



Purpose - Passion - Pride

**ST. JOHN-HUDSON
SCHOOLS, USD 350
505 N. BROADWAY
ST. JOHN, KS 67576
(620) 549-3564**

Josh Meyer
Superintendent
Juliann Owens
Board Clerk / Business Mgr.
Marla Irvine
Treasurer / Elem. Secretary

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to ensure that students will find their purpose and become successful, lifelong learners and positive contributors in a changing world.

Board of Education

- Chad Fisher**
President
- Barb Alpers**
Vice President
- Carl Behr**
- Darin Brummer**
- Vance Fisher**
- Derek Foote**
- Debby Waddle**

USD 350 St. John-Hudson

Back-to-school Newsletter

August 2015

Notes from the Superintendent

The days of summer break are quickly coming to a close. It is time to start thinking about getting the kids back to school. Our first day of school is August 27th. The start date is a week later than last year, but otherwise the calendar is very similar.

This newsletter contains important information about the upcoming school year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office or the principals' offices.

Information about student enrollment is below. You will notice a change this year that should make the process better

for everyone. We are mailing all of the enrollment paperwork. This way, parents can fill out forms when they wish and just bring them to enrollment on August 11th.

The Board of Education met recently and elected Chad Fisher as president and Barb Alpers as vice-president. There are three new board members this year: Debby Waddle, Darin Brummer, and Derek Foote. The list of board members is at the bottom of this page. The Board meets on the second Monday of each month.

It does not seem to be a par-

ticularly positive time for public education in Kansas. State budget woes and school finance court battles are in the news. While these things have an effect on what we do, it is our job to keep our eye on our real purpose here. That is to ensure that students are prepared for success in this life. We cannot do that by focusing only on the negatives. We will work every day to create a positive school climate to achieve this purpose.

We are looking forward to a great school year full of purpose, passion, and pride. If you ever have questions or concerns or would just like to visit, please feel free to contact me.

Student Enrollment - August 11th Noon-7:00pm

Student registration will be held in the cafeteria from 12:00 noon until 7:00 pm on Tues, Aug. 11th. Please enter the doors on the north side of the building.

Enrollment packets are being mailed to all families. This will help streamline the enrollment process for everyone. Families with new students may pick up a packet at enrollment or in the district office before Aug. 11th. Enrollment forms are also available on our website.

Proof of identity must be provided for students enrolling in a school district for the first time. Proof of identity can be a birth certificate, a copy of a court order placing a child in the custody of SRS, a certified transcript or similar pupil records from another school district where the student was pre-

viously enrolled.

A doctor's physical is required for students who are enrolling for the first time in the state of Kansas. Students who were previously enrolled at USD 350 or another school do not need to have an additional physical exam. You should contact the Health Department or your doctor if an exam is required.

To enroll in kindergarten, a student must be 5 years old on or before Aug 31st. If a student has attended Kindergarten in another state, the child can be enrolled in Kansas regardless of age. To enroll in first grade, students must be 6 years old on or before Aug 31st OR have completed an accredited Kindergarten program. These age limits are established by state law and the school district has no flexibility to adjust these requirements.

School Contact Information

ST. JOHN ELEMENTARY
(620) 549-3518



Travis Olive
Principal
Marla Irvine
Secretary / Board Treas.

ST. JOHN JR/SR HIGH
(620) 549-3277



Mike Burgan
Principal / AD
Zoe Staub
Diane Burgan
Jr/Sr High Secretaries

What's New at USD 350

Each year, things change a little bit. Change is difficult at times, but it also takes change to make improvements. This year, we will see a lot of change with these new staff members listed below:

Brad Emery will be teaching 3rd grade this year. He taught in Junction City last year.

Courtney Emery is our new English teacher. She comes to us from Medicine Lodge high school and was recently married to our new 3rd grade teacher.

Joanna McAlister is the other new English teacher. She has experience teaching in Chase, Great Bend, and most recently Larned.

Gerry Carter will be taking over the industrial arts program. He taught in Larned last year.

Katelyn Graber is a recent graduate of Tabor College. She will be teaching 2nd grade. Katelyn is a Pretty Prairie native.

Andi Long will be teaching in our 5th and 6th graders this year. She is not a stranger to our community and has been teaching preschool in Stafford most recently.

