



Subject: The Crucial Importance of High School Graduation

With the Kansas Department of Education recently recognizing Osage City High School's Graduation Rate by receiving a Gold Star Award for having a graduation rate of 90% or higher, I thought I would share some information about the importance of having a high school diploma.

The Center on Education and the Workforce has been instrumental in conducting extensive research that sheds light on the relationship between educational attainment and future career success. Their findings underscore the critical role that high school graduation plays in shaping individual opportunities, economic outcomes, and societal progress.

One of the key takeaways from the project is that high school graduates are better positioned for success in the ever-evolving job market. In today's knowledge-based economy, employers increasingly seek candidates with a solid educational foundation, and high school graduation serves as a fundamental step in meeting this criterion. The skills and knowledge acquired during high school form the basis for further education and training, enabling graduates to adapt to new challenges and excel in a variety of professions.

Furthermore, the Center's research highlights the correlation between educational attainment and economic stability. High school graduates tend to experience higher earning potential and lower unemployment rates compared to those who do not complete their secondary education. This, in turn, contributes to stronger communities, reduced social inequality, and improved overall well-being.

Beyond the economic benefits, the Center's insights also emphasize the positive impact of high school graduation on civic engagement and social cohesion. Graduates are more likely to participate in community activities, vote in elections, and contribute positively to the welfare of society. This underscores the broader societal importance of nurturing an educated and engaged citizenry through the successful completion of high school.

In today's labor market, the pathways to good jobs have become more complex. For individuals to compete effectively, workers need some level of postsecondary education and training, especially in Kansas. In Kansas, 75% of good jobs require at least an associate degree or higher, and Kansas has the lowest percentage of good jobs available for workers without a degree in the United States.

Sincerely,

Ted Hessong
Superintendent
USD 420 – Osage City Schools

School Cancellation/Delay Procedure

Whenever weather conditions are such that classes or activities may not be held, need to be delayed, or buses might not run, students and parents should listen to the following media outlets: KTKA –TV, KSNT and Fox 43 TV, WIBW-TV, and KOFO. We will also use the SwiftK12 announcement system along with the school website and social media platforms for cancellations. Please make sure the offices have current contact phone numbers and email addresses on file.

The timing of the cancellation notice will vary depending upon the severity, certainty, and timing of each event. In any event, the cancellation notice will be attempted to be made before 6:00 am to ensure the safety of our early morning personnel and planning for students and their families. However, the notification via SwiftK12 or other means can be delayed at times simply due to significant use of the system or connectivity issues due to weather. While that outcome is unlikely, checking multiple sources for information is encouraged.

2-hour Delay (will only be used if the district has already used several snow days to decrease the chances of adding days to the school calendar and it is safe to have school)

- When a two-hour delayed start is implemented, students are expected to arrive two hours later than their regular start time. Bus pickup schedule will be delayed two hours. Bus drivers will make every effort to be punctual, although road conditions may delay picking up students.
- Parents dropping off students, students who walk, and students that drive to school should arrive no earlier than 10:00 a.m.
- Teachers and support staff shall arrive at school no later than 9:45 a.m.
- Before school, morning programs, and meetings scheduled prior to 10:00 a.m. are canceled.
- Students attending morning technical school classes will be canceled and will report to school at their customary time.
- Students attending morning preschool classes will not have school when there is a two-hour delayed start.
- Breakfast will not be served on days with a two-hour delayed start.
- School dismissal time will remain on a regular schedule. All afternoon and evening programs will continue as scheduled unless announced otherwise.



Happy New Year!

As we begin a new semester I would like to wish a very happy New Year to students and families. I hope you had a wonderful winter break with family and friends. As we celebrate the new year, it's always great to reflect on the past, but also look forward to the coming year. As we begin 2024, I would like to assure everyone that the high expectations we set in academics from the beginning of the year will continue as we begin the second semester. School will resume on Thursday, January 4th. We look forward to seeing all the students!

Have a wonderful start to the new year!

Natosha Jenkins
High School Principal
785-528-3172
njenkins@usd420.org

School Closings due to Inclement Weather

When weather conditions are such that classes may not be held or buses might not run, students and parents should listen to WIBW radio or tv. A SwiftReach Swift K12 message will also notify you either via text message, phone call, or email. If school is canceled for inclement weather, practices or activities will be canceled as well. If school is not held on subsequent days (ex. Saturday), the administration will decide whether or not to hold activities or practices based on expected weather and road conditions at the scheduled time of the activity or practice.

