

K-4 Connection

Partners in Education

August—September 2017
From the Principal's Desk

Hesston Elementary families, students, and staff:

We are excited to start a new school year! Our students have been working hard learning the grade level expectations and reconnecting with classmates. We welcome our kindergarten families, new students, and previous students to the building. Also, join me in welcoming several new staff members at HES: Mrs. Danielle Flaming has joined the kindergarten team. Mrs. Danni Frick is teaching second grade. Miss Sadie Minkevitch joined the third grade team and Mrs. Kristen Stucky is teaching fourth grade. Mrs. Dawn Lafferty will be teaching character education and supporting counseling needs.

Safety is a top priority for Hesston Elementary. I have a few reminders to help make our school safe for all students. The alley to the west of the school is reserved for **buses only** throughout the school day. ***It is not to be used as a drop off or pick up point for students.*** Students should not be riding their bikes up the alley, as this is a bus drop off zone. Also, if your child has to cross Amos Street to get to the front of the school, an adult must assist them cross the street. Your help with these procedures is greatly appreciated. We also thank our crossing guards, who help keep our students safe to and from school. Thank you for all of your assistance in keeping our students safe.

The drop off and pick up lane can also be a frustrating place at HES. We ask your help to keep the process moving quickly, by not leaving your vehicle unattended. If you need to exit your vehicle, please find a parking spot in the lot or on the street. Thank you for your continued patience with the parking situation around the elementary. We are anxiously awaiting the completion of the new parking lot, which should be soon. Once it is done, we will communicate procedures for a second drop off/pick up lane.

The official start time of the school day is 8:00 a.m. Please be aware, students need to be ***in*** their classrooms by the 8:00 bell. If they arrive in the classroom after 8:00, they will be marked tardy. Please refer to the student-parent handbook for tardy policies. Thank you parents for ensuring your child is at school on time and off to a positive start each day.

We appreciate the support of our parents at the Meet the Teacher Night and the Parent Open House. Each of these events provide opportunities for families to get into the building and to build a relationship with teachers and staff. We thank you for your support with reading and practicing math facts each evening.

The WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads Of Great Students) program will continue this year. Fathers and father figures are invited to sign up at the WATCH D.O.G.S table at Donuts with Dad on September 28 from 7:15-8:00 a.m.
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Hesston Elementary School

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Web Site: es.hesstonschools.org

From the Principal (continued)

This program gives fathers and father-figures a chance to volunteer at their child's school and make a positive impact in students' lives. HES appreciates having the WATCH D.O.G.S. at our school and looks forward to another year of support.

Thank you for your continued support, as we start a new year. If you have questions related to Hesston Elementary, please don't hesitate to contact me at alisa.krehbiel@usd460.org or at 620-327-7102. It is going to be an awesome year!

Alisa Krehbiel

Counselor's Corner

Mrs. Dawn Lafferty

Welcome back to school HES Swathers!

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and all of you are as excited as I am to see what this year has in store! I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself and give you a preview of the lessons I will be sharing with your child this year. It is hard to believe that this is my 17th year of teaching. During my teaching career, I have taught kindergarten, first grade and third grade. I am looking forward to my new role of teaching character education in the wheel, leading small groups and visiting with individual students. All students and parents are welcome in my office anytime! My job is to help promote positive attitudes and choices, help children learn how to make friends and solve conflicts, and encourage building stronger relationships.

This year, we will be learning about the 7 Habits of Happy Kids and how they relate to our HES Pillars of Respect, Responsibility and Integrity. Your child will learn how to be proactive and set goals, do the important things first, how to think "win-win" and listen to other's feelings. We will talk about how working together is the best way to accomplish your goals! I will also focus on topics such as friendship, honesty, bullying and kindness.

I want to say a big thank you for all the school supplies that were donated to our school supply closet! Those supplies are greatly appreciated and will be used as needs arise throughout the school year as well.

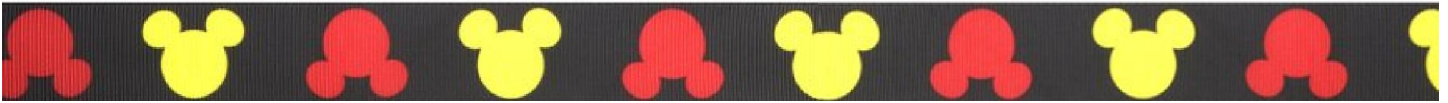
Please feel free to contact me about any concerns you may have with your child and I am looking forward to getting to know everyone better this year!