Laura Davis is replacing Christie Snyder as the library director. She is also no stranger to the community and is currently the LIFE After-School program director.

Ruben Martin is the new junior high football coach. Coach Martin is not new to the community. He works for the City of St. John and has children in our elementary school.

We are excited to have these new staff members on the USD 350 team. Please make our new staff feel welcome in our school system. I know they will do a great job for our students.

The Education Foundation has provided over \$30,000 to the school to add additional technology tools for our students and staff. We have purchased additional laptop and iPad carts for student use. We are also updating technology tools for teachers as well.

In the past, 6th grade students have been allowed to par-

ticipate in junior high athletics on a limited basis. As a general rule, if we can get more kids involved in activities, we believe that is a good thing. We will allow 6th grade students to participate if numbers allow. This will be assessed on a season-by-season basis each year. For the fall season this year, 6th graders will be allowed to participate in volleyball and cross country. 6th graders may not play football because the state does not allow it.

The weight room is now located in the main building in the industrial arts area (metals classroom and tech lab). This move will not affect any of the shop class offerings and is a better situation for our kids. This change will be good for our students and will be more of a source of pride for our school than the old weight room.



The new weight room area in the old tech and metals classrooms.

Substitute Positions

We are always looking for great substitute teachers for our classrooms. Substitute teachers earn \$95 per day and can find some work on most school days.

Substitute teachers must be licensed. However, it is not required to have a bachelor's degree. Anyone with 60 or more college credit hours may apply for a license with the KS State Dept of Education. We can help with the licensing process.

We also need quality people to work as substitute bus drivers and custodians. Contact the district office at 549-3564 to inquire or apply.

Meal Prices

The cost for meals for the 2015-16 school year are listed below. Extra milk will cost 50 cents.



Breakfast:

Grades K-12 \$1.80
Adult/Guest..... \$2.10

Lunch

Grades K-4 \$2.50
Grades 5-12 \$2.70
Adult/Guest..... \$3.50

*Free/reduced price lunch applications will be in the enrollment packet and can be found on our website. Contact the office with questions.

Fee Schedules

Textbook Fees:

Kindergarten \$35
Grades 1-6 \$50
Grades 7-12 \$55

Other Fees:

Instrument Rental \$35
Yearbook \$40
Special Projects Grades 9-12 Cost of materials
LIFE After-School Program \$10/mo for 3+ days/wk
\$5/mo for 1-2 days/wk

All Sports Ticket

Grades K-12..... \$30
Adults \$45
Family \$130

Tiger Pride Night - Sports Scrimmages & All-School Open House

The second annual TIGER PRIDE NIGHT will be held on Friday, August 28th. All parents and patrons are invited to attend. This will be a chance for the community to visit the schools, meet school staff, and be introduced to the fall athletic teams.

We will start off at the school with an open house at 5:00pm. Families can visit with their child's teacher and tour the school building. There will be parent meetings and Kindergarten orientation will be held in the classrooms at 6:00pm.

After the open house, there will be a program at the football field. All kids in grades preschool through 6th grade are invited to race in the Tiger Sprints.

The band and cheerleaders will perform and the fall sports teams will be introduced.



Following the team introductions, the scrimmages will begin at approximately 7:30. The Booster Club will provide watermelon and bottled water at the concession stand. The full schedule for Tiger Pride Night is available on page 7 of this newsletter.

We are a proud school community. Tiger Pride Night is all about building that St. John Tiger pride and celebrating the start of a new school year. Please join us on Aug 28th!

Be a Tiger Booster!

St. John Booster Club is planning another fun-filled year of activities for TIGER FANS. Booster Club supports our athletic programs through financial donations and promotes school spirit with fun activities for the school and community. We hope to encourage athletes, coaches, students, teachers, parents, and the community to be involved with the happenings of our school in order to help our school and community remain vibrant and keep that "TIGER PRIDE" going strong!

The Booster Club has begun its annual membership drive. We have sent letters to local businesses inviting them to join Booster Club by purchasing a business ad in the Fall and Winter Sports Programs which Booster Club provides free of charge for Tiger fans at home games. If you are a business



owner and would like to purchase an ad, please call Alisa Fisher at 620-617-4302 for more information. The deadline for business ads is August 14th.