Weekly Activity Eligibility

Grades will be updated on a weekly basis by Friday at 3:00 pm. Eligibility lists are emailed to coaches by Monday morning.

Step 1: The first time a student is on the F list with 2 or more F's, they will be ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities for the next week, but allowed to practice.

Step 2: If the student is on the F list with two or more F's for the second week in a row, even if it is in a different class from the first week, they will be ineligible to practice and participate and will be required to attend an after school homework completion time from 3:30-4:30 Monday through Thursday.

Once a student removes themselves from the F list they will begin at Step 1 if they earn additional F's. The F list will be compiled starting with the third Friday of each quarter and continue every week until the end of the quarter.

If you have questions regarding eligibility, please contact Mrs. Jenkins at 785-528-3172.

Register

All men must register with Selective Service when they turn 18. Register at this site www.sss.gov

Importance of School Attendance

One of the most powerful ways to prepare your student for success is to ensure regular school attendance. Many articles mention how important school attendance is, but one in particular states, "It is very important to encourage your children to regularly attend school, as it will lead to better performance not only in school but throughout their lives." (seo.online.american.edu) Not attending school can result in a truancy report.

Truancy

Students can be ruled as truant by having 3 consecutive unexcused absences or 5 unexcused absences in a single semester or 7 unexcused absences in a year. If a student also misses more than 10 days of school in a semester, a truancy report will be filed. If the amount of excused absences begins to put a student at risk of not graduating, then the truant officer may consider that student truant. When a student is considered truant, a truancy officer must report the absences to the Teen Truancy Program and the County Attorney.

Flint Hills League Shoot -Out

The Annual Flint Hills League Shoot-Out Basketball Tournament will be held at White Auditorium, Emporia on January 15th-20th. Game times will be announced after seeding on January 12th. The band is planning to travel to the tournament on Thursday and Friday. They will also travel on Saturday, but only if one of our teams makes it to the championship game.

State Debate

Gracy Smith and Madeline Renfro will be competing at the State Debate Tournament on January 12th and 13th. We wish them good luck! Attached is a picture from the Andover Invitational Tournament from October where they placed 3rd.



For all other activity dates, please refer to our district website at www.usd420.org or check out our new app!

Osage City High School **Counselor's Corner**

Shana Smith shana.smith@usd420.org

Happy New Year!

Kicking Off 2024 -

- FAFSA has hopefully been opened by Jan. 1st
- FAFSA Family Night Jan. 8th, 6p.m. Media Center
- Fall 2024 Tech enrollment paperwork is being submitted by January 9th to the Tech Schools.
- FHTC & WIT Classes begin Jan. 8th
- Schedule Change requests due on or before Jan. 9th
- ACC Classes begin Jan. 16th

Seniors & Senior Parents

FAFSA should be released by now! We will have a FAFSA Completion Night Jan. 8th in the Media Center @ 6:00 p.m. Before the 8th, both parent & student need to "apply" for their FSA ID, this can take a couple days to process. Go to: <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>
More scholarships should be rolling out visit our webpage: <http://counselor.usd420.org>.

Spring Seminar Topics

Weekly grade & wellness check-ins help students build their personal accountability and allows staff the ability to review progress and concerns. Lessons and activities related to personal wellness, career exploration and long-term goals setting are coming up!

Understanding Schedule Changes

We work hard to ensure our students have a full schedule and meet graduation requirements, are enrolled in ACC and Tech courses on time and correctly, meet their goals related to honors, college entrance requirements, NCAA eligibility and career pathways. Making simple schedule changes for other reasons will be considered, but are not the priority and may not be made. Class size and class configuration are also reviewed. Schedule change requests opened December 13th and close January 9th. These requests do require parent/guardian signature to ensure the student is communicating at home about the changes they are requesting.

ACT for Juniors

State Sponsored, no cost to students!

The ACT test is used as one of the eligibility criteria to go to some colleges. Although some colleges have changed and do not require this test, many scholarships are based on or require an ACT component. This is a free opportunity for our students to take this test and take another step towards their future.

ACT - Juniors will be given the ACT free on February 27, 2024. This is a school day and we will sign students up for this test. There will not be a makeup date available for the test. Juniors need to plan to attend school on that date. Tech students will be excused from Tech on this day.

ACT Prep - In order to prepare for this test, all Juniors have access to ACT Online Prep and time in Seminar to utilize this. This includes practice tests in Reading, English, Math and Science as well as lessons designed to help improve scores in each area.

