



Purpose - Passion - Pride

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

Josh Meyer
Superintendent
Alisa Fisher
Board Clerk
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
Derek Foote
Vice President
Barb Alpers
Carl Behr
Darin Brummer
Vance Fisher
Debby Waddle

USD 350 St. John-Hudson

Back-to-school Newsletter

August 2017

Notes from the Superintendent

It is my pleasure to welcome students and families back to the start of another school year. This newsletter is intended to keep district patrons and families informed about our district and communicate important information about the start of the school year. There is also information in the newsletter about other aspects of our district.

This year's school calendar is very similar to last year's. The calendar can be

found on our website and printed copies will be available at enrollment or in the offices. You can also download the Google calendar to your smartphone or other device.

As we begin another school year, the word that keeps coming to mind is optimism. Things are not all rosy quite yet, but after a few years of flat funding and a state legislature that seemed to loathe the idea of public education; our state is

now headed in a positive direction regarding public school funding and policy. It has been a few years since I've been able to report any positive news about our school budget.

One of the necessary cuts last year was the elimination of the elementary principal position. As superintendent, I took on those duties. The Board determined last spring that we did not have enough budget information to know if it

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Student Enrollment - August 8th Noon-7:00pm

Student registration will be held in the cafeteria from 12:00 noon until 7:00 pm on Tues, Aug. 8th. Please enter the doors on the north side of the building.

Enrollment packets have been mailed to all families. This helps us streamline the enrollment process for everyone. Families with new students may pick up a packet at enrollment or in the district office before Aug. 8th. 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 DCF, or a certified transcript or similar pupil records

from another school district where the student was previously 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. 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



Josh Meyer
Principal / Supt.
Marla Irvine
Secretary / Board Treas.

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



Travis Olive
Principal
Stephanie Smith
Diane Burgan
Jr/Sr High Secretaries

Notes, cont. from page 1

would be feasible to add that position back. I will be serving as elementary principal for another year.

On the surface, it seems easy to reduce costs by cutting administrative positions. However, this is not an ideal situation. Our kids and our teachers need a great principal who can devote proper time and energy to provide quality leadership for our elementary school. At this point, the Board's goal is to search for an elementary principal to take over in the 2018-19 school year. Mr. Olive will continue to serve as Jr/Sr High principal.

We've got some exciting things going on in our district this year. We've added Chromebooks to the 5th & 6th grades so we are now one-to-one from 5th grade through high school. Mr. Delp has been building a high tunnel greenhouse to use with his Environmental Resources & Wildlife class. We will be implementing a new reading curriculum in the elementary grades.

Our staff always stays focused on our mission to "ensure that students will find their purpose and become successful, lifelong learners and positive contributors in a changing world." 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.

Josh Meyer-Superintendent

LIFE After-School Program

The L.I.F.E. After-School Program is available to all students (K- 4th grade) enrolled in USD 350. The federal grant is no longer available to fund our program. To help with costs, we have increased the enrollment fee and are limiting enrollment to 4th grade and below. The program runs every day immediately after school until 5:10 pm. 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 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.

Information about LIFE will be available at enrollment.

Julie Fox, LIFE Director

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



Office Locations

It is important to us that guest feel welcome in our schools. 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.

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. Visitors must always check in at one of the offices.

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. 28th.

Our preschool is operated by the special education cooperative in Pratt. Students must go through the screening process to be eligible to attend preschool. The next screening will be Thu, Aug 17 at the Church of Christ. Call 620-549-3504 to make an appointment.

For the most part, children must also be toilet trained before attending preschool. 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.

USD 350 Board of Education

The board of education recently elected Chad Fisher as president and Derek Foote as vice president for the 2017-18 school year.

The Board meets regularly on the second Monday of the month at 7:00pm in the basement of the library (6:00pm during the winter months). Board meeting agendas and minutes can be found on the district website or can be requested from the district office. Board member names are listed on the front page of this newsletter.

From the Nurse's Office

Please stop by the Nurse's table at enrollment to sign the Kansas Immunization registry permission form if you have not in the past. Also, please bring the following to enrollment:

- Doctor's orders for medication needed at school
- Doctor's orders for any health issues
- Doctor's orders for an epi pen if your child has a severe allergy
- Physical completed in the last 12 months if your child is a new student under the age of nine.
- Updated immunizations if you received a letter in May or your child is new to the district

All kindergarteners should bring:

- Physical completed in the last 12 months
- Current immunization record

Immunization Clinic at Enrollment

Stafford County Health Department will be at enrollment to update student's immunizations. **Call Doris at 549-3504** and let her know if your child would like to get a vaccine and which vaccine he/she needs.

