



Unified School District #377

Achison County Community Schools

USD 377 STAFF NEWS – Tuesday, August 30, 2011

Sick Leave Bank

Anyone who would like to participate in the Sick Leave Bank has until October 1st to complete a sick leave bank form. **POINT OF CLARIFICATION** – Whether you participated last year or not, in order to participate this year we must have a signed form on file here at the District Office or you must complete the online form!! Paper forms are available at the District Office for those who do not use the Internet.

Form link:

<https://spreadsheets.google.com/a/usd377.org/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dF8zZGp1VXc3NTUyRlhFaE9SbmRvYmc6MQ&ndplr=1&pli=1>

Sick Leave Bank Committee Members – The Sick Leave Bank Committee is made up of of eight staff members: four teachers K-3 (1), G4-6 (1), G7-8 (1), G9-12 (1), three classified, and a building principal (Neg. Agreement, Art. XII, pg 31). Mrs. Brookover is the assigned administrator for this group. Teacher representatives will be selected by the group they represent. Classified staff members who participate in the Sick Leave Bank and are interested in serving on this committee should notify Mr. Wiseman by the end of the week.

Congratulations to Kansas Teacher of the Year Nominee Tracy Pieper!

Mrs. Pieper, ACCES 1st Grade Teacher, will be honored at a Region 2 Kansas Teacher of the Year Banquet on Sunday, September 18 in Topeka. Tracy is one of forty-one nominees from the Second Congressional District. The two finalists who will represent our region in the State Teacher of the Year competition will be announced at the banquet. Good luck Mrs. Pieper!!

Bloodborne Pathogens Survey

The Bloodborne Pathogens Survey will be sent out to everyone once our renewal has been processed by SurveyMonkey.com. Once the survey is available, we will send an email to everyone containing a link to the survey. Anyone without Internet access should stop by the District Office and pick up a paper copy.

Substitute Line – The substitute line extension has changed. From now on when you call the District Office after business hours to arrange for a substitute, use extension 240 to leave a message.

2011-2012 Negotiated Agreement

The digital version of the 2011-2012 Negotiated Agreement is now available on the District Employee Resources Page.

Direct link to Negotiated Agreement: <http://www.usd377.org/staff/NegotiatedAgreement-11-12.pdf>

2011-2012 Personnel Handbook

The digital version of the 2011-2012 Personnel Handbook is now available on the District Employee Resources Page. Direct link to Personnel Handbook: <http://www.usd377.org/staff/Personnel-HB-2011-2012.pdf>

Steve Wiseman, Superintendent USD 377

ACCHS ACT Scores Increase in all Content Areas – Math and Science Rise above State and National Averages!!

Recently released ACT scores show that ACCHS students excelled on the ACT last year. While the district's composite score was still below the state average (22.0), the school's composite of 21.7 was **the highest in school history**. Thirty-five ACCHS students took the ACT test in the spring of 2011. ACCHS students averaged scores of 20.3 in English, 22.4 in mathematics, 21.7 in reading, and 22.1 in science. State average scores were 21.4 in English, 21.8 in mathematics, 22.3 in reading, and 21.9 in science. There were 23,628 Kansas high school juniors who took the test in 2011.

Phone Wars

The JSH is minus one phone line that has not been working properly for about a week now. Century Link and AT&T have both looked into the situation and as of yet neither has been able to resolve anything. AT&T was out yesterday to no avail, but is coming back today to give it another shot. Hopefully, the situation will be resolved by the end of the day today.

“Effective classroom management...is more an instructional than a disciplinary enterprise. Effective managers socialize their students to the student role through instruction and modeling. It is important that teachers be consistent in articulating demands and monitoring compliance, but the most important thing is to make sure that students know what to do in the first place.” (Cotton, 2001)

Westar Energy Files Request for Rate Increase with Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC)

Westar Energy has filed a request for 5-6 percent rate increase with the KCC. This amounts to about a \$92 million increase. Westar cites the following reasons for the requested rate increase: higher costs of complying with increasing federal regulations, keeping aging plants and wires in good repair, keeping trees safely away from power lines, and keeping a commitment to fairly compensate and retain employees who provide reliable service.

September BOE Agenda Items

- Summer 2012 seasonal salaries discussion
- Backpack Buddies presentation/discussion – Marlene Westermann
- Long Range Capital Expenditure/Deferred Maintenance plan
- School Auction Breakdown Report
- Progress on sale/lease of old central office
- Workers Comp Report
- Amateur Sports Promotion Contract
- Crisis Management Plan Handbook approval
- Field Trip Requests
 - KSHSAA STUCO Fall Conference, September 19th, Topeka
 - JDLA Water Festival, October 6th, Perry Lake (Grades 5-6)
- ACT report
- Supplemental recommendations
 - Track Head Coach - Julie Dillon, Track Assistant - Cy Wallisch, Track Assistant - Blake , Alexander, Softball Assistant - Daniel Mize, HS KAYS - Amanda Ellerman, JH Knowledge Bowl - Amanda Ellerman, ES Yearbook – Kayla Bodenhausen, Senior Class Sponsor – Jenna Taliaferro

Monday, August 29
8:30am Tentative Meeting with Dan to conduct Safety Walkthrough/Inspection (Mr. Wiseman) 9:00 am – noon Counting Kids Workshop – Hiawatha (Mrs. Scherer, Mrs. Brookover, Mrs. D. Taliaferro, Mrs. Swendson), Mr. Wiseman cover ES 3:30pm SH Fall Musical Auditions
Tuesday, August 30
9:00 am – 4:00pm CEP Eleven Principles of Effective Character Ed, Forbes Field, Topeka (Mrs. Brookover), Mr. Flores/Mr. Wiseman cover ES 5:00pm JV/V VB @ Doniphan West (Mrs. Scherer)
Wednesday, August 31
Elementary School Pictures – ES Library 3:30pm SH Fall Musical Auditions 3:45pm PDC Meeting – Central Office Board Room
Thursday, September 1 – National Preparedness Month!
8:00am Keystone Sups Meeting on IDL Project @ Ozawkie (Mr. Wiseman) 4:00pm SH Cross Country @ Jeff West (Mr. Wiseman) 4:30pm JH VB w/Doniphan West Here, ES Gym (Mrs. Scherer) 5:00pm FR VB Quad w/Perry-Lecompton, Imac, D-West, Here JSH Gym (Mr. Starkey) 6:30pm JH Football w/Doniphan West Here (Mr. Watkins)
Friday, September 2
4:00pm Booster Club Tailgate Supper 5:00pm Booster Club Selling Clothing 7:00pm SH Varsity Football w/Troy (Mr. Starkey)
Saturday, September 3
KSU Band Director/Drumline Day, Manhattan, KS — JSH Band – <i>Cancelled due to lack of participation.</i>

KPERS commission plans public meetings

A commission studying funding problems in the state pension system wants to hold public hearings across the state.

The Kansas Public Employees Retirement System Study Commission hasn't set a schedule for the six hearings but said it will be outside of Topeka.

Co-chairmen of the commission last week sent a letter to state leaders seeking permission to hold the meetings.

While acknowledging the meetings will cost the state money, they argued the public should have input because any changes to the system will affect many people.

KPERS provides pensions for teachers and government workers. It faces a future shortfall of nearly \$8 billion between revenues and promised benefits.

The 13-member study commission must make recommendations to the Legislature by Jan. 6.

Steve Wiseman, Superintendent USD 377