Students have already logged into their accounts during seminar and can access it any time through Xello.

**Bad Weather - School Closing**

Whenever weather conditions are such that classes may not be held or buses might not run, students and parents should listen to the following media outlets: KTKA –TV, KSNT and Fox 43 TV, WIBW-TV, and KOFO. We will also use the Power Announcement system along with the school website and Channel 10 for cancellations. Please make sure the offices have current contact phone numbers on file. If school is called off, for inclement weather; there will be no practice or activities that day or night. If school is not held on subsequent days (ex. Saturday), the administration shall decide whether or not to hold such activities or practices based on expected weather and road conditions at the time scheduled for the activity or practice. Your primary phone number will be called, if you have any additional phone numbers that you would like to be included in the calling system (ex. cell or work) please contact the office and notify them of your need.

Eligibility Policy

The middle school will be continuing its eligibility policy. Students will be determined eligible or ineligible on a three point system. Each week, teachers will report grades to the office. A “D” will equal one point and an “F” will equal two points. Anytime a student earns three points the student will be notified of their ineligible status. Parents will be notified by a note from the office on a weekly basis, which will be given to the student on Friday. It is the student’s responsibility to bring this sheet home and show their parents. I will also be sending an email to parents notifying them that their student is ineligible and that they should be expecting their student to bring this sheet home. Weekly eligibility will begin after the first three full weeks of each quarter. This policy does not change the semester eligibility of passing at least five core subjects. Weekly eligibility will begin on Friday, January 26, 2024.

After School Tutoring / Study Hall is available for any student who needs help after school each day Monday through Thursday from 3:30 - 4:30 pm in the Middle School Conference Room. We will have certified staff members available each evening to assist any students that would like help.

Absent Students

When your child is going to be absent, please notify the office at (785) 528-3175 before 9:00 am. Students should be able to access their assignments on Google Classroom. If a student is feeling well enough to work from home they should try to stay caught up on work as much as possible. It is the student’s responsibility to check with their teachers when they return and make sure that they have everything completed.

Electronics (Cell Phones) at School

The middle school discourages students from bringing CD players, game boys, iPods, cell phones, or any other electronic device to school. These items are very popular things to be stolen and many times become a distraction at school. If they are brought to school and become a distraction, the teachers will take them, turn them into the office, and parents will need to pick them up. If the device gets lost, broken, or stolen the school will not claim any responsibility for these items. **Cell phone usage is prohibited during the school day unless granted permission by the school office.** Cell phones should be turned off and put into the student's locker at the beginning of the day and not used until the end of the day.

Girls and Boys Basketball

Basketball season is almost over. The girls and boys are both having great seasons and we appreciate your support and enjoy seeing you at their games. We have seen a lot of improvement over the course of the season and appreciate all of our student/athletes' hard work. The FHJL Varsity Tournament will be held on January 8, 11, and 13th. This year the tournament will be hosted by Council Grove. Brackets and times are posted below. Thanks in advance to all the parents for your involvement and for modeling the good sportsmanship we want instilled in all our students at Osage City.

Quiz Bowl

Quiz Bowl season is ready to begin. There will be an interest meeting Tuesday, January 9, 2024 during Seminar in Mrs. Lohmeyer's Room. The first practice will be Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 3:30 pm. There will be a Parent Meeting that night at 5:30 pm in Mrs. Lohmeyer's Room. If you have any questions please contact Kyleigh Lohmeyer here at school or by email at klohmeyer@usd420.org.

Osage City District Spelling Bee

The Osage City District Spelling Bee will be held on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 1:30 pm in the Auditorium. Students in grades 4th through 8th will compete to represent Osage City School District in the Osage County Spelling Bee. Parents and spectators are welcome. We request that if you do attend please arrive before 1:30 pm as to not disrupt the competition. Good luck to all contestants!

Trip to GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium home of the Kansas City Chiefs

We are excited to take our students on a tour of GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium home of the Kansas City Chiefs. Students raised money through our Cookie Dough Fundraiser at the beginning of the year and have had a great year so far so we are rewarding them with this trip. We will send out a complete agenda closer to time, but here is a rough plan.

We will leave for Kansas City at 8:00 am and arrive at Arrowhead Stadium in time to take the tour at 10:00 am. The tour will last an hour to an hour and a half. After the tour we will eat lunch, probably a buffet, and then head back to school.

