



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 / 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.

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USD 350 St John-Hudson Newsletter

December 2017

SUPERINTENDENT'S NEWS

Coming off of the Thanksgiving holiday, I've been thinking a lot about **gratitude**. This word came to mind recently when I read an article about the dramatic increase in teen depression and suicide attempts since 2010. The article connected this problem to an increase of teen smartphone access and the amount of time kids spend online. While the article does not present a formal case for the eliminating devices from children's lives, the author makes an important case for limiting time online.

In general, we see the best parts of peoples' lives on social media. We try to compare our "normal" lives to others' lives presented on social media. This is obviously not a fair comparison. We can't compare all parts of our lives to the cherry-picked moments of others. Much like any problem, there not a single solution. Getting rid of smartphones is not the answer. I believe the problem is a lack of true gratitude and appreciation for who we truly are.

One might wonder how this fits into what we do in our school district. We work so hard as a school to get better, sometimes we forget to be grateful. We must recognize that we need to improve; not because we are not bad, but because we can do so much better. We can be proud of what we do and thankful for what we have. At the same time, we can recognize that there is a still need to improve our schools.

• One area of focus for school district improvement in Kansas is **student success in post-secondary education**. I wrote about this in last month's column, but it's important enough that it bears repeating. By the year 2020, 71% of the jobs in Kansas will require some sort of training or education after high school. This does not mean that every student needs a bachelor's degree. It does mean that to compete for jobs, some education beyond high school will be necessary for most of our kids.

The rate of **post-secondary success** for SJH students from the classes of 2011 through 2015 is 49%. Is this good or bad? It depends on the comparison. Compared to similar school districts, our data is better than some and not as good as others. Based on our school population, the data shows that we are doing a bit better than expected. We can be proud of that fact, but still recognize that we need to do better to get to that 71% target for post-secondary success.



• The holiday season has begun and that means **winter weather** could be just around the corner. 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 preschool. 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 or check our website if you need more information about the messaging system.

• The South Central Community Foundation recently awarded our district with three **grants**. A \$5,000 grant was given to create a rock climbing wall in the school. This climbing wall is only 8-feet high and is designed for kids to climb sideways along the wall, rather than high in the air. The climbing wall will be used in PE classes and for indoor recess. Smaller grants were awarded to Mrs. Knight's music program and to Mrs. Poovey's gifted classroom. We are appreciative of the South Central Community Foundation for these grants as well as the partnership with our local Foundation.

• As the year draws to an end, many folks are considering **charitable donations**. You might consider the USD 350 The USD 350 Educational Foundation for any charitable giving. The Foundation is a non-profit organization that provides an avenue for patrons, businesses, and organizations to financially support to the mission of St. John-Hudson schools.

Our Foundation really captures the giving spirit of this great community. The Foundation accepts donations to support student scholarships, library funding, and various student and school programs. Donations can be given for a particular purpose or to be used at the discretion of the Foundation board to support our schools. Recently the Foundation provided classroom grants for classroom technology, equipment for the special education room, and instruments for the music programs.

On behalf of the USD 350 school family, I want to wish you all a happy holiday season and a very Merry Christmas. 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



SJH FCCLA Food Bank Bowl 2017

The cold, crisp autumn air did not keep the 'girls of fall' away at the St. John High School Powder Puff Food Bank Bowl November 2nd. Following the crowning of Queen Patricia Halling (Persie) and King Philip Doran (Paige), the Blue team of seniors and sophomores kicked off to the White team of juniors and freshmen. The Blue Team was quick to score on a quick sweep. Twenty-minute halves ran smoothly, with Blue team winning 20 to 14. The crowd was also entertained by the halftime cheerleader dance.

Thanks to all those who participated, donated and attended the game. SJHFCCLA collected 200 items of food that was donated to the Stafford county food bank. The hot chocolate sales totaled \$100, also donated.

~ Susan Patterson, FCCLA sponsor



FCCLA members, Tanner Halling, Baylee Schrag and Whitney Brummer, counted, sorted and boxed the array of items donated. Kenny Clark, is holding the check with Sponsor, Mrs. Patterson.



SJH FCCLA bakes for Breast Cancer



October is National Breast Cancer month and to help out a local community member, Crystal Easley, the students baked cookies, brownies and fruit bread. The community bake sale fundraiser on October 28th, raised over \$1600.