Sincerely,
Dawn Lafferty
620-327-7102 ext. 4004
dawn.lafferty@usd460.org



If you can dream it, you can do it!

Walt Disney



Kindergarten Mrs. Danielle Flaming Mrs. Lauren Roulhac Miss Kristin Unruh

Kindergarten is off to a great start! We have enjoyed getting to know all of our new kindergarten friends. Our days have been full of practicing routines, singing songs, handwriting, counting, sorting objects, reading books together, and much more! We are looking forward to our community field trip on September 8 where we will venture out into our community, as we recreate the trip that Miss Bindergarten took with her class in the book, "Miss Bindergarten Takes a Field Trip with Kindergarten." We are also looking forward to all day kindergarten, which begins on September 13.

Team I Mrs. Tammy Gunden Mrs. Danae Kaufman Mrs. Valarie Nickell

Welcome to First Grade! It's been a great start to another year. We have spent a lot of time practice routines and procedures in our classroom and things are running smoothly. First grade is an exciting year and kids and families see a lot of growth.

In math we spend a lot of time building number sense, working with a 120 grid, and becoming automatic with our math facts within 10. Families can be a huge help by practicing math facts each day. They need to be able to solve equations with sums no larger than 10 (ex: $2 + 8 = 10$) and for subtraction, start with 10 and subtract any smaller number (ex: $10 - 4 = 6$).

We are off to a great start and look forward to a wonderful year. If you have any questions, please let us know!

Team II Mrs. Danni Frick Mrs. Jennea Heinrichs Mrs. Brenda Jaso

Welcome Back to School! We're all so excited to be working with your students this year!

Fall is starting of with a study of Citizenship and Government, with Patriot Day (September 11) and Constitution Day (September 17) both coming up next month. We also invite grandparents to our Annual Grandparents Open House celebration at Hesston Elementary on September 14 at 2:15. As always, Grand "friends" are welcome if your child's grandparents are unable to attend.

In Science, we're working with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) throughout the year, and will be studying the Scientific Process, which helps guide experiments. From time to time, we may be collecting items from your recycling bins at home (paper towel tubes and toilet paper tubes, to name a few) and we GREATLY appreciate your support for our little scientists at work!

Math homework is beginning to come home, as we are learning to add and subtract within 100. Remember, homework should NOT take over your life, and should last 20 minutes or so in the evenings. If it's lasting longer, contact your child's teacher for assistance. And always, read, read, READ every night. Read TO your child, read WITH your child, and let your child read to you. This is always time well spent!

Remember our doors are always open, and you can contact us via Class Dojo, email, or by phone here at school!

If you have any children's magazines you are planning to get rid of, please donate them to the school! Our students love to read them in the commons before school and during indoor recess!

Team III Ms. Christi Bisoni-Lais Mrs. Katelyn Boese Miss Sadie Minkevitch

The school year is off to a great start!

3rd graders have been busy practicing all of our classroom routines and learning what it means to be a leader in the elementary school. Fluency, spelling and grammar will all be a daily part of our language arts block. We are also getting ready to start the first story in our Reading Street books. We will use the stories in this text book to practice comprehension and digging deeper into what we read.

Math time has already been pushing students to look at the relationships between multiplication and division. We will be practicing math facts in class often, but don't forget your weekly practice at home too!

During social studies time we are focusing on Hesston history and the important people that have helped shape our town.

We are looking forward to an awesome year as 3rd graders!

Team IV Mrs. Gayle Boles Mr. Lee Schrag Mrs. Kristen Stucky

The first few weeks have flown by! The fourth graders have been working hard, getting settled into the routines of fourth grade, and learning new things in order to be prepared for middle school.

In reading, the students have learned about genres, how to pick good books for themselves, and fluency. In math, we have been learning about place value-reading and writing numbers to the millions place. We have also started to talk about math facts and the expectations for fourth graders. In order to make math a lot easier this year, your child should be practicing math facts on a daily basis.

Thank you for all you're doing to help make this a great year for your child!

Music Notes

Mrs. Dianna Funk

Music is Magical— let the year begin! I am thrilled to be back in the music classroom this year singing and dancing with the students at HES. I hope you will stop by our "Disney" themed music room to check out the Magical HES Musicians!