We will also have a booth at enrollment on Aug. 11th for families or individuals who would like to join and have their name(s) printed in the Tiger Boosters section of the Fall/Winter Sports Programs. Those who do not attend enrollment may contact any of the Booster Club board members listed below. Members may volunteer to help with events such as the BBQ in football season or the soup supper in basketball season. Other events that need volunteers include fan wear booths, sports banquets, and various other special events throughout the school year.

It is possible to join Booster Club at any time during the school year; however, the deadline for the Tiger Boosters list in the Fall Sports programs is Aug. 30. So, come on out for our Booster Club activities and join the Tigers to show pride in our school and community.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Annual Watermelon Feed, Aug 28 at TIGER PRIDE NIGHT.

BBQ--Fall Fundraiser, Sept 4th, 5:30 p.m. at the home Tiger Football game vs. Ellinwood

Parent / Teacher Organization

The PTO is looking to add members to the organization. Volunteers are always needed to help out with fundraising and school programs. Jill Christie is the PTO president and meetings are held at the Library on the second Monday of the month at 6:00pm. If you are interested in being a part of the PTO, contact Mrs. Christie, the elementary office, or just show up to a regular meeting.

The PTO is registered with Dillon's to participate in Community Rewards program. Community members can support the PTO by going to dillons.com to register your Dillon's shopper's card and select USD 350 Education Foundation as the organization. PTO funds are used to purchase items requested by teachers to support student and classroom activities.

2015-16 BOOSTER CLUB BOARD:

Cindy Crockett (president), Amy McVey (VP), Rachel Burns (secretary), Alisa Fisher (treasurer), Jill Burbank, Eloise Doran, Ladonna Garcia, Mandy Sanders

From the Elementary Office

Travis Olive, Principal

The summer is beginning to wind down and enrollment and school are quickly approaching. With that in mind, I wanted to take this opportunity to address a few common issues that arise each year.

The class rosters for kindergarten through 2nd grades will be completed by August 20th. You may contact the elementary office at that time to find out your child's placement. As a general policy, we do not honor requests for specific teacher placements. We are fortunate to be in a situation to provide multiple teachers at our lower-grade levels to keep our class sizes reasonable. I am confident that any of our teachers will provide an opportunity for your child to succeed.

Our 5th and 6th grade students will use the same bell schedule as the junior high this school year. A draft schedule will be available at enrollment. Students will be notified of any changes to this schedule on the first day.

Students will participate in a swim unit for physical education during the week of August 31 - September 4. A schedule for this will be available at enrollment. Please make sure that your child has all necessary supplies on their swim days.

I am looking forward to a great year. Feel free to contact the office with any questions you may have.

LIFE After-School Program

The L.I.F.E. After-School Program is available to all students (K- 6th grade) enrolled in USD 350. L.I.F.E. is divided into two elementary programs: K-3rd and 4th-6th. Both take place in the library every day immediately after school...ending at 5:10 p.m. We provide a snack, an academic lesson and a variety of other fun, age-appropriate activities. The elementary program is on an enrollment basis and has a low monthly fee. Parents/guardians may choose to send their student(s) five days a week or pick the days that best meet their needs.

On a non-enrollment, no cost basis, we also have tutors available to assist any K-12 student with their school work. Tutors are available for one hour each day after school. This service is also located in the library. Students may come in as needed for tutoring.

Stop by and see us at our table during enrollment on August 11th! We will be glad to answer any questions or enroll your student(s).

Laura Davis, Program Director

<https://www.facebook.com/Usd350LifeAfterSchoolProgram>



Office Locations

It is important to us that guest feel welcome in our school. It is also important for to ensure that students are safe in the buildings.

The elementary and district offices are combined. The entrance is at the corner of **5th and Monroe** just north of the library. Anyone entering the school must enter into the office to check in. This helps us ensure a safe and secure building for our students. Visitors must always check in at one of the offices.

The only two public entrances during the school day are the one at 5th & Monroe for the Elementary and District offices and the one at the North end near the main gym for the Jr/Sr High office. All other entrances will be locked during the school day.

Early Education at USD 350

It is the goal of USD 350 to provide preschool for all children starting at age 3. Preschool students attend class for a half day Monday through Thursday in the morning or the afternoon. The first day of preschool is Mon, Aug. 31st.

