



# SEAMAN

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# communicator

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SEAMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Area Dates & Events

### NOVEMBER

- 15 Fall Play Matinée 2 p.m.
- 16 RO/WI Site Council/WI PTO 6 p.m./7 p.m.
- 16 EL Site Council/PTO 6:30 p.m./7 p.m.
- 17 8th Girls Basketball 3:30 p.m.
- 17 Show Choir 7 p.m.
- 18 EL Book Fair Family Night 4 p.m.
- 19 7th Girls Basketball 3:30 p.m.
- 20 SMS Wrestling 1:30 p.m.
- 20 Seaman Players Holiday Show 7 p.m.
- 23 SHS Percussion Ensemble 7 p.m.
- 25 NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break**
- 26 NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break**
- 27 NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break**
- 30 PH Winter Music Program 7 p.m.

### DECEMBER

- 1 8th Girls Basketball 3:30 p.m.
- 2 SMS Wrestling 3:30 p.m.
- 3 7th Girls Basketball 3:30
- 3 WI Winter Program 6 p.m.
- 4 RO Winter Program 6:30 p.m.
- 7 EL Winter Program 6:30 p.m.
- 8 7th Girls Basketball 3:30
- 8 Elementary Band Concert 7 p.m.
- 9 SHS Band Concert 7 p.m.
- 10 Orchestra Concert 7 p.m.
- 11 SHS Basketball 4:30 p.m.
- 14 Board Meeting 6 p.m.

Please check the online calendar for current info and locations. [www.seamanschools.org/calendar](http://www.seamanschools.org/calendar)



Photo Credit: Darcie and Adrian Guerrero

**SHS Marching Vikes celebrate another banner year**



**Second grade class collects band aids for kids fighting cancer**



**SHS teacher selected to participate in national program**



**District Wellness Nights are fun for the whole family**

# Professional Development Around the District ...

Do you ever wonder what goes on at school when the teachers are in session but kids are not? Seaman School District prioritizes and maintains focus on developing and providing professional training and learning to employees. Professional development is imperative to continue growing our student success. Here's a look at how our district is improving and supporting our staff.



Lyman Learning Center staff reviewed the performance levels and sample scores from the Kansas Assessment and what these levels and scores mean to students, parents and educators. The staff looked at a website on the Kansas Assessments to help gain a better understanding of the expectations in the classroom.

The staff spent time discussing questions from the book, "Power Up, Making the shift to 1:1 Teaching and Learning." The staff also discussed Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) and looked into what LLC does for the students and how we can help meet all the students needs.



Logan teachers spent professional development time creating resources for Multi-Tier Support System (MTSS) groups. They focused on West Virginia lessons, finding connected text for phonics lessons from Reading A-Z, and putting together activities from the Florida Center for Reading Research website. These resources will be used by teachers and paras who are leading MTSS groups.



Pleasant Hill, Rochester, and West Indianola collaborated to learn more about incorporating writing throughout the curriculum. A training consultant working on behalf of the Kansas State Department of Education, facilitated the discussion. Teachers collaborated with colleagues from each building to identify specific writing skills and strategies students need to be taught K-6.

Time was also spent discussing the state's new multidisciplinary performance test (MDPT). Beyond providing teachers with just the essential facts about the assessment, they had the chance to participate in a simulation activity. Teachers were provided with three resources and a guiding question. They had twenty minutes to write an informative, argumentative, or opinion on demand writing sample. Grade levels evaluated their individual writing using the same rubrics student writing is rated to further authenticate the experience. Teachers discussed similarities of emotions, challenges, and required skills students must also experience when completing the MDPT.

Teachers also had an opportunity to dive into their own standards and determine what is essential for their grade level. Teachers read each grade level's outcome to see the progress between grade levels.





North Fairview staff worked on Google Document skills. They learned how to share and create a Google document, how to create Google drawings and how to easily grade Google forms.

They also took a look at guided reading and what that looks like for higher and lower students. They discussed various skills students should be working on as they go through their leveled book and the management piece of what the other students are doing while a teacher is working with a small group. This will help students learn to work independently and not interrupt their group.