Tours are limited to a certain number of students per session so we will be taking each grade level on a separate day. Here are the days each grade will be going.

8th Grade will take their tour on January 23rd.

6th Grade will take their tour on January 24th.

7th Grade will take their tour on January 25th.

We hope that our students enjoy this opportunity and keep up the good work!

Aimsweb Testing

Aimsweb is a benchmark and progress monitoring system based on direct, frequent, and continuous student assessment using brief, accurate measures of reading, math, spelling, and writing. Aimsweb is the most comprehensive K-12 assessment system that supports Response to Intervention (RTI) and tiered instruction. The results are reported via a web-based data management and reporting system to determine response to intervention. Results allow educators to effectively allocate limited resources by efficiently identifying students at risk, monitoring progress, and differentiating instruction. Students take the assessment in the Fall, Winter, and Spring.

Middle School students will be taking their Aimsweb assessments on the following dates:

6th Grade will take their Aimsweb assessments on January 23rd.

7th Grade will take their Aimsweb assessments on January 24th.

8th Grade will take their Aimsweb assessments on January 25th.

National Assessment of Educational Progress

Osage City Middle School 8th grade students have been selected to represent schools across the nation by participating in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). NAEP is the largest nationally representative assessment of students across the country, and it is administered by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the U.S. Department of Education. NAEP, which has been conducted since 1969, is different from other assessments because it provides a common measure of student achievement across the country. The results of NAEP are released as The Nation's Report Card, which provides information about student achievement to educators, parents, policymakers, and the public. The NAEP assessment will be given on Monday, January 29, 2024. Students may be selected to take either a mathematics or reading assessment. In addition to answering questions in one of these subjects, students will be asked some questions about themselves and their educational experience. If you would like additional information about NAEP please visit

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/parents>.

Dates to remember:

January 3	No School / Teacher Workday
January 4	School Resumes Basketball @ West Franklin 4:30 pm
January 8	FHJL Basketball Tournament @ Council Grove
January 10	Board of Education Meeting 7:00 pm
January 11	FHJL Basketball Tournament @ Council Grove
January 13	FHJL Basketball Tournament @ Council Grove
January 15	Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No School
January 16	Osage City District Spelling Bee 1:30 pm
January 17	Quiz Bowl Practice 3:30 pm Parent Meeting 5:30 pm
January 23	6 th Grade Aimsweb Testing 8 th Grade Trip to GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium
January 24	7 th Grade Aimsweb Testing 6 th Grade Trip to GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium
January 25	8 th Grade Aimsweb Testing 7 th Grade Trip to GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium
January 29	8 th Grade NAEP Testing Quiz Bowl @ Mission Valley 4:30 pm

A Note from the Middle School Principal

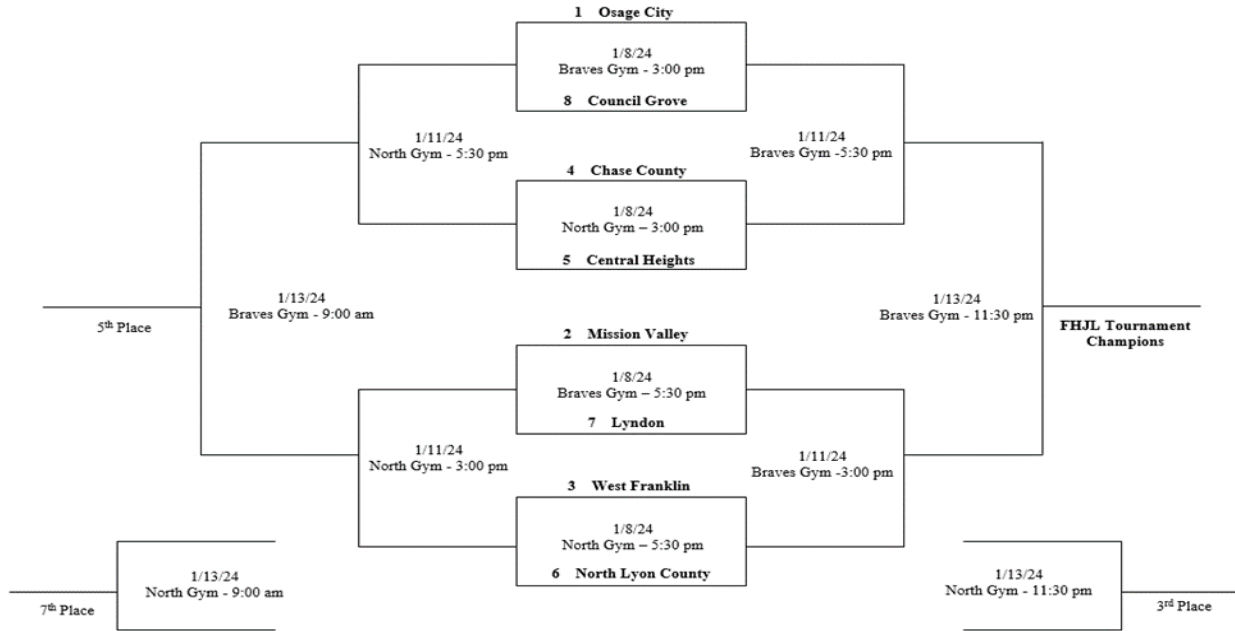
Parents please be sure to contact any school office to update your contact numbers and information. It is important to have updated information so that we can contact you if needed.

