ELEMENTARY**
8801 E. Ent • Wichita KS

Explore US maps painted on our playground blacktops provided by the Derby Rotary Club.

All playgrounds are equipped with an ADA-compliant playset accessory and are open to the public when school or school programs (such as Latchkey and PrimeTime) are not in session. When you visit a playground, share photos using #USD260ADAPlaygrounds.

PLAY, RUN AND HAVE FUN

FUTURE PLANNING FOR DERBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Share Your Voice

Derby Public Schools continues to engage in its long-range Future Planning process, a thoughtful, multi-year effort focused on aligning our facilities, programs and resources to best serve students both now and in the years ahead. Launched under the district's 2022-2027 Strategic Plan, this work is grounded in a careful review of enrollment trends, building capacity, educational programming and facility needs across the district. The goal is to ensure that future direction is rooted in data, shaped by community priorities and informed by a clear understanding of current facility needs.

To support this effort, the district has engaged in a comprehensive planning process that includes facility tours, visits to neighboring districts, enrollment and program analysis, and detailed space utilization reviews. Through the Future Planning Committee, student focus groups, public input meetings and guided discussions facilitated in partnership with RSP, we have intentionally gathered stakeholder feedback to help inform and shape our next steps.

Public meetings have centered on conversations with families, staff, students and community members about what they value most in Derby Public Schools, where they see opportunities for growth and the priorities that should guide future decisions. February discussions centered on early learning, services for 3- and 4-year-olds, accessibility, delivery models and whether programs should be housed in a dedicated center or within existing schools.

Student voice has played an important role in this process. Student representatives at Derby High School participated in a facilitated focus group to share their perspectives on their school experience. They discussed how learning spaces and building layout impact their day, and which programs, such as Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways, dual/concurrent credit and advanced coursework, best prepare them for life after graduation. Their thoughtful feedback is helping ensure student voice remains central in future planning conversations.

The decisions shaped through this work will influence daily experiences for students, from learning environments and program access to how facilities support growth and opportunity. Community input ensures planning reflects real needs and priorities, helping shape learning spaces, programs and resources that support student success. The next public input meetings are scheduled for **April 22 or 23, 5:30-7PM** each night, at the Derby Public Schools Administrative Center, 1550 E. Walnut Grove Rd. in Derby. These sessions will focus on high school facilities, CTE programs, pool and other athletic facilities, and overall capacity needs. You only need to attend one session, as the information will be the same each night. The Future Planning process will conclude in June 2026, when a final plan is expected to be presented to and adopted by the Board of Education. Learn more at [derbyschools.com/FuturePlanning](https://www.derbyschools.com/FuturePlanning).





DERBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
1550 E. WALNUT GROVE RD.
DERBY, KS 67037

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Derby, KS

POSTAL CUSTOMER

Join the Conversation!

What do you envision for the future of our schools?
We encourage families, staff and community members to join us in April and share your perspectives as we continue shaping the future of Derby Public Schools together.

Future Planning Public Input Meetings
April 22 or 23, 5:30-7PM
Derby Public Schools Administrative Center
1550 E. Walnut Grove Rd.

** Same information discussed both nights. These sessions will focus on high school facilities, Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, pool and other athletic facilities, and overall capacity needs.*

LEARN
MORE ON
PAGES
10-11!



Derby Public Schools and Derby Rotary Club are hosting a Community Garage Sale during the city-wide garage sale weekend to help ensure every student has access to nutritious meals. 100% of proceeds go to the Community Assistance School Lunch Program, providing meals for students in need. Shop, donate and/or lend a helping hand!