Our preschool is operated by the special education cooperative in Pratt. Students must go through the screening process to be eligible to attend preschool. There are two days of screenings scheduled in Pratt at the old high school on July 30th and 31st by appointment between 9:00 and 11:00. Please call the early education office in Pratt at 620-933-2181 to schedule an appointment. Children must also be toilet trained before attending.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the elementary office. We look forward to seeing you at enrollment.

Student Insurance

The school district provides supplementary accident insurance for students while they are at school or participating in an extra-curricular activity. This is not intended to be the primary insurance coverage for students. It is meant to be secondary coverage and therefore provides limited coverage and benefits that do not cover all medical costs.

Coverage is provided by **K&K Insurance.**

Information about this insurance coverage can be found on our website and brochures will be available at enrollment. Please contact the school or district office for questions about this supplementary insurance.

District Leadership Team / Site Council

The school site councils meet once per quarter. The two site councils make up the district leadership team. The team provides input and direction for school staff and the school board. Last year was our first year as an organized group.

This team has helped develop a mission and vision for the district and provided input on the recent facility improvements.

We are looking for new members! If you would like to be part of this team, please contact Josh Meyer at the district office.

Members of the district leadership team are: Jim Doran, Jarod Taylor, Lorelei Nelson, Josh Foote, Leah Alpers, Mitch Minnis, Carolyn Dunn, Tara Kinnamon, Jill Christie, Joel Delp, Lori Wycoff, Jon Bauer, Danny Smith, Mike Burgan, and Travis Olive

OnLine Courses

Students Meet August 19

BartOnline courses begin August 19. ALL students taking an online college course will need to attend a meeting in the cafeteria on August 19 at 1:00pm. Bring your login information for your online class and your book.

Automotive students will begin classes on August 19. Students will need to be outside the high school office at 12:31 pm.

Sophomore, Junior, and Senior students may enroll in dual credit college classes during the school day. Some of these classes are offered free through Senate Bill 155. Anyone who did not sign up in May, may call Lisa Cornwell, 620-617-8784 for information on how to get signed up for fall. Enrollment must be completed before August 14 for fall classes.

From the Nurse's Office

Students who have health issues should bring all doctor's orders to ENROLLMENT. This will allow time to get health plans and information to student's teachers before the first day of school.

All new students and kindergarten students will need to bring a physical to enrollment. Kansas Law requires that ALL students under nine years of age who are entering a school in Kansas for the first time must provide the results of the child's health assessment (physical) to the school when the student enrolls. The health assessments must have been conducted within the 12 months prior to the student's entering school.

There are changes in requirements for immunizations for the upcoming school year. Please check your child's immunizations to ensure they are current. Kindergarten and new students must bring proof of immunizations to enrollment. All students who have updated their immunizations please bring proof of immunization to enrollment.

Any child needing medication in school will need a written medication order from their doctor and a written parental consent as required by state law. **Please bring medication orders to enrollment.** All medication must come to school in the original prescription container with the pharmacy label.

If your child needs an **epi pen at school**, please bring a medication order to enrollment.

Budget Information

The budget for the 2015-16 school year is challenging. The legislature passed a new school finance law. This change came late in the year and we have only recently begun work on the budget. In a typical year, the Board would have approved a preliminary budget by now. At this time, we are not far enough along in the process to report any budget specifics to you.

The idea of this new "block-grant" system of funding is that schools will receive the same amount of money for the next two years that was received last year. In truth, there is a 0.4% decrease in funding across the board.

Flat school funding would be fine if all of our costs were fixed. Costs to operate the school district increase just like they do for your home budget. We have at least \$50,000 of *known* increased costs. This does not figure in any uncertain increases due to inflation. We must account for those increases and adjust our budget accordingly.

Even with the funding difficulties, we've done well this past year. You can see in the graph that we have been reducing our spendable cash balance for several years. Obviously, that is not a sustainable situation. But this downward trend has been turned around...at least for now.

More specific budget information will be available in the coming weeks.

