



3rd Quarter
NEWSLETTER
2021-2022





Lansing Unified School District 469

200 East Mary Street
Lansing, Kansas 66043
913-727-1100
www.usd469.net

Superintendent Dan Wessel

Our teachers and staff were excited to welcome students back after winter break. Students in grades Pre-K through 11 have taken the winter session of FastBridge Screening, and we will share results with our parents in the coming weeks. These screenings help teachers see which students are likely to meet the end of year learning goals, and which ones need more help. If you have questions about your child's scores, please reach out to your child's teacher for points of clarification.

With the help of our Director of Teaching and Learning, Miles Azzeh, we have established a partnership with the Lansing Community Library. We will be sending home some new and exciting resources soon, so be on the lookout for that. I also want to remind parents of the importance of reading to your child at a young age. If you have a fourth or fifth grader, ask them what they are reading during their sustained silent reading (SSR) time.

Parent-Teacher Conferences are quickly approaching and will take place on February 9th and February 10th. If you haven't already, you will be receiving information about how these will be held (in-person or virtual) soon. If you have a middle school-aged student, the conferences will be student-led. This will be the third year the middle school has used the student-led format for spring conferences. Parents and educators have found them incredibly helpful in increasing student accountability, both academically and behaviorally, and building open relationships with families concerning their student's progress.

This is also the time of year we ask parents to fill out a Family Engagement Survey. This survey is our way of engaging with our families to see how we are doing on creating a welcoming environment, supporting student learning, and communicating. We take the results to find areas to focus our efforts to serve our community best. Please take a few minutes to fill out this important survey.

I once again want to thank each of you for your support and resiliency as we have dealt with the challenges presented by the pandemic. As always, I genuinely appreciate your support as we work together to keep students in the classroom as much as possible while maintaining a safe and effective learning environment.

Dan Wessel
Lansing USD 469 Superintendent of Schools

STUDENT SHOUT-OUTS!

We will be highlighting students who have done something exceptional in each of our quarterly newsletters. This quarter, we would like to highlight two groups of students who went above and beyond to help others.

Our LINCS students partnered with Leavenworth pediatric physician, Dr. Lori Golon, and her office staff to adopt thirty Lansing students for Christmas. Our LINCS students assembled food packages to go along with gifts provided by Dr. Golon's office.



Our second shout-out goes to two groups of high school students who participated in a Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Community Service Program by raking leaves for two households last semester. The first group of students raked 56 bags for a friend of LHS Assistant Principal Dr. Sandy VanCise, who is over 80 years old. The second group raked 61 bags for LHS Special Education Teacher, Ms. Courtney Rasdall. Outstanding work to the following students:

- Mia Baptista
- Addison Callaway
- Brooklyn Corral
- Haden Dominick
- Ciara Hopkins
- Wyatt Howlett
- Jaden K.
- Sophie Mansell
- Bella Manthe
- Mikenna Matzedger
- Zach Miller
- Maya Pennock
- Kushi Patel



LANSING USD469 DEPARTMENT UPDATES

TEACHING AND LEARNING



Miles Azzeh
Director of
Teaching & Learning

Hello, parents and community members! I'm so proud of the hard work, effort, determination, and commitment of the staff in our fine district. Without them, we wouldn't be as amazing as we are. Kudos to all of them!

Here are some highlights and news from the last quarter:

Greenbush School Improvement Services Partnership

After discussions with leadership and staff in the district, the decision has been made to re-engage our previous partnership with Greenbush for School Improvement Services.

We were able to work out a prorated deal with them for the rest of the year and will also be able to utilize ESSER funds for at least a portion of the cost. They will assist and provide resources/training for the following items:

1. Curriculum Framework and Design
2. Assessment Tool Support (specifically FastBridge and State Assessment)
3. Utilizing Data to Drive Instructional Decisions
4. PLC Support to Improve Teacher and Student Learning
5. High-impact Instructional Strategies Support

I'm excited about this partnership and was able to witness firsthand the great training provided to our staff on the January 5th Professional Development day.

