

THE SPECIAL EDITION

September 2022



Greetings Coop Family!

Just like that, the 2022/23 school year is off and running! Well done on a great kick off!

As the excitement of opening the year becomes a fond memory, we are rolling up our sleeves and settling in with endless efforts to provide specially designed instruction (SDI) to all of our students. Our Sped FastBridge training set a strong foundation for supporting writing IEP goals, PLAAFPs and creating SDI for our students. I am excited to see this data driven instruction continue to be in action in all of our special education classrooms.

Our year has met us with challenging times with para shortages. You have done an outstanding job of getting creative with coverage, despite this challenge. Teams are going the extra mile and recruiting applicants where we can to join our amazing teams. I am in hopes we will have more applicants in the very near future to ease this burden. THANK YOU for your extra efforts, your hard work is much appreciated!

Covid continues to be in our side mirrors, though it won't be a barrier we can't overcome together to continue to support our students in reaching their goals. The strong relationships we are building and fostering with our students and teams will propel us to lean inward and find support needed to succeed as a team to make a difference in the lives of our students.

Onward...here's to a great journey! Deb

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

NCI Training Dates

September 12 - Refresher, 8:30am-Noon - PLC Bldg

September 12 - Refresher, 12:30-4:00pm - PLC Bldg

January 6 - Initial, 8:00am-3:00pm - PLC Bldg

(1 hour lunch break on your own)

March 24 - Initial or Refresher as needed - PLC Bldg

** Please call the Coop (785-456-9195) to reserve your spot. **

New Teacher Training Dates

Tuesday, September 13, 2:30-4:30 pm ~ PLC Bldg

Thursday, October 13, 2:30-4:30 pm ~ Location TBD

Tuesday, December 13, 2:30-4:30 pm ~ PLC Bldg

Tuesday, February 21, 2:30-4:30 pm ~ PLC Bldg

Tuesday, April 11, 2:30-4:30 pm ~ PLC Bldg

*Reminder: These meetings are required. Please secure a sub as needed through your district.

Child Find Screening Dates

Friday, September 23 - Westmoreland, United Methodist Church Education Bldg.

Friday, December 2 - Alma Elementary School

Friday, January 20 - St. George Elementary School

Friday, March 24 - Wamego, Trinity Baptist Church

Refer interested families to Robin Laughlin at the Coop.

Coop Office Hours are Monday-Thursday, 7:30 am-4:30 pm, and Friday, 7:30 am-4:00 pm. We follow the USD 320 calendar, which means if the USD 320 District Office is closed, we will be closed as well.

Reminders

- Mileage forms are due the 25th of every month.
- Please submit your schedules to the Coop office (paras included).
- Please complete your annual required training as soon as possible.

** Be sure to have parents check consent boxes and add in their initials beside the check mark to provide verification.

IEP Timeline

Please follow the IEP timeline and all week's notices, including opening the IEP in WebKIDSS, 6 weeks before the IEP date, and have the IEP draft ready and submitted for review. Be sure to send home a draft IEP for family review and input UNLESS it is an initial IEP.

September 20th is nearly here!

September 20 is a **critical SPED financial count day!** You must accept or amend new IEPs and complete new placements on or before September 20. Any new evals should be given priority to meet this date.

Random Moment Time Study

This applies to Related Service Providers, a few Special Education Teachers, Administrators, and School Counselors. The RMTS is a survey that is used to determine the amount of time spent on activities that are Medicaid related. Your participation helps your school receive federal funds for activities done that are necessary to provide students with health-related services like speech therapy.

Mary Bates will send more detailed information out during the last week in September to the people that are on the Staff Pool that could be selected for a Moment Survey. Surveys begin in October.

If you missed our opening professional development and training on August 2, please be sure you get all information you missed from a colleague or reach out to the Coop for a packet if you need one.

ALL annual IEPs are due on or before April 14! IEPs held after April 14 should be ONLY new evals or new move-in IEPs.

Have a new student?

We must accept or amend a new student on an IEP within 5 school days!

Have an exiting student?

Be sure to notify Diana Phillips (phillipsd@usd320.com) within 5 school days!

The superintendents were in strong support of approving the Coop proposal for adjusted starting para salaries and raises for returning paras. This proposal will be considered by BOE at the September 12th meeting. Stay tuned for an update on this.

**Study hall is NOT special education.
Special education is NOT study hall!**
What specially designed instruction are you delivering?
How are you activating prior knowledge?
How are providing preteach and reteach opportunities?
What are the necessary special education services needed to meet his/her IEP goals while fostering independence?

The only bad question is the unasked question! Please reach out to us at the Coop as we are here to support you. Reminder, individual sessions on WebKidss or any IEP paperwork can be set up to support you with our Coop team.

Child Find Screening



Early intervention makes dreams become reality!

Celebrations

Congratulations to Caitline' Christenson and Alex Stultz on the birth of their little bundle of joy, Logan Craig Stultz born May 22, 2022 @ 10:22 am, weighing 7 lbs 5 oz, measuring 20.5 inches long.



