



Director of Student Learning

Jennifer Gatz

Board Report April 2021

Kansas Education Systems Accreditation (KESA) Update

Our Outside Visitation Team (OVT) recently shared the OVT report that they will submit to the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE). This report as well as our System Yearly Report and other artifacts that we submit online will be reviewed by the Accreditation Review Council (ARC). The ARC will make a recommendation to the State Board of Education to determine whether our district will be accredited, conditionally accredited or not accredited. The State Board of Education will act on the recommendation provided by the ARC at a State Board of Education meeting this summer. At both the district and building level we have already begun thinking about our needs assessment and goal areas to begin our next five year cycle in the fall of 2021.

April 5th Professional Development

It was exciting to be able to meet again as a district at Sabetha Middle School for our in-service on Monday, April 5th. As always, we had a jam packed agenda for this professional learning day. To start the day Chuck Schmidt a former teacher, principal and superintendent shared inspirational and humorous stories with teachers in the auditorium. Denise Brown from TASN reviewed classwide intervention protocols and some of the newly revised Fastbridge reports with our elementary teachers. Denise also met with our high school and middle school teachers to select a research based school wide vocabulary or fluency strategy that will help support all students in all content areas. Lisa Suhr led teachers in a creative thinking activity and she introduced the Telepresence Double Robots to staff members. You may remember that we received these devices in a partnership with Kansas State University. Finally, all content teams had time to meet to discuss relevant topics to conclude our day.

MTSS

All buildings gave the SAEBERs and MySAEBERs social-emotional screener to students at the end of the third quarter and building teams have been analyzing this data along with course grades, attendance and office referrals to determine the need for additional supports for students in this area. The Fastbridge screening window for reading and math will run from April 28th – May 12th. Our BLTs will meet on May 25th to conclude the year, analyze our data, and begin planning for next year. We will also discuss our goals moving into our next KESA cycle.

Summer Learning Academy

USD 113 is moving forward with the planning of our Summer Learning Academy. At the middle school level we have decided to offer a hybrid version of the Kansas State University STEAM Camp. Students in our district will have the opportunity to meet together in our buildings and connect to the Kansas State STEAM teacher via Zoom. A facilitator will help support students as they work and create in each of our three buildings. The topics that are available for students to choose from include: Wild, Weird, and Wonderful Writing, M.U.S.I.C. -Music Using STEM is Cool, Sports Science, Stop Motion Animation Fun and Planet Podcast. Lisa Suhr is leading the implementation of this program and has created a website to share information with students and parents. You can access the [website at this link](#). At the elementary level planning continues on a STEM focused learning opportunity that will also support student needs in the areas of reading and math. You can find the handout I shared last month with additional information at [this link](#).

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Kansas Assessment System Update

The testing window for the Kansas State Assessments opened on April 1st and we have several grade levels that have started taking state assessments. Something new this year is a parent portal where student assessment scores are stored for parents to access online. We will be sending out information regarding accessing this portal to parents of students in grades 3rd- 12th in the near future. The assessment window closes on May 18th and student score reports for the current year should be available around the first of June.

Curriculum Work and Resource Adoption

The high school and middle school math teachers continue to review textbooks to determine the best resource for our district. We have three teachers currently piloting resources. This team is planning on meeting again on April 30th to conduct a final review before bringing a proposal before the board at the May meeting.

Drivers Education

We have approximately 50 students signed up to participate in Drivers Education this summer. These students will begin the book portion of the course on April 12th online through the Buhler school district.