Lansing Public Library Partnership and Ongoing Recreational Reading Initiative

Recently, I had the pleasure of meeting Terri Wojtalewicz, director of the Lansing Public Library. After establishing our joint love of literacy and informing her of the Recreational Reading initiative taking place at LIS, she has offered to support our teachers when it comes to accessing books and resources. Once teachers have applied for a free library card, teachers will have access to books and resources at their fingertips. Terri will also help us obtain multiple copies of books via interlibrary loan and is even willing to deliver the books to our teachers!

I am immensely excited about this partnership and can't wait to help teachers get engaging books and resources into the hands of our students!

OVT Visit and Accreditation Update

The Outside Visitation Team (OVT), a crucial group who helps us on our path to staying accredited with the state, visited us on December 3rd. Our DLT (District Leadership Team) worked diligently to prepare for this meeting by gathering data, writing narratives to tell our story, and providing answers to the myriad of questions that the state asks us. I couldn't be prouder of the work and effort by this team and the entire district.

The OVT was impressed with our achievements over the last few years (this is “Year 4”, and we will be up for accreditation next year in “Year 5”) and plans on giving us a detailed final report with recommendations sometime in January. The plan is to take these recommendations to discuss and create our action steps in future DLT meetings (January, March, and May) in order to improve on the work we have done.

Special thanks to the following DLT members who stayed late the day before our OVT visit to ensure we were prepared:

- Dan Wessel
- Mary Alice Schroeger
- Ascendra Donald
- Brooks Jenkins
- Jennifer Kolb
- Caroline Reynolds
- Christina Hoverson

You can find more information on the KESA Accreditation Process Here:

[KESA Accreditation Process](#)

Upcoming Initiatives and Resources

Our Lansing USD 469 teachers are incredible at engaging our students in fantastic learning opportunities to reach their full potential every day in our district. To highlight and bring recognition to this great work, Sharon Burns (Director of Communications and Marketing) and I will be regularly shining a spotlight on a stand-out teacher through "academic spotlights."

Here is a link of the spotlights so far: [Academic Spotlights](#)

Please keep an eye on the district's Teaching and Learning website for more news, information, and resources that will help you see all the great things we're doing here in Lansing:

[Lansing USD 469 Teaching and Learning Website](#)

COMMUNICATIONS



Sharon Burns
Director of
Communications &
Marketing

COVID-19

As a district, we are committed to transparency so that parents can make the best decisions for their children. We maintain a public [COVID-19 web page](#) where we share daily updates about how the virus is impacting our schools. The information posted there reflects every case we are aware of at that time and is subject to be revised as more information becomes available. If your child tests positive or is quarantined due to a household contact, please notify your child's school so that we can include it in our numbers.

RECRUITMENT

Our district has come up with several ways to recruit and retain employees. We recently expanded our referral bonuses to all open positions. Any Lansing USD 469 employee can receive a \$250 referral bonus if the person they refer is hired and has a good evaluation after 60 days of employment. For prospective substitute teachers, we are also offering sign-on and quarterly bonuses.

[Click here for more information about how to become a substitute teacher in Lansing USD 469.](#)

Inclement Weather Notifications

If your contact information has recently changed, please get in touch with your child's school with current information or update your information in [Skyward](#). This will enable the school and the district to notify you in the event of a late start, closure, or early release. If you are not notified by the designated channels listed below, you can safely assume your school is open.

We will use the following methods of notification for weather cancellations:

1. Lansing USD 469 Mobile App: [Click here for instructions on how to download our free app.](#) We will no longer be sending weather cancellations via Skylert text messaging.
2. Social Media: We will share cancellations through our district facebook and Twitter accounts.
3. Skyward Email: We will also send an email to all parents and employees.
4. Media: We will air our closing announcements on KMBC TV 9, KCTV 5, WDAF TV 4, KSHB TV 41, KMBZ AM 980, KFKF FM 94.1, KCUR FM 89.3.

LANSING
WE ARE HIRING

Substitute Teachers!

Do you enjoy working with children?
Want a flexible work schedule?
Substitute Teaching is the Job for YOU!

