





1. The Site Council met on Wednesday, November 16, and there was a little better turn out than the September meeting. Janice Reiss and Lori Boos will continue as chairperson and secretary, respectively. Topics discussed included the PAWS program, course offerings and weighted courses, graduation requirements, student access to technology and the school network, and the school climate. Satisfaction was expressed, but I was able to take some of their comments and thoughts back to the staff during our meeting time to continue to build our programs.
2. The schedule for academic finals has been determined:

Winter, 2011 Final Exam Schedule		
Time	Thursday	Friday
8:10 - 9:28	1st Hour Exam	2nd Hour Exam
9:36 - 10:54	3rd Hour Exam	4th Hour Exam
10:58 - 11:28	Lunch A (7-9)	(Same Both Days) PAWS (10-12)
11:28 - 11:58	PAWS (7-9)	(Same Both Days) Academic Assembly (7-12)
12:02 - 12:32	(Same Both Days)	PAWS (7-9)
12:36 - 1:54	5th Hour Exam	6th Hour Exam
2:02 - 3:20	7th Hour Exam	(HS) - Not Mandatory/JH Academic Activity

Students in the high school will not be required to stay at school once their 6<sup>th</sup> hour exam is completed. We will review this schedule with them so they know what is expected of them. We will provide activity for the students who will need to stay for school transportation. We also will dismiss high school student athletes early on that day for a basketball trip to Rossville.

3. The high school FFA will travel to Marysville, KS., on Thursday, December 15, for the District Vo-Ag contest. There are a large number of students who will be absent for this event and that is a day of Finals, so many students will make arrangements with teachers to take finals early or at an unscheduled time.
4. The JSH will host music programs during the last week of school before break. The Grades 4-8 band/vocal concert will be held on Monday, December 12, and the 9-12 Band/Vocal/Soundmasters Concert will be held on Thursday, December 15. Both events will begin at 7:00 p.m.
5. Our Forensics and Scholar's Bowl seasons will open soon. The first scheduled meet for Scholar's Bowl will be on December 10 in Hiawatha and the first meet for Forensics will be on January 28, 2012 at Sabetha.
6. The PAWS schedule in the JSH has been up for discussion in our PLC and there is a prevailing feeling that PAWS should be moved to the end of the day. PAWS was originally scheduled during 4<sup>th</sup> period to offer students less rigid class period and to give them some time to work on their morning assignments so they are not so heavily overwhelmed at the end of the day. We also wanted to include Vo-Tech students in

PAWS so they could get the benefit of the program. The advantage to moving it to the end of the day would be to save the morning hour of classes for a more rigid class, because typically students are more productive during the morning. A second advantage would be to overcome the early dismissal times that our athletic/activity schedule often requires for student transportation.

7. Grant money has been obtained through Kansas Character Ed, managed by the State Dept. of Education. We have been allocated \$3000.00, payable in ½ payments each semester. This is the last payment of a 3 year program and we are currently in the application process for a similar grant issued through the Kansas Safe Schools initiative. We have met the criteria for students and staff, but still need parental input to qualify for the grant.
8. (See Attachment A) We received notification in late November that the Confidence in Kansas Public Education Task Force has recognized our Jr/Sr High school in the Challenge Awards program for outstanding achievement and uncommon accomplishment based on Kansas Assessment results from 2011. Although not recognized as one of the merit schools (top 10), this is a noteworthy accomplishment for the district.



# Confidence in Kansas Public Education Task Force

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American Association of University Women • Kansas Congress of Parents and Teachers • Kansas Association of School Boards  
Kansas National Education Association • Kansas School Public Relations Association • Kansas State Board of Education  
Kansas State High School Activities Association, Inc. • United School Administrators of Kansas

November, 2011

Deanna Scherer  
Atchison Co. Community Jr/Sr High  
PO Box 289  
Effingham KS 66023

Dear Principal:

On behalf of the Confidence in Kansas Public Education Task Force, I am pleased to inform you Atchison Co. Community Jr/Sr High has been awarded a *Certificate of Recognition* in the Challenge Awards Program. This award recognizes schools for outstanding achievement and uncommon accomplishment based on Kansas Assessment results from 2011 and other qualifying factors, specifically the sample size, ethnicity and socio-economic status of those taking the test. The certificate(s) is enclosed.

For each of the fourteen state assessments, 60 state schools meeting the Challenge Award criteria were originally identified as high performing. From those 60, the schools with the top scores from 10 regions were presented *Certificates of Merit* at the Challenge Awards dinner on November 9, 2011. However, the Task Force wishes to honor the remaining 50 schools out of the top 60 with a *Certificate of Recognition*.

The Confidence in Kansas Public Education Task Force was established 30 years ago to promote Kansas schools and their achievements. It sponsors the Governor's Scholars Banquet held each spring that recognizes the top one percent of graduating seniors. It also annually honors individuals, organizations and businesses that actively support public education with the Friends of Education Award. The ABC Award is another Task Force honor that goes each year to an outstanding individual or organization whose influence has been felt statewide. The 2010 recipient was Governor Mark Parkinson.

Eight statewide organizations comprise the Task Force. They include the American Association of University Women, the Kansas Congress of Parents and Teachers, the Kansas Association of School Boards, the Kansas National Education Association, the Kansas School Public Relations Association, the Kansas State Board of Education, the Kansas State High School Activities Association, Inc., and the United School Administrators of Kansas.

Again, congratulations. By receiving this award, your school stands as an excellent example of one that believes all children can learn, expects them to do so, and gives them an opportunity to demonstrate their substantial abilities. We are proud to recognize those efforts with a Certificate of Recognition.

Sincerely,

Charles Volland APR  
Chairman, Confidence in Kansas Public Education  
Task Force

***Kansas Public Schools: No Better Place to Learn***

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*Challenge Award of Recognition*

*Hichison Co. Community, Jr / Sr High*

*is awarded a Certificate of Recognition*

*for uncommon accomplishment in closing the achievement gap  
in 11th grade Math*

*based on the 2011 Kansas State Assessments*

*Charles Volkmann*

*Chairman, Confidence in Kansas Public Education Task Force*