USD 444 Little River Press Release

Little River, KS

Little River High School and Junior High School Rank 8th and 23rd in Kansas for Academic Excellence

Little River High School has been recognized as one of Kansas's top academic performers, earning an impressive **8th place ranking statewide out of 340 schools, while the Junior High ranks 23rd out of 368 Kansas Middle Schools** according to SchoolDigger.com.

The ranking reflects outstanding performance across state-mandated assessment categories measuring proficiency and student growth in English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and Science. Notably, Little River students far surpassed state averages across key subjects, recording a **77% ELA proficiency rate** (compared to 46% statewide) and an **81% Math proficiency rate** (nearly double the 41% state average).

Subject / Metric	Little River School District	Kansas State Average	Performance Highlight
Statewide Rank	**#8**	**—**	**Top 10 overall in Kansas**
English Language Arts (ELA)	**77%**	**46%**	**+31% above state average**
Mathematics	**81%**	**41%**	**+40% above state average**
Science	**65 %**	**38 %**	**+27 pts**

In 2025–2026, proficiency was 64% in English Language Arts (ELA), 60% in math, and 65% in science—18, 19, and 27 percentage points above state results, respectively.

"This achievement is a direct result of the dedication shown by our students, the relentless effort of our faculty, and the steady support of our parents and community," said Randy Hendrickson, Principal of Little River Junior/Senior High School". Achieving 77% proficiency in ELA and 81% in Math—outperforming state benchmarks by around 30 to 40 percentage points--proves that small schools can deliver world-class academic results."

The school's curriculum emphasizes strong foundational learning alongside targeted support and enrichment programs, ensuring that students across all grade levels meet high performance standards.

Windom Elementary

Ranks **105th of 657 Kansas Elementary Schools.**

Ranks better than 84% of Kansas Elementary Schools.

Compared with nearby schools, Windom ranks first among 10 in math, first among 9 in science, and second among 10 in ELA. Test scores are above the state average in all subject areas.

Superintendent Brent Garrison added, "This type of achievement is not possible without a dedicated staff that puts student learning at the center of everything we do here in USD 444. Our family engagement and community support are outstanding. These rankings only help validate the hard work our students and staff do every day at Little River and Windom. These results confirm that USD 444 is a top-ranked school system."

For more information about Little River Junior/Senior High School and Windom Elementary and their academic programs, please visit www.usd444.com or call 620-897-6201(Little River) or 620-489-6241 (Windom) or the district office at 620-897-6324