

**October 1, 2007**

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## Communications Office

### Community Connections



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The following article was printed in the September 28, 2007 edition of the *Kansas City, Kansan*

## It takes a team to run a district

*By Jill Shackelford, KCKPS Superintendent*

When you become the leader of a large, complex system, one of the first things you learn (if you didn't know it already) is that you can't make it on your own. Even though, as Americans, we love the idea of the lone ranger, surviving out there on the range by his wits and imagination, the truth is, we survived by creating community everywhere we went. Sure, we did our share of homesteading out here in the Midwest, but I am sure we didn't put up all of those barns by ourselves!



As superintendent of the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools, I rely on input from a wide variety of sources. I begin with direction from the Board of Education, which sets policy for the district. I also work very closely with my Cabinet, a group of 12 (including me) leaders in the system that works to set the direction and monitor the progress towards our 2010 Goals.

There are also numerous informal ways in which I receive input. When you're the superintendent, people are not shy about stopping you in the grocery store, or button-holing you while you are getting your nails done. I get lots of phone calls and e-mails, and I spend a good deal of time meeting with various community leaders.

I have also organized several formal groups to provide the district with input. Last year, we created a Community Advisory Group. Almost immediately, this group split into two smaller groups, one to provide the district with advice on how to strengthen the perception of the district in the community, and another to give us advice on addressing our facilities challenges. These groups continue to meet, and provide us with valuable input.

I also formed a Staff Advisory Group, to give me an opportunity to hear directly from staff at various levels of the system. This group met several times last school year, and will meet again this fall. It is really important for me to hear directly from staff at all levels of the system, and to give our teachers, principals, central office staff and support staff a chance to talk to each other, and to wrestle with how to address the challenges we face as a system.

While all this has been extremely valuable, my staff also knows that I have not been satisfied. There has been one more group that I have been extremely anxious to connect with: students! While it's great to get adults together to think about what we need to do to meet our 2010 goals, it's not enough. It's the students who are going to get us to 85/75; it's the students who will graduate "ready for college." There is no way that I, as superintendent, can hope to move this system forward, without genuinely hearing from, and talking with our students.

So, on Wednesday, we invited in 42 students from all of our high schools together for our first Student Advisory Meeting. I am going to resist the temptation to say "I told you so," but this group was everything I was hoping for, and so much more. What really struck me about this group was just how much energy was in

the room. These kids were on fire! They had a lot to say, and they wanted to be heard.

You know, the majority of adults in this community, as in most communities across the country, have little or no contact with a teenager during the average week, except perhaps at the grocery store or at the drive-through window. Because we rarely get to talk with teenagers, and hear their voices, it is easy to make judgments about them. Well, if those judgments include some of the familiar stereotypes about "young people these days ..." I am here to tell you that, at least with these students, you are wrong! These young people were bright, articulate, passionate, and willing to hold themselves and others accountable for meeting their academic goals.

In planning for this meeting, I was insistent on showing the students the real data on student performance. I thought that, if they were going to be part of the solution, they needed to know what the problem was. My staff was a little hesitant, not wanting to overwhelm the students with too much information too quickly. In the end, though, these students dove right into the data, and started analyzing it and asking questions.

The thing that was remarkable was that their questions really got to the heart of the matter. When we showed them the data on ACT scores and graduation rates, they jumped on it. "Why," they asked, "does the district have a goal that students will graduate ready for college, but not have a specific goal for graduation?"

When pressed by an administrator about whether their goal for graduation (which they insisted should be 100%) was realistic, the students were adamant: "Yes, every student needs to graduate from high school, at the very least."

"And would they be willing to hold other students accountable for the graduation rate?" "Yes," came the answer. "We will hold ourselves accountable, we will hold other students accountable, we will hold our teachers accountable. All students need to graduate from high school, to even have a chance of being successful. We have to have a goal of 100 percent!"

These students are tough, they are determined, and they want to be heard. I will be meeting with them every other month, because I need to hear their voices, in order to do my job well. And I will continue to share their voices with you in my column. These students, and the thousands like them in our high schools, will be key to reaching our 2010 goals. They are also future leaders in our community. I hope you will take advantage of any chance you get to talk with them, and to listen to them. They're really great kids!

SIP  
MEMO

10/01/07

**to:** Elementary Teachers  
**from:** Suzie Legg, Lead Elementary Math Coach  
**subject:** Opportunity to Showcase Student Work in Mathematics  
**date:** October 1, 2007



# Opportunity to Showcase Student Work

Kansas City is hosting the Regional Mathematics Conference for the National Council of Teacher's of Mathematics on October 25 & 26, 2007 in the Kansas City Convention Center at Bartle Hall. This provides local schools with an opportunity to showcase their student's work in mathematics for those attending the conference from around the country. Student work that is submitted for display should demonstrate student's mathematical understanding of a concept in mathematics. A special project should not be created for student's to complete for this submission. There are many activities that are embedded in the Math Investigations curriculum that provide student's an opportunity to produce products/projects that demonstrate student mathematical understanding. For example, many end of unit assessments and other performance assignments lend themselves to this kind of product. There are also many opportunities embedded in the geometry and data units, that most grade levels are currently working in with students, for student work products/projects to be produced that would work well for display.

