

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

Derek Foote President

Carl Behr Vice President

Darin Brummer Vance Fisher Raymond Long Debby Waddle Shawn Ward

USD 350 St. John-Hudson

2021-22 Back-to-school Newsletter

August 2021

Notes from the Superintendent

Josh Meyer-Superintendent

We are excited to be gearing up for the start of another school year. We hope that this newsletter will keep district patrons and families informed about our district and communicate important information about the start of the school year.

I remember vividly back in March of 2020 when the unprecedented decision was made to effectively shut down schools for the remainder of the year. The pandemic became very real for us all at that point. We struggled through remote learning that spring and then kids returned to in person learning last fall. They

were all very excited to be back in the buildings, and the staff and teachers were also thrilled to have them back. We all had to make adjustments and struggle our way through the unknowns.

To say it simply, last year was a mess. I did feel very fortunate that we did not have the difficulties that other communities and schools experienced. We didn't know how to handle much of anything, but we did our best and made it through the year.

I am so proud of how our staff, students, parents, and community members handled this tough situation. While I know we did not have 100% agreement on anything, everyone was willing to accept the reality and do what it took to keep our kids in school.

We are now to a point where we are nearly getting back to normal. While this global pandemic is not 100% over, we anticipate starting the school year pretty much as we did before March of 2020. But we will still need to be cautious. We do not anticipate needing to have drastic measures in place such as requiring masks and temperature checks. We do, however, anticipate dealing with the potential for quarantines.

As of today, CDC guidelines state that anyone who has been exposed to Covid should quaran-

Online Student Enrollment

Student registration will be done online once again this year starting the first week of August. Information about enrollment and links for the online enrollment portal are on our website.

An email will be sent to parents with instructions and a special code needed for the enrollment process. If we do not have a valid email in our system, a letter will be mailed to parents with detailed instructions and the special code. IF YOU DO NOT GET AN EMAIL OR RECEIVE A LETTER BY AUG 9TH, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE.

Parents of students who are new to the district will need to create an online account to start the process. See our website for the link.

There is an option to pay online or you can choose to mail payment. If there is a discrepancy with any dollar amount that is owed, just choose the cash/check option and we will fix it here in the office.

Proof of identity must be provided for students en-

rolling in a school district for the <u>first time</u>. Proof of identity can be a birth certificate, SS card, 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 Kansas 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

Blain White Principal Stephanie Smith Jennifer Fischer Jr/Sr High Secretaries



Notes, cont. from page 1

tine for 10 days. Those that have been fully vaccinated and those that have tested positive within the last 3 months do not need to quarantine

Covid vaccinations will not be required for students to attend school. However, the more staff and students we have vaccinated, the less we have to worry about quarantines and the spread of the virus. If you are considering getting your eligible student vaccinated (ages 12 and up), contact the Stafford County Health Department 620-549-3504.

We will not be able to offer remote learning for students on an individual basis this year. New state law actually limits the amount of time students can learn remotely unless it is through a registered virtual school. We did our best to provide remote learning during the pandemic, but we just are not equipped to provide a quality education to those in the classroom and those learning from home at the same time.

My hope is that we can get this school year up and running in a mostly normal fashion and continue that throughout the school year.

This year's calendar structure is very similar to what we have had in the past. Spring break will be the same for most schools and colleges this year. The calendar can be found on our website and printed copies are available to send home with students or be picked up in the school office. You can also download the Google calendar to your smartphone or other device.

The USD 350 Board of Education 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.

There is an election coming up in November for boards of education. Vance Fisher, Shawn Ward, and Carl Behr have all filed to run for their current positions and are all running unopposed.

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.

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. Preschool will be in session on some Fridays in order to meet state time requirements. The first day of preschool is Aug 19th.

Our preschool is operated jointly by USD 350 and the special education cooperative in Pratt. <u>Students must go through the screening process to be eligible to attend preschool</u>. The next screening in St. John will be Thu, Aug 5th at the Library from 9:00 to noon. Call 620-672-7500 Ext 1203 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.