Teachers also discussed the types of centers they have going on while working with their guided reading groups. Teachers shared their "must do" and "can do" list so students know what is expected for them to complete but also what they can do for extension activities.



The Elmont staff has been receiving professional development in a number of areas this semester. The most exciting topic has involved becoming familiar with the foundations of Explicit Instruction, and how to implement it within classrooms. A great deal of time has also been spent learning about strengthening practices involving the Wonders reading curriculum, along with school-wide Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports (PBIS) efforts.



Seaman High School divided teachers into three groups based on their technical abilities to complete a three-stop circuit that included: how to update and improve one's website; a review of Multi-Tier Support System (MTSS) strategies learned by teachers at a recent conference; step one of the next five year AdvancED cycle, reviewing our mission statement - does it still represent what we believe to be most important?

We also presented a session on "Least Restrictive Environment," which means a student who has a disability should have the opportunity to be educated with non-disabled peers, to the greatest extent appropriate.



As a school we analyzed our fall Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) and Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) scores. We then compared students who fell into at-risk categories on both assessment tools. This activity aligns with our movement towards integrating comprehensive, integrated, three-tiered model of prevention (CI3T) at SMS. Dr. Kathleen Lane from Kansas University will be working directly with SMS staff this school year with the integration process. CI3T is a data-informed system of support that is designed to address academic concerns such as low assessment scores as well as factoring in behavioral and social needs.



Photo Credit: James Adams

Still riding high after last year's Alamo Bowl Band Sweepstakes Award, the Seaman High School Marching Vikes had another banner season winning the

Trophy of Distinction for overall top scoring band at Washburn University's Capital City Marching Festival.

They also received Top Drum Major and Top Percussion trophies and placed third in 5A at the Inaugural KBA Marching Championships. The Marching Vikes ended their competitive season by performing for a packed crowd at Kansas State University's Bill Snyder Family Stadium at the Central States Marching Festival and received a Division 1 top rating.

This year's show concept was "Seven Deadly Sins," characterizing the traits of a fallen humanity. The Marching Vikes performed the sins: Greed, Gluttony, Sloth, Envy, Lust, Wrath, and Pride. All moves on the field and music performed told a story depicting the sins. Business owners and band parents Rick Mitchell and Brent Colhouer made banners and stands showing each sin in the order of performance at the back of the field to help guide the audience through the show.

To prepare for the performance, students attended marching camp before the school year, followed by fifth hour band during school, and Tuesday night rehearsals under the lights on the game field. However, the groundwork begins years before the students enter the high school.

"We obviously could not succeed at this level without the quality program and dedication of Mr. Simpson and the Elementary and Middle School Band staff," said SHS Director of Bands Cary Stahly. "The teachers

Mrs. Cornwell, Mr. Dease, and Mrs. Kennedy at the elementary level as well as Mr. Simpson and Mr. Dease at the middle level, continue to groom and send highly motivated and talented students to us at the high school. The Seaman community is very fortunate to have this band staff!"

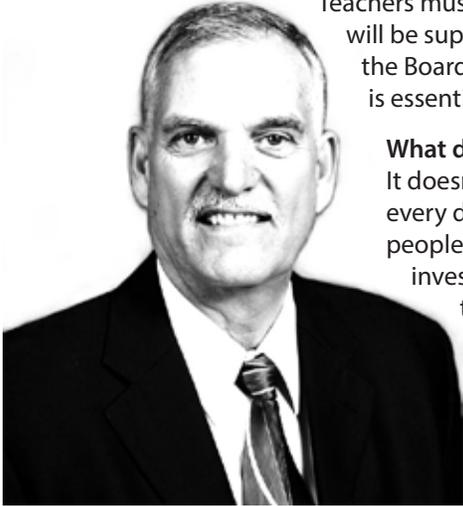
- Directors ..... Cary Stahly  
Anna Kennedy
- Director of Percussion .... Emory Dease
- Color Guard Coach ..... Sarah Brinkley
- Drill Team Coach ..... Josie Dease
- Front Line Instructor ..... David Liston
- Leadership Director ..... Anna Reb

A special thanks to Rick Mitchell, Brent Colhouer, and the Band Booster Club for their financial support and food supplied with water at each performance.