- Competitive Rates
- \$250 Sign-on Bonus
- \$250 Quarterly Bonus
- Bi-weekly Paychecks

Learn how YOU can make a difference for Lansing students and how easy it is to get started:
www.usd469.net

Let's stay connected!

@usd469

Facebook, Twitter, Skyward, YouTube

KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP

APRIL 21
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

APRIL 22
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

CURRENT KINDERGARTENERS WILL NOT HAVE SCHOOL ON APRIL 22, 2022.

Health Services



Kristen Dilka

District Nurse Coordinator

Hello, USD 469! This past quarter has been a busy one. Our building nurses have worked hard to keep our students healthy and in school! In addition to our daily routine, we have focused on completing vision and hearing screenings, reviewing student immunization records, and keeping up with current Covid-19 guidelines.

In December, some of our nurses had the opportunity to help our high school health classes during their CPR unit. It was an excellent opportunity to get involved and teach students this life-saving skill! This month we focused on dental awareness by having a dental associate perform dental screenings on many of our students. Be on the lookout for the results of these screenings!

A reminder that cold and flu season is among us. If your student is not feeling well, please keep them home. Students with a fever >100.0 should remain home until they are fever-free for 24hrs without medication. Students who are experiencing vomiting or diarrhea should also stay home until they are vomit/diarrhea-free for 24hrs.

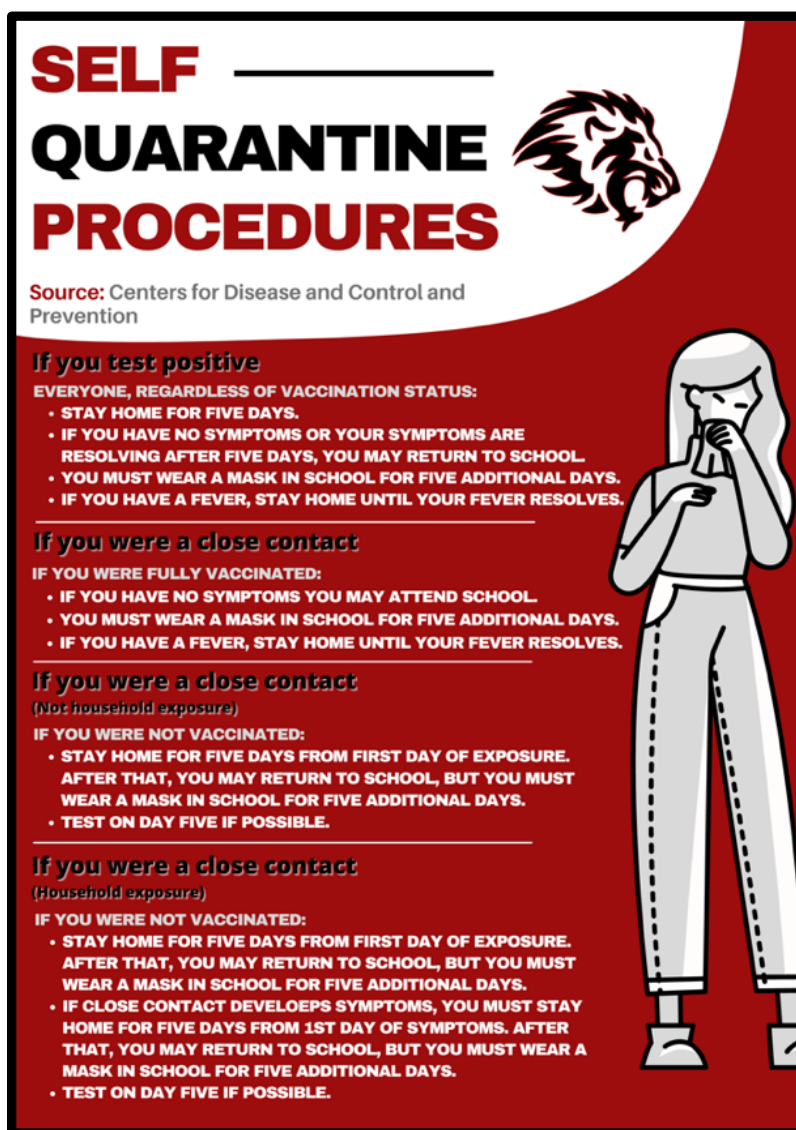
Below are USD469's current Covid-19 guidelines:

If You Test Positive for COVID-19

Everyone, regardless of vaccination status:

- Stay home for five days.
- If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after five days, you may return to school.
- You must wear a mask in school for five additional days.