Semester Grades will be sent home with students in early January. We will send an email and let you know when they are being sent home.

If you have any questions about any middle school issue, please feel free to email me at triemann@usd420.org or call me here at school (785) 528-3175.

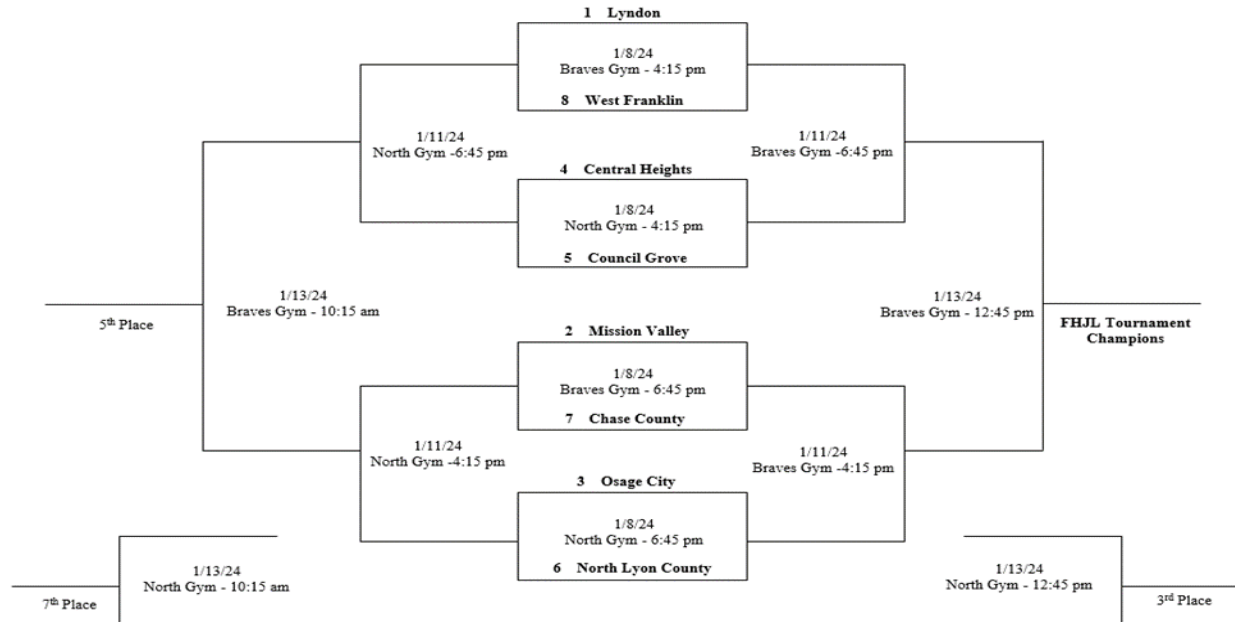
Happy Holidays!

FLINT HILLS JUNIOR LEAGUE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT JANUARY 8TH, 11TH, & 13TH, 2024 GIRLS BRACKET



GAMES WILL RUN AHEAD OF SCHEDULE IF POSSIBLE

FLINT HILLS JUNIOR LEAGUE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT JANUARY 8TH, 11TH, & 13TH, 2024 BOYS BRACKET



GAMES WILL RUN AHEAD OF SCHEDULE IF POSSIBLE

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Osage City Middle School

Carly Spicer cspicer@usd420.org

Happy New Year!