Education is facing an upcoming shortage of teachers that is going to create a crisis in the near future. Mid-Continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL) recently did a study on the teacher shortage and discovered two very interesting facts: (1) There are not enough people going into the field of education to fill the need (2) 50 to 60 percent of teachers entering education will leave the profession within their first five years.

McREL's first finding showed that many people who are choosing their career decide against education because of the low salaries. We must raise teacher salaries to attract more people into the profession. Interestingly enough, McREL's second finding showed current teachers do not list money as the deciding factor when making the decision to leave the profession. Instead, these teachers list lack of parental and administrative support as their top reason for leaving the profession.

One of the best ways to retain top quality staff is to provide exceptional administrative support to our people. Teachers must know they will be supported by parents and their principal, principals must know they will be supported by central office staff, and central office staff must know they will be supported by the Board of Education. For an educational organization to function effectively this flow of support is essential.



Mike Mathes, Ed. S. Superintendent

**What does "support" mean?**

It doesn't necessarily mean you agree with every decision. It means you trust your people to have done the research and investigation to make a proper decision. I

trust my principals and directors to make good decisions and will support their decisions but I will not

blindly support decisions I feel are not in the best interest of the students, patrons and school. If someone makes a decision I do not agree with, I will talk it through with them and most importantly, if they make a mistake we go back and correct it. Many times they convince me their decision was best even though I would have handled it differently and I end up supporting them fully.

**"ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO RETAIN TOP QUALITY STAFF IS TO PROVIDE EXCEPTIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT TO OUR PEOPLE."**

# THE NECESSARY BUREAUCRACY OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND THE NEED FOR SUPERVISORY SUPPORT

Every teacher must know their principal will support them exactly like I support my staff, and as the superintendent I must know that the Board of Education will support my decisions. Teachers, principals, and central office staff cannot make quality decisions when they fear every decision is going to be second-guessed or worse, overturned. They must have the confidence that their superiors will be supportive.

Again, support does not mean blind support and you must know that every decision is bound to make someone unhappy. Part of effective leadership is knowing you can't please everyone all the time. If a principal supported every decision every teacher made and mistakes were made and not rectified, the public would lose confidence in the entire building.

Superintendents are guided by the board's strategic plan, goals and philosophy and as long as the philosophy of the community is being followed then staff needs to be trusted to make good decisions. In a nutshell, that is my definition of parental and administrative support.

I recently sent a note to our principals from the board president in which he said to a parent that the principal is the ultimate authority in the building and his/her directions must be followed. Every principal replied with a "thank you," or "we appreciate that." One Principal who was having a particularly rough day said, "Wow. Just in time. Thanks, I needed this."

I know that our teachers and principals deeply appreciate the parental and administrative support they receive, teachers new to our district tell me this all of the time. I greatly appreciate the authority and support from our community and Board of Education over my 23 years as an administrator in the district. It has made us a much more effective school district.

So I hope each of you, as a member of this community, know your staff (classified, certified and administrative) is doing their very best to make the best decisions for our district and they can only do that with your continued support and confidence.

As always, thank you for your support of USD 345.

# WOW!

Even though we are small, we can do BIG things.



## FANTASTIC MRS. CARTER AND HER SUPERHERO FRIENDS

Erin Carter is a second grade teacher at Pleasant Hill Elementary and wants her small students to learn how to make a BIG impact. Mrs. Carter's class just finished their Annual Band Aid Drive. "This is our second year collecting child-themed band aids for kids who are battling cancer," said Mrs. Carter. "On the last day of our collection period, students can dress up like superheros to celebrate helping others." Through the Band Aid Drive, students learn about other's needs and learn that even kids can make a difference. Mrs. Carter carries that message into her classroom by talking to her second graders about helping others on a big scale, like the Band Aid Drive, and on a smaller scale, like helping other students in the classroom.