Congratulations to Jeff and Heather Niehues on the birth of their precious little one, Jonathan Thomas Niehues (named after both of their dads), born on Thursday, May 19 (41 weeks) @ 5:50 am, weighing in at 7.9 lbs., measuring 19.5 inches long.

Teachers Back to School



**When we need
inspiration, we
can look to our
students to
brighten any
day!**

FastBridge data for guiding Specially Designed Instruction



WINNER...WINNER!!



Para Training ~ Back to School



Who says there's no FREE LUNCH?!

Welcome to Our New Superintendents!



Mr. McKim has been an excellent leader in education during his past 28 years in education, most recently as Principal at Lansing High School. He has high expectations for success and the ability to create a culture supporting those expectations.

Mr. Rob McKim
USD 320 Superintendent

Mrs. Joan Simoneau is in her 6th year as Superintendent and Elementary Principal at USD 369 Burrton. She served as the Middle and High School Principal at Burrton for the 4 years prior to beginning her service as Superintendent.



Mrs. Joan Simoneau
USD 323 Superintendent



Dr. Troy Pitsch
USD 329
Superintendent

Dr. Troy Pitsch was born in Kansas City, Kansas and spent much of his childhood in the Midwest, including Alma, KS, where he attended Alma Public and St. John Lutheran Schools. During his tenure as an elementary principal, he completed his PhD from the University of Texas in Educational Policy and Planning in 2016. In 2017, Dr. Pitsch returned to Kansas where he had the privilege of serving as a principal/superintendent in the northwestern corner of the state before accepting a district leadership position as an Instructional Improvement Officer for the Kansas City, KS Public School District in 2019, where he currently serves.

New Teachers



Mrs. Wendy Willi
St. George Elementary

My name is Wendy Willi and I'm so excited to join the Special Services Coop as the K-2 Special Education teacher at St. George. I have been teaching at St. George Elementary since 1998 and have worked at several grade levels. I look forward to this new role and the difference I can make in the lives of my students. My husband, Nick, and I have been married for almost 25 years. We have three wonderful daughters and are the proud grandparents to Holden who will turn 4 this year. Outside of school I enjoy sewing, all things Harry Potter, and spending time with my family.

My name is Brenna Ebert and I have been teaching for 3 years. I was born and raised in Great Bend and graduated from GBHS. After graduation, I went on to play volleyball at Butler Community College where I got my Associates Degree. From there I went to Emporia State University and graduated in December of 2018 with my Bachelor's in Elementary Education. I will finish my Master's from ESU in August of this year. My husband and I welcomed our daughter into the world in October of 2021 and it has been such a blessing! In my free time you can find me going on adventures with her as well as coaching or playing volleyball! We love to take road trips to see family and hang out by the pool as often as we can. I am so excited to join the team and can't wait to continue to learn.



Mrs. Brenna Ebert
Special Education Teacher
Rock Creek Middle School



Mrs. Jill Garetson
Special Education Teacher
Wabaunsee Jr. High

My name is Jill Garetson, a native-born Kansan, who has lived a majority of my life in Southwest Kansas. I attained a bachelors of science in elementary education degree, K-9 grades and a provisional certification in Learning Disabilities from the University of Kansas. During my work for High Plains Educational Cooperative, I obtained a masters degree in special education: LD, BD, MR, and Gifted, K-12. My husband and I are excited to join our children and their families in Northeast Kansas to be able to enjoy time with our first grandson who arrived in January, 2022, and a first granddaughter who arrives sometime early September.



July

Melanie Stone - 2
Jolene Belvo - 10
Stephanie Downs - 11
Shayton Clark - 12
Betsy Tipping - 13
Kelly Estes - 18
Jennifer Nider - 18
Erin Moody - 21
Tanjii Cassatt - 21
Colleen Willette - 21
Sarah Fiehler - 27
Lance Fuller - 27

August

Susan Koupal - 1
Lauren Spector - 5
Shelly Corp - 6
Kira Varnadore - 13
Hannah Megredy - 16
Andrea Leonard - 18
Andrew Mosby - 18
Melissa Phipps - 18
Wendy Willi - 22
Mary Bates - 23
Kim Hall - 24
Ashley Rodgers - 27
Katherine Cantrell - 31

September

Erica Scott - 1
Wayne Gros - 5
Lacey Hunt - 5
Shannon Leitch - 12
Kelly Sigg - 16
Chastity Glanzer - 17
Amanda Breymeyer - 19
Marcia Beachler - 20
Casey Meinhardt - 26
Alyssa Sibal - 28



Be Inspired

If they can't
learn
the way we
teach,
we teach the way
they **learn**.

- DR. O. IVAR LOVAAS -

miStAkEs
are proof
that you are
TRYING

CHOOSE
kindness

enjoy
every
moment.

SPECIAL EDUCATION
TEACHER

BECAUSE

multi-tasking ninja
isn't an official job title.

