



USD #350

District Newsletter

Created by
SJH Media Technology class



DECEMBER 2015

Superintendent's News

The new commissioner of education in Kansas, Dr. Randy Watson travelled the state over the past few months to get a feel for what Kansans want for education in our state. The state board of education has taken this information to develop a new direction.

One thing that has become clear from Dr. Watson's conversations with people in Kansas is that success for students is determined by much more than their performance on academic tests. In fact, non-academic measures were cited much more frequently than academic skills. We've all been frustrated with the over-emphasis on standardized testing created by the No Child Left Behind Act. Accountability is important, but there is much more to student success than how well a child does on a fill-in-the-bubble test.

Consider that in Kansas, we increased the percent of student scoring proficient on state math and reading tests from 40% in 2007 to almost 90% in 2011. We were very focused on these standardized tests because that's how we measured school success.

However, during that same time period, the data for student success *after* high school remained unchanged. The percent of students enrolling in post-secondary school, the percent of students completing a full year, and the percent of students requiring remedial courses all remained virtually the same from 2007 to 2011. We moved the needle on what was measured (math & reading tests), but failed to improve other, perhaps more meaningful, measures of success.

This is not to say that standardized tests are pointless. They have their place, but cannot be our only measure of whether we are developing successful students. The new vision of the state board is that "Kansas leads the world in the success of each student." This means that we will be moving past using multiple choice tests to determine if we are making a difference for kids.

A central theme in our mission and vision for our school district is that everyone will be growing and improving. One way that I work to improve myself is by reading. My goal is to read at least one book per month. The Ida Long Goodman Library has many of the books I've been reading. If you are interested, stop by the library or check our website for some of my recommended books.

While it is important to keep improving, we must be careful to ensure that this attitude of improvement not keep our focus only on the negatives. One way we do this is by being thankful; by living in the moment, celebrating the positives, and being thankful for what we have.

One of my favorite authors is Jon Gordon. Think about the Thanksgiving and Christmas season, I'd like to share some of his words about being thankful: "Research shows that when we count three blessings a day, we get a measurable boost in happiness that uplifts and energizes us. It's also physiologically impossible to be stressed and thankful at the same time. Two thoughts cannot occupy our mind at the same time. If you are focusing on gratitude, you can't be negative. You can also energize and engage your coworkers by letting them know you are grateful for them and their work."

The holiday season also marks the beginning worries about winter weather. When adverse weather makes it necessary to close or delay school, every effort will be made to make this decision by 5:00 am on a school day. When school is cancelled, all school activities and practices will also be cancelled or postponed. School may be delayed by two hours if it is anticipated that driving conditions will improve. If school is delayed, there will be no morning pre-school. Once students are in the building, school will be dismissed early only in extreme cases.

School closing/delay information will be sent to parents and staff via the school messaging system, school website, social media feeds, and on major TV stations. Please contact the school office if you need more information about the messaging system or check the district website.

On behalf of the Board of Education and staff of USD 350, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very happy holiday season. As always, if you'd like to visit about any of these topics or have other questions or concerns, I can be reached at 620-549-3564 or meyerj@usd350.com. I am proud to be a Tiger and proud to serve USD 350 with *Purpose, Passion, and Pride*.

-Josh Meyer – USD 350 Superintendent

2015 Fall High School Athletics DVD ORDER FORM

Mrs. Kinnamon's Media Technology class (formerly IHT) is taking orders for DVDs of the 2014 Fall sports. The cost is \$.50 per DVD which will cover IHT's costs for the DVDs, ink, and DVD sleeve. Payment is required with order.

Please write the desired quantity below. Return with payment by **DEC. 15** to Tara Kinnamon.*

HS VOLLEYBALL

<u>QNTY</u>	<u>GAME</u>
_____	n/a @ Halstead: Burton
_____	@ Halstead: Halstead
_____	Skyline Tourn: Pratt
_____	Skyline Tourn: Med Lodge
_____	Skyline Tourn: Wichita Defenders
_____	@ M.L.: Med Lodge
_____	@ M.L.: Garden Plain
_____	@ S.J.: Burton
_____	@ S.J.: Stafford
_____	@ S.J.: Macksville
_____	@ Mkevl: Ellinwood
_____	@ Mkevl: Macksville
_____	Hoisington Tourn: Hoisington
_____	Hoisington Tourn: Phillipsburg
_____	Hoisington Tourn: Smith Center
_____	Hoisington Tourn: Central Plains
_____	Hoisington Tourn: TMP