The kids are excited they're able to help others and proud to wear superhero outfits for a day. Mrs. Carter coordinates several other community service projects throughout the year including a food drive for Isaiah's Mission. Isaiah is an eight year old boy who organizes food drives throughout Topeka, and her students love to learn about this superkid.

## LOCAL KANSAS EDUCATOR SELECTED FOR THE 2016 UNDERSTANDING SACRIFICE PROGRAM

**Kyle Johnson of Seaman Middle School in Topeka, Kansas was selected to participate in the competitive World War II-focused program that travels to southern France and Italy.**

Kyle Johnson is one of 18 middle and high school educators selected by National History Day (NHD) to participate in *Understanding Sacrifice*, a highly competitive, year-long professional development program sponsored by the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC). During this program educators learn about America's involvement during World War II in the Mediterranean region. To drive home a deeper understanding of the personal sacrifice experienced at the front lines, Johnson will select one American service member who is buried or memorialized at an ABMC cemetery in Southern Europe or North Africa. Johnson will then spend a year conducting in-depth research on the life of this fallen hero using both local and archival historical resources. Throughout the program, he will attend lectures, study historical books about the conflict, and collaborate with staff at National History Day to begin forming ideas for lesson plans from his experience. The program pays for European travel, supplies, courses, and much more. Teachers are only responsible for travel to and from Washington, D.C., passport fees, and any personal expenses.

Mr. Johnson has a deep connection to the service members of World War II. His grandfather served in the Pacific and earned a Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his heroic actions. Johnson wrote in his application that his love of history was sparked when he was assigned to interview a grandparent. "At age 99, grandpa still doesn't like to talk about his experiences in the Pacific Theater," writes Johnson, "but what he did share made history come alive for me." Through this program, Johnson hopes he can use the experiences and sacrifices of other World War II service members to educate students about the incredible actions of the fallen heroes memorialized in Southern Europe.



Johnson will present a eulogy at the grave or memorial of a service member from Kansas. Upon returning home, Johnson will use his research and experience to create a lesson plan to reinvigorate World War II education in American classrooms. The created lesson plans will be made available to teachers worldwide through a website created by the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media at George Mason University.

"National History Day wants students to connect with the past and one of the primary points of contact with students is their teachers," said NHD Executive Director Dr. Cathy Gorn. "Mr. Johnson is a dedicated teacher and I know his personal connection to World War II will be a great motivator to tell the story of another hero."

The lesson plans teachers develop will make use of the extensive educational and interpretive materials of the ABMC. The plans will also comply with Common Core Standards and will be free to access online at [ABMCEducation.org](http://ABMCEducation.org).

# HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

## SHS SPEECH & DEBATE MAKE THE 200 CLUB LIST

The SHS speech and debate program has once again earned recognition in the National Speech and Debate Association's prestigious 200 Club. Recognition is based on competitive results as well as service-related activities. The award ranks SHS among the top 7.5% schools nationwide. SHS has earned the award every year our program has been under David Ralph's leadership.



### SUSAN SITTEAUER WINS EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

Kansas Council for the Social Studies (KCSS) awards one elementary, middle school, high school, and higher education teacher each year with the Judy Cromwell Excellence in Teaching Award. As a winner of this award Susan will be recognized at the annual social studies conference and will receive a \$500 cash award and a KCSS nomination for the National Council for the Social Studies Teacher of the Year Award.

## TWO SHS SENIORS EARN COMMENDED STATUS



Michelle Anderson and Cassidy Harden were among the top students in the country named Commended Students in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program.

These students are two of 34,000 commended students in the country recognized for their outstanding academic achievement by making a high score on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. They represent the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who took the 2014 Preliminary SAT and will receive Letters of Commendation in recognition of their outstanding academic promise.

## 2016 KANSAS HORIZON AWARD NOMINEE



Kindergarten Teacher at Pleasant Hill Elementary Brittany Nixon has been nominated for the 2016 Kansas Horizon Award. This award is intended to recognize exemplary first-year teachers in the elementary and secondary classrooms of the state who perform in a way that distinguishes them as outstanding. Winners will be recognized at a special ceremony during the 2016 Kansas State Educators Conference in February.