Students who are currently out of compliance according to school records will receive a letter before enrollment. If your student is in 5th, 6th or 7th grade and have not received their Tdap this would be a great time to get that vaccine!

Doris needs to know what vaccines to bring so please call her ASAP!!!

Preliminary Budget Information

We have been working under the block grant system of funding for the past two years. When the legislature passed this law, it was meant to be temporary. After waiting two years for a quality solution, the legislature finally passed a bill at the very end of the session. We are now waiting on the Supreme Court to issue a ruling on the constitutionality of the new law. We anticipate a ruling very soon (perhaps even by the time you read this newsletter). At this point, we are working under the assumption that the new law will be deemed constitutional.

I would prefer to give budget specifics in this newsletter, but I cannot do so at this time. In a typical year, we would already have a budget published and ready for public hearing by now. Without a final budget ready, I can only provide some general information.

There are three main points that are all positive for our budget. First is that the overall property valuation has increased by about 14%. This means that we could see a decrease in the overall mill levy for the school district. Much of this increase is due to oil and gas valuation.

Second is that we are in a good financial position starting out this year. For a number of years, our operational cash balance has been on the decline; we were spending more than we were taking in. The board has worked to reduce expenses and has turned this situation around the last couple of years. We are in a better position than we have been since 2010.

The third point is that we will see a bit of new money from the state. The new funding law, assuming that it stands, will provide our district with about \$60,000 more in state funding for this year. This amounts to about 1.2% of our budget. While this is barely enough to cover our increased costs, at least it is a step in the right direction.

Specifics about the budget will be available once the Court has ruled and we have time to finalize everything. The budget will be published in the St. John News and the Board will hold a public hearing before approving the 2017-18 budget.

Fall Sports Information

***Parent Meeting, Thursday, August 10th
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, 2017). Athletes must have a state-approved physical form turned into the office before they may participate.**

Practices begin August 14th

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.



Lisa Cornwell, RN
School Office: 620-549-3518

New Faces at USD 350

We are blessed to have a great staff in our school district. As is usual every year, there will be a few new faces in our buildings this fall.

Mike Manderino is our new high school English teacher and assistant junior high football coach. He was working as a resource teacher in Pratt before coming on board at SJH. Mr. Manderino has 26 years of teaching experience in PE and language arts at the high school and college level.

Katie Jensen will be supervising our distance learning program for high school Spanish. Mrs. Jensen lives here in St. John with her husband and daughter and has been working periodically in our library. She has a degree in Spanish.

Adam Moritz is our new industrial arts teacher. He comes to us from Stafford schools but he and his wife have lived in St. John for a couple of years. Mr. Moritz grew up in Hays where his father is also an industrial arts teacher.

While she is not new to our school system, Roxanna Vicars will be moving to a new position. She will be teaching second grade this year. She was previously employed by our special education cooperative and taught preschool here in St. John.

Cindy Allen has agreed to come out of retirement and help us with preschool this year. She will be taking over Ms. Rox's classroom as she moves over to second grade. Mrs. Allen taught for many years before retiring three years ago. We are glad to have her back with us, even if only for one year.

Mike Joiner has been selected as our new high school head football coach. He has been a pastor and worked in the oil industry. Coach Joiner grew up in Ellinwood. He has already been hard at work with the boys this summer. Reuben Martin has moved up from the junior high program to be the high school assistant coach.

Josh Lopez will be coaching the junior high football team this year. Coach Lopez grew up in Great Bend and played

football at Dodge City CC.

Stephanie Smith will be working in the high school office now. She was working as a paraprofessional in the preschool, but will now replace Zoe Staub as the high school secretary.

Kristen Knight is transitioning from the learning center to elementary music. Mrs. Knight has served our district as a teacher's aide and the director of the learning center. She taught elementary music in Eudora before moving to Stafford County.

At the time of this writing we have some paraprofessional positions left to fill, so you will see a few new faces in addition to the ones listed above.

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. We know they will do a great job for our students.



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, custodians, and classroom aides. Contact the district office at 549-3564 to inquire or apply.

Meal Prices

The cost for meals for the 2017-18 school year are listed below. Extra milk will cost 50 cents.