The USD 350 Parents as Teachers Evidence-Based Home Visiting Model is the comprehensive homevisiting, parent education model which provides services to families with children from prenatal through age 3. THERE ARE FOUR DYNAMIC COMPONENTS TO THE PARENTS AS TEACHERS MODEL: Personal Visits, Group Connections, Resource Network and Child Screening TOGETHER, THESE FOUR COMPONENTS FORM A COHESIVE PACKAGE OF SERVICES WITH FOUR PRIMARY GOALS:

- 1. Increase parent knowledge of early childhood development and improve parent practices
- 2. Provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues
- 3. Prevent child abuse and neglect
- 4. Increase children's school readiness and success

To learn more about our program or to learn how to enroll, please contact Johnna Stanford 620-564-3370

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 <u>K&K Insurance</u>. Information about this insurance coverage can be found on our website under the "District" tab. Please contact the school or district office for questions about this supplementary insurance.

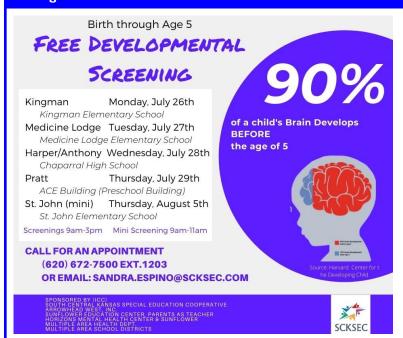
LIFE After-School Program

The L.I.F.E. After-School Program is available to all students (K– 4th grade) enrolled in USD 350. Enrollment in the program is only \$20 per month. 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.

Julie Fox, LIFE Director

https://www.facebook.com/ Usd350LifeAfterSchoolProgram August 2021 Page 3



Fall Sports Information

*Parent Meeting, Thursday, August 12th 6:30 pm in the main gym. All JH/HS 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, 2021). Athletes must have a state-approved physical form turned into the office before they may participate.

Practices begin August 16th

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.

Preliminary Budget Information

The school district's budget for the upcoming year is not much different than prior years. There is a roughly 3% increase in general state funding for K-12 education this year. This is a positive thing for school districts in our state. However, some of that is masked by increasing costs for special education that are covered by state funding. The state is putting additional funds into special education, but it is a fraction of what inflation is each year. This has put the state funding of excess costs for special education at below 70% when state law calls for 92%.

Our school district budget is controlled by state funding, local taxes (property values and mill levy), and student enrollment. Property values in the district have increased by about 8% overall. The effect of this is that the overall mill levy will drop a bit. Last year's mill levy was 51.8 and this year, when the budget is finalized, the mill levy is anticipated to be down to about 50.2 (see the graph below for a historical look).

The mill levy fluctuates from year to year because of the change in property valuation in the district. The valuation is fairly volatile because some of it is tied to oil prices. In general, if the valuation goes up, the mill levy comes down. That's what we are seeing with this year's budget.

Each year the district's budget is published in the newspaper and then the board of education holds a public hearing before approving the budget. The budget will be published sometime in August and the board will hold the hearing at their regular meeting in September.

There has been a significant influx of funding provided by the federal government to help manage operating schools during the pandemic over the past year and more is available for the next two years. The primary use of last year's funds were for technology for remote learning, additional personnel to manage the crazy year, and health equipment like thermometers and PPE.

Moving forward, additional funds are provided. Our focus is on helping students recover from learning loss due to the pandemic and addressing air quality (windows, HVAC, etc) to help mitigate any virus spread as well as addressing facility needs.