During the first few weeks of school, the students have been learning to sing echo patterns, distinguishing between steady beat and rhythms, and learning about different styles of music. The students have enjoyed playing the boomwackers and several other instruments.



Students will be learning about tempo (fast/slow) and dynamics (loud/soft) sounds of music. In addition, students will work on performing ostinato patterns. We have had a great start to the year. I look forward to working with your students and helping them grow as musicians throughout this school year.

Save the Date:

Don't forget to mark your calendar.

The **K-4 Music Concert is Thursday, November 16**
at 7:00 PM at the Hesston High School Gym.

P.E. Happenings

Mrs. Brandy Coker

My policy is that everyone participates everyday! If someone does not feel well, I might ask them to "try their best today." If a child is not going to participate in P.E. for any reason please send a note with them stating this so I am aware of the situation. If it is for an extended amount of time please indicate when they are able to return. I do believe that if a child can play at recess they can participate in my class and will ask that they do try their best!

Please also send your child to school with tennis shoes.

To keep up with what is happening in Physical Education follow Mrs. Coker on Twitter @CokerPhysEd.

September 12th the BODY VENTURE is coming to Hesston Elementary! Many Volunteers are still needed for this exciting event! If interested in volunteering please send the slip back to school with your child.



September means it's time for Bike Safety!

Students will have the opportunity to learn about bike safety rules and practice riding their bikes and scooters in class. 3rd and 4th graders will have the chance to participate in the Bike Tour.

Bike Tour Dates:

Sept. 22nd - 4th grade

Sept. 29th - 3rd grade

Library

Mrs. Rhonda Unruh

This school year is off to a great start in the HES library! Here are a few items and activities to be aware of...

Wheel Checkout Day: Just as we have done in past years, all classes have a designated "checkout day" once a week during their library wheel time. On this day students return ALL their library books either for check in or renewal. This process helps minimize the number of lost books, gives me the opportunity to focus on other lessons during the remaining library classes of the week, and encourages students to checkout new books more often. Students are welcome to visit the library on other days for individual checkout as well if they return their books early.

Volunteers Needed: You are welcome to visit the library any time. If you have an extra hour or two once or twice a month, we would love your help with shelving books! Please contact the school if you are interested in volunteering in the library, or you can email me at: rhonda.unruh@usd460.org

Read to a Friend: This year we have a new bulletin board in the library encouraging students to "Read to a Friend". We're encouraging students to take a picture of themselves reading to a friend (sibling, parent, grandparent, friend, pet, stuffed animal, etc.). If you decide to participate, please email the picture to me, and we will add it to our collection. I'm hoping to fill the bulletin board and overflow onto the walls around it. My email is rhonda.unruh@usd460.org.

Save the Date: Please mark your calendar to join us in the HES library during the Fall Book Fair on October 23-26!

We're looking forward to a fun-filled year of reading and learning in the library!



Art

Mrs. Shea Neufeld

I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to see all the bright and eager faces for the return of school. HES is the place to be! Welcome back.

After reading Mouse paint, first graders reviewed primary and secondary colors. Each child will be creating his/her own color wheel. We also read "Ish" by Peter Reynolds before creating our very own "ish" pictures. Such wonderful imaginations!

Second graders read the story, "The Crayon Box that Talked" and then were asked to create a self-portrait on a "crayon." "We are like a box of crayons each one of us unique, but when we get together the picture is complete."

Third graders took a "look back on summer." Check out their cool sunglasses in the hallway on your way to the 1-2 commons.

Fourth graders designed their individual hand before painting the background with their table team color. Team stands for, "Together Everyone Achieves More." We will begin studying Pablo Picasso as we try to recreate one of his artworks.

Kindergarten will visit once they attend all-day on September 13th.

I am looking forward to a great school year.



Keyboarding

Miss Lindsay Jaso

IMPORTANT! HOW TO DOWNLOAD OUR KEYBOARDING PROGRAM AT HOME FOR FREE!

Welcome to a new year of Keyboarding! At HES, 3rd and 4th graders have Keyboarding class for 25 minutes, three or four times each week. Our hope is that this prepares them for all of the computer-based activities they'll be doing in their classrooms here and in the future at the Middle School and beyond!

