



The ANNOUNCER

(News from USD 470: Arkansas City Public Schools)

Students to reap benefits of award

Administrators and staff members at Arkansas City High School recently returned from San Diego, Cal. with something new to be proud of.

The group attended National Association of Secondary School Principals' (NASSP) annual convention, where the school was honored as one of 10 national 2009 Breakthrough Schools by MetLife Foundation and NASSP.

Marci Shearon, principal, said she accepted the award on behalf of the entire ACHS community.

"It takes all of us here, regardless of our position in the school or district," she said. "The dedication of our staff and students has played a major part in helping us become a Breakthrough School."

The school will receive a \$5,000 grant and will be featured in NASSP's award winning monthly magazine, Principal Leadership, that is distributed to all 50 states.

Shearon said part of that money will be used to start an endowment for a scholarship to go to at least one student in the school's 'School Counts' Work Ethics leadership program. The first scholarship is to be awarded this year.

The work ethics program, under the leadership of Angela Harding, places seniors in leadership roles and gives them the opportunity to earn scholarship dollars to Cowley College.

Shearon said students in the program serve as mentors, tutors and

participate in a number of community service projects.

The seven seniors in the program served as student ambassadors to the Breakthrough School visitation team earlier in the school year.

"We were able to show them how we've improved over the past few years," Bethany McClure, said.

"We've implemented several new programs that have involved more students and they were impressed by that."

Another student, Paulin Conde, said the program has grown a lot the past two years.

"Work Ethics is a great program because it gives anybody the chance to go to college because of the scholarship money associated with it," he said. "It also helps students stay focused and disciplined if they have something to work toward."

Kayla Sparks agreed, saying, in

general, students have better attendance records than in past years.

McClure said she felt the students in the program serve as resources for other students.

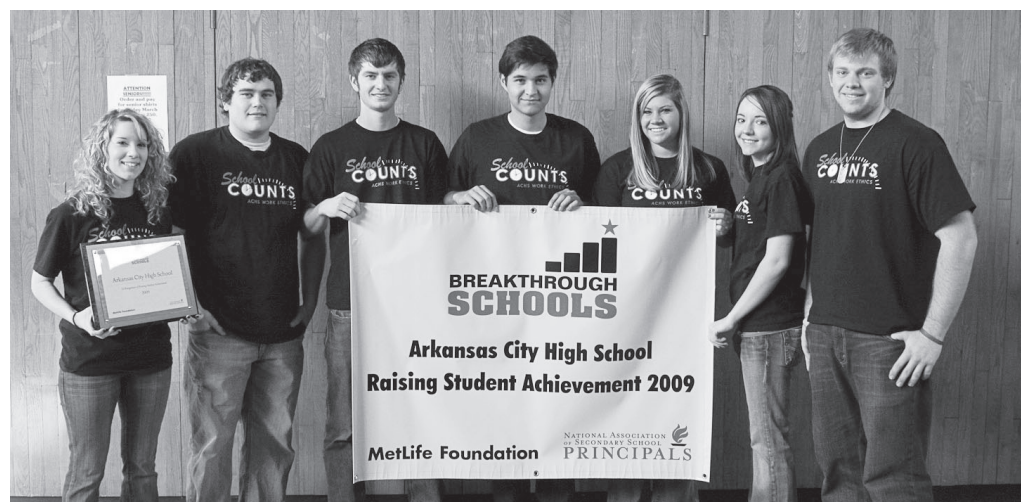
"Sometimes students would rather talk to people their own age instead of an adult," John Kuffler added.

Sparks said any senior can be part of the program.

"They just have to uphold the standards of the group by keeping good grades and doing community service work," she said.

Shearon said the work of Harding and the students in the program contributed greatly to the school's breakthrough recognition by positively affecting the school environment.

"The students in the Work Ethics program are amazing individuals and make up just a small sample of the great work being doing at ACHS."



From left to right: Bethany McClure, Lucas Finley, Darick Stalnaker, Paulin Conde, Kayla Sparks, Erica Tackett, and John Kuffler.

Parents: you should know

Section 504

Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, public schools are responsible for the delivery of a free appropriate education to students who have mental or physical impairments that substantially limit one or more major life activity. This federal civil rights act protects the civil and constitutional rights of people with disabilities. Section 504 states that people with disabilities cannot be excluded from or denied benefits of any program receiving federal financial assistance. If schools receive federal education money they must follow the law according to Section 504.

