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00:19	Hi, and welcome back to the Lansing USD 469 Lion Pridecast. I'm Sharon Burns, Director of Communications and Marketing. And I'm Miles Azzeh, Director of Teaching and Learning, and it is the week before Thanksgiving break. Yes, it is.
00:30	I get pretty excited about-- Hallelujah. I like Thanksgiving. Yes. November has flown by. Yeah, the whole semester has flown by. I know. It is wild that we are going into the last week, next week of November, essentially into the last week. So, yeah, it's crazy. Is your Christmas tree up? Okay, I'm not going to lie, my Christmas tree is not up usually. Ooh. I have it up by now. I'm slacking. Slack. Slack this year. I'm going to work on it. Okay. This week. Well, we've got a lot of things to talk about today, and we are going to start with something pretty exciting that happened in the district this week. I'm going to let you talk about it a lot.
01:00	Okay. Okay, so let's jump in. On Tuesday, we had the opportunity to welcome educators and leaders from neighboring districts. We had Piper and Bonner Springs visit Lansing High School for a professional development day through the University of Kansas Center for Reimagining Education, so CRE. So families-- for families who don't know what CRE is, can you explain that to them? Yes. We've talked about it last year. We did. We did. Okay. So KU, the University of Kansas, has a-- I guess you can say a section or a-- what would you call it?
01:28	Not like a program, it's like a department that is called the Center for Reimagining Education. And they're much better at coming up with words than I am, apparently, at this moment. But essentially what it is, is how it was presented to us a couple of years back was, "Rethinking what education looks like." I think there was even like the term of like putting education on its head, like spinning it around. And what could you do different, mainly from the lens of using AI tools? Now, we don't only mean like hand AI to students and stuff like that, nor do we mean like teachers would just use AI to create their lesson plans.
02:00	It's different things, like maybe creating a chatbot that a student can use-- that a teacher could use to help tutor a kid. I think it can be used to help a teacher lesson plan and stuff. But ultimately, they came to us, and we've been working with them for about-- this will be the third year, and it's been really, really beneficial, I think, for both sides. Yeah. I love any time we're given a chance to collaborate with people in other districts or, you know, like you talked about the people from KU. And sometimes we get so busy with everything happening in our own districts that we don't get those opportunities to sit down and share ideas with other educators like we did this week.
02:31	Yeah, it's something like everybody says they want to do, but this really gave us a reason to do it. Yeah. Can you talk about what those conversations look like? I wasn't able to stay the whole time. Yeah. I know you were there for a little bit. The structure breakdown was really nice. I wasn't there the entire time either. I wanted to pop in some classrooms when I was at the high school. But when I was in there, I loved how

they broke up the groups between elementary, secondary, and then leadership groups. So elementary people, like you said, had a chance to collaborate with what they're doing because they may use AI a different way. Kids probably are not engaging with the AI as much.

03:02 Where at secondary level, teachers, obviously, they can use it in much-- not different ways, per se, but maybe just have a little bit more leeway with it, if you will. And so that was great. And then from a leadership standpoint, that was really fun to talk about because not only was it a way of like leading our teachers on using it, but, you know, having those acceptable AI guidelines and just what we want students to be able to do and teachers to be able to do without, obviously, you know, abusing it. So it was really good conversations. Yeah, I loved the afternoon breakout sessions.

03:31 I thought those were interesting. There were opportunities to learn more about artificial intelligence, like you just said, and crucial conversations, which are both topics we're hearing a lot about in education right now, particularly with AI. So was there anything from those sessions? And I know you talked about the leadership, but anything else? Yeah. So the one session, Maggie Moser, who comes from KU, she does an excellent job, and she just gives so much information. And this time was really centered about making like AI-- like agents is what they're called.

03:59 She explained the difference of the two different types of AIs, generative and agentic. I said that word wrong all of a sudden. But-- and just, it's super fascinating. So A, I learned a lot about that. And B, the idea of maybe something that could like prioritize my emails and prioritize my day and tell me exactly what things I need to do, like almost like an assistant, if you will. Microsoft will use Outlook, has something called Copilot already built in. So I want to explore that a little bit. We talked a little bit about Claude, which is one of the other AI tools.

04:28 So, yeah, it was just-- it was just really good learning because it's still so new. Right. When people think they know everything, you don't know everything. No. You know, it's almost like teaching. You'll never know everything. So. Yeah. And you mentioned Maggie. Maggie, on top of being a genius, because she is just incredibly intelligent, very much in the know, especially with AI, but she's also a very kind human being. Yeah. She's like the most just sweetest person. So I love to be able to get to know her and just pick her brain on things. So. Yeah, I really enjoy when she's there. And then Rick Ginsburg is part of this as well. Yes.

04:56 And I just have great conversations, and he's a great guy and also super smart genius, but also. Right. So patient and listening. And what I love about him, he always pushes you to like think even deeper about something. So if you've thought about something or you are trying something, you'd like, "Hey, what if you did this with it?" I'm like, "Oh, I never thought about that. Thank you, Rick ." So he's brilliant. So we're lucky to be a part of this. Yeah. You know, in our first season of the podcast, we talked a lot about having that growth mindset, which I know you have. I like to think that I have. But I think it's important for our families to know that this kind of learning doesn't stop when someone becomes a teacher or administrator.