BREAST CANCER
AWARENESS



USD 350 Expands Robotics Program

On Tuesday November 7th USD 350 Robotics students and teachers held an open house to show off their robots and coding skills, share their plans for the year and long-term goals, and allow parents and other students to interact with the robots. This is the first year that 5th and 6th grade students are participating in VEX Robotics under the instruction of Mr. Danny Smith. This is the second year that Robotics is offered at the high school level under the instruction of Mrs. Andrea Sayler-Siefkes.

The 5th and 6th grade students are participating in VEX IQ Robotics. By its nature, the study of robotics inherently incorporates all four pillars of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). VEX IQ is a snap-together robotics system designed from the ground up to provide this opportunity to future engineers of all skill levels. By packaging advanced concepts into an accessible package, the system also naturally encourages teamwork, problem solving, and leadership for students. Mr. Smith took several days of VEX IQ training this summer. "I was impressed this summer by the amount of problem solving involved in Robotics. [The instructors] told us, "Make the kids figure things out on their own." That is hard to do, but once we started building it took the kids between 4 and 8 days of class to put their robots together. We all built the same one and then they were allowed to change it."

Mr. Smith is using one set of robots this year. First semester the 6th graders have been building, coding, competing in classroom challenges, and redesigning their robots. At the end of the semester these students will deconstruct their robots completely so the 5th graders can have the same experience second semester.

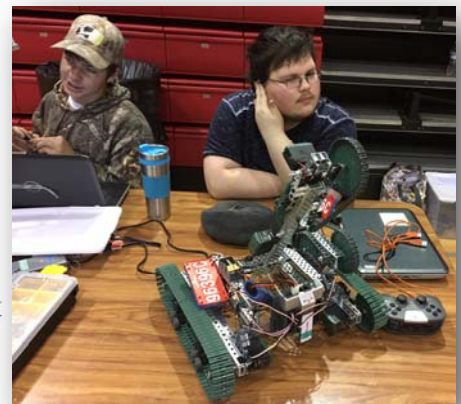
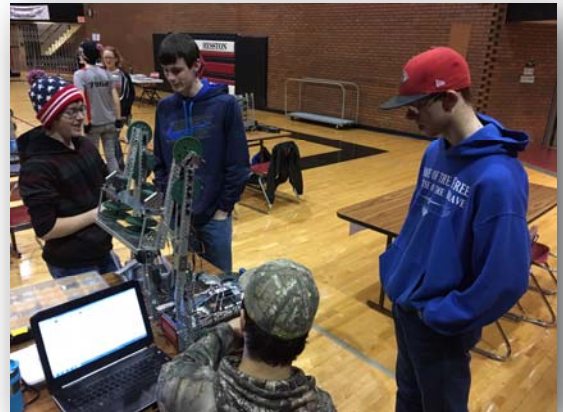
In preparation for the open house Mr. Smith's 6th graders came up with the following lists to share with attendees.

What have we learned from doing Robotics?

1. Teamwork
2. Problem Solving - Following technical directions
3. How components of the robot work
4. How programming works
5. Using Math skills to help with programming
6. How to use different units of measure in programming
7. Engineering
8. How to make the best claw for the competition
9. How to program the robot to run more precisely
10. Learned more about how our partner works and thinks
11. How to specialize and work cooperatively in the best way as a group
12. How the function of the robot can affect our programming
13. Responsibility
14. Plan what you are doing/Focusing on what you are doing
15. Learning how to use technology in a scientific way

What have been the biggest challenges?

How to make your robot go straight
Problem solving while building the robot
Deciding who [which group member] is right
Programming - How to turn and it is time consuming
Making decisions as a group that we can all agree upon - Teamwork
Frustration when things don't work
What to do when your partner isn't cooperating
Problems with technology



Parents and other attendees were invited to watch the 6th graders and their robots demonstrate the various classroom challenges they had completed this far.

The high school students are participating in the VEX EDR Competition. The VEX EDR system harnesses the excitement of building robots to immerse learners in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) concepts. The VEX EDR platform was designed from the ground up to encourage creativity in problem solving. The system itself should never be the biggest constraint in the design process - with VEX, there is almost always more than one way to accomplish the same goal. Teams of students design, build, and code robots each year to play a brand-new game each

year. This year's competition is "In the Zone." Applying basic STEM concepts to a competitive atmosphere increases student engagement and makes lessons feel more "real."