A person is considered disabled under the definition of Section 504 if the individual:

- Has a mental or physical impairment which substantially limits one or more of such person's major life activities;
- Has a record of such impairments;
- or
- Is regarded as having such an impairment.

"Major life activities" include functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning or working. When a condition does not substantially limit a major life activity, the individual does not qualify for services under Section 504.

A 504 accommodation plan is designed for each student according to individual need. Parents should be encouraged to share concerns with the school early before problems become big. If a Section 504 meeting about the student takes place, parents are to be involved, helping to develop appropriate accommodations and/or services. At home, parent should encourage their child to try hard and work with school staff for the best possible education for their child.

For more information, contact the district office at 620-441-2000.

Building Report Cards are Online

The No Child Left Behind Act requires that states communicate to parents and members of the public the performance of schools, districts and the state toward federal goals.

To do this, each state produces report cards for buildings, districts and the state that set out progress toward the annual yearly progress targets as well as other performance information.

Kansas report cards for 2005-2006 can be found on the Kansas State Department of Education's web site at www.ksde.org. (Direct link for USD 470 report card is:

http://online/ksde.org/rcard/district.aspx?org_no=D0470

Once you open a report card, use the menu choices on the left side of the screen to navigate that data.

Accessing Assessments Results

Parents may request a copy of their child's results on the Kansas State As-

sessments by contacting their child's school.

Student Surveys

Any instrument designed to survey students, either by district staff or by an outside agency or individual, shall be made available for inspection by parents or gaurdians before the survey is administered.

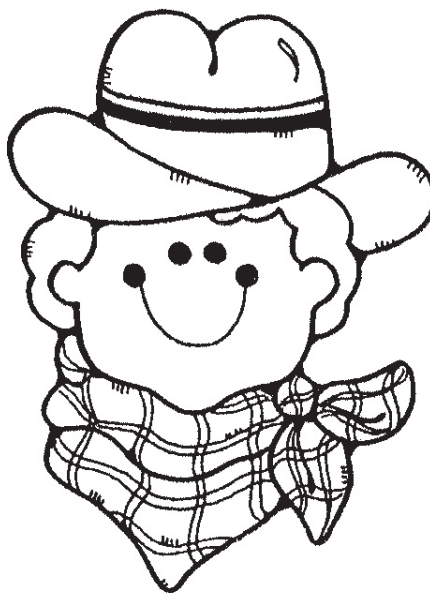
Notice of Non-Discrimination

USD 470 believes that all students are entitled to a quality education without prejudice or favoritism, regardless of sex, race, color, creed, economic status, handicap or national origin.

It is the intent of USD 470 to comply with both the letter and spirit of the law in making certain discrimination does not exist in its policies, regulations and operations. Grievance procedures have been established for students, their parents and employees who feel discrimination has been shown by the local education agency.

Persons having inquiries may contact the school district's ADA and Section 504 Coordinator, 2545 Greenway, Arkansas City, KS 67005, 620-441-2000.

It's Early Childhood Roundup Time!



What: Roundup is for parents who want to enroll their young children in any of the following early childhood education programs:

4-year-old program

Kindergarten

(limited slots are available for all-day program)

PALS

Head Start

Parents as Teachers

Where:

NEW LOCATION

First United Methodist Church
2448 Edgemont, Ark City
Please use south-east entrance

When:

Wednesday, April 15

3:30-6:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 16

7:30-1:00 p.m.

What to Bring: Parents, please be sure to bring the following items with you to Roundup:

Child's birth certificate

Proof of immunizations

Social Security Card

For More Information: Please contact the Arkansas City Public Schools District Office (not the church) at:

**2545 Greenway, Ark City
620-441-2003**

A Spanish interpreter will be available at Roundup.

Announcements

Graduation: Ark City High School Graduation is set for Sunday, May 17, 2009. The ceremony will take place at Curry Field and will begin at 2 p.m..

In the case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held in the high school gym. In this case, each graduate will receive eight tickets for family and friends to attend.

Graduation practice will be held on Friday, May 15 at 8 a.m. in the high school gym. All seniors, including mid-term graduates must attend.

The Senior Award Night is set for Monday, April 27 with a reception starting at 6:15 followed by the giving of awards at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

Graduation Photo CD: A Photo CD will be available for purchase of the ACHS Graduation Ceremony. The CD will include photos taken before, during, and after the ceremony and includes each graduate receiving their diploma. Additional photos will be included (Senior Awards Night among others).

