



U.S.D. #350 St. John-Hudson
505 N. Broadway St. John, KS 67576



October 2015

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Superintendent's Corner

The school year is well underway and we are off to a great start. Recently we had our enrollment count day and initial figures show that our enrollment is down slightly from last year. In past years, enrollment was very important since that determined our budget for the year. With the two year block grant funding system, enrollment figures do not matter.

The Board of Education approved the 2015-16 budget at their September meeting. This year's budget was affected dramatically by a 21% drop in property valuation. This decrease was due to the decrease in oil and gas prices. Because of this, we applied for and were awarded additional funding from the state's "extraordinary need" fund. We are set to receive an additional \$150,000 in aid this year to make up for lost revenue from the valuation decline.

Without this additional aid, the mill levy would have increased by over 8 mills to maintain the same budget as last year. With the extraordinary need aid, the mill levy has increased 3.4 mills from last year. While the mill levy is higher, actual taxes levied went down dramatically from \$2.1 million down to \$1.7 million (-16%). This shows how much the district's budget depends on property values. This budget is still tight but will allow us continue to improve the district as the community expects.



Recently, our district was in the news because we are actively looking for a math teacher for next school year. Typically, we would not start looking to hire for next year until the spring. However, there is a shortage of teachers in Kansas, particularly in the areas of math and science. Some districts in Kansas were not able to fill some of their teaching positions. We don't want to be in this position, so we have started as early as possible to find a replacement for Mr. Wood next year.

The board has placed a high priority on recruiting and retaining great teachers. This takes time and effort, but is one of the most important jobs we have to do. We are fortunate to have hired seven great teachers into our district this year.



One issue that will compound this problem are the changes to the public employees' retirement system (KPERs). In past years, schools could hire retired teachers to fill open teaching positions. The district would pay a surcharge since retired teachers no longer contribute to the retirement system. Changes now require that a retired teacher can be paid a maximum of \$25,000 per year. This effectively removes all retired teachers from the hiring pool for a full-time position.

I try to avoid being very political in my regular column. However, decisions by our legislature have an effect on our school and our students. This community expects us to put the best teachers in our classrooms. This change to the teacher retirement system has a detrimental effect on our ability to do that.

You might see some SJH students out and about in the community as part of our internship program. Learning in a classroom with a teacher is a very effective way to learn. However, real work experiences provide students with opportunities to explore careers and practice employability skills. Students earn credit for participating in internships just as they would any other high school course.

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

USD #350

OCTOBER

2015

MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE

MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
						1	BREAKFAST	2	BREAKFAST
							Biscuits & Gravy Pears Fruit Juice Blend Cereal Milk		Banana Bread Mixed Fruit Orange Juice Cereal Milk
							LUNCH		LUNCH
							Hamburger/Bun French Fries Baby Carrots Mixed Fruit Fresh Fruit Cookie Milk		Huntington Chicken Lettuce Salad Seasoned Peas Applesauce Hot Roll Fresh Fruit Milk
5	BREAKFAST	6	BREAKFAST	7	BREAKFAST	8	BREAKFAST	9	BREAKFAST
	Breakfast Bites Pineapple Fruit Juice Blend Cereal Milk		Pop tart Applesauce Orange Juice Cereal Milk		Breakfast Burrito Mixed Fruit Pineapple Juice Cereal Milk		French Toast Sticks Pears Apple Juice Cereal Milk		Breakfast Bar Peaches Grape Juice Cereal Milk
	LUNCH		LUNCH		LUNCH		LUNCH		LUNCH
	Corndog French Fries Baby Carrots Applesauce Cookie Fresh Fruit Milk		Soft Taco Lettuce & Tomato Cheddar Cheese Refried Beans Pineapple Fresh Fruit Milk		Chicken Strips Potatoes & Gravy Green Beans Sliced Pears Hot Roll Fresh Fruit Milk		Ham & Cheese Sandwich Tater Tots Broccoli Peaches Fresh Fruit Milk		Pepperoni Pizza Tossed Salad Mixed Fruit Seasoned Peas Fresh Fruit Milk
12	BREAKFAST	13	BREAKFAST	14	BREAKFAST	15	BREAKFAST	16	BREAKFAST
	Pancake on a Stick Pears Apple Juice Cereal Milk		Breakfast Pizza Pineapple Grape Juice Cereal Milk		Biscuits & Gravy Mixed Fruit Pineapple Juice Cereal Milk		Breakfast Wrap Applesauce Fruit Juice Blend Cereal Milk		Banana Bread Peaches Orange Juice Cereal Milk
	LUNCH		LUNCH		LUNCH		LUNCH		LUNCH
	Sweet & Sour Chicken Rice Pilaf Broccoli Lettuce Salad Mixed Fruit Fresh Fruit Hot Roll Milk		Chicken Fried Steak Potatoes & Gravy Mixed Vegetables Sliced Peaches Fresh Fruit Hot Roll Milk		Lasagna Tossed Salad Green Beans Sliced Pears Fresh Fruit French Bread Milk		Bar-B-Q Rib/Bun Tater Tots Baked Beans Pineapple Fresh Fruit Cookie Milk		Sausage Pizza Lettuce Salad Baby Carrots Applesauce Fresh Fruit Milk
19	BREAKFAST	20	BREAKFAST	21	BREAKFAST	22	BREAKFAST	23	BREAKFAST
	NO SCHOOL !!!		Pop tart Pineapple Grape Juice Cereal Milk		Breakfast Burrito Pears Pineapple Juice Cereal Milk		French Toast Sticks Peaches Fruit Juice Blend Cereal Milk		Breakfast Bar Mixed Fruit Apple Juice Cereal Milk
	LUNCH		LUNCH		LUNCH		LUNCH		LUNCH
	USDA is an Equal Opportunity provider and Employer		Hamburger Gravy Whipped Potatoes Broccoli Peaches Fresh Fruit Hot Roll Milk		Chicken Fajita Lettuce & Tomatoes Cheddar Cheese Refried Beans Pineapple Fresh Fruit Milk		Cowboy Cavatini Tossed Salad Green Beans Sliced Pears French Bread Fresh Fruit Milk		Cheese Pizza Garden Salad Seasoned Peas Applesauce Fresh Fruit Birthday Cake Milk
26	BREAKFAST	27	BREAKFAST	28	BREAKFAST	29	BREAKFAST	30	BREAKFAST
	Pancake on a Stick Pears Grape Juice Cereal Milk		Breakfast Pizza Applesauce Fruit Juice Blend Cereal Milk		Biscuits & Gravy Peaches Pineapple Juice Cereal Milk		Pumpkin Bread Mixed Fruit Apple Juice Cereal Milk		NO SCHOOL!!
	LUNCH		LUNCH		LUNCH		LUNCH		LUNCH
	Meat Balls Macaroni & Cheese Peas Baby Carrots Mixed Fruit Fresh Fruit Hot Roll Milk		Taco Soup Relish Plate Pineapple Tortilla Chips Fresh Fruit Cookie Milk		Cheeseburger/Bun Tater Wedges Lettuce & Tomatoes Sliced Peas Fresh Fruit Milk		Chicken Patty Potatoes & Gravy Broccoli Peaches Fresh Fruit Hot Roll Milk		NO SCHOOL!!

