



WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back! It's hard to believe, but it's the beginning of a new school year. Your children receive the best education when you and our dedicated teachers work as a team. It's a parent's enthusiasm and support along with a teacher's commitment that inspires all kids to do their best. Together we can achieve incredible things.

FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS COMING TO USD 220

For the past seven months the USD 220 Board of Education and Administration have been working with Johnson Controls to review district facilities. When the overall study was complete, USD 220 was facing a total cost for district improvements ranging from \$2.1 to \$2.7 million.

With a higher than anticipated cost associated with upgrades, the scope of the project was narrowed using the following criteria: 1) age and condition of equipment; 2) facility usage; 3) greatest need; and 4) cost.

In order to fund the facility upgrades, the district applied for special financing from a program called, "Quality Zone Academy Bonds" also referred to as, "QZAB." This is a non-traditional "loan program" that the state of Kansas offers to school districts for facility upgrades. Although the program uses "bonds" within its name, it is not a traditional bond project requiring an election and increase in the tax rate. QZAB is a "loan" often at 0% interest which allows the state to issue tax credits to the banks that purchase them. Therefore, USD 220 patrons will not see any increase in the tax rate for these facility improvements.

The USD 220 school district was approved to issue \$1,728,724 through the program, and by taking advantage of the 0% interest rate, the tax payers will save about \$443,000 in interest. Additionally, this decision will allow the board to be proactive in upgrading major mechanical systems and equipment that were originally installed in 1962 when Ashland Jr-Sr High School was built.

Current facility upgrades being discussed includes new windows and panels; installation of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems in classrooms, library, cafeteria, kitchen, gymnasium, and shop; improvements to existing doorways; as well as new seating in the gym.

INCREASE IN STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Ashland Public Schools will see a slight increase in student enrollment during the 17-18 school year. Enrollment numbers after one week show the district has gained 15 students in grades K-12, to 204. Last year the district enrolled 189 students.

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Special points of interest

- USD 220 was approved to issue \$1.7 million in bonds as part of the QZAB program.
- QZAB is a low interest loan program for school districts to help finance facility upgrades.
- 0% interest will save over \$443,000 on a 3% 15-year traditional loan.
- Overall tax rate will decrease in 17-18 by 1.394 mills.

Unified School District 220

Ashland Public Schools

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WELCOME BACK TO AES!!!

Ashland Elementary would like to welcome everyone back to school!!

To begin with, students will see several new teachers in the building. Tia Harris will be teaching first grade. She brings a great deal of elementary experience to our school, and we're very excited for her to begin. Andrea Stockwell will be our new third grade teacher. She comes to us from the Kansas City area where she has taught second and third grade for three years. Lee Odell will be teaching physical education to all grades. He and his family have been in Fairfield for the last four years where he taught physical education and coached. Mr. Odell will also be the high school assistant principal and the athletic director for the district. Finally, our new music teacher will be Ryan Cells. Mr. Cells will be the K-12 music teacher for the district. We are very excited for all the new teachers at the elementary school.

One BIG change at AES will be that we are now offering all-day kindergarten. For the first time, our kindergartners will be going to lunch and to PE as well as having more time for their curriculum. Our kindergarten teacher, Stephanie Woolfolk is glad to have the extra time with her students.

Please mark your calendars for Friday, August 11th. From 4:00-6:00 that evening, we will be hosting a "Meet and Greet" here at the elementary building. We want all our students and parents to drop by during that time to meet and greet their teachers. Students may drop off their school supplies and meet their new teachers. Plus they can see where their seats will be, and parents can chat with their child's teacher.

Also, look for more information to be coming about a new Parents and Teachers Organization (PTO). The most effective schools are those that have a close relationship with the parents they serve. We plan on creating an organization of parents who will help us serve our students better. Additionally, we will likely be asking for help with financing extra-curricular activities at the elementary school. The PTO will be an integral part of raising money to help support the activities that we want to offer our students. In short, we will need financial help and ideas from our parents in order to keep offering those activities that we feel are an important part of our kids' education. Often PTO clubs help organize events that generate revenue that can then be used to fund these important events. If you have any questions or ideas that you would like to share, please feel free to contact me.