The cost of the Photo CD is \$10 and will come with a copyright release so that you may obtain prints from photo processing retailers.

If you have any questions or need clarification on the Photo CD, please contact Mike Beauchamp at the following e-mail address: omdaredevil@yahoo.com.

Music: High school choir students will perform in the annual POPS Concert on Thursday, May 14 at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

There is a combined HS band/orchestra concert on Monday, May 11

at the high school auditorium. This concert will feature the String Orchestra, Jazz Band and Concert Band.

Art Show: The Art Center is hosting an art show that will feature artwork from ACHS students. The student exhibit will run through April 23.

Head Start Enrolling Now: Cowley County Head Start is now accepting applications for fall enrollment. This program is free to participants. Families with children ages 3-4 or with children with disabilities may apply.

Please call 441-2075 or 1-888-441-2076 or stop by the office at 600 South B Street for more information or to apply. All children will be considered for the Head Start program regardless of handicap, race, color or creed.

Summer School

The USD 470 Board of Education approved the budget for the 2009 Summer School Program –the action included a small (four day) reduction in the program.

The program will be offered at Adams Elementary for grades K-5, at the middle school for grades 6-7, and at the high school for grades 8-12. Breakfast will be served at each site at 8:30a.m. and lunch will be served 12:30p.m.

There will be a number of classes offered at the high school this summer. Student enrollment and staff availability determine which classes will make. A fee of \$60 will be charged if the student is taking a class for advancement purposes rather than to make-up credit.

Possible courses include:

- Driver's Education (driving portion offered, but class began in January)
- US History/Constitution (advance-

ment)

- World History/Economics (advancement)

- English (make-up)

- Math (make-up)

- Science (make-up)

- Special Education Services

Students who need to attend Summer School will be placed using multiple sources of data.

ACMS principal to take on role at high school



The USD 470 Board of Education recently extended a contract to Dr. Dave Zumwalt to serve as principal at ACHS. Zumwalt is currently serving as principal at the middle school.

"I want to thank all who applied for this position and I extend my sincerest congratulations to Dr. Zumwalt," Dr. Ron Ballard, superintendent, said.

Zumwalt has served in education for 32 years, including his 5 years as ACMS Principal.

"I have enjoyed tremendously my five years as principal of Ark City Middle School and believe it is one of the top middle schools in the state," Zumwalt said. "I am looking forward to serving as principal of Ark City High School and working with the staff and students in an effort to build on its current successes."

USD 470 is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate against nor exclude any person from its program benefits or participation because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or disability in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The Announcer is a publication of USD 470 and is published quarterly. Questions? Comments? Story ideas? Contact Alisha Call at 441-2000.

Postal Patron

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and
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Arkansas City, KS 67005

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A NOTE:

*From Dr. Ron Ballard,
Superintendent of Schools.*

Dear USD 470 parents and patrons,

The IXL Elementary School project is now underway. Three other elementaries (Jefferson, Adams and Frances Willard) are nearly complete with their project plans/designs.

On Wed., March 11 the school district received final clearance to begin land clearing for the Sports Complex project adjacent to Arkansas City High School. First comes land clearing/preparation, then the dirtwork to excavate and lay out the "bowl" design. When that is complete, work will begin on the stadium itself.

Efforts are also underway to work with the Rec Commission and the City to cooperatively provide community and school facility planning for the future. Although no final com-

mitments have been made, the school district desires to work together with other local groups to maximize the use and benefits of softball, baseball, soccer (and other) facilities.

We are pleased that funding for the tornado safety shelters (at each elementary school) have been fully funded by FEMA. The level of Federal support will exceed original estimates-so we should be able to meet all needed safety designs for schools and neighborhoods.

If you have questions about the school bond projects, please don't hesitate to call the district office at 441-2000.

With best regards,
Dr. Ron Ballard
Superintendent of Schools

Coming up next:

April:

- 10: No School
District Offices Closed
- 13: No School
BOE Meeting
- 15-16: Early Childhood Roundup
- 16: Last Day of After School Program
- 27: BOE Meeting

May:

- 2: ACHS Prom
- 11: BOE Meeting
- 14: Last Day of School for Graduating Seniors
- 17: ACHS 125th Graduation
- 22: Last Day of School
- 25: Memorial Day: District Offices Closed
- 26: BOE Meeting

June:

- 1: First Day of Summer School
- 8: BOE Meeting
- 29: BOE Meeting

*This is not a complete list of activities.

For more, visit www.arkcity.com.