Breakfast:

Grades K-12 \$1.90
Adult/Guest..... \$2.20

Lunch

Grades K-4 \$2.65
Grades 5-12 \$2.85
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 1-12. \$50

Technology Fee

Grades K-6 \$5
Grades 7-8 \$20
Grades 9-12 \$50

Other Fees:

Instrument Rental \$35
Yearbook \$40
LIFE After-School Program \$20/mo for 3+ days/wk
\$10/mo for 1-2 days/wk

All Sports Ticket

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

Jr/Sr High School News

Travis Olive—Principal

As the summer draws to a close, I am excited to prepare for another school year. We have several great things happening in the building.

This will be the second year of our one-to-one Chromebook initiative. All students in the junior high and high school will have access to these devices to assist in their learning. Several of our new course offerings from last year will be available to our students again, including Robotics, Current Events, and Environmental



Resources & Wildlife. Our learning lab will also be available for students to take courses that we may not otherwise be able to offer.

Our building will look to utilize Career Cruising throughout the year. This is a web-based, self-exploration and planning program that allows students to learn more about career opportunities and post-secondary options. This will help students as they prepare for their futures and life after high school.

I look forward to seeing everyone at enrollment and for another great year!

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 will be sending 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 contact Kristel Meyer at meyerk@usd350.com.

We will also have a booth at enrollment on Aug. 8th 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. 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. 25th. So, come on out for our Booster Club

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.

Community members can still 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.

activities and join the Tigers to show pride in our school and community.

2017-18 BOOSTER CLUB BOARD:

Sara Fisher—President

Denise Miller, Kristel Meyer, Jill

Christie, Sarah Delp, Becky Reed,

Amelia Romo, Michelle Taylor

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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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 ESPANOL

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

St. John High School Learning Center

For several years, USD 350 has contracted with the ESSDACK service center for services provided at the Stafford County Learning Center. Students in our district could take classes for credit recovery or diploma completion at Stafford. As of this school year, we will have our own learning center in St. John to take care of student and adult learning needs.

The learning center will be located in the basement of the Ida Long Goodman Memorial Library. Adults who have not earned their diploma may attend for free in most cases. The Learning Center will also help students who need to make up credits during high school.

The Learning Center will also serve as a location St. John High students to take online college courses or other courses not offered at SJH. While online courses are not ideal, this Learning Center will allow us to better meet the needs of students to prepare them for their chosen career path.

Kristen Knight and Lisa Cornwell supervise the learning center. If you have any questions or are **interested in getting your diploma**, please see us at enrollment of contact the office.



Tiger Pride Night 2017



Friday, August 25th

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

*Tour the school / Meet the school staff
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*

*PTO Hot
Dog Cookout*

7:30 - Fall Sports Scrimmages

Connect with USD 350



You'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

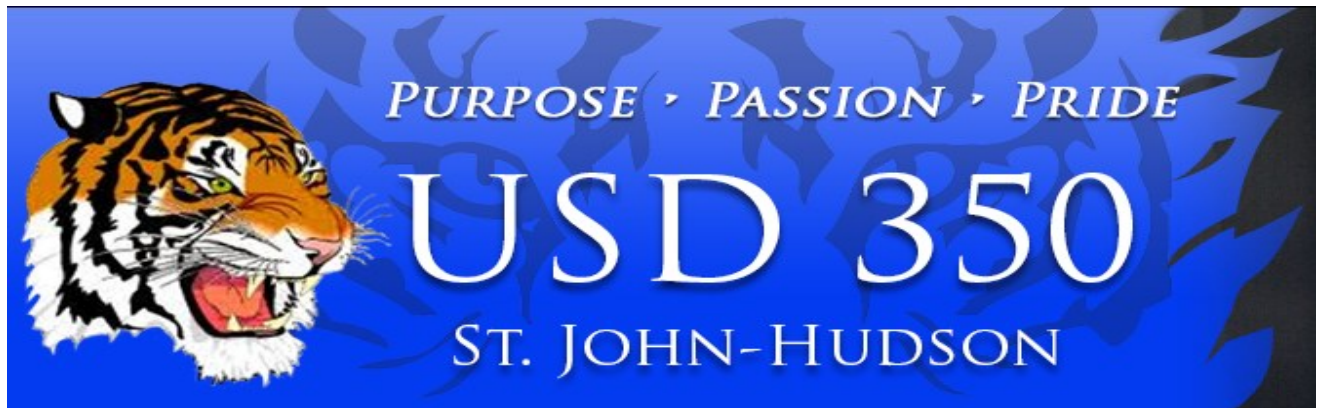
Aug. 8: Enrollment

Aug. 10: Fall Sports Parent Meeting

Aug. 14: Fall Sports Practice Begins

Aug. 24: First Day of School

Aug. 25: Tiger Pride Night



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