If you have a fever, stay home until your fever resolves.



SELF QUARANTINE PROCEDURES

Source: Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention

If you test positive

EVERYONE, REGARDLESS OF VACCINATION STATUS:

- STAY HOME FOR FIVE DAYS.
- IF YOU HAVE NO SYMPTOMS OR YOUR SYMPTOMS ARE RESOLVING AFTER FIVE DAYS, YOU MAY RETURN TO SCHOOL.
- YOU MUST WEAR A MASK IN SCHOOL FOR FIVE ADDITIONAL DAYS.
- IF YOU HAVE A FEVER, STAY HOME UNTIL YOUR FEVER RESOLVES.

If you were a close contact

IF YOU WERE FULLY VACCINATED:

- IF YOU HAVE NO SYMPTOMS YOU MAY ATTEND SCHOOL.
- YOU MUST WEAR A MASK IN SCHOOL FOR FIVE ADDITIONAL DAYS.
- IF YOU HAVE A FEVER, STAY HOME UNTIL YOUR FEVER RESOLVES.

If you were a close contact
(Not household exposure)

IF YOU WERE NOT VACCINATED:

- STAY HOME FOR FIVE DAYS FROM FIRST DAY OF EXPOSURE. AFTER THAT, YOU MAY RETURN TO SCHOOL, BUT YOU MUST WEAR A MASK IN SCHOOL FOR FIVE ADDITIONAL DAYS.
- TEST ON DAY FIVE IF POSSIBLE.

If you were a close contact
(Household exposure)

IF YOU WERE NOT VACCINATED:

- STAY HOME FOR FIVE DAYS FROM FIRST DAY OF EXPOSURE. AFTER THAT, YOU MAY RETURN TO SCHOOL, BUT YOU MUST WEAR A MASK IN SCHOOL FOR FIVE ADDITIONAL DAYS.
- IF CLOSE CONTACT DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS, YOU MUST STAY HOME FOR FIVE DAYS FROM 1ST DAY OF SYMPTOMS. AFTER THAT, YOU MAY RETURN TO SCHOOL, BUT YOU MUST WEAR A MASK IN SCHOOL FOR FIVE ADDITIONAL DAYS.
- TEST ON DAY FIVE IF POSSIBLE.

If You Were Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 (Close Contact or Household Exposure)

If you are fully vaccinated:

- If you have no symptoms, you may attend school, but you must wear a mask for ten days.
- If you begin to display symptoms, you must stay home for five days from onset of symptoms. After five days, you may return to school, but you must wear a mask in school for five additional days.

If You Were Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 (Not Household Exposure)

If you are unvaccinated:

- Stay home for five days from the first day of exposure. After that, you may return to school, but you must wear a mask in school for five additional days.
- Test on day five if possible.

If You Were Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 in Your Household

If you are unvaccinated:

- Stay home for ten days from the first day of exposure. After that, you must wear a mask in school for five additional days.
- If the close contact develops symptoms, you must stay home for five days from 1st day of symptoms. After that, you may return to school, but you must wear a mask in school for five additional days.
- Test on day five if possible.

If you develop symptoms, get a test, and stay home.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

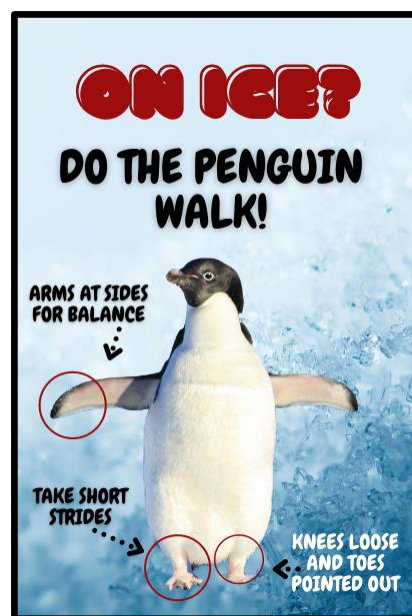


Kevin McCarley
Director of Emergency
Preparedness

Extreme cold, ice, sleet, and snow can be dangerous for students and faculty. Now that winter is in full swing, we want to share the below winter weather tips with parents. Remember, a wind chill of -15 is the temperature cut-off point for canceling school.

