

Hello again and greetings from USD 467!

First, a reminder that USD 467 will be dismissing school at noon, 12:00, this Friday, February 8. This will be a teacher inservice in the afternoon. Buses will run immediately after the dismissal. Thank you.

Now, a shout out to a few Wichita County High teams. The Girls Basketball team lost a close game against Elkhart on a last second shot last Monday, but they bounced back with a double-overtime win against Lakin on Homecoming Tuesday! The Boys team had back-to-back wins on Monday and also Tuesday! It was great to have both the Ladies and Men come away with Homecoming wins! Also, the Indian Powerlifting team hosted their first invitational meet the previous Saturday. Eleven schools participated and the Women's team came out in second place and the Men's team took first. Congratulations to all the Powerlifters!

Thank you also to the USD 467 Board of Education members for their service to the students of the district! I appreciate the opportunity to work with this great group of individuals. They come together once a month to provide leadership and guidance for our district to continually strive to provide the students the best possible education and experiences to be successful in life. Thank you for wanting to be a part of USD 467!

Blue Cross Blue Shield Workplace Wellness Pathways update. As you may be aware, USD 467 is part of the AIM sponsored Workplace Wellness grant. The district has applied for and been awarded three sub-grants.

The first grant was for general district wellness including Fitbit devices for the staff, repaired and new bike racks for the buildings (with help from the WCJSHS Vocational Agriculture students and Dr. Fairchild), signage for the Jane Baker walking track and in the buildings, an elliptical trainer for the staff in each building, standing desks for the secretaries and administrators in the district, and incentives for staff. The Fitbit purchase was designed to encourage more physical activity by the staff throughout the day. Each building has developed their own plan to encourage staff fitness activities that take place after school and the staff have the option to set a Fitbit step goal; those who reach their personal goal each week are put in a drawing to receive a gift card and those who regularly attend the staff fitness sessions will compete for a Simply Produce basket.

The second grant was a Physical Activity grant. This grant was approved to provide two treadmills, two additional weight power racks and weights for the WCJSHS weight room, a 9-hole disc golf course for school and public use, a Kindergarten basketball court, flashing stop signs for each of the crossings at school, future signage for the Safe Routes to School paths, and bulb-outs on K-96 to help with students crossing the highway more safely. As you may already know, the AIM committee members have organized a Bike to School Day the first Wednesday of each month, weather permitting. There are several locations around town to meet and then the students, along with adult AIM committee members, ride along the designated Safe Routes to School paths, ride as a group to school. Hopefully the weather will cooperate soon and we start seeing lots of bikes at school!

The third grant was for Nutrition. The scope of this grant was to improve the nutrition education classes at WCJSHS. This grant was able to supply new appliances in the Family and Consumer Sciences classes and also go toward a new greenhouse for the Vocational Agriculture classes. The FACS classroom had the opportunity to replace the more than 20 year-old appliances including 6 ranges and microwave ovens,

two refrigerators, a washer and dryer, a new demonstration cooktop and stand mixers. The new greenhouse will be substantially larger than the current one. It will be attached to the Vocational Ag building and will have water and heat so the horticulture students will be able to learn and work with plants all year long instead of just the spring. In the future, there is the possibility of growing vegetables to be served in the cafeteria. Along with the BCBS Pathways grant, there has been interest in assisting with funding the project from the ADM Collingwood Grain Corporation, an effort to show their support for Vocational Agriculture education in schools.

Thank you for taking the time to read this; I won't focus on sports every time, and I hope to share the good things that are happening at USD 467! If you have specific questions or want more information about what's happening in the buildings or district, don't hesitate to contact Lori Maxwell, WCES Principal, at 375-2314, Delbert Schmidt, WCJSHS Principal, at 375-2213, or me at 375-4677. Thanks!

Educationally,

Keith Higgins, Superintendent