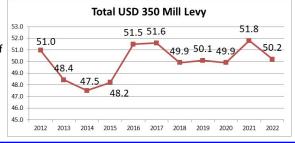
This year, the state legislature passed a new law changing the publication and hearing requirements for school districts and other municipalities. The revenue neutral rate (RNR) is the mill rate that that would generate the same level of tax revenue for the upcoming budget year. It is important for taxpayers to understand how they are affected by local entities that levy taxes. That's why there have always been measures to ensure public transparency are uniform across our state. We have always adhered to those requirements and have gone above those requirements to make information available to our patrons on our website beyond what is required by law.

The problem with this new law is that state statute requires that school districts levy 20 mills for the general fund. But the revenue neutral rates is 18.4 mills. This means that the district will almost certainly exceed the RNR every single year. The only way that any

school district does NOT exceed the RNR is if property values decline. This does happen especially when the values are tied to the price of oil and gas as explained above. This year's budget will exceed the RNR. That being said, the mill levy will drop by about 1.6 mills.

In addition to the school mill levy, the district also collects taxes on behalf of the recreation commission. The recreation commission sets their own budget, the taxes are levied by the school district, and passed on to them. This levy is very similar to what it is every year 3.7 mills.

You may contact the district office if you need more information about the district's budget, or you can find a wealth of information on our website.



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

ALL Kansas Students can receive a free breakfast and lunch through the National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option each school day in the 2021-22 school year ensuring they are fueled and ready to learn.

Why should you take part in your school's free school meal program?

- USDA covers the cost of the meals for ALL STUDENTS. You are not taking meals away from someone who might need it more.
- Every meal that is served helps your local food service program financially and keeps local food service staff employed.
- Free school meals help extend families food budgets and can save time on meal preparation.



Each year families must fill out a form to determine if they qualify for free or reduced priced meals. Since all meals are free this year, that form is no longer needed for meals. However, we still need this information for state and federal funding. This also helps us determine which families would qualify to have enrollment fees waived or reduced. You will see this with the online enrollment forms or your will receive a form in the mail.

Please take time to provide this information during enrollment.

New Faces at USD 350

What makes our school district great is the people that work to ensure our kids get the best education possible. Each year we have a few new additions to our team; here is a look at the new faces at USD 350 this year.

Diana Bunker will be teaching 7-12 English Language Arts. She comes to us from Stafford where she was teaching 4th grade.

Kim Helfrich is our new intervention specialist. She will be working with all grades with extra help for math and reading. Kim is a Stafford native.

Tia (Smith) Ward is coming back to St. John to teach 4th grade after teaching in Larned for the past two years. Tia is a SIH alum.

Rox Jones is moving from the 2nd grade classroom to the special education classroom. Rox has been with the district for 6 years as preschool and 2nd grade teacher.

Substitute Positions

We are always looking for great <u>substitute teachers</u> for our classrooms. Substitute teachers earn \$110 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 <u>substitute</u> <u>bus drivers</u>, <u>custodians</u>, and <u>classroom aides</u>. Contact the district office at 549-3564 to inquire or apply.

Fee Schedules

Textbook Fees:
Kindergarten
Grades I-12\$50
Technology Fee
Grades K-6\$5
Grades 7-8\$20
Grades 9-12\$50
Other Fees:
Instrument Rental
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

Taylor Gabel will be replacing Mrs. Jones in the 2nd grade classroom. Taylor previously taught in Russel and also at Sacred Heart in Ness City, which is her hometown.

Warren Mixon has been named as the district technology director. His family moved to Stafford County from Louisiana recently and has experience in the IT field. Warren is also an Army veteran.

Ixchel Mixon will be our new Spanish language aide. She will be assisting with the online Spanish classes for high school kids, as well as assisting with interpreting and translating services for families.

Justin Nusser will be serving as the athletic director this year. Allen Adams has been named as the head JH football coach and Reuben Martin will be his assistant.

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. They will do a great job for our students. August 2021 Page 5

Jr/Sr High School News

Blain White—Principal

I hope everyone has had a great summer. All summer long the building has been buzzing with students and staff attending camps, clinics, practices, weight lifting, driver's education, free lunches and various other activities. Summer is quickly coming to a close and we will soon be greeting students as they come through the doors for another school year.