<u>QNTY</u>	<u>GAME</u>
_____	@ Victoria: Victoria
_____	@ Victoria: Otis-Bison
_____	GB Tourney: Hutch
_____	GB Tourney: Great Bend
_____	GB Tourney: Phillipsburg
_____	GB Tourney: Salina Central
_____	GB Tourney: Hays
_____	@ S.J.: Kinsley
_____	@ S.J.: LaCrosse
_____	@ S.J.: CPlains
_____	@ S.J.: Ness City
_____	CPL Tourney: Victoria
_____	CPL Tourney: Macksville
_____	CPL Tourney: Kinsley
_____	CPL Tourney: Central Plains
_____	Sub State: Skyline
_____	Sub State: S. Central
_____	Total (33 for all)

HS VARSITY FOOTBALL

<u>QNTY</u>	<u>GAME</u>
_____	Ellinwood
_____	Otis-Bison
_____	Victoria
_____	Central Plains
_____	Kinsley
_____	Coldwater (S. Central)
_____	Macksville
_____	Kiowa County
_____	8 Total

Name: _____

Contact info to notify you when they are done:

Phone: _____

(If you text, please put cell #.)

Email: _____

_____ TOTAL QUANTITY ORDERED

\$ _____ x \$.50 each

\$ _____ SUBTOTAL

\$ _____ x .075 (7.5% sales tax)

\$ _____ TOTAL DUE (Payment due w/ order please)

**(Please make checks payable to
St. John Media Tech.)**

*Please note: We will wait until several orders have compiled to make duplicating the DVDs quicker and more efficient so it will be after January before orders are completed. Thanks for your patience!! Contact Mrs. Kinnamon with questions: tkinnamon@usd350.com

StuCo Food Drive

Nov. 30- Dec. 3rd
Nonperishable foods

Ida Long Goodman Memorial Library



If you'd like to be among the first to learn about the newest books, DVDs, and CDs acquired here at the library, you should consider signing up for Wowbrary. It's free and very cool!

Wowbrary is a brand-new service that sends you a weekly email showcasing our most recent acquisitions. All titles are neatly categorized to save you time, with descriptions, reviews, and a click-through to the library for reservation.

Go to www.wowbrary.org and enter zip code 67576.

Para Educator of the Year South Central Kansas



May Watson was chosen as the 2015 Para Educator of the Year for South Central Kansas Special Education Cooperative which USD 350 is a part of. She has been a para for 12.5 years. I “inherited” her as she was a 1-on-1 para for a student at Stafford and she followed this student when they transferred to St. John.

May is from Thailand and her accent was so strong that I had a hard time understanding her. So I called the special education teacher at Stafford to visit with her about it. The second I mentioned May’s name , she immediately broke in and said, “You are going to love her and I sure hate to lose her!” So, I thought I’d better give her a chance and I’m sure glad I did! She has been a true blessing to me and the students she’s worked with over the years. She has numerous positive qualities that she has brought to my classroom!

May was an art teacher in a military school in Thailand for 26 years before coming to the US so she always has our bulletin board looking top-notch. She is a “natural” teacher. I credit her with teaching many students how to read. Coming from her military school background, she is stern and does not put up with any nonsense. She demands respect from the students she works with and she gets it! She is constantly trying to better herself as a para and takes her job very serious. I thank God for the blessing of my para, May Watson! A previous St. John para, Michelle Huston, received the Para Educator of the year award for 2014.