In the 3/4 computer lab, students work on a program called *Type to Learn 4*. Ask them about it; it's lots of fun! It is game based; skills and keys are taught in a low-stress way that is familiar, rewarding and hopefully, self-motivating. It is also web-based. The district has purchased this program for our use, and **you may download it to use at home under our license at no cost to you**. That means that students can work at home, you can check their progress, and I can check their progress from any computer with access to the internet! Here is the link for you to download the program to your computer at home: <http://ttl4.sunburst.com/downloads/>

That character after the tt is the letter l, not a number 1.

(Please be patient when downloading—it takes lots of memory and time to download, and you may need to try several times.)

Username: your child's last name followed immediately by their first initial, no space or dot

Password: your child's 4-digit "lunch number" (They know it!)

Account code: 140327

Practice is only helpful if students are keeping their hands over home row and reaching for the correct keys with the correct fingers, so keeping an eye on them as they "play" would be helpful, (especially for third graders). Posture is also very important! Students should be sitting up straight with feet on the floor, and arms should not be touching the desk/table.

Happy keyboarding!

Hesston Elementary Parents = H.E.I.P.

Dear Hesston Elementary Parents-

Wow! August flew by and September is already here. We have lots of exciting events coming up, so be watching for opportunities to volunteer!

Fall Pictures will be Wednesday, September 13th. You may place an order ahead of time or online after. Both ways support H.E.I.P.!

Grandparents Open House will happen on September 14th at 2:15pm. There will be fun activities in the classrooms and refreshments in the commons areas.

Donuts with Dad (a come-and-go event) is Sept. 28th from 7:15-8:00am. We will also be sharing information about our Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) program and have sign up dates available.

We are excited for the return of our fall fundraiser that is both yummy and delicious! "Kansas Maid" offers many delicious frozen pastries such as braids, cinnamon rolls, Italian bread, and more! Sales will return October 2-16. Check it out at www.kansasmaid.com.

Why should you consider supporting Hesston Elementary through a fundraiser? We receive 50% of profits from Kansas Maid! That's an amazing amount! And the money stays right here at Hesston Elementary to help support our students and teachers.

The Book Fair is planned for the week of October 23rd-26th in the library. There will be many books to choose from to expand your home library, as well as lists provided by teachers where you may purchase books for their classroom.

Speaking of books and the library-Mrs. Unruh could sure use some help in the library. This time is flexible, can be as little as 30 minutes, or as much as an afternoon! She's needing some help once or twice a month. Please contact her at rhonda.unruh@usd460.org.

A BIG thank you to Kropf Lumber for donating the materials and time to create a new Box Tops drop-off for our school. Our new mailbox is stationed between the front door and the office to allow students to easily deliver the Box Tops they have been collecting. Box Top incentive forms will head home in the next month or two.

If you ever have questions, please contact a member of the H.E.I.P. Board at hes460parents@gmail.com. Thank you for your support! You help make our school a fun learning environment for our children!

Shelley Duerksen – Coordinator

Sarahanne Unruh - Fundraising Chair

Elsbeth Kuhn – Communication Chair

Kate Jelle - Family Events and Staff Support Chair





Important Dates



Sept 4—NO School,
Labor Day

Sept 11—HEIP Meeting,

Sept 13—All Day
Kindergarten Begins,
Fall Pictures

Sept 14—Grandparents' Open
House 2:15-3pm

Sept 15—No School,
School Improvement

Sept 28—Donuts with Dad
7:15-8am (Watch DOG Kickoff)

Oct 9—HEIP Meeting

Oct 13—NO School,
School Improvement

Oct 20—1st Quarter Grades
Posted

Oct 23-26—Book Fair

Oct 23—P/T Conferences

Oct 26—P/T Conference

Oct 27 & 30—NO School

Oct 31—Fall Parties

Meal Prices for September—19 Meals

HES meals are the same as HMS and HHS meals—
They can be found on USD 460's website or in the Hesston Record

Full Pay	Lunch—\$50.35	Breakfast—\$39.90
Reduced	Lunch—\$ 7.60	Breakfast—\$ 5.70
	Extra Milk—\$.40	Guest Prices—\$ 3.50

ATTENTION LUNCH VISITORS!!

Our students love having guests in the lunchroom. If you would like to eat lunch with your student, please take the following steps:

- 1—Call the school by 8:30am to let us know you're coming, so the cooks can be prepared.
- 2—Please stop in the office for a **visitor's pass** before heading to the lunchroom.
- 3—Please bring **exact change** and pay in the lunch line.

All guest meals are \$3.50 each. Thank you and enjoy your lunch!