It's no secret that this past school year presented all of us with many challenges. I'm very proud of how our students, staff and community stepped up to those challenges and made sure that the school year was a success. As we approach this upcoming school year, we have no idea what challenges we will be faced with but we know that we will successfully navigate through each one.

Each year one of the issues that we deal with is the stress and anxiety that is caused when students transition from the 6th to the 7th grade and when they are



new to the district. To help ease this transition, this year we will have a 7th grade and new student orientation for those students and parents. This

orientation will be on Wed., August 18th at 6:30 p.m. in the main gym.

There will be a fall sports parent meeting on Thursday, August 12th at 6:30 p.m. in the main gym. Fall sports practices will begin on Monday August 16th. If a student is planning on participating in sports any time through the school year they must have a health physical on file in the office. If they have not gotten a physical yet, they will need to have one before they are able to practice. Physical forms can be picked up in the high school office or downloaded from our website.

I look forward to another outstanding year and I can't wait to see the exciting things that our students and staff achieve during the 2021-2022 school year. As always, it's a GREAT day to be a TIGER!

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!

Don't forget to pickup your Tiger Gear! We will have the fan wear store open soon! Watch for details on the "USD#350 Booster Club" Facebook page.

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 Booster Club provides these to Tiger

fans, free of charge, at every home game. Individuals and families are invited to become active or non-active members and have their names printed in the programs. If you are a business owner and would like to purchase an ad or become a member, please contact Kristel Meyer at meyer@usd350.com.

Members may volunteer to help with events such as the

BBQ in football season, Fall and Winter Senior Nights or the Athletic Banquets. There are also a few various other special events throughout the school year.

2021-22 BOOSTER CLUB BOARD:

Jill Christie-President
Kristel Meyer-Treasurer
Sarah Delp-Secretary
Michelle Mawhirter, Sara Fisher,
Leah Alpers, Becky Reed

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. Alisa Fisher is the PTO president and meetings are held monthly as needed. If you are interested in being a part of the PTO, contact Mrs. Fisher or call the elementary office.

PTO puts on a carnival every other year and they help our school by purchasing items requested by teachers to support student and classroom activities. This year's carnival will be on Saturday, November 20th 3:00-6:00pm.

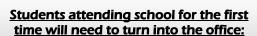


From the Nurse's Office

From Lisa Cornwell, RN:

During the 21-22 school year I will continue to offer Covid 19 Testing to students and the community. In addition to rapid covid testing, students will also be eligible to be tested for strep and influenza. These free rapid tests are available due to a grant from KDHE.

If your child will be taking prescription medication while at school or carrying an inhaler, you will need to fill out a form for the nurse's office. Remember to have your doctor write the child may carry his/her inhaler on the medication form. Students in 7th-12th grade are allowed to carry over the counter medications in their backpacks if they have a permission form on file. You can download those forms on our website under



- Proof of identification (birth certificate, SS card)
 - Health assessment
 - Immunization records



"District>Nurses Office." Please send those forms to school with your student or you can turn them into the school office during business hours.

Please bring proof of any new immunizations to the school office.

Pre school, Kindergarten and new students eight years old and under will need a completed health assessment. This will need to be turned into the office before the first day of school.

Library News

PARENT ACCESS TO ACCELERATED READER PROGRAM

Parents of kindergarten through 12th grade students will receive a note (in the first couple of weeks of school) from the classroom teacher explaining the Home Connect program and how to access it. Home Connect allows you to check progress and receive updates on activities/assessments within Accelerated Reader (AR).

AR BOOKFINDER

Browse this website to see whether or not a book is AR testable. 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. Under the Library, choose "WEB LINKS"

And then "CATALOG SEARCH"

VISIT THE LIBRARY CAFÉ AND ENJOY A CAPPUCCINO FOR ONLY \$1.00!

Don't forget hot chocolate, tea, and coffee are also available.