# PROMOTING WELLNESS AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

During the 2015-16 school year, Seaman's wellness team has already co-hosted "Shawnee County's Largest Workout," created a wellness night with an inflatable obstacle course and fun for the whole family, and organized the district's annual 5k Fun Run/Walk. Don't worry, if you missed these, there are more to come.

This year's wellness team is focusing on nutrition and hopes to see a decrease in childhood obesity rates within our community. By the year 2030, it's predicted that 60% of Kansans will be obese. Kaye Kabus, director of food service, says it's important for students to make healthy choices at home and at school. Kabus also encourages teachers to reward with healthy snacks and other alternatives instead of candy and sweet treats.

Cheryl Johnson, from Kansas State Department of Education's Child Nutrition & Wellness Department, recently visited a Wellness Council Meeting with the message "Schools *can* be part of the cultural change if we have strong wellness policies in our schools." The Seaman Wellness Executive Committee has been working on updating the school's wellness policy and recently presented to the State Board of Education as a model school for the state.

The Seaman community is encouraged to participate in wellness events throughout the year. You can find more information and stay up to date by visiting [www.SeamanSchools.org/Wellness](http://www.SeamanSchools.org/Wellness).



## October Wellness Night in Pictures



**14 NOVEMBER**  
8:30 am SHS Track

Fall into Fitness 5K

**20 JANUARY**  
4:30 - 5:30 pm SHS Library

Wellness Council Meeting

**18 FEBRUARY**  
6:30 pm Logan Elementary

Wellness Night

**12 APRIL**  
4:30 - 5:30 pm SHS Library

Wellness Council Meeting

**26 APRIL**  
6:30 pm SHS

Wellness Night

**10 MAY**  
4:30 - 5:30 pm SHS Library

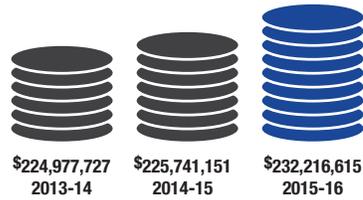
Wellness Council Meeting

# SEAMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCIAL DATA

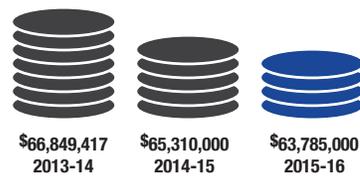
## AMOUNT PER PUPIL (ALL FUNDS)



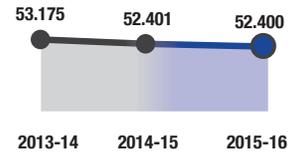
## ASSESSED VALUATION



## BONDED INDEBTEDNESS



## TOTAL USD MILL RATES



## TOTAL EXPENDITURES BY FUNCTION (ALL FUNDS)

### Instruction



### School Year Total

School Year	Total
2013 - 2014	\$41,216,257
2014 - 2015	\$41,877,491
2015 - 2016	\$45,857,758

### Student Support Services



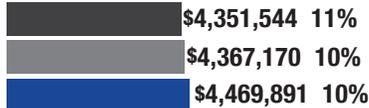
### Instructional Support Services



### Admin & Support



### Debt Services



### Operations & Maintenance



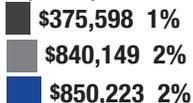
### Transportation



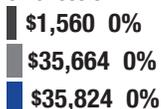
### Food Services



### Capital Improvements



### Other Costs



## DEFINITIONS OF EXPENDITURES

### Instruction

Activities dealing directly with the interaction between teachers and students.

### Student Support Services

Activities designed to assess and improve the well-being of students and to supplement the teaching process. Includes staff in attendance and social work services, substance abuse, guidance, health, psychology, speech pathology, and audiology.

### Instructional Support Services

Activities associated with assisting the instructional staff with the content and process of providing learning experiences for students.