## Submission of Student Work Information

Student names need to be covered/removed from the actual piece of student work to be displayed due to confidentiality. The student's first name only will appear on the display tag that will be posted with the student work.

Please attach a 3" X 5" note card to **each piece** of student work with a paperclip. Include the following information on the note card:

- District Name
- School Name
- Teacher Name
- Student Name
- Grade Level of Student
- Topic/Title of Student Work/Project
- Brief Description of the Task/Project

## Submission of Student Work Deadline

Please submit the student work to Suzie Legg at the Education Center no later than **Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>**. You can drop it by my office, or you can send it through the mail.

I am looking forward to receiving many pieces of student work. Let's show educators from around the country what are student's can do in mathematics!!! If you have any questions, please email Suzie Legg at [sulegg@kckps.org](mailto:sulegg@kckps.org).

**SIP**  
MEMO

10/01/07

**to:** All USD 500 staff, family, and friends  
**from:** Chuck Watson, Washington Art Dept  
**subject:** Europe Trip #3  
**date:** October 1, 2007



Fellow staff members, friends and family, ...I am currently still hoping to travel this coming summer to the beautiful Emerald Isles, Wales, and England. At this time I have had several inquiries but no commitments and if at least eight people do not at least enroll by the end of October, I will most likely have to cancel it. This will be an eleven day excursion of Ireland and the UK ending in London. Over forty staff and area travelers went this past June to five nations on the European continent and had a great time. The cost will be \$3,030 for adults and \$2,760 for students. This package includes all airfare from KCI, all land, sea travel, guides, admissions, two meals daily, and all hotels. I will be limiting my group to approx 25 or less this year, so please contact me early if interested. There are two payment plans available. Contact me at Washington @ 627-7928, thru school email or anytime at home at 913-724-1661 or [chuckf16d@yahoo.com](mailto:chuckf16d@yahoo.com). Hope to travel with some of you in 2008.

## *Reminder of Collaboration Training*

SIP  
MEMO

10/01/07

**to:** Elementary Principals, IC's, Sped. Teachers, ESL Teachers and Gen. Ed. Teachers  
**from:** Marcy Clay, Executive Director  
Jayson Strickland, Executive Director  
Sabina Hacker, Director of ESL Programs  
Kimberly Shaw, Director of Special Education  
**subject:** October Collaboration Training (as printed in 9/24/07 PIP)  
**date:** Monday, October 1, 2007



### **Reminder of Collaboration Training**

This is an official reminder of the previously scheduled Collaboration training on Thursday, October 4th, 2007 from 4:30 – 6:30PM at F.L. Schlagle High School.

Back in August, each elementary school designated a team consisting of the principal, IC, a sped teacher, ESL teacher and a general education teacher to lead each site in the development and implementation of collaborative practices. This same team is encouraged to attend on October 4th to continue to build their leadership team for their individual site.

If you have questions, please contact Kim Shaw at 627-5659 or Theresa Van Goethem at 627-5668.

Please note that teachers will be compensated.

SIP  
MEMO

10/01/07

**to:** All  
**from:** Jim Clevenger  
**subject:** Grant Procedures  
**date:** October 1, 2007



All USD 500 staff must adhere to the following procedures when applying for any grant.

1. Seek prior approval before submitting any grant application, regardless of size.
  - a. Complete the form on the Federal Programs web site.  
[http://www.kckps.org/federal2/grants/form\\_grant\\_submission\\_request.pdf](http://www.kckps.org/federal2/grants/form_grant_submission_request.pdf)
  - b. Submit to Jim Clevenger for approval. You will receive approval, denial or request for additional information.
  - c. You may complete the grant application once approval is given
  
2. If your grant is funded, you **must** send a copy of the approval letter to Federal Programs

The Business Office will only accept the letter of funding if submitted by the Federal Programs office.

# 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Student High School Visual Arts Competition

Irene B. French Community Center Art Gallery

December 6<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 2007

## Eligibility

All High school students currently attending high schools or home schooled in the Kansas City Metro area are eligible to enter the competition. Categories include: 1) Photography, 2) Mixed Media ie: watercolor, pastel, oil, acrylics, drawing, 3) Sculpture or other 3D work. (pedestals not provided) and 4). Computer Generated Art. Jury decision on all entries is final. Works previously accepted into show are not eligible. **Works without names will not be accepted. EI: "Untitled" or "Un-named", Etc.**

## Liability

The artist agrees to accept all liability for loss or damage to work in transit to or on display at Merriam Community Center.