05:28 Yeah. Yeah. So our staff members are constantly learning, collaborating, looking for ways to improve what we're doing for our students. Yeah. I remember when I was starting my career, it was like a PD session. I was in KCK or something, and somebody said something along the lines of like, "If you've ever got to the point where you think that you've like reached the peak, you know, you've arrived with teaching, like you know everything, it's time to retire ." It's like, and I've just always been like, I completely agree with that because I think I'm good at what I do. It's my wheelhouse.

I know a lot about it. I'm going to definitely-- there's a lot to get better at, and there's always going to be something else to learn.

05:58 Absolutely. Right. So, yeah, I like to think that we have that. So. Yeah. What's next? I'm excited about this. Oh, yeah. This section that you're talking about. Yes. So we-- switching gears, we have another exciting accomplishment to recognize. This time is from one of our Lansing High School graduates. Yeah. So Brady Basler, who is a 2019 Lansing High School graduate, was recently inducted into the KCKCC Athletic Hall of Fame as part of the Class of 2026. She was an outstanding athlete here in Lansing, and she competed in softball and volleyball, and she went on to have an incredible softball career at KCKCC.

06:32 So that's where she was inducted. In 2021, she batted 503 with 20 home runs and 80 RBIs. 503. Yes. Becoming just the second player in Jayhawk Conference history to win the Triple Crown. She also earned the NJCAA All-American Honors. I had to write that. Okay. And read that from the script because I want to make sure I got it right. 503. Yes. I haven't batted 503 in a video game since I played it on like minor league level on MLB The Show. 503.

06:59 So there's like this saying with baseball that baseball is the kind of sport that you can fail seven out of ten times at the plate, and you'd be a Hall of Fame player because you'd bat 300. At least you'd be an All-Star, probably. And she failed less than five times at the plate. Wow. She's incredible. Yeah. That's amazing. Yeah. That's amazing. I love talking baseball with Baz

. His son also plays baseball. His son plays baseball. So what a great family of softball and baseball players. It's amazing. Yeah, because we didn't mention that, but she is the daughter of our.

07:29 Oh, yeah, sorry. Of one of our teachers at a high school, Michael Basler. We call him Baz. Beloved teacher. My son, he's like had him for his CCR teacher, had him all four years, and just adores him. So props to him and props to Brady. Yeah, very strong athletic family there. Absolutely. Yeah. Yeah, Baz is awesome. I like that line that you have all the way at the bottom too. Oh, yeah. So yeah, it's in the article that I shared about Brady, who's once a lion, always a lion. Yeah. Yeah.

07:59 Going with some positives. This could be viewed as a positive. Maybe it's not viewed as a positive. I don't know why I even think it's a positive because I actually don't get these days off most of the time, right? Right. We are going to start talking a little bit about inclement weather reminders. Inclement weather. Yeah. Update kind of thing. Yes, whether we like it or not, winter weather is coming. Man, you put the word weather in there multiple times. I know. Whether we like it or not. Right. Winter weather is coming. Right. It wasn't on purpose. No, it wasn't. Right. I'm kind of proud of myself. For sure.

08:25 We want to take a moment to remind our families how we communicate when winter weather affects our school schedule. It's like one of my most stressful times is when we call off school because there's a lot of things. We do have a specific protocol that we follow when that happens and the way we communicate. I don't think people needed to worry about how to communicate it when I was in like elementary school or middle school because they would just hear Miles screaming in the driveway like, "Canon balling into like the speeders." Just he didn't tell you. Yeah. And you would spread it far and wide.

08:55 Just running around, just, and then go back to sleep. Get it all out of the system. Actually, that's the funniest thing. It's like you're then you're wide awake the minute

you find out. Yeah. Anyway, yes. So, but. Yeah. So. Yeah, there's a lot that goes into determining whether we're going to have school, delay the start of the day, or cancel it. And that is probably the biggest thing that I've learned is just in my last two fields-- not fields, excuse me, jobs.

09:19 So like at Piper before this and now here in KCK, I was part of leadership teams at the district level, and I got to see just how much goes into it, that the superintendent is obviously contacting other schools. I remember when I came here, the superintendent would talk about-- and Marty's the same way-- Dan would talk about driving around. Yeah. Like you can go drive and see what the streets are like. That's brave. Because I'd probably look outside and be like, "Nope." Yeah. But I like that. It's-- you obviously can tell they take safety of our staff and students and their families to heart.

09:52 Right. Right. And it's-- the conditions can vary quite a bit, especially in Lansing, because of our rural roads. So getting out on the roads, testing them out. You know, Marty, Superintendent Koebse, communicates with Jeff Bonesack, our director of transportation, because he has a good idea of, you know, what the buses can handle. When we're talking about really cold weather, that can be an issue for buses to transport kids safely. So, yeah, there's a lot that goes into it. And like you said, also, they have a call with all the superintendents.