~Teresa Miller, Special Education Teacher

DECEMBER 2015

USD #350

MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
SEASONS greetings	1 BREAKFAST	2 BREAKFAST	3 BREAKFAST	4 BREAKFAST
	Pop tart Pineapple Apple Juice Cereal Milk	Breakfast Burrito Peaches Pineapple/Orange Juice Cereal Milk	French Toast Sticks Pears Fruit Juice Blend Cereal Milk	Breakfast Bar Mixed Fruit Grape Juice Cereal Milk
	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
	Chicken Strips Potatoes & Gravy Green Beans Sliced Peaches Hot Roll Fresh Fruit Milk	Soft Taco Lettuce & Tomatoes Cheddar Cheese Refried Beans Pineapple Fresh Fruit Cookie	Hamburger Gravy Whipped Potatoes Broccoli Mixed Fruit Fresh Fruit Hot Roll Milk	Sloppy Joe/Bun Tater Wedges Baby Carrots Applesauce Fresh Fruit Cookie Milk
7 BREAKFAST	8 BREAKFAST	9 BREAKFAST	10 BREAKFAST	11 BREAKFAST
Pancake on Stick Applesauce Grape Juice Cereal Milk	Breakfast Pizza Pineapple Apple Juice Cereal Milk	Biscuits & Gravy Peaches Pineapple/Orange Juice Cereal Milk	Breakfast Wrap Pears Fruit Juice Blend Cereal Milk	Banana Bread Mixed Fruit Orange Juice Cereal Milk
LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
Cheese Pizza Garden Salad Baby Carrots Mixed Fruit Fresh Fruit Milk	Chicken Fried Steak Potatoes & Gravy Broccoli Peaches Fresh Fruit Hot Roll Milk	Taco Soup Relish Plate Sliced Pears Fresh Fruit Tortilla Chips Cookie Milk	Huntington Chicken Tossed Salad Green Beans Applesauce Fresh Fruit Hot Roll Milk	Ham & Cheese Sandwich French Fries Baby Carrots Pineapple Fresh Fruit Milk
14 BREAKFAST	15 BREAKFAST	16 BREAKFAST	17 BREAKFAST	18 BREAKFAST
Breakfast Bites Pineapple Grape Juice Cereal Milk	Pop tart Applesauce Fruit Juice Blend Cereal Milk	Breakfast Burrito Peaches Pineapple/Orange Juice Cereal Milk	French Toast Sticks Mixed Fruit Apple Juice Cereal Milk	Breakfast Bar Pears Orange Juice Cereal Milk
LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
Corn Dog Tater Tots Baby Carrots Pears Fresh Fruit Milk	Taco Salad Lettuce & Tomatoes Cheddar Cheese Refried Beans Pineapple Cookie Milk	Turkey & Dressing Potatoes & Gravy Green Beans Cherry Crisp Hot Roll Milk	Hamburger/Bun French Fries Baby Carrots Peaches Fresh Fruit Hot Roll Milk	Sausage Pizza Lettuce Salad Baby Carrots Applesauce Birthday Cake Fresh Fruit Milk
21 BREAKFAST	22 BREAKFAST	23 BREAKFAST	24 BREAKFAST	25 BREAKFAST
<i>NO SCHOOL</i>	<i>NO SCHOOL</i>	<i>NO SCHOOL</i>	<i>NO SCHOOL</i>	<i>NO SCHOOL</i>
LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
<i>NO SCHOOL !!</i>	<i>NO SCHOOL !!</i>	<i>This institution is an equal opportunity provider</i>	<i>CHRISTMAS EVE!!!!</i>	<i>MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!</i>
28	29	30	31	
<i>NO SCHOOL</i>	<i>NO SCHOOL</i>	<i>NO SCHOOL</i>	<i>NO SCHOOL</i>	<i>NO SCHOOL</i>