- Dress in multiple layers to play outside, including extra layers for legs, feet, and hands.
- Always wear hats and gloves when playing outdoors in cold weather; the biggest proportions of body heat are lost through the head and hands.
- Limit the amount of time spent playing outdoors to safe intervals and bring children inside periodically to warm up.

- Remove all wet clothing immediately and change to dry clothes if going back outdoors.
- Wear sunscreen on all exposed skin to guard against burns from bright sunlight and snow glare.
- Do not permit children to play outdoors in poor weather such as snowstorms, extreme cold, or high winds.
- Wear brightly colored outer clothing that is easily seen from a distance.
- Do not dress children in winter wear with drawstrings - they can cut off circulation and make frostbite a greater threat, and loose drawstrings may present a strangulation hazard.
- Teach children to avoid playing near snowplow areas.



Wind Chill Chart
Wind (mph)

	Calm	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60
40	36	34	32	30	29	28	28	27	26	26	25	25	
35	31	27	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	19	18	17	
30	25	21	19	17	16	15	14	13	12	12	11	10	
25	19	15	13	11	9	8	7	6	5	4	4	3	
20	13	9	6	4	3	1	0	-1	-2	-3	-3	-4	
15	7	3	0	-2	-4	-5	-7	-8	-9	-10	-11	-11	
10	1	-4	-7	-9	-11	-12	-14	-15	-16	-17	-18	-19	
5	-5	-10	-13	-15	-17	-19	-21	-22	-23	-24	-25	-26	
0	-11	-16	-19	-22	-24	-26	-27	-29	-30	-31	-32	-33	
-5	-16	-22	-26	-29	-31	-33	-34	-36	-37	-38	-39	-40	
-10	-22	-28	-32	-35	-37	-39	-41	-43	-44	-45	-46	-48	
-15	-28	-35	-39	-42	-44	-46	-48	-50	-51	-52	-54	-55	
-20	-34	-41	-45	-48	-51	-53	-55	-57	-58	-60	-61	-62	
-25	-40	-47	-51	-55	-58	-60	-62	-64	-65	-67	-68	-69	
-30	-46	-53	-58	-61	-64	-67	-69	-71	-72	-74	-75	-76	
-35	-52	-59	-64	-68	-71	-73	-76	-78	-79	-81	-82	-84	
-40	-57	-66	-71	-74	-78	-80	-82	-84	-86	-88	-89	-91	
-45	-63	-72	-77	-81	-84	-87	-89	-91	-93	-95	-97	-98	

Temperature (°F)

Frostbite Times

- 30 minutes
- 10 minutes
- 5 minutes

- Do not permit children to dig snow tunnels or forts that may collapse and bury them.
- Avoid snowball fights that can lead to injuries from dangerous projectiles.
- Keep roofs, gutters, and awnings free from snow and icicle buildup that could collapse and injure a child. Similarly, do not permit children to pull icicles from the roof.
- Teach children never to touch or lick exposed metal (fences, flagpoles, etc.) in winter.
- Do not allow children to eat snow. It may contain pollutants, dirt, fecal matter or other contaminants, and the cold snow can chill a young child's body to dangerous levels.
- Regularly de-ice or sand sidewalks, driveways, patios, and other areas where children may play.

TECHNOLOGY



Chris Fletcher
Director of
Technology

While many are making New Year's resolutions, the technology department plans for the future. While we remain focused on the needs for the spring semester, we start evaluating our needs for the next school year. This process includes assessing how technology integrates with curriculum software and classroom technology. We look for any new programs that will be implemented next school year and what needs to be done, so those programs start without any issues. We are looking at our hardware to determine what needs to be replaced so our users have working devices and can support the latest software requirements.