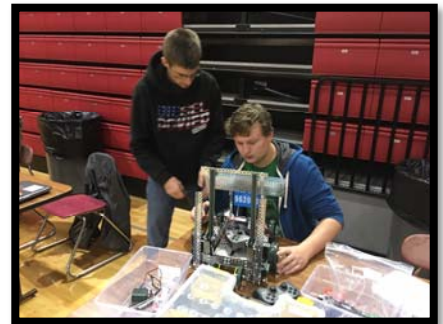
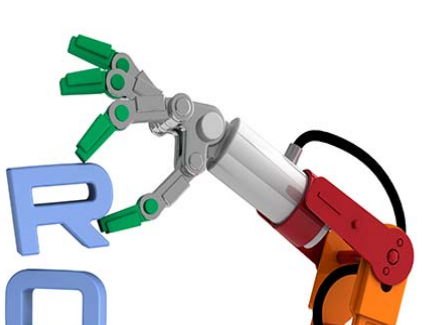
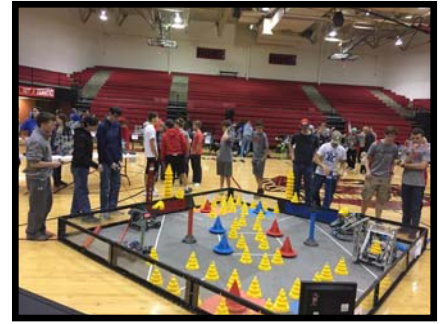
Since the open house, the high school students attended a competition in Hesston. Attending a competition early in the year allows the students to re-engineer their robots, re-code (computer coding) their robots, get ideas from other schools, as well as increasing motivation to build a high-quality competitive robot. The next competition is in late January and the high school students plan to attend at least three other competitions in the spring semester.

The robotics program at USD 350 has been funding through grants, USD 350 Education Foundation, and the donations of generous local businesses and private citizens. The program is an expensive one to run and maintain. The robots the middle schoolers use cost about \$500 each. The robots the high school students use cost \$1000 each and to be competitive another \$300 per robot can be added. The high school teams must also pay for registrations for each competition they attend. Each team (there are four high school teams this year) can each anticipate about \$300 in competition fees per year.

The high school program has a goal to purchase the rest of the materials needed to be able to host a robotics competition in St. John. The projected cost to complete this goal is \$3000. Being able to host competitions in St. John would bring many out of county schools to St. John and bring some money back into the program through registration fees and concessions income.

If you would like to donate to the USD 350 Robotics program, contact Mr. Josh Meyer, superintendent (meyerj@usd350.com). If you would like more information contact Mr. Danny Smith (smithda@usd350.com) or Mrs. Andrea Sayler-Siefkes (siefkes@usd350.com). Mr. Smith and Mrs. Sayler-Siefkes plan to host another open house in the spring to showcase the 5th graders' robots and the progress the high school students have made over the year.





BUY A RIBBON!

Each dollar donation will go towards helping buy an entire outfit for a child in need in our community!

SJH FCCLA is selling Christmas ribbons to go onto the Secret Santa Tree. Your name and ribbon will be placed on the tree in front of the high school office.



Contact Mrs. Patterson if you would like to donate.

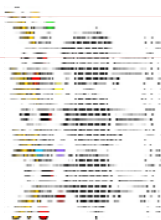
pattersons@usd350.com or
620-549-3277

FAFSA
Federal Student Aid
An office of the U.S. Department of Education

**Dec. 6 - 7:00pm - HS Computer Lab -
Senior Financial Aid Night**

Come learn about filling out the FAFSA
and what kinds of financial aid can help you get

