

**FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

It's official! The 2019-2020 School Year is underway! The start of the school year is always filled with excitement. Our custodians have worked hard to get the facilities in top shape. Teachers have planned for engaging our students. Students are ready to see their classmates again and get active the many organizations and activities offered. From the distant eye, the 2019-2020 school year may appear to be just another school year. To the close observer, the 2019-2020 school year is going to be one to remember.

You might remember that last year our Staff and School Board voted to join the Apollo group in the Redesign Process. The Redesign Process is basically the Kansas initiative for school improvement. Four years ago, the Kansas Commissioner of Education traveled the state asking parents, business owners and community members how to improve education and what our students needed to succeed. Based on the results of this tour, the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) developed a new vision, "Kansas leads the world in the success of each student." It was decided that they would measure progress toward this vision with five outcomes: 1. Social-emotional growth; 2. Kindergarten readiness; 3. Individual Plan of Study based on career interest; 4. High School Graduation; and 5. Postsecondary Success. The state defines a successful Kansas high school graduate as having the academic preparation, cognitive preparation, technical skills, employability skills and civic engagement to be successful in postsecondary education, in the attainment of an industry recognized certification or in the workforce, without the need for remediation. (Kansas Can: <https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Fiscal-and-Administrative-Services/Communications-and-Recognition-Programs/Vision-Kansans-Can>)

These are lofty goals and challenging outcomes set by the KSDE. The Redesign Process was developed to help schools reach this goal and outcomes. Four principles were identified for the Redesign Process:

1. Student Success Skills: Development of Soft Skills and Social Emotional Development
2. Community Partnerships: Mutually beneficial relationships
3. Personalized Learning: Students have choice over their time, place, pace and path in regards to learning.
4. Real-World Applications: Project-based learning, internships and civic engagement to make learning relevant. ([https://www.ksde.org/Portals/0/Communications/KC\\_School\\_Redesign/RedesignTalkingPoints.pdf?ver=2019-02-12-131901-543](https://www.ksde.org/Portals/0/Communications/KC_School_Redesign/RedesignTalkingPoints.pdf?ver=2019-02-12-131901-543))

You might be asking why does our school need to improve. Most of our kids graduate. Many go to college and several graduate college. You would be correct in making these statements. The state research indicates that in 2020, 71% of all jobs are going to require some kind of certification or post-secondary degree. Statewide, only 87% of students graduate high school and 69% enroll in college but only 31% will graduate from college or get a post-secondary certification. As you can see, there seems to be a discrepancy between what students are going to need to get a job and what students are doing to prepare for getting a job. Entry level jobs are harder to find. Just look at the kiosks at Mcdonalds, Taco Bell, and Walmart. Self-driving trucks, cabs, ubers and even school buses are being experimented with. We can no longer prepare kids for our past. We must prepare them to be successful in their futures.

With this knowledge in hand, our staff will spend this year discussing what this looks like for Ell-Saline School District. During this process, we will be asking parents and community members for input. Our goal is to work with our community to give our students the necessary knowledge, skills and experiences to help make them successful when they graduate.

If you have any questions, want more information, or would like to be part of the Redesign process, please feel free to contact the Building Principals (Elementary: 785-827-8891; MSHS: 785-225-6633) or myself (District Office: 785-225-6813).

**WHAT'S YOUR "WHY?"**

**THE ELL-SALINE REDESIGN TEAM WANTS YOUR INPUT!**

Redesign

Program. We want to know your "Why" so we can stay focused on what is best for our schools. You will have the opportunity in the future to answer the following two questions to help us develop our "Why."

Question #1: What does your student need to succeed in school?

Question #2: Why is education important?

Please feel free to send your answers to these two questions to the building administrators at either school.

**NEW DISTRICT RECOGNITION SYSTEM**

Education Commissioner Dr. Randy Watson plans to unveil a new school district recognition system by the end of the month. The system is designed to recognize school districts for aligning with the Kansas Can goals of improving graduation rates, improving postsecondary success, kindergarten readiness and social-emotional growth. Districts will receive Copper, Bronze, Silver and Gold stars based on their improvement in the goals.



Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America or FCCLA is planning a Fun Night for pre-school through middle school aged children. The event will take place in the ESH small gym during the varsity boys' football game, Oct. 11, 7pm-8:30 pm. Carnival type games will be created by the Human Growth and Development class. A wristband for the evening is \$10 or \$1 for each activity. Treat bags will be awarded to participants.

#### **BOARD OF EDUCATION STAFF RECOGNITION ACTIVITIES**

At halftime of the football game on Friday, September 20, the Board of Education continued the tradition of recognizing staff members. This program introduces staff members new to the district and recognizes full-time staff members that are returning to the district on 5-year anniversaries and every year past 30. The new staff members received a USD 307 staff shirt and the returning staff members received a Chamber of Commerce gift certificate.