This is also the time of year we submit our requests through Erate, a federal program to help schools get internet into classrooms. Money for this program comes from the universal service fees that you pay on your phone or internet bills. We evaluate the network hardware and develop a replacement cycle that works within the technology budget but can also be installed in a way that doesn't disrupt the learning and operations of the school district.

The department has an opening for a Technology Technician. The purpose of the Technology Technician is to keep all district computers and assorted technology items in optimum working order and to help all district stakeholders have the tools, resources, and data to do their job by receiving and routing all requests for repairs or other technology support to the proper staff or vendor. Those interested can go to the link below to view current job openings.

<https://skyward.iscorp.com/scripts/wsisa.dll/WService=wsedulansingsks/rapplmnu03.w>

TRANSPORTATION

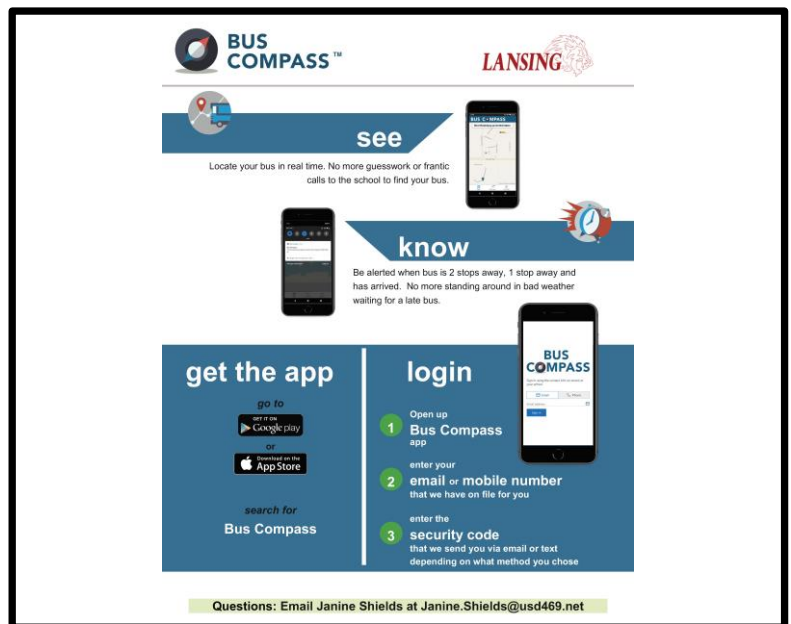


Jim Slapper
Director of
Transportation

The Transportation Department would like to welcome Dennis (DJ) Showers and Beth Sasnett to our department.

DJ is 45 years old, married with two kids, and lives in Lansing. DJ was born and raised in Belleville, Kansas. After High School, DJ enlisted in the US Army. He served our country for 25 years and traveled the world in his career. He retired in 2020. He and his wife decided to make Lansing their home. We are happy to have DJ on our team.

Beth Sasnett and her husband live in Lansing. Beth has four children whom she homeschooled. She grew up in Kansas City, Kansas. Beth took an office job doing clerical work. In 1999 Beth went to work for Durham School Bus Services, where she worked for ten years. Beth then went to work for the Guidance Center for three years. Beth went to school to become a nurse and is now an RN and does home health care. Beth still works part-time as a nurse, and we are happy she has come to work with us.



The graphic is a promotional poster for the BUS COMPASS app. At the top, it features the BUS COMPASS logo on the left and the Lansing school district logo on the right. Below the logos, there are three main sections: 'see', 'know', and 'get the app'. The 'see' section shows a smartphone displaying a map and text: 'Locate your bus in real time. No more guesswork or frantic calls to the school to find your bus.' The 'know' section shows a smartphone displaying a notification and text: 'Be alerted when bus is 2 stops away, 1 stop away and has arrived. No more standing around in bad weather waiting for a late bus.' The 'get the app' section shows icons for Google Play and the App Store, with the text 'search for Bus Compass'. To the right of this section is a 'login' section with a smartphone displaying the app interface and a three-step process: 1. Open up Bus Compass app, 2. enter your email or mobile number that we have on file for you, 3. enter the security code that we send you via email or text depending on what method you chose. At the bottom, a green banner contains the text: 'Questions: Email Janine Shields at Janine.Shields@usd469.net'.