December 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
3	4 4:00pm JH BB vs Fairfield (H) <i>TBD-HS BB @ Larned Keady Classic</i>	5 7:00pm 5th-8th Band/Choir <i>TBD-HS BB @ Larned Keady Classic</i>	6 1:00pm SCHOOL DISMISSAL—Staff Development 10:30am CPTL Meeting	7 7:00pm Elementary Music Program (K-3) <i>TBD-HS BB @ Larned Keady Classic</i>	8 <i>TBD-HS BB @ Larned Keady Classic</i>	9 ACT Exams <i>TBD-HS BB @ Larned Keady Classic</i>
10	11 5:45pm JH BB vs Ellinwood (H) 6:00pm BOE Meeting	12 4:00pm HS BB vs Central Plains (H)	13 3:00pm Winter Sports Pictures	14 7:00pm Elementary Music Program(4-6)	15 4:00pm HS BB @ Cunningham	16
17	18 7:00pm HS Band/Choir Concert	19 4:00pm HS BB @ Kinsley	20 End of 2nd 9 weeks FCCIA Ugly Christmas Apparel Contest	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> No School-Christmas Break </div>						



January 2018						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	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	31			

USD #350

DECEMBER

2017

MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				1 BREAKFAST
				Breakfast Bar Applesauce Orange Juice Cereal Milk
				LUNCH
				Chicken Fajita Lettuce & Tomatoes Cheddar Cheese Refried Beans Pineapple Fresh Fruit Milk
4 BREAKFAST	5 BREAKFAST	6 BREAKFAST	7 BREAKFAST	8 BREAKFAST
Pancake on a Stick Mixed Fruit Grape Juice Cereal Milk	Biscuits & Gravy Peaches Apple Juice Cereal Milk	Pop Tart Pineapple Pineapple/Orange Juice Cereal Milk	Breakfast Pizza Pears Apple Juice Cereal Milk	Banana Bread Applesauce Orange Juice Cereal Milk
LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
Chicken Tetrassini Tossed Salad Mixed Vegetables Peaches Fresh Fruit Hot Roll Milk	Sloppy Joe/Bun French Fries Baked Beans Pineapple Fresh Fruit Milk	Lasagna Lettuce Salad Green Beans Sliced Pears Fresh Fruit French Bread Milk	Chicken Fried Steak Potatoes & Gravy Broccoli Applesauce Fresh Fruit Hot Roll Milk	Taco Salad Lettuce & Tomatoes Cheddar Cheese Corn Pineapple Fresh Fruit Milk
11 BREAKFAST	12 BREAKFAST	13 BREAKFAST	14 BREAKFAST	15 BREAKFAST
Breakfast Bites Pineapple Apple Juice Cereal Milk	Breakfast Burrito Peaches Orange Juice Cereal Milk	Breakfast Pizza Pears Grape Juice Cereal Milk	French Toast Sticks Applesauce Apple Juice Cereal Milk	Breakfast Bar Mixed Fruit Orange/Pineapple Juice Cereal Milk
LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
Cheese Pizza Lettuce Salad Corn Peaches Fresh Fruit Birthday Cake Milk	Chili Relish Plate Sliced Pears Crackers Fresh Fruit Cinnamon Roll Milk	Huntington Chicken Lettuce Salad Green Beans Applesauce Fresh Fruit Hot Roll Milk	Chicken Nuggets Potatoes & Gravy Broccoli Mixed Fruit Fresh Fruit Hot Roll Milk	Hamburgers/Bun French Fries Baby Carrots Pineapple Fresh Fruit Cookie Milk
18 BREAKFAST	19 BREAKFAST	20 BREAKFAST	21 BREAKFAST	22 BREAKFAST
Pancake on a Stick Pineapple Apple Juice Cereal Milk	Biscuits & Gravy Peaches Grape Juice Cereal Milk	Breakfast Bar Pineapple Orange Juice Cereal Milk	NO SCHOOL !!	NO SCHOOL !!
LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
Chicken & Noodles Whipped Potatoes Broccoli Peaches Fresh Fruit Hot Roll Milk	Pepperoni Pizza Lettuce Salad Corn Pineapple Fresh Fruit Milk	Turkey & Dressing Potatoes & Gravy Green Beans Hot Roll Cherry Crisp Milk	USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer	NO SCHOOL !!
25 BREAKFAST	26 BREAKFAST	27 BREAKFAST	28 BREAKFAST	29 BREAKFAST
MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!	NO SCHOOL !!	NO SCHOOL !!	NO SCHOOL !!	NO SCHOOL !!

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

POSTAL CUSTOMER

Happy Holidays