## Presentation

All paintings and photography should be matted or framed, and not exceed 40" inches in width or height. If possible, small works should have Velcro on back as the gallery walls are carpeted.

## Digitals and Entry Information

Artist must submit digitals (jpg-at least 150 DPI with dimensions of 8" x 10" or 1600 x 2000 pixels) or tiff for all work they intend to enter in competition. **Digitals must be named as follows: students two initials then the name of the work** Ie: Erin Tomkins submits "Riders of Rohan" would be named "ETRidersofrohan.jpg" (abbreviated is fine as long as the full name is on the excel spreadsheet registration form). Students may enter more than 1 category. Selection will be made from digitals, artist should provide accurate representation of work to be considered. **Limit of three (3) entries per student total (does not matter which category is entered only 3 per student).**

## Method of Entry

Excel Spreadsheets and digitals must be *received no later than Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007, by 5:00pm* at Merriam Community Center, 5701 Merriam Drive, Merriam, Kansas 66203. Acceptance notifications will be emailed to instructors no later than Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Emailing the entries to [art@merriam.org](mailto:art@merriam.org) can also be done. You may need to zip the files first in order to send them. You can put the digitals on a floppy disk, cd or dvd.

## Selection Committee

Selection committee will be comprised of an anonymous panel of normally three to four professional artists. All instructors will be notified via email on the accepted works for the show.

## Prizes

The following prizes will be awards in each of the four categories. First Place: \$150 art supply gift certificate. Second prize: \$100 art supply gift certificate; Third prize: \$50 art supply gift certificate in each category.

*Show Time Table:*

<b>November 4<sup>th</sup></b>	Digitals and applications due
<b>November 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Notification of acceptance and additional information mailed
<b>Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> 26<sup>th</sup></b>	Hand-delivered art work to Merriam Community Center by 9:30pm.
<b>December 6<sup>th</sup></b>	Opening reception for honored artists (7pm-8:30pm; awards at 7:30pm)
<i>(STUDENTS &amp; INSRUCTORS please check in at front desk).</i>	
<b>Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup></b>	Exhibition open to public
<b>Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> - Jan. 6<sup>th</sup></b>	Pick-up art work

### **Entry Form Information**

**ALL ENTRIES MUST BE SUBMITTED in an Table format in Word or EXCEL spreadsheet and emailed to [art@merriam.org](mailto:art@merriam.org) with the following columns or information:**

**Student first name; student last name; student's home address, students state and city, student's zip, title of work; media; category entering (1) Photography, 2)Mixed Media ie: watercolor, pastel, oil, acrylics, drawing, 3) Sculpture or other 3D work or 4). Computer Generated Art. ; size of work (including frame and matting); school, instructor, instructor email address, local newspaper name.**

By entering the show, each student agrees to hold harmless and release the City of Merriam, its agents and employees from any liability regarding loss of or damage to original artwork which has been placed at the Merriam Community Center for exhibition purposes. I authorize the City of Merriam, at its discretion, to utilize black and white or color photographs of my art work for publicity purposes, not for reproduction.

Email Entries to: [art@merriam.org](mailto:art@merriam.org)

SIP  
MEMO

10/01/07

*Master Calendar and  
School Activities Calendar*

**to:** All Staff  
**from:** Teresa Boose, Web Manager  
**subject:** Master Calendar and School Activities Calendar  
**date:** October 1, 2007



Click on the following link to go to the desired online calendar.

Master Calendar: <http://www.kckps.org/calendars/master/phpEventCalendar/index.php>  
[Today – Oct. 8 events are attached]

See previous memo about changes this year on posting to the Master Calendar.

School Activities Calendar: <http://www.kckps.org/calendars/activities/phpEventCalendar/index.php>

If you would like to be able to update the School Activities Calendar yourself, please let me know and I will set up the login information for you. Otherwise, please let me know if you wish to post/change/delete events.

**October 1, 2007**

**Monday**

**Grade 1 District Literacy Training [more...]**

**8:30AM - 11:30AM**

Education Center, room 245

Trainer:

Deanne Letourneau

**Also on this day:**

**Cabinet Meeting [more...]**

**12:00PM - 3:30PM**

Central Office Board Room, 3rd floor

Contact: Jill Shackelford

**Kindergarten District Literacy Training [more...]**

**1:30PM - 4:30PM**

Education Center, room 246

Trainer:

Wendy Donnell

October 2, 2007

Tuesday

**United Way Kick-Off @ Ed Center [more...]**

6:30AM - 8:00AM

breakfast meeting for United Way Coordinators

contact Gerri Skaggs at 279-2242

**Also on this day:**

**Reading First Designated Team [more...]**

8:00AM - 4:00PM

(GenEd, SPED, ESL, SLP) Reading first teams at KSDE Response to Intervention Conference in Wichita