10:22 They always communicate and try to get on the same page with stuff and make the decision. So we usually will have the same decision as the surrounding school districts. Not always because, again, we have those rural roads, but. I feel like when I was in high school, my superintendent never contacted the other people. We had this running joke of everybody was like, "Oh, he's from Iowa." That's what his problem is. He's from Iowa. So nothing's good enough down here in Kansas. Like it's-- they're used to like four feet of snow and be like, "Stupid superintendent ." Had no idea even who he was, but I hated him in high school.

10:52 Of course. Yeah. One thing we wanted to parents-- remind parents. We always try to put this out there, but just, again, parents always have the option of keeping their kids home. So if you're in an area where you don't feel it's safe to get your child to school or for them to ride the bus, then they can keep them home for weather - related reasons, and it's excused. I want to use this moment to thank my mom, who did that multiple times when I was in high school. She'd also look out the window and be like," Yeah, you stay home today, honey." I'll be like, "Thanks, mom." So thanks, mom. Yes.

11:21 And then our communication. What are the best ways? So. We kind of talk about it a lot with. Right. What do you think's the best way for families to get communication besides kids like Miles screaming in the street? Right. Well, before we do anything, we always notify our staff first. So I send a staff email out or an email to all of our staff, letting them know that it's going to be canceled. And then right after that, I send a message through our website, through our mobile app, our Facebook page. So whenever I post something on the website, it automatically goes to Facebook. And that, honestly, that's a lot of times where people will see it.

11:52 But before anything else, they could see it on their mobile app if they have it. Because it will go out as a notification on there. It ties to Skyward. So if their Skyward information is up to date, they will get another notification that way as well. So make sure your contact information is accurate in Skyward. Exactly. That is one of the biggest reminders we want to share today is that. Okay. Yeah. So, yeah, if that's

incorrect, then there could be a delay, and you would have to rely on social media or, you know. So it's probably. Miles running around. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

12:20 Or you just be like me with two inches from the screen at the bottom. Come on, come on. Yes. And thank you for reminding me of that. We do put it on the news as well. So I contact the news. Yeah. I could probably name all the districts right around my district when I was in school. Like I could always be like all the A's and the B's. And it would jump to C. And I'd be like, "No, dang it, Concordia, you're always out ." I don't know why I said Concordia. I was going to say. I'm sure there was a C that I could remember better. But so download the app though. Yes. Exactly. Make sure you have the app. That's the best way to do it here. Right. And that goes for our staff too.

12:50 They can, you know, if they're not checking their email, they can get it in all these other ways as well. So. All right. Yep. And it's available on both Apple and Android, as we always remind our listeners at the end of every episode. Yes. So we know that weather - related decisions can be inconvenient, especially when families have to make arrangements for childcare or work. We know that. So just making sure everyone knows that we do take it very seriously. It is one of the hardest decisions to have to make for Superintendent Koebse because you're never going to please everybody in this situation, and we get that.

13:19 But we always take the safety into account as number one priority. Okay. Yep. Love that. Well, before we wrap up, I think we want to wish all of our Lansing families a great and safe, happy Thanksgiving next week. Yes. Yeah. And just a reminder, we do not have school next week. Students have off. So have a wonderful, wonderful break. And since we won't have school, we won't be recording the podcast. We'll be working a couple of those days, but we just won't-- we normally release it on Thursday, and releasing it on Thanksgiving just seems like we would get zero listeners.

13:49 So we'll be taking a week with a week off from the podcast. But I just want to share that I am very appreciative of, one, being able to have the podcast up and running again. Yes. And for being part of the Lansing USC 469 family. Because I've been here a while, and I, you know, it's near and dear to my heart. So, yeah. Yeah. So I'm grateful. Can I say what I'm thankful for? Yes. Patrick Wellms. I'm always going to be thankful. And him having another boy. Oh, yeah. That's right. We just found that out. Yeah. I'm also thankful for my family. I'm thankful for, yes, love working in this district and the great students and staff that we have.

14:22 But thank you, Pat, because you brought me the Super Bowls that I thought would never come. Hopefully another. That's a great way to wrap it up. I think it is. And I think we're going to win, by the way. Oh, by the way, the next time we talk, you know the Chiefs are actually playing on Thanksgiving this year. I know. Against the Bills. I'm a little nervous. I'm a little nervous. I know. Josh Allen, baby face Josh Allen, always beats us. Always beats us. Not this year. On the regular season. I have a good feeling. Hey, I'm fine if they want to beat us the regular season. We'll just keep beating them in the playoffs. For more updates and stories on Lansing USC 469, you can visit us at www.usc469.

14:53 net. And like we just talked about earlier, if you don't already have it, download that free Lansing USC 469 mobile app on Apple and Android. The app allows you to be the first to know about all the fantastic things happening in our district. And snow days. And snow days. If you like our content and want to stay up to date on the latest episodes, please follow us wherever you're listening and leave a review to help others find us and learn more about our great district. And that's a wrap on episode four of season five. Wow. Flying by. Happy Thanksgiving. Woo. Thanks for listening.