Fall Sports Information

***Parent Meeting, Thursday, August 13th
6:30 pm in the main gym.**

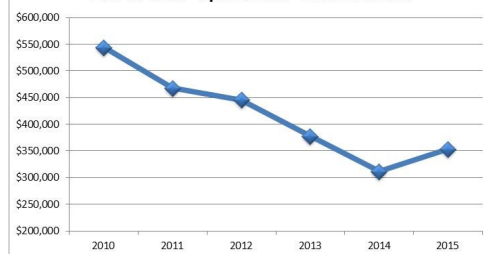
All students who will be participating in a fall sport should attend with their parents.

***All athletes are required to have a new physical exam completed each school year (after May 1, 2015). Athletes must have a state-approved physical form turned into the office before they may participate.**

Practices begin August 17th

6th grade students may participate in junior high sports IF participation numbers allow. Girls may participate in volleyball and all may participate in cross country. State law does not allow 6th graders to play football. Information about sign-up will be available at enrollment.

End of Year "Spendable" Cash Balance



Library News

PARENT ACCESS TO ACCELERATED READER PROGRAM

Parents of kindergarten through sixth grade students will receive a note from the classroom teacher explaining the HomeConnect program. Parents of 7th—12th graders, be sure you register for access to Renaissance Learning to see what your child is accomplishing through the Accelerated Reader program. Forms are available at the library or go to <https://hosted41.renlearn.com/201725> to register.

AR BOOKFINDER

Browse this website to see whether or not a book has a test at the AR BookFinder site:

<http://www.arbookfind.com/>

CARD CATALOG AVAILABLE FROM HOME

Need to know if our library has the book or materials you are looking for from the comfort of your home? Go to the school website, www.usd350.com. Choose the library tab at the top of the page then “Web links” on the left side of the page. You will find a variety of help websites there.

VISIT THE INTERNET CAFÉ AND ENJOY A CAPPUCINO FOR ONLY \$1.00! Flavors of the Month: **English Toffee** Also French Vanilla and Fat Free French Vanilla. Don't forget hot chocolate, tea, and coffee are also available.

HAVEN'T BEEN IN THE LIBRARY FOR AWHILE? COME VISIT AND WE'LL SHOW YOU AROUND. WE'VE GOT WHAT YOU NEED!



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NEW MATERIALS



Did you know the **library community room** is available for public use? Have your next club meeting, card party or family get-together at the library! Give us a call or drop by to schedule your next event. 549-3227 or ilgml@usd350.com

RECURSOS EN ESPAÑOL

Tenemos un colección de libros de rotacion
La revista People en Español
Tenemos libros biligues y en Español
Nuestro catalogo esta disponible en Español
Tenemos materiales para aprender la idioma Ingles

Parents Right-To-Know, Title I Annual Notification for St. John Elementary School, 2015 - 2016

Parents may request information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's/children's classroom teachers and paraprofessionals.

Professional qualifications include: *Whether or not the teacher has met Kansas licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas being taught; The baccalaureate degree and any other graduate certification or degree and the field of discipline of both; If services are provided by paraprofessionals, their qualifications; If the teacher is teaching under an emergency or professional waiver.*

All teachers at St. John Elementary meet the above criteria. Each one is licensed for the grade levels and subject areas being taught. Each one has a baccalaureate degree and none are teaching under an emergency or provisional waiver. The paraprofessional(s), who work under the direction of the Title I and classroom teachers, meet required qualifications for the position.

Parent-School Compacts

Schools receiving Title I funds are required to make a Parent-School Compact or Learning Agreement available. This Learning Agreement is provided to parents at enrollment. If you choose to complete one for your child/children, contact your child's teacher.

Title I Schools Identified for Improvement

SJ Elementary met the No Child Left Behind standards regarding Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the 2014-15 school year and has not been identified for improvement. AYP is based on the scores from the Kansas Reading Assessments and the Kansas Math Assessments.

Assessment Scores

Parents have the right to access their child's assessment scores at any time throughout the year. To request assessment scores, please contact the elementary school office.

If you have questions or would like to request further information, please feel free to contact Travis Olive at 620-549-3518.