### Admin & Support

Activities concerned with establishing and administering policy for operating the LEA. Includes board of education staff, board secretary/clerk staff, staff relations and negotiations staff, the superintendent's staff, assistant superintendents, area directors, and the superintendent. Activities concerned with overall administrative responsibility for a school. Include only the staff of the office of the principal (including vice principals and other assistants), full-time department chairpersons and the principal. Activities that support other administrative and instructional functions including fiscal services, human resources, planning, and administrative information technology.

### Debt Services

Activities related to servicing the long-term debt of the school district, including payments of both principal and interest. This function should be used to account for bond interest payments, retirement of bonded debt, capital lease payments, and other long-term notes.

### Operation and Maintenance

Activities concerned with keeping the physical plant open, comfortable, and safe for use, and keeping the grounds, buildings, and equipment in effective working condition and state of repair. These include the activities of maintaining safety in buildings, on the grounds, and in the vicinity of schools.

### Transportation

Activities concerned with conveying students to and from school, as provided by state and federal law. This includes trips between home and school, and trips to and from school activities.

### Food Services

Activities concerned with providing food to students and staff in a school or LEA. This service area includes preparing and serving regular and incidental meals, lunches, or snacks in connection with school activities and food delivery.

### Capital Improvements

Facilities Acquisition and Construction. Activities concerned with acquiring land buildings; remodeling buildings; constructing buildings and additions to buildings; initially installing or extending service systems and other built-in equipment; and improving sites.

### Other Costs

All other support services not classified elsewhere. (Includes room and board for Special Education students.) Activities concerned with providing community services to students, staff or other community participants. Examples of this function would be the operation of a community swimming pool, a recreation program, etc.

Account summaries from the KSDE Accounting Handbook

## The Seaman Communicator

Seaman Unified School District #345  
Mike Mathes, Ed. S., Superintendent  
Seaman Education Center  
901 NW Lyman Rd.  
Topeka, KS 66608  
785-575-8600  
www.seamanschools.org

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US POSTAGE PAID  
AMERICAN  
PRE-SORT INC

### NOVEMBER NO SCHOOL DAYS

Nov. 9  
Nov. 25  
Nov. 26  
Nov. 27

### WINTER BREAK NO SCHOOL DAYS

Dec. 21 - Jan. 4

SMS students will be  
dismissed one day early  
**No school for SMS only  
on Dec. 18**

### Second Round of Immunization Clinics for 6th Graders Tdap, Meningitis, HPV

Elmont – 11/16 at 9:30  
North Fairview – 11/17 at 9:30  
Logan – 11/18 at 9:30  
Pleasant Hill – 11/19 at 9:30  
Rochester – 11/19 at 1:00  
West Indianola – 11/20 at 9:30

More Info will be coming home with students.

### Mark your Calendar for the new Seaman Middle School Ribbon Cutting

Sunday, Dec. 13, 1:30 p.m.

A tentative timeline of the move  
can be found on the middle  
school website  
SeamanSchools.org/SMS

### Fall Into Fitness 5K

Nov. 14 @ SHS 8:30 a.m.

More info at  
SeamanSchools.org/Wellness



### Winter Weather Closings

Inclement weather closing notifications  
will be available through:  
Local News  
District Facebook & Twitter  
School Messenger Phone Calls

The Seaman Communicator is published  
monthly during the school year by

Seaman USD 345  
901 NW Lyman Rd.  
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www.seamanschools.org

### FOLLOW US:

 SeamanUSD345  @SeamanSchools

### Notice of Non-Discrimination

Seaman USD 345 does not discriminate on the basis  
of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in  
its programs and activities and provides equal access  
to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth  
groups. The Seaman USD 345 superintendent has  
been designated to handle inquiries regarding the  
nondiscrimination policies and he may be reached by  
contacting Mike Mathes, Seaman Education Center,  
901 NW Lyman Rd., Topeka, KS 66608 (785-575-8600).

### Notice for a Drug Free Workplace

The unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing,  
possession or use of a controlled substance is  
prohibited in Seaman USD 345. Violators will be  
prosecuted.