Contact: Wendy Donnell

**Grade 2 District Literacy Training [more...]**

8:30AM - 11:30AM

Education Center, room 245

Trainers:

Geri Lovelace

Becky Bell

**Secondary Monthly Treasurers Mtg**

11:30AM - 1:00PM

We will meet in the 3rd floor board room @Central Office

Contact: Melissa Allen

**Grade 3 District Literacy Training [more...]**

1:30PM - 4:30PM

Education Center, room 246

Trainers:

Becky Bell

Geri Lovelace

**3 Paycard Informational Meetings [more...]**

2:30PM - 5:30PM

@ F. L. Schlagle Cafeteria

Three sessions starting at 2:30, 3:30, 4:30

Contact: Kristen Woodbury

**Mentoring Meeting - Beginning Teachers [more...]**

5:00PM - 7:00PM

ESL/Differentiated Instruction

Central Office, 3rd floor Board Room

Contact: Barb Collins

**Laptop Townhall Meeting [more...]**

6:00PM -

at Schlagle HS

(Mary)

October 3, 2007

Wednesday

**Reading First Designated Team [more...]**

**8:00AM - 4:00PM**

(GenEd, SPED, ESL, SLP) Reading first teams at KSDE Response to Intervention Conference in Wichita

Contact: Wendy Donnell

**Also on this day:**

**High School Football Scheduling Meeting**

**10:00AM -**

Salina Bicentennial Center

**Training/Luncheon for Truancy Program [more...]**

**1:30PM -**

for Attendance Clerks at all High Schools, Middle Schools, and Elementary Schools

at Mr. & Mrs. F. L. Schlagle Library (Wyandotte County Lake)

Contact: Barbara Guinn

**3 Paycard Informational Meetings [more...]**

**2:30PM - 5:30PM**

at J. C. Harmon Commons

Three sessions starting at 2:30, 3:30, 4:30

Contact: Kristen Woodbury

**Teaching For Learning Sub Group Meeting [more...]**

**4:00PM - 6:00PM**

Education Center room 244

Contact: Steve Gering

**Mentoring Meeting - Beginning Teachers [more...]**

**5:00PM - 7:00PM**

ESL/Differentiated Instruction  
Central Office, 3rd floor Board Room

Contact: Barb Collins

**Early Release [more...]**

Early dismissal for students - Staff Development

October 4, 2007

Thursday

**Grade 4 District Literacy Training [more...]**

**8:30AM - 11:30AM**

Education Center, room 245

Trainers:

Susan Keetle

Iva Lee Colgan

**Also on this day:**

**Grade 5 District Literacy Training [more...]**

**1:30PM - 4:30PM**

Education Center, room 246

Trainers:

Iva Lee Colgan

Susan Keetle

**2 Paycard Informational Meetings [more...]**

**3:30PM - 5:30PM**

@ Sumner Academy Cafeteria

Two sessions starting at 3:30 & 4:30

Contact: Kristen Woodbury

**Elem. Collaboration Training [more...]**

**4:30PM - 6:30PM**

at F.L. Schlagle HS

for Elementary Principals, ICs, Sped. Teachers, ESL Teachers and Gen. Ed. Teachers

Contact: Kimberly Shaw

**Mentoring Meeting - Beginning Teachers [more...]**

**5:00PM - 7:00PM**

ESL/Differentiated Instruction

Central Office, 3rd floor Board Room

Contact: Barb Collins

**Laptop Townhall Meeting [more...]**

**6:00PM -**

at Sumner Academy

(Mary)

**October 5, 2007**

**Friday**

**New Principals & ICs [more...]**

**8:00AM - 10:00AM**

Education Center, room 246  
with Cheryl Brady

Contact: Pat Ellis

**October 8, 2007**

**Monday**

**Cabinet Meeting [more...]**

**12:00PM - 3:30PM**

Education Center, room 245

Contact: Jill Shackelford

**Also on this day:**

**Schools New to ESL Meeting [more...]**

**4:30PM - 6:30PM**

Education Center, Front Cafeteria

Trainer: Diane Geisler

To be attended by Principals, Asst. Principals, and ICs of new ESL sites

(Banneker, Bethel, Claude Hyuck, Hazel Grove, JFK, Lindbergh, Quindaro, Silver City, Stony Point North, Stony Point South, WA White, and White Church).

Dinner to be provided.

Contact: Rita Suarez

**Laptop Townhall Meeting [more...]**

**6:00PM -**

at Fairfax Learning Center

(Gloria)

**United Way Campaign [more...]**

Contact: David A. Smith

913-279-2240