Tiger Pride Night 2015



Friday, August 28th

5:00-6:30 - All-School Open House

Tour the school / Meet the school staff
 5:30 - Elementary Parent Meeting
 6:00 - Kindergarten Orientation



6:35 - Tiger Sprints and Assembly (FB Field)

Tiger Sprints (Grades PK-6th)
 National Anthem / Fight Song
 Welcome from Administration
 New Staff Introductions
 Tiger Cheerleaders
 Flag Team
 Recognition of Race Winners
 Prize Drawings
 Team Introductions

*Booster Club
 Watermelon Feed*

7:30 - HS Football, HS Tennis, Cross Country, and JH Volleyball Scrimmages

8:15 - JH Football and HS Volleyball Scrimmages

Connect with USD 350



I've heard it said that communication, at its best, is still not good enough. We do our best to keep parents and patrons informed, but we can always do better.

We keep updated information posted on our [website](http://www.usd350.com) at www.usd350.com. You can also find information on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages. If you need to contact someone at school, it is best to call or email. Facebook and Twitter messages are not checked on a regular basis.

Parents may check student grades, attendance, and other information on the [Go-Edustar Parent Portal](#). Contact the school office to learn how to log in.

Parents can be notified of events and school closings through our [automated messaging system](#). Contact information can be updated through the parent portal.



The printed [school calendar](#) will be available at enrollment. If you would like a copy, feel free to stop by one of the offices after August 11th to get one. A copy of the calendar can be downloaded (PDF file) on our website. All school events are maintained on a Google Calendar as well. You can download this to your computer or smartphone and have the information at your fingertips.

Please contact one of the offices if you need any help getting connected with us.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Applicants for admission and employment, students, parents, employees, sources of referral of applicants for admission and employment and all unions or professional organizations holding negotiated agreements or professional agreements with the district are hereby notified that this district does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities. Any person having inquiries concerning USD 350's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, and Americans with Disability Act of 1990 is directed to contact the coordinator(s) who has been designated to coordinate the educational institution's efforts to comply with the regulations implementing these laws. Specific complaints of alleged discrimination under Title IX (gender) and Section 504 (disability) should be referred to: TITLE IX COORDINATOR & SECTION 504 COORDINATOR, Josh Meyer, Superintendent, 505 N. Broadway, St. John, KS 67576, 620-549-3564. Title VI, Title IX and Section 504 ADA complaints may also be filed with the Regional Office for Civil Rights. Address correspondence to: U.S. Department of Education, Region VII, Office for Civil Rights, 10220 N. Executive Hills Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64153

Back-To-School Newsletter

Mark Your Calendar:

School calendars can be found on our website and will be available at enrollment

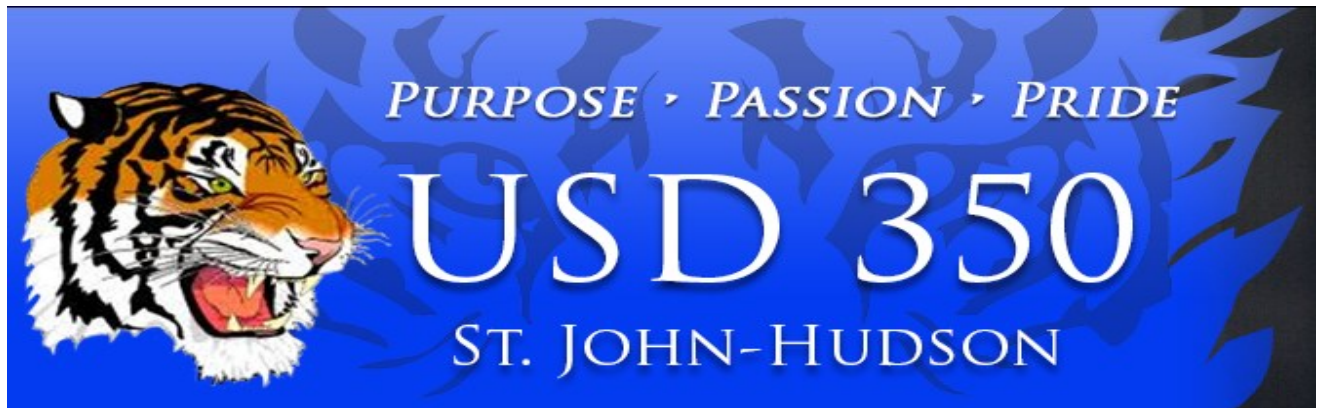
Aug. 11: Enrollment

Aug. 13: Fall Sports Parent Meeting

Aug. 17: Fall Sports Practice Begins

Aug. 27: First Day of School

Aug. 28: Tiger Pride Night



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