Board members in attendance to help with the presentation were: President Marty Kramer; Vice-President John Fouard; Cheryl Higgins, Shane Schneider, Mitch Drees, Michelle Cooper and Bill Travis

New staff members recognized were: Lisa Bell, Elementary Office Assistant; Pam Boyer, Middle School Assistant Boys' Basketball Coach; Laurie Came, High School Assistant Volleyball Coach; Art Fernandez, Assistant Softball Coach; Heath Hoesli, Middle School Head Wrestling Coach and High School Assistant Wrestling Coach; Bethany Hodges, Elementary Counselor; Kayla Kavinski, High School Assistant Girls' Basketball Coach; Michael Lochard, High School Head Boys' Basketball Coach; Jennifer Walker, Elementary Title I Para-Professional.

Returning staff members recognized were: 5-year – Phillip Brown, Middle/High School Custodian; Erica Cyre, Elementary First Grade Teacher; Erin Hecker, Elementary Library Para, High School Assistant Volleyball Coach; Lexy Klein, Middle/High School Special Education Para-Professional; Seth Lamborn, Elementary Second Grade Teacher. 10-year - Denise Bock, Elementary Food Service; David Graf, Ell-Saline's District Maintenance Director; Ashley Hanson, High School Business Teacher; Susie Omlie, Elementary Fifth Grade Teacher; 15-year—Susan Nelson, Middle School FACS and Math Teacher. 20-year—Tami Jensen, Middle/High School Head Cook; Robyn Parker, Elementary Third Grade Teacher. 25-year—Liz Diehl; Ell-Saline Bus Driver; 30+ year—Chris Carazo, Ell-Saline's Athletic Director, Transportation Director; Lori Scuitte, High School Language Arts Teacher, Junior Class Sponsor, Concessions Director; Ann Krone, Ell-Saline's District Treasurer; Janis Holmes, Middle/High School Science Teacher.

The Board of Education welcomed the new staff members and looks forward to the positive contributions they will make, and thanked all of the returning staff for the years of educating our students they have given.



Front Row Left to Right: Marty Kramer, Mitch Drees, Seth Lamborn, Erin Hecker, Erica Cyre, Laurie Came, Liz Diehl  
Second Row Left to Right: Bethany Hodges, Jennifer Walker, Robyn Parker, Susie Omlie, Susan Nelson  
Back Row Left to Right: Heath Hoesli, Michael Lochard, Phillip Brown, Cheryl Higgins, John Fouard, David Graf, Chris Carazo, Kayla Kavinski, Art Fernandez, Shane Schneider.



## FFA CHAPTER NEWS

The Ell-Saline FFA helped with the annual Farm Bureau Ag Education Day in Salina at the Fairgrounds. Members helped lead students around, teach about animals, wildlife and farm machinery. Members worked with over 300 fourth graders from Saline County. Once the day's education was over members helped serve a pizza lunch to the fourth graders and then helped clean up the building and grounds.

FFA members helped the Brookville Rounders Club with the annual Brookville Labor Day Rodeo. Members ran the concessions for the day and helped clean up the grounds after the events. The FFA Alumni was there to help run the ticket gates and shuttle the handicap around. This marks the 22<sup>nd</sup> year the FFA has ran the Rodeo Concessions.

The FFA Greenhands attended the North Central FFA Greenhand Leadership Conference in Salina. Members learned about the FFA, Leadership, Public Speaking and many other activities.

## NEWS FROM THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

**Some years a few ambitious seniors like to take both English IV and Composition classes. As a part of their English IV class, Mrs. Little has those students participate in the Dear Poet Project organized by The Academy of American Poets. The project takes place during National Poetry Month, which is the month of April every year. After researching poetic form and voice, the students read poems and listen to poets read their poetry, provided by the AAP on their website. Then, the students choose two or three poets to respond to and write letters to the poets and we send them in. The AAP selects some of the students' letters to be featured on the website, and then the poets write a response.**

**This year Ell-Saline alum Angel McDanel's letter to poet Forrest Gander was selected to be featured on the website! There were over 1800 letters sent in nationally, and Angel's letter was only one of 12 letters to be featured on the site. It is an honor to be selected. We are so proud of you, Angel!**

**Visit [www.poets.org/dear-forrest-gander-2019](http://www.poets.org/dear-forrest-gander-2019) to see her letter and read what the poet had to say.**

### MS STUDENT OF THE MONTH

**Carley Pierce**



Carley Pierce an 8<sup>th</sup> grader, is the daughter of Jeremy and Carrie Pierce and a sister to Gage Pierce. In school Carley is involved in band, FCCLA, and is the volleyball, basketball, and track manager. She is also a member of the FUMC youth group and participates in the advanced acting classes at the Salina Community Theatre. In her spare time Carley enjoys singing, cooking, acting, and hanging out with her family and friends. After high school Carley plans to attend Fort Hays State University and major in Early Childhood Development. After that, she would like to start her own daycare. Great job, Carley!

