



Fourth grade students in Mrs. Lattimer CAC class post their projects to the Seesaw blog for the Global Read Aloud.

District program gives new perspective to student learning

On any given day, students at the Carbondale and Overbrook Attendance Centers are creating presentations or videos of their daily learning to share with others – and engaging with students around the country.

This is all possible through Seesaw.me, an online portfolio program for schools that CAC Fourth-Grade Teacher Amanda Lattimer helped bring to the district.

“My students love to create Google Slide presentations and green screen videos, which are then uploaded, so their parents can see them and provide feedback,” Lattimer said. “I can also assign activities related to the standards we are learning, and I am then able to score and track their progress on those skills. We are also using the program to read and communicate with a New Hampshire classroom through Global Read Aloud.”

To help launch the program, over the summer, Lattimer and OAC First-Grade Teacher Amy

Huizenga trained to become district Seesaw ambassadors. They then shared the program with other teachers at a Blended Learning Symposium, co-hosted by Greenbush Southeast Kansas Education Service Center and the district.

Since then, the two teachers have continued to help CAC and OAC teachers learn how to apply the program in their classrooms.

“We were very lucky to get the approval for funding by our School Board and administration to have the program this year,” Lattimer said.

Becoming ambassadors also meets the district’s strategic planning goal of teachers personalizing their professional learning (see story on page 2).

“It has helped me to continue working towards my goal of improving blended learning in my classroom and my goal for improved parent communication,” Lattimer said. “It has also allowed me to share my

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A Message from the Superintendent



Our teachers have spoken – and we listened. As part of our continued focus on our strategic plan, we have taken our staff training to the next level, allowing teachers to develop individualized professional learning plans to enhance their classroom teaching and content knowledge.

Providing quality professional development ensures our teachers are up to date on new teaching methods, classroom technology, curriculum resources and more – which is critical for our students to be career and/or college ready in the future.

In the past, the district would survey our teachers about learning opportunities and then attempt to provide a variety of programs, based on their responses.

By doing this, the district could meet the needs of many through group training during an in-service day.

However, the group setting wasn't addressing the needs of all our teaching staff. Therefore, this past summer, the school district allowed our teachers to determine the type of development they needed to best meet their professional goals.

And many took advantage of this new approach during the summer months, including attending math conferences, Greenbush University, "The Leader in Me" Conference and the Santa Fe Trail Blended Learning Conference. In return, they don't need to attend two district in-service days.

As the year goes on, we will continue to expand on this concept of personalized professional learning and continue addressing teachers' needs. It is our sincere hope, this type of training will be beneficial to our teaching staff – and will provide better instruction to the students of our great school district.

Cordially,



Dr. Steve Pegram, Superintendent of Schools

Charger Calendar of Events

- ⚡ Dec. 22 - Jan. 3 – Winter Break, No School
- ⚡ Jan. 4 – Classes Resume
- ⚡ Jan. 4 – Home JH BB/Iola, 4:15 p.m.
- ⚡ Jan. 5 – ACT Registration Deadline
- ⚡ Jan. 4 – Home HS BB/Burlington, 4:30 p.m.
- ⚡ Jan. 9 – PTO Meeting, CAC, 6:30 p.m.
- ⚡ Jan. 9 – Home HS BB/Wellsville, 4:30 p.m.
- ⚡ Jan. 10 – Board of Education Meeting, 6 p.m.
- ⚡ Jan. 12 – Staff Development, No School
- ⚡ Jan. 15 – MLK Holiday, No School
- ⚡ Jan. 19 – Well-child Screening, SAC, All Day
- ⚡ Jan. 22 – Home JH BB/Wellsville, 4:15 p.m.
- ⚡ Jan. 26 – Winter Royalty: Home HS BB/ Osage City, 4:30 p.m.

Funding and student enrollment work hand in hand

States use different mechanisms for counting students for the purpose of funding school districts. Up until this school year, Santa Fe Trail School District had received funding from a block grant.

Through the block grant, the district received a specific amount of money in which to run the school district. The amount stayed the same year after year and did not take into account changes in enrollment, inflation or district needs.

State decision-makers have determined school districts will use a new formula to determine annual budgets—student enrollment.

“The importance of using headcount (student enrollment) for funding is it lets us know what we’re able to do financially in a school district,” said Dr. Steve Pegram, superintendent of schools.

“If enrollment is up, you may be able to do more for students and staff. If enrollment is declining, you may have to adjust what you’re currently doing to address the upcoming loss of revenue.”

A date near the beginning of the academic year is the official reporting date for the district’s enrollment.

This year the date was September 20. The following are the preliminary numbers that were reported on the enrollment count date for the 2017-2018 school year:

“The importance of using headcount (student enrollment) for funding is it lets us know what we’re able to do financially in a school district.”

- 962 K-12 students
- 119 preschool students
- Six virtual students

The total unofficial headcount for the district was 1,087. These numbers have been combined with transportation and at-risk counts to formulate the district’s budget for the 2017-18 school year.

“All in all, student funding is a lot fairer than working on a block grant that doesn’t consider what is actually happening in a school district,” said Pegram.



Strong student enrollment at the Overbrook Attendance Center will positively affect the district’s new funding model.



In the News

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⚡ District Program Gives
New Perspective
to Student Learning

⚡ Superintendent's Message

⚡ Funding and Student
Enrollment Work Hand in
Hand

⚡ Calendar of Events

Our mission is to support individual student needs in preparation for successful lifework.

*District program gives new perspective of
student learning continued from cover.*

passion for this program with other teachers
within our district.”

And the response to Seesaw has been
positive.

“Parents have told me how valuable the
communication piece has been,” she said.
“They are enjoying being able to get an
inside view of the things we are doing in the
classroom. My students love sharing their
work and love the comments that parents
leave for them. They are also really enjoying
using the classroom blog to communicate
with other schools.”



**A fourth-grade CAC student
interacts with a blog partner
class in New Hampshire using
recorded audio.**