DECEMBER 2015



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

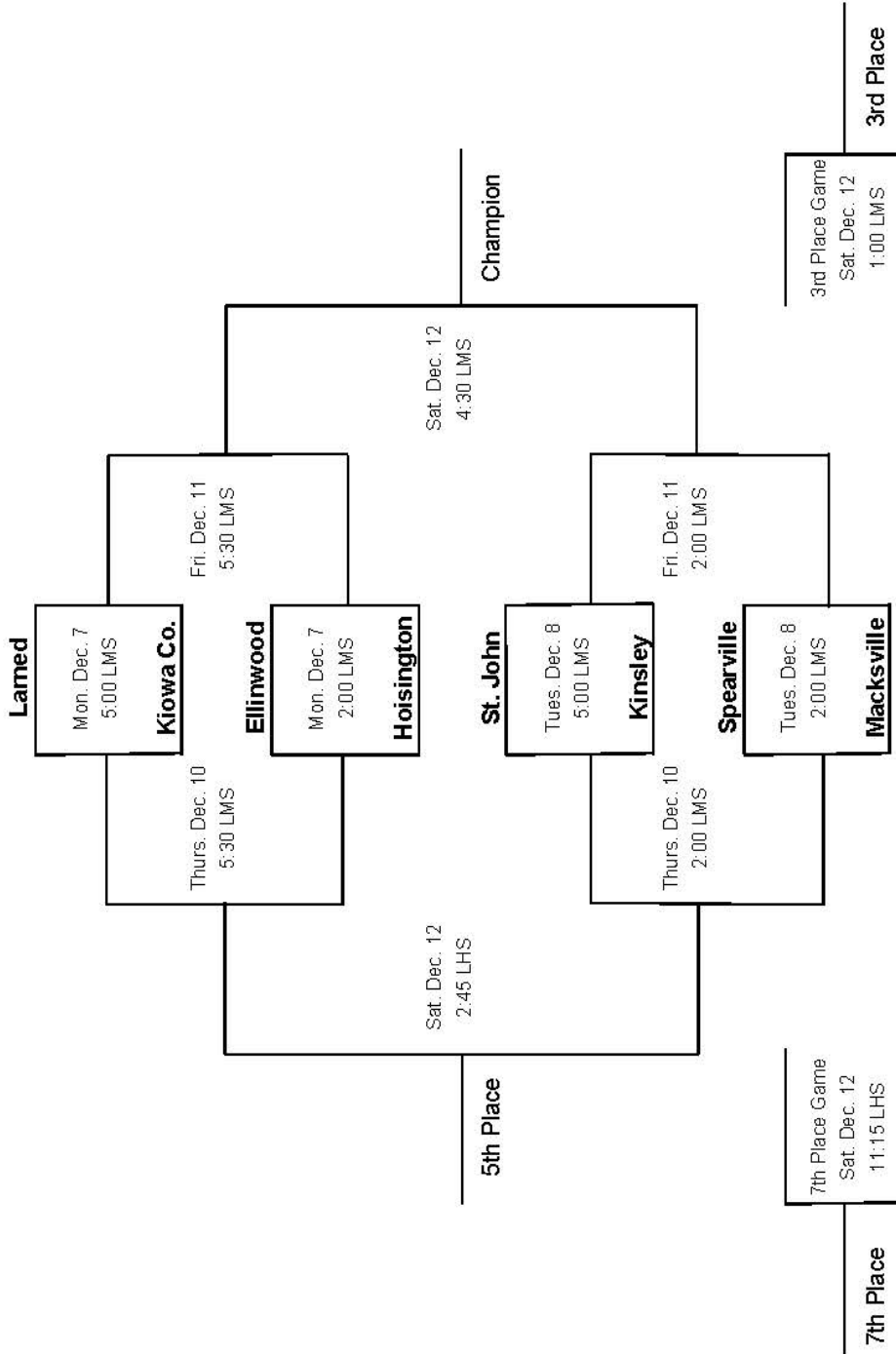
FRI

SAT

<p>November 2015</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th>Sun</th><th>Mon</th><th>Tue</th><th>Wed</th><th>Thu</th><th>Fri</th><th>Sat</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						<p>1</p> <p>7:00pm JH & 5/6 Winter Concert</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:30am CPL League Meeting</p>	<p>3</p> <p>5:45pm JH BB (H) VS Victoria</p>	<p>4</p> <p>4:00pm HS BB @ Sky- line</p>	<p>5</p> <p>KMEA District HS @ Dodge City</p>							
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<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>TBD-HS BB Keady Classic @ Larned</p>	<p>8</p> <p>TBD-HS BB Keady Classic @ Larned</p>	<p>9</p> <p>1:20pm SCHOOL DISMISSAL Staff Development</p>	<p>10</p> <p>TBD-HS BB Keady Classic @ Larned</p>	<p>11</p> <p>TBD-HS BB Keady Classic @ Larned</p>	<p>12</p> <p>TBD-HS BB Keady Classic @ Larned ACT EXAM</p>																																																	