### HS STUDENT OF THE MONTH

**Julisa Wolf**



Senior Julisa Wolf is the daughter of William and Maria Wolf, and a sister to Monica and Isaac Wolf. In school Julisa is involved in Relay for Life, BPA, NHS, FCA, Scholars Bowl, and she is also the FFA historian and the senior class STUCO representative. In the community she works at Dillons and in her church she sings, provides day care, and serves on the party planning committee. Outside of school she enjoys singing, playing guitar, playing chess, baking, and watching movies. After high school Julisa plans to attend K-State or KU and major in Science or Health. She then plans to further her education and become a Physician's Assistant. Way to go, Julisa!

# Ell-Saline USD 307

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Elementary School  
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Salina, KS 67401  
(785) 827-8891

Return Service Requested

## An Equal Employment/Educational Opportunity Agency

The Ell-Saline U.S.D. 307 Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, handicap or age in admission or access to, or treatment in, its programs or activities. Any questions regarding in the board's compliance with Title VI, Title IX, or Section 504 may be directed to the Title IX coordinator, who can be reached at (785) 225-6813, 412 E. Anderson, P.O. Box 157, Brookville, KS 67425, or to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check for changes at [www.ellsaline.org](http://www.ellsaline.org)

Oct 1	HS/MS CC @ Beloit	Oct 22	NO ESE After School
Oct 1	3:00 HS VB Mod-Quad @ Sedgwick	Oct 22	5:00 HS VB Tri @ ES Senior/Parent Night
Oct 3	ESE Picture Day	Oct 22	MS VB League Tournament @ Sterling
Oct 3	4:30 MS VB @ Sedgwick	Oct 23	NO SCHOOL—Inservice Day
Oct 3	6:00 MS FB @ Sedgwick	Oct 23	Parent/Teacher Conf. 4:15-8:15
Oct 4	NO ESE After School	Oct 24	NO SCHOOL
Oct 4	7:00 HS FB @ Inman	Oct 24	Parent/Teacher Conf. 7:00am-7:30pm
Oct 5	HS JV VB Sylvan/Lucas Tournament	Oct 25	NO SCHOOL
Oct 7	6:00 HS JV FB Inman	Oct 25	7:00 HS FB District @ Smith Center
Oct 8	HS/MS CC @ Ellsworth	Oct 26	ACT Test Date
Oct 8	4:00 HS VB Mod-Quad @ Bennington	Oct 26	HS VB 2A Sub-State
Oct 9	HS HOA Vocal Honors @ Inman	Oct 26	HS CC Regionals
Oct 10	4:30 MS VB Marion 8th grade Parent Night	Oct 30	ESE Spirit Stick Sales
Oct 10	6:00 MS FB Marion 8th grade Parent Night	Oct 30	New Student/Fall Individual Retakes and Group Pictures
Oct 11	No ESE After School	Oct 30	National FFA Convention
Oct 11	7:00 HS FB District Republic Co. Senior Parent Night	Oct 31	Happy Halloween 
Oct 12	9:00 MS VB B-Tourn. @ Minneapolis	Oct 31	NO ESE After School
Oct 14	4:00 MS VB Tri @ ES	Oct 31	8:30 ESE Halloween Parade & Parties
Oct 14	5:00 HS JV VB @ Sacred Heart	Oct 31	National FFA Convention
Oct 14	6:00 HS JV FB @ Republic Co.		
Oct 14	6:30 BOE Meeting		
Oct 15	5:00 HS VB Tri @ ES		
Oct 16	FCCLA Fall Leadership Conf. @ Hesston College		
Oct 17	End of Quarter		
Oct 17	NO ESE After School		
Oct 17	HS/MS CC HOA League @ Trinity Catholic		
Oct 17	4:30 MS VB @ Sterling		
Oct 17	MS FB @ Sterling		
Oct 18	NO SCHOOL — Teacher Work Day		
Oct 18	7:00 HS FB District @ Sacred Heart		
Oct 19	HS VB HOA League Tournament @ Marion		
Oct 21	5:00 HS JV VB Quad @ Bennington		
Oct 21	6:00 HS JV FB Sacred Heart		
Oct 21	6:00 CPTA Meeting		