As the new year starts, there is a sense of excitement and rejuvenation. In the middle school, this is a time for a fresh start. You can always find more resources for parents and students throughout the school year located on the counselor website:

<https://sites.google.com/usd420.org/6th-8thcounselor/home>

Second Step Social-Emotional Curriculum Lessons

Students in the middle school will be starting a new unit in our Second Step curriculum. The unit is called Thoughts, Emotions, and Decisions. Throughout this unit, students will be discussing and working on topics such as conflicts, resilience, staying calm, thoughts and emotions.

Seminar Time

Seminar time continues to be an opportunity for students to work on social-emotional skills as well as career exploration. Students at each grade level will be completing different tasks as they explore careers.

Monthly Middle School Parent Tip

TIPS FOR DEALING WITH COMMON MIDDLE SCHOOL ISSUES-FRIENDS

1. Realize that friend groups may begin to change in middle school.
2. Encourage your child to choose his/her friends carefully.
3. Talk to your child about what qualities make a good friend.
4. Encourage your child to develop friendships with people who have similar interests and refrain from gossip and drama.
5. Point out that a "frenemy" can be harmful and make life miserable.



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Can You Spell 'Bee'?

USD 420 will be hosting their District Spelling Bee on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 1:30 pm in the auditorium. The following students will be competing in the Bee for the elementary school: Allison Graybeal, Lauren Riemann, Jaxon Scott, Paige Thielen, Ayrianna Moon, and Gunner Sharp for 5th grade; Wyatt Thompson, Max Drummond, Brayden Cook, Jack Ferrer, Judah Lowery, and Isabel Stephens for 4th grade. The following students will be alternates: Genny Martin, Tessa Keeffe, and Evan Decock for 4th grade; and Jaiden Snyder, Zoey Williams-Mann, and Kody Kraus for 5th grade. Guests are invited to attend the Bee and are asked to arrive before 1:15 pm. The top three students will earn medals for first, second, and third places. The top two students will represent the district at the Osage County Spelling Bee on Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 9:30 am at Marais Des Cygnes Middle School/High School.

Well Child Screening

On Friday, January 19, 2024, Three Lakes Cooperative staff will be hosting Well Child Screenings at the Community Covenant Church in Osage City from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm. The address is 334 N. Topeka Avenue. Parents who have children birth to 5 years old must call the elementary office at 785-528-3171 to schedule an appointment.

Second Quarter Grade Cards

Grade cards for the second quarter will be sent home with students on Friday, January 5th.

K-Kids Giving Boxes

Congratulations to 1A! Mrs. Romine's class brought 230 items for the K-Kids Giving Boxes. Overall, K-Kids collected 859 items. Thank you to everyone who donated food and hygiene products for the ECAT food pantry! 1A will be treated to a Sundae Party on Friday, January 5th.

No Preschool Days

There will NOT be any preschool on the following days due to preschool professional development days or preschool screenings:

Friday, January 5th

Friday, January 19th

Friday, February 2nd

Friday, April 12th

Friday, April 26th

No School Dates

Monday, January 1st-Wednesday, January 3rd Winter Break
Monday, January 15th Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Elementary Fundraiser

On Wednesday, January 17th, Osage City Elementary School will be kicking off their fundraiser. Students will bring home information about the fundraiser in early January. This activity has been fun for students over the last few years. They earn unique keychains by sending out information on the fundraiser to x number of family members. That's it! Then, each day, students will get to 'feed' their animals. (The food is a piece of candy and the animal is some type of a keychain yet to be determined). Funds are used to purchase books for the book machine and other supplies needed for students.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Osage City Elementary School

Darcy Keeffe dkeeffe@usd420.org 785-528-3171

HAPPY 2024!

This has been a fun and exciting year so far, and we are excited to welcome in 2024! The new year invites us all to have conversations about goals and achievements. This will be something that we will concentrate on during counselor time.

As always, if you have any concerns about your kiddo, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Second Step Lessons

Students will be beginning a new unit for our Second Step Social-Emotional curriculum this month. All grades will be gaining more skills from our Empathy and Kindness unit. Teachers will be teaching lessons that have to do with empathy, demonstrating kindness, and recognizing others points of view.

Counselor Time Lessons

We will also be talking about empathy and emotions during counselor time, as that is the January theme. Topics that will be covered will include feelings, coping, anger/stress management, and perseverance. Ask your kiddo what they are learning about in counselor time, this could spark some really great conversations.

January Guidance Lessons:
Empathy and Emotions



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