KAY CITIZENSHIP WEEK																																																							
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SECRET SANTA TREE RIBBON SALE																																																							
<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>1/2 Teacher Workday</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>																																																	
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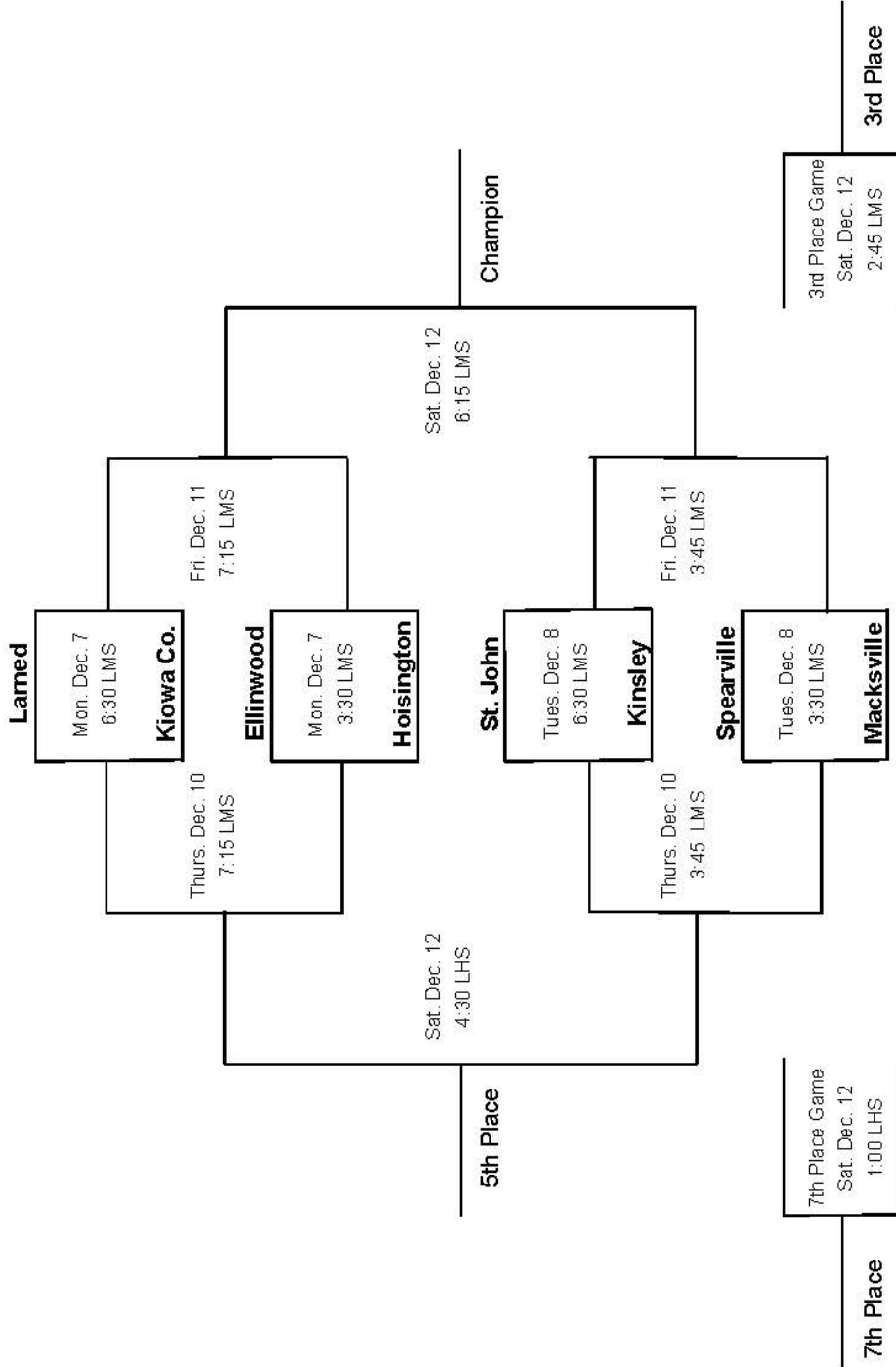


**Keady Classic
Girls Bracket
2015**





**KEADY CLASSIC
BOYS BRACKET
2015**





Buy a ribbon for our tree!

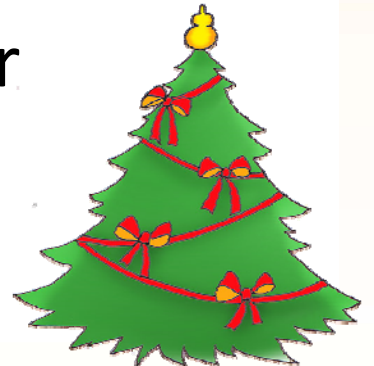
SJH FCCLA will be selling ribbons to be placed on the Christmas tree near the high school entrance. Your name will be placed on the ribbon.

Each \$1 donation will help pay for an entire outfit for a child in need in our community!



Dec 1-18th

See Mrs. Patterson
or an FCCLA member
for details.





USD #350 ST JOHN
505 N BROADWAY
ST JOHN KS 67576

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

POSTAL CUSTOMER