Finally, as part of our on-going character education initiative, we have created the Do The Right Thing (D.T.R.T.) program. D.T.R.T is a program that will teach positive behaviors and recognize students who display those highly valued traits. D.T.R.T rests on four pillars that we consider to be essential and inseparable. These are: RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, TEAMWORK, and PERSISTENCE. A different pillar will be emphasized each nine-week period, and teachers will give students coupons that they will bring to the office. Once each nine-week period, we will draw out a coupon for one student from each class. At a school assembly, we will recognize those students and present them with a certificate.

Jason Endicott
Ashland Elementary Principal

USD 220 FOCUSING ON RESOURCES

I can't believe the summer has already come to an end. I am thrilled to be joining the Bluejay staff this year as a math teacher and the Curriculum Coordinator! We've only been in Ashland a month, but it already feels like home.

One of the areas I plan to focus on as Curriculum Coordinator this year will making sure that our students and teachers have up to date textbooks and resources. As many of the content standards have changed and been adjusted in recent years, we need to know that we are preparing our kids for the world with materials that are on par with what other districts are using so they all leave Ashland ready to tackle whatever challenges they are faced with. I also hope to help teachers at the secondary level with ideas for implementing the Chromebooks in their classrooms. These are an amazing resource for our students and there is a ton that can be done with them!

If there is ever anything that I can do for you, or your students, do not hesitate to reach out and ask...I'm glad to do what I can to make this the best year for everyone!

Thank you for letting me be a part of the Bluejay family!

Alexa Daily
Math/Curriculum Coordinator

A NOTE FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL & ATHELTEIC DIRECTOR

As summer vacation winds to a close, Bluejay students, parent, athletes, teachers, administrators, and all members of the Bluejay family are ripe with anticipation for the beginning of another school year. Much has been done to prepare for the upcoming school year and many individuals have worked all summer long to ensure everything will be ready for the best school year possible.

Fall athletic practices began on August 14th. Any junior high or high school student wishing to compete in Bluejay athletics MUST have a physical on file as well as a signed concussion form. An athlete will not be allowed to practice without this information on file. Anyone who still needs these forms will be able to find them on the USD #220 website under athletics.

The community of Ashland is a very special place and so are the amazing schools! The outstanding people of the community and schools make this a fantastic place to be. Everyone at the school wishes the students a warm welcome back for the new school year! It's a great day to be a Bluejay!

Mr. Lee Odell
AHS Asst. Principal/A.D.



STUDENT SUPPORT by Haley Walker

Student Support is looking forward to making the 2017-2018 school year a success for USD 220 students. There will be exciting opportunities for students and staff to be recognized for the great things they teach, practice and model. Doing the right thing is important and should be acknowledged. Peer mentoring will give students the opportunity to act as leaders. All students will have the opportunity to learn with their heads, hearts and hands to be caring and civil. Presentations will give students more exposure and opportunities to learn about being respectful, responsible and good citizens.

Mrs. Walker's office has moved to the last office in the front office area and although we no longer have a Communities In Schools program within our school, there are program materials available. Students should feel free to stop in and grab what is needed. Some things available are: ACT resources, school supplies (i.e. notebooks, loose leaf paper, pencils, pens, folders, binders, etc.) and hygiene products (i.e. shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, body wash, etc.).

Important Dates for Fall Testing:

9/25/17 – ACT Prep Workshop

ACT 2017-2018 National Test Dates		
Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late fee Required)
September 9, 2017	August 4, 2017	August 5-18, 2017
October 28, 2017	September 22, 2017	September 23-October 6, 2017
December 9, 2017	November 3, 2017	November 4-17, 2017
February 10, 2018	January 12, 2018	January 13-19, 2018
April 14, 2018	March 9, 2018	March 10-23, 2018
June 9, 2018	May 4, 2018	May 5-18, 2018
July 14, 2018	June 15, 2018	June 16-22, 2018
USD 220 District Test		
October 3, 2017	August 17, 2017-Register with Mrs. Walker	n/a
FEES:		
ACT (no writing)-\$46.00		
ACT with writing- \$62.50		
District Test- \$45.00		

USD 220 MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of USD 220, is to develop learning skills in every student that will provide the necessary background to enable each student to find success and fulfillment in a constantly changing world.