NUTRITION SERVICES



Jennifer Zule
Director of
Nutrition Services

Congratulations to our Director of Nutrition Services, Jennifer Zule, for receiving her Kansas Certificate in Child Nutrition Management. Ms. Zule was one of seven individuals recognized by the Kansas State Department of Education's Director of Child Nutrition & Wellness, Cheryl Johnson, during the State Board of Education Meeting on Tuesday, January 11th.



To receive a Kansas Certificate in Child Nutrition Management, individuals must complete 120 hours of management classes that have been approved by the Kansas State Department of Education's Child Nutrition and Wellness.

A huge thank you to our former Lansing Elementary School Principal, Mr. Tim Newton, for volunteering in the Lansing Elementary School lunchroom while we are understaffed! We currently have several open positions in our Nutrition Services Department. If you would like to join our stand-out Nutrition Services team, visit our Employment Page by [clicking here](#).



**180,331
MEALS SERVED**

August
5,524 Breakfasts and 14,315 Lunches

September
13,317 Breakfasts and 31,824 Lunches

October
11,790 Breakfasts and 28,129 Lunches

November
12,266 Breakfasts and 26,908 Lunches

December
10,411 Breakfasts and 25,847 Lunches



CUSTODIAL / FACILITIES AND GROUNDS DEPARTMENTS

Lansing USD 469 would like to thank our Director of Custodial Services Alan Brandt and Grounds Keeper Charles Kannaday for stepping up and filling in for our Maintenance and Grounds Department to help clear our sidewalks and parking lots this winter. We are in the process of hiring a new Supervisor of Maintenance and Grounds, and Mr. Brandt has done an exceptional job of continuing to oversee our custodial department while chipping in to maintain our grounds. Mr. Kannaday has also gone above and beyond while we are short-staffed.

We would also like to thank our custodians for going the extra mile and cleaning our facilities during the pandemic. They continue to do what it takes to keep us safe and healthy, and we appreciate their efforts



LANSING EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION



Kara Thompson
Director of Lansing
Educational Foundation

The Lansing Educational Foundation is excited to kick off its Annual Campaign in hopes of raising money for the Lansing School District. The foundation has been serving Lansing students and teachers from pre-K through high school since 2004. Since then, we have funded over \$380,000 in grants to our district. So far, we have raised over \$28,000 for the students and teachers this year. Our goal is to raise \$57,000 this school year.

We are proud to fund grants such as a Robotics Grant, which was used to purchase supplies for the new Robotics course offered at Lansing High School. The foundation is also funding several new projects, including a \$6,000 grant to Lansing Middle School for a new Clavinova digital piano. Additional programs supported this year include a STEM grant for our at-risk preschool, math interventions to support Lansing Elementary students, French and Spanish learning materials for middle and high school students, and more! The Lansing Educational Foundation Board of Directors appreciates your financial assistance for our educational projects. Teachers and students benefit greatly from the innovative projects that we have funded together. We truly appreciate your generosity.

To learn more about the Lansing Educational Foundation and ways to give, please visit:

www.LansingEdFoundation.org

Upcoming LEF Events:

7th Annual District Art Showcase	April 23, 2022	Lansing High School
17th Annual Honors Awards Breakfast	May 6, 2022	Lansing High School
2022 LEF Gala	November 5, 2022	Riverfront Community Center

LEF Charlie Hustle T-shirts:

Lansing Educational Foundation is excited to offer long-sleeve options of our Charlie Hustle shirts and hoodies! We deliver to all Lansing USD 469 school buildings and offer pick-up for those who don't have students in the district. Scan the QR code and place your order today!



Heather Red Lightweight Hoodie
\$36.00



Vintage Black (Charcoal) Long Sleeve T-Shirt
\$34.00