GIFT CERTIFICATES ARE AVAILABLE!

Use the "Libby" App for easy access to digital content from our library.

Sunflower E-Library

www.sunflowerelibrary.org



LIKE THE LIBRARY
ON FACEBOOK
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/
ILGML
BE INFORMED OF LIBRARY
EVENTS & ARRIVAL OF
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 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 August 2021 Page 7



Tiger Pride Night 2021



Tuesday, August 24th

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

Tour the school / Meet the school staff 6:00 - Kindergarten Orientation

<u>6:35 - Tiger Sprints and Assembly (FB Field)</u>

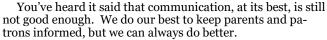


Tiger Sprints (Grades PK-6th)
National Anthem / Fight Song
Welcome from Administration
New Staff Introductions
Tiger Cheerleaders
Recognition of Race Winners
Prize Drawings
Team Introductions

Dog Cookout

7:30 - Fall Sports Scrimmages

Connect with USD 350





We keep updated information posted on our <u>website</u> at www.usd350.com. You can also find information on our <u>Facebook and Twitter</u> 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 **PowerSchool Parent Portal**. Contact the school office to learn how to log in.



Parents can be notified of events and school closings through our <u>automated messaging system</u>. Contact information can be updated through the parent portal.

The printed **school calendar** is available in the school offices. If you would like a copy, feel free to stop by one of the offices after August 7th 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

Se notifica a los solicitantes de admisión y empleo, estudiantes, padres, empleados, fuentes de remisión de solicitantes de admisión y empleo y todos los sindicatos u organizaciones profesionales que tienen acuerdos negociados o acuerdos profesionales con el distrito que este distrito no discrimina por raza, Religión, color, origen nacional, sexo, edad o discapacidad en la admisión o acceso, o tratamiento o empleo en sus programas y actividades. Cualquier persona que tenga preguntas relacionadas con el cumplimiento de USD 350 con las regulaciones que implementan el Título VI, Título IX y la Ley de Americanos con Discapacidad de 1990, se dirige a contactar al coordinador que ha sido designado para coordinar los esfuerzos de la institución educativa para cumplir con las regulaciones que implementan Estas leyes.

Deberá remitirse a las quejas específicas de supuestas discriminaciones bajo el Título IX (género) y la Sección 504 (discapacidad): TÍTULO IX COORDINADOR Y SECCIÓN 504 COORDINADOR, Josh Meyer, Superintendente, 505 N. Broadway, St. John, KS 67576, 620-549 -3564.

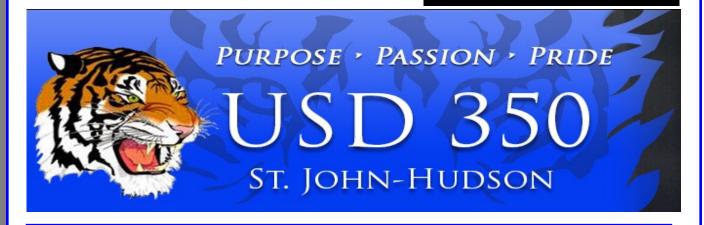
Título VI, Título IX y Sección 504 Las quejas de la ADA también se pueden presentar ante la Oficina Regional de Derechos Civiles. Dirección de la correspondencia a: Departamento de Educación de los Estados Unidos, Región VII, Oficina de Derechos Civiles, 10220 N. Executive Hills Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64153

Back-To-School Newsletter

Mark Your Calendar:

School calendars can be found on our website and will be available in the school offices.

Aug. 12: Fall Sports Parent Meeting Aug. 16: Fall Sports Practice Begins Aug. 18: Jr/Sr High Orientation Aug. 19: First Day of School Aug. 24: Tiger Pride Night



POSTAL CUSTOMER LOCAL

PRSRT STD ECRWSS US POSTAGE PAID EDDM RETAIL

OSD HEROPDAYA RED #320 ST JOHN ST JOHN