October 2015



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<p>September 2015</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Sun</td><td>Mon</td><td>Tue</td><td>Wed</td><td>Thu</td><td>Fri</td><td>Sat</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </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>October 2015</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Sun</td><td>Mon</td><td>Tue</td><td>Wed</td><td>Thu</td><td>Fri</td><td>Sat</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </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>November 2015</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Sun</td><td>Mon</td><td>Tue</td><td>Wed</td><td>Thu</td><td>Fri</td><td>Sat</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </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 Spirit Week 3:00pm Varsity Tennis @ Clajfin 3:00pm JV Tennis @ Greensburg 4:30pm HS CC @ Pratt</p>	<p>2 Spirit Week 7:00pm HS FB (H) vs Kinsley HOMECOMING</p>	<p>3 9:00am V Tennis @ DCCC 9:00am HS VB @ Great Bend 9:00am JH CPL "B" Team VB @ Ellinwood 9:00pm-11:30pm Homecoming</p>
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4	<p>5 6:00pm HS JV FB @ Kinsley 7:00pm Elementary Music Program (K-4)</p>	<p>6 4:00pm HS VB (H) w/ Kinsley and LaCrosse</p>	<p>7 10:00am KSHSAAA FB Schedule meeting @ Salina</p>	<p>8 3:30pm JH/HS CC @ Sterling 4:30/6:30pm JH VB/ FB (H) vs Kinsley</p>	<p>9 7:00pm HS FB (H) vs South Central</p>	<p>10 9:00am JH "A" Team CPL VB Tournament @ Clajfin TBD-Regional Tennis</p>																																																																																																																													
11	<p>12 7:00pm BOE Meeting</p>	<p>13 SCHOOL PICTURE DAY (8:00am) 4:00pm HS VB (H) w/ Central Plains & Ness City</p>	<p>14 PSAT/NMSQT Juniors/Soph-Optional</p>	<p>15 4:00pm HS CC @ Hoisington 4:30/6:30pm JH VB/ FB @ Macksville</p>	<p>16 7:00pm HS FB @ Macksville END OF 1ST QTR</p>	<p>17 9:00am HS CPL VB @ Ellinwood</p>																																																																																																																													
18	<p>19 NO SCHOOL-Staff Development/Work Day 6:00pm HS JV FB (H) vs Macksville Play Rehearsal</p>	<p>20 7:00pm JH & 5/6 Fall Concert Play Rehearsal</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 4:30/6:30pm JH VB/ FB (H) vs OHS-Bison Play Rehearsal</p>	<p>23 7:00pm HS FB (H) vs Kiowa Co. Fall Sports Senior Night</p>	<p>24 TBD-Regional CC TBD-Sub-State VB ACT EXAM</p>																																																																																																																													
25	<p>26 2:30pm Dismissal 3:00pm-9:00pm Parent/Teacher Conf. Play Rehearsal</p>	<p>27 Play Rehearsal</p>	<p>28 Kay Trick or Treat for UNICEF</p>	<p>29 2:30pm K-6 Halloween Parties 7:00pm HS FB @ Sky-line</p>	<p>30 NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>31 STATE CC @ Wamego</p>																																																																																																																													
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USD #350 ST JOHN
505 N BROADWAY
ST JOHN KS 67576

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

POSTAL CUSTOMER

COOKIE DOUGH SALES

The Junior class will be selling Little 'Ole Cookie House tubs of cookie dough through Oct. 20. Contact Tara Kinnamon if you would like a junior to come see you. (620) 549-3277 or tkinnamon@usd350.com



Grades K-4 will present a musical revue entitled 'Just For Fun!' on Monday, October 5, at 7:00 pm in the auditorium. Admission is free, and everyone is invited to attend. (Parents, please bring your K-4 students to the small gym by 6:40 pm, and please have them wear dark blue jeans